

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

Amoco Production Company

Myers "B" Federal Well No. 35

South Mattix Unit Well No. 34

Prepared

by

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Submitted

by

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## Introduction

On 13 September 1978, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, completed an archaeological reconnaissance for Amoco Production Company on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Lea County, New Mexico. Reconnoitered locations and, in one instance, a proposed right-of-way, will be impacted by drilling activities and a suitable access. The project was administered by Mr. Bob Couch, Amoco Production Company, and Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS. Dr. Haskell undertook the survey under excellent field and weather conditions.

## Survey Technique

Each location was walked in a series of 20 ft wide, close interval, zigzag transects. In addition, one access was investigated by walking it in a tight, 20 ft wide, zigzag pattern. Combined these techniques served to maximize the visual coverage of areas of primary and secondary impact.

Myers "B" Federal Well No. 35

## Location

The proposed location will measure 450 X 450 ft and will be situated 990 ft from the south line and 330 ft from the west line:

Section 9, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

More specifically, it is situated in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 9, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

The associated access road will measure 12 X 300 ft and will pass through the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 9, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

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

### Terrain

Areal terrain is marked by a flat, nondescript plain which trends toward the southeast. Geologically, this landform is part of the Eunice Plain, a feature noted for its lack of relief. Local soils invariably belong to the Haplargid-Torripsamment association. In general, pedons are distinguished by fine loamy sands and sandy clay loams as well as a dearth of lithic inclusions. Shallow elliptically-shaped deflation basins occur on a sporadic basis as do low hummocks. Drainage outside the investigated area is often of an interior nature; however, primary drainage for the Eunice Plain is provided by Monument Draw.

### Floristics

Quercus havardii is the dominant plant throughout the investigated area and often is present in essentially pure stands. Yucca glauca, Artemisia filifolia, Croton pottsii, Hoffmanseggia sp., and Prosopis juliflora round out the overstory. Prosopis averages between .5 and 1 m in height. Principal forbs include Dicranocarpus parvifolius, Shrankia occidentalis, Solanum elaeagnifolium, Portulaca mundula, Euphorbia spp., Cyperus onerosus, Mentzelia humilis, Zinnia acerosa, Eriogonum wrightii, Tradescantia wrightii, and Plantago purshii. Graminaceae is represented by Andropogon sp., Stipa neomexicana, Aristida sp., Sporobolus spp., Bouteloua eriopoda, Bouteloua barbata, and Muhlenbergia porteri.

### Cultural Resources

No archaeological sites, or isolated manifestations, were recorded during NMAS' reconnaissance. Although the Eunice Plain has

has been occupied since Paleo-Indian times, no evidence of pre-historic activities was observed during the course of the reconnaissance. Coeval detritus is limited to several tin cans.

#### Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for Amoco's Myers "B" Federal Well No. 35 and its associated access road and suggests that work-related proceed according to existing plans.

South Mattix Unit No. 34

#### Location

Amoco's proposed location measures 450 X 450 ft and lies at a point 1650 ft from the north line and 2310 ft from the west line of:

Section 22, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

More specifically, it is situated in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 22, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

This location is situated on an existing right-of-way.

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

#### Terrain

The investigated area is marked by a flat plain which is co-extensive with the Eunice Plain. Drainage is via Monument Draw and hence is toward the southeast. Several low hummocks occur in the area averaging 40 cm or less. Soil individuals belong to the Typic Haplargid subgroup. Pedons are composed of fine sandy clay loams and clay loams which occasionally evidence signs of puddling. Peds, while often free of lithic inclusions, do contain caliche cobbles particularly on the northeast. There, inclusions generally average less than 8 cm in diameter.

### Floristics

Various and sundry members of the Graminaeae dominate the local floral assemblage. Principal plants include Aristida sp., Sporobolus spp., Tridens pulchellus, Stipa neomexicana, and Bouteloua eriopoda. Cactaceae includes Ferocactus sp., Opuntia sp. (platy-opuntia), and Mammillaria sp. Forbs include Solanum elaeagnifolium, Euphorbia spp., Portulaca mundula, Dicranocarpus parvifolius, Kallstroemia parviflora, Palafoxia sphacelata, and Zinnia acerosa.

### Cultural Resources

No archaeological sites, or isolated manifestations, were recorded during NMAS' reconnaissance. Although this area undoubtedly has been occupied by man on a transitory basis since Paleo-Indian times, NMAS failed to recover evidence of prehistoric occupation. The complete absence of material cultural remains can be attributed to the character of the landform and the concomitant lack of raw material suitable for tool manufacture. In addition, there is an acute shortage of surface water in the area; consequently, prehistoric man preferred locations near the rims of the scores of Pleistocene-aged playas which pock mark the Eunice Plain.

On the northwest, the area surrounding a windmill and corral is strewn with a plethora of modern detritus. Elsewhere, various and sundry cans (pop and beer), barbed wire, bottles, and a 1955 New Mexico license plate occur on the location.

### Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for Amoco's South Mattix Unit Well No. 34 and suggests that work-related activities proceed without modification of existing plans.