



NMAS

New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc.

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Reconnaissance
Excavation
Analysis
Explanation
Curation

10 January 1980

Mr. Ronal C. Ainsworth
Drilling Supervisor
PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY
P.O. Box 2130
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear Mr. Anisworth:

Enclosed please find NMAS' Archaeological Clearance Report for PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed U.S. Minerals Well No. 5, its access road, and the flow line in Lea County, New Mexico. No cultural resources were recorded during this reconnaissance, and hence NMAS is suggesting clearance for this project.

If you have any questions pertaining to our report, please call my office. Thank you for asking NMAS to do this reconnaissance.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J. Loring Haskell
Principal Investigator

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Thomas Zale, BLM, Carlsbad
Ms. Ann Ramage, BLM, Roswell
Mr. Jerry Long, USGS, Hobbs
Mr. Curtis Schaafsma, Laboratory of Anthropology,
Santa Fe
Mr. Thomas W. Merlan, SHPO, Santa Fe

as

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

U.S. Minerals Well No. 5
Flowline, Section 30, T17S, R33E,
NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico

Prepared

By

Charles A. Aylward

and

J. Loring Haskell

Submitted

By

Dr. J. Loring Haskell
Principal Investigator
New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc.
Carlsbad, New Mexico

10 January 1980

Permit No. 79-NM-166

Introduction

On 9 January 1980, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY, Hobbs, an archaeological reconnaissance of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Lea County, New Mexico. Reconnoitered areas will be impacted by the construction of a drill location, its access road, and an associated flow line. This project was advanced by Mr. Ronal C. Ainsworth, PHILLIPS PETROELUM COMPANY, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Mr. Charles A. Aylward, Research Associate, NMAS.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed location was reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in a series of 20 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. In addition, an added zone embracing to 20 ft on each side of the staked 400 X 400 ft location, and hence lying outside the bounds of the proposed work area, was reconnoitered by a similar means as was the access road and flow line. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of areas to be impacted by construction-related activities.

U.S. Minerals Well No. 5

Location

The proposed loaction will measure 400 X 400 ft on federal lands and will be situated 990 ft from the south line and 1650 ft

from the east line of:

Section 30, T17S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Thus it will be situated in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T17S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

The associated access road will measure 12 X 400 ft and will be situated in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T17S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Referecene: USGS BUCKEYE QUADRANGLE, 15 Minute Series, 1962.

Terrain

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed location is situated on Mesclaero Pediment due west of the Llano Estacado. Locally, this landform is overalain by a deep deposit of aeolian material. Underlying these Quaternary-aged surficial deposits, duripan is encountered at depts ranging from 2 to 3 m. Soil individuals consist of loose, non-calcareous, sandy loams and loamy sands belonging to the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

Pedons support a mixed overstory of *Prosopis juliflora*, *Artemisia filifolia*, *Condalia lycioides*, *Rhus macrophylla*, and *Yucca glauca*. *Gutierrezia sarothrae* is common and constitutes a noxious weed. Additional forbs include: *Croton* sp., *Zinnia acerosa*, *Perezia nana*, and several unidentified member of the Compositae. Grasses include: *Aristida* sp., *Muhlenbergia porteri*, *Setaria macrostachys*, and *Bouteloua* sp.

Cultural Resources

No archeological sites or isolated manifestations were recorded during this reconnaissance. Albeit not encountered,

archaeological resources are frequently associated with areal deflation basins. Typical remains consist of mixed scatter of lithic and ceramic materials which generally are associated with burned- and fire-cracked caliche cobbles and gravels. Fire hearths and burned areas are common. The BLM's AR-170, AR-171, and AR-172 are situated south and west of the reconnaissance.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed U.S. Minerals Well No. 5 and its access road and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.

Flow Line
Section 30, T17S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Location

As proposed, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's easement will measure 30 X 500 ft on federal lands and will be situated in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T17S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Reference: USGS BUCKEYE QUADRANGLE, 15 Minute Series, 1962.

Terrain

Areal terrain is distinguished by an undulating plain presently overlain by coppice-type dunes. Duripan uniformly underlies surficial deposits at varying depths. Fragments of it, as well as chert and quartzite gravels, commonly occur in soil individuals. Peds uniformly belong to the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

Key constituents of local soils include: *Prosopis juliflora*,

Artemesia filifolia, and *Yucca glauca*. Forbs, while largely browned owing to the season, include: *Croton* sp., *Zinnia acerosa*, *Perezia nana*, and *Euphorbia* sp. The Graminae is represented by *Aristida* sp., *Muhlenbergia* sp., *Setaria marcostachys*, and *Bouteloua* sp.

Cultural Resources

No archeological resources were recorded during this reconnaissance. In the past, this landform often hosted small social units engaged in hunting and gathering activities. Actual usage, while transitory and seasonal, dates back principally to the Jornada Moggolon (A.D. 950-1350) and the late Archaic (A.D. 750-950).

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed flow line and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.