

Location (Cont.)

Map Reference: USGS Jal NW Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1969
(see Figures 6 & 7).

Terrain

The proposed well pad is located 25 miles south of the Mescalero Ridge. It is situated on a gently undulating plain, which declines gradually to the south and east. The elevation in the area is approximately 3243 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-Torripsammunt association. A large portion of the eastern one-half of this pad area had been previously impacted by a well pad, road and pipeline.

Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately 45 percent, consisting mostly of grass species. Among the species present are: Engleman pricklypear (Opuntia phaeacantha), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), rabbit bush (Chrysanthomus nauseosus), black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), plains lovegrass (Eragrostis intermedia), tabosa (Hilaria mutica), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), 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 area of impact. A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not show any properties listed for this area.

Recommendations

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