

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

Amoco Production Company

Federal H #1
Langlie A #3
Langlie B #3
Langlie B #4

by

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Submitted by

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INTRODUCTION

An archaeological reconnaissance was recently completed by the Agency for Conservation Archaeology, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, for Amoco Production Company on federal lands in Lea County, New Mexico. Reconnoitered locations will be impacted by the construction of oil wells as well as accesses in two instances. The project was administered by Mr. Bob Couch, Amoco Production Company, and Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Director - Principal Investigator, Agency for Conservation Archaeology. Dr. Haskell undertook the project on 15 March 1978 under excellent weather conditions. The reconnaissance was performed under Federal Antiquities Permit No. 78-NM-015.

SURVEY TECHNIQUE

The drill locations were walked in a series of overlapping, zigzag, 15 ft wide transects from north to south and thence south to north. This technique was repeated until each location had been thoroughly investigated for evidence of man's past activities. The proposed right-of-way was reconnoitered by walking it in a close interval, 25 ft wide, zigzag pattern. Utilized field techniques ensured a thorough examination of areas of primary and secondary impact.

Federal H #1

Location

The proposed location is situated 660 ft from the south line and 1980 ft from the west line and will measure 400 X 400 ft. It is located in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T23S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Hat Mesa Quadrangle, 15 Minute Series, 1968.

The proposed access will measure 12 X 600 ft and will pass through the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T23S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Hat Mesa Quadrangle, 15 Minute Series, 1968.

Terrain

Topographically, the local landform consists of an essentially flat and featureless plain. Soils are sandy loams and tend to be deep and non-calcareous. Soil individuals are Typic Haplargids and strong brown (7.5YR 4/6 dry) in color.

Floristics

The dominant plants in the area are Prosopis juliflora and Gutierrezia sarothrae. Prosopis occurs as low shrub throughout the immediate area. Plants are spaced at regular intervals but do not occur in thickets. In addition, Yucca glauca is well represented locally as is Senecio longilobus and Eriogonum wrightii. Croton texensis, Condalia ericoides, Opuntia macrocentra, and Acacia vernicosa are sporadic. A solitary, but unidentified, specimen of Echinocereous was observed in the area. Principal grasses are Aristida sp. and Scleropogon brevifolius.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological sites, or isolated manifestations, were recorded during the course of this reconnaissance.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed Federal H #1 and suggests that construction proceed without modification of existing plans.

Langlie A #3

Location

The proposed location is situated 660 ft from the south line and 1980 ft from the west line and measures 400 X 400 ft. It lies in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T25S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969.

The proposed location adjoins an existing right-of-way, and hence, no additional access is needed.

Terrain

Local terrain is distinguished by a flat plain which rises gradually toward the west. Drainage is in the direction of the southeast. Angular caliche cobbles are strewn about the immediate area and average 6 to 10 cm in diameter. Soils are sandy clay loams and are brown (10YR 5/3 dry) in color. Areal soil individuals are assignable to the Typic Paleorthid sub-group and are highly calcareous and thin.

Floristics

For all intents and purposes, the floral assemblage is composed entirely of Prosopis juliflora and Gutierrezia sarothrae. Grasses are scarce and unidentifiable. A solitary Ferocactus sp. was observed in the immediate vicinity.

Cultural Resources

Contemporary trash is present in the area and is composed of tin cans, galvanized metal containers, metal drums, glass, et cetera. No archaeological sites were recorded.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the Langlie A #3 and suggests that construction proceed without modification of existing plans.

Langlie B #3

Location

The proposed location is situated 2130' ft from the north line and 400 ft from

the west line and measures 400 X 400 ft. It is located in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T25S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series 1969.

The proposed location adjoins an existing right-of-way, and hence, will require no additional access.

Terrain

A broad, flat plain serves to demarcate this locality. It tends to rise on the west with slope toward the southeast. Soil individuals are sandy clay loams with angular caliche inclusions. Associated detritus averages 4 to 15 cm in diameter. Soils are taxonomically assignable to the Typic Paleorthid sub-group.

Floristics

The area, as a whole, is marked by a nearly purely stand of Gutierrezia sarothrae. Grass species are scarce to non-existent. Ferocactus sp. and Opuntia macrocentra do occur but are infrequent. Several specimens of Prosopis juliflora are present.

Cultural Resources

Contemporary trash litters the entire area but tends to be concentrated on the west side of the location. Trash consists of a wide array of twentieth century cultural detritus, viz., rubber tires, 3-gallon cans, tin cans of assorted types, springs and so forth. No archaeological sites were recorded at this location.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for Amoco's Langlie B #3 and suggests that construction proceed without modification of existing plans.

Langlie B #4Location

The proposed location is situated 400 ft from the west line and 990 ft from the north line and measures 400 X 400 ft. It is located in the:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T25S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969 .

The proposed access measures 12 X 300 ft and will pass through the:

W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T25S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969.

Terrain

Local physiography is composed of a flat and featureless plain. Soils are thin, sandy clay lomas with angular caliche inclusions. The immediate area is distinguished by numerous mounds, probably the remains of old bore holes, which are literally riddled with krotovinas. Associated soils are grayish brown (10YR 5/2 dry). Elsewhere, soils are brown (10YR 5/3 dry). All soils are taxonomically Typic Haplargids.

Floristics

Gutierrezia sarothrae and Prosopis juliflora are co-dominant at this locality. Croton texensis occurs sporadically throughout the area as do several unidentified grasses. Atriplex canescens is abundant along the extreme eastern edge of the location.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources were recorded during the course of this reconnaissance.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for Amoco's proposed Langlie B #4 and suggests that construction proceed without modification of existing plans.