

Location (Cont.)

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1969
(see Figures 4 & 5).

Terrain

The proposed well pad is located 25 miles south of the Mescalero Ridge. It is situated on a gently undulating plain which declines to the southeast. The elevation is 3246 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly sandy calcareous loam. Lithic inclusions within this soil consist of large amounts of fragmented caliche. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Haplargid-Torripsament association. The center of the pad area has been previously impacted by the construction of an earlier pad.

Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the ground cover in the area is approximately 25 percent, being dominated by grasses. Among the species present are: Engleman pricklypear (Opuntia phae-cantha), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), plains lovegrass (Eragrostis intermedia), tabosa (Hilaria mutica), filaree (Erodium cicutarium), and broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae).

Cultural Resources

ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations either within or near the proposed facility. A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not find 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.

South Mattix Unit No. 39

Location

The proposed well pad is located 7.5 miles northeast of Jal, New Mexico and 25 miles south of the Mescalero Ridge. The proposed pad measures 450 X 450 feet and is situated as follows:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T24S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico (BLM)