EXHIBIT "H"

FEDERAL "4" WELL #1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLEARANCE REPORT

for

ADAMS EXPLORATION

Well Pad in Section 4

80-142



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Edited and Submitted by

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INTRODUCTION

An archaeological reconnaissance was recently completed by the Agency for Conservation Archaeology, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico, for Adams Exploration Company in Chaves County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered area will be impacted by the construction of a well pad. The project was administered by Mr. John Berry of Adams Exploration Company and Dr. Peter S. Miller, Director, Agency for Conservation Archaeology. This report was prepared by the Roswell Office of ACA, Rod MacLennan, Manager.

The field work was conducted on November 6, 1979 by Rod MacLennan. Good field and weather conditions prevailed throughout the course of this reconnaissance. This survey was completed under Federal Antiquities Permit No. 79-NM-049. A search of the National Register has been made and properties within this area are not listed on the Register.

SURVEY TECHNIQUE

Visual inspection of the well pad was accomplished by walking a series of parallel transects. Each transect was covered in a tightly spaced zigzag pattern. This method maximized the opportunity of observing any cultural resources within or near the proposed area of impact.

Well Pad in Section 4

Location

The proposed well pad is located 17 miles south southeast of Kenna, New Mexico, on the Llano Estacado. The pad measures 400 X 400 feet and the existing access road crosses the southeast corner of the pad.

NE¹₄SE¹₄, Section 4, T8S, R32E, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Button Mesa North Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1978 (see Figures 1 & 2).

Terrain

The proposed well pad is located on the Llano Estacado and is .5 miles south of Gallina Well. It is situated on a gently sloping plain, with a small dune field starting in the northeast corner of the well pad. The elevation in the area is approximately 4505 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly sandy loam. Lithic inclusions within this soil consist of small amounts of fragmented caliche. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Haplargid-Ustipsamment association.

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Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately twenty-two percent, consisting primarily of shrubs. Among the species present are: Engleman pricklypear (<u>Opuntia phaecantha</u>), mesquite (<u>Prosopis juliflora</u>), oak brush (<u>Quercus havardii</u>), plains yucca (<u>Yucca campestris</u>), sand sage (<u>Artemisia filifolia</u>), blue grama (<u>Bouteloua gracilis</u>), little bluestem (<u>Andropogon scoparis</u>), sideoats grama (<u>Bouteloua curtipendula</u>), western wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron smithii</u>), and broom snakeweed (<u>Gutierrezia sarothrae</u>).

Cultural Resources

ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations either within or near the proposed area of impact. A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not show any properties listed for this location.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed well pad and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.