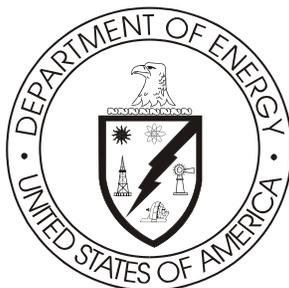


# **Delaware Basin Monitoring Annual Report**

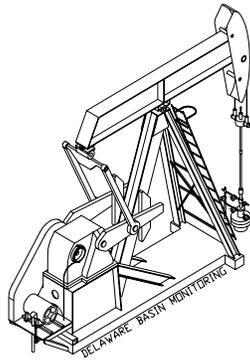


September 2003

**United States Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

**Carlsbad Field Office  
Carlsbad, New Mexico**

# Delaware Basin Monitoring Annual Report



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## United States Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Carlsbad Field Office  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

Prepared for  
the **Department of Energy** by  
**Washington Regulatory & Environmental Services**  
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Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program

## Table of Contents

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program</b>                | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>2003 Updates</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| 2.1        | Miscellaneous Drilling Information                                 | 2         |
| 2.1.1      | Drilling Techniques  | 3         |
| 2.1.2      | Drilling Fluids  | 4         |
| 2.1.3      | Air Drilling   | 4         |
| 2.2        | Shallow Drilling Events  | 6         |
| 2.3        | Deep Drilling Events   | 6         |
| 2.4        | Past Drilling Rates  | 7         |
| 2.5        | Current Drilling Rate  | 8         |
| 2.5.1      | Nine-Township Area Drilling Activities                             | 8         |
| 2.6        | Castile Brine Encounters   | 9         |
| 2.7        | Borehole Permeability Assessment - Plugging Practices              | 9         |
| 2.8        | Seismic Activity in the Delaware Basin                             | 11        |
| 2.9        | Secondary and Tertiary Recovery                                    | 12        |
| 2.9.1      | Nine-Township Area Injection Wells                                 | 12        |
| 2.9.2      | Nine-Township Area Salt Water Disposal Wells                       | 13        |
| 2.10       | Pipeline Activity  | 13        |
| 2.11       | Mining   | 14        |
| 2.11.1     | Potash Mining  | 14        |
| 2.11.2     | Sulfur Extraction  | 14        |
| 2.11.3     | Solution Mining  | 15        |
| 2.11.4     | Brine Wells  | 15        |
| 2.12       | New Drilling Technology  | 16        |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Survey of Well Operators for Drilling Information</b>           | <b>16</b> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Summary - 2003 Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program</b> | <b>16</b> |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>References</b>  | <b>17</b> |

## List of Figures

|          |  |    |
|----------|--|----|
| Figure 1 | WIPP Site, Delaware Basin, and Surrounding Area                    | 18 |
| Figure 2 | Typical Well Structure and General Stratigraphy Near the WIPP Site | 19 |
| Figure 3 | Oil and Gas Wells Within One-Mile of the WIPP Site                 | 20 |
| Figure 4 | Typical Borehole Plug Configurations in the Delaware Basin         | 21 |
| Figure 5 | Typical Injection or Salt Water Disposal Well (SWD)                | 22 |
| Figure 6 | Active Injection and SWD Wells in the Nine-Township Area           | 23 |
| Figure 7 | Potash Mining in the Vicinity of the WIPP Site                     | 24 |
| Figure 8 | Active Brine Well Locations in the Delaware Basin                  | 25 |

## List of Tables

|          |   |    |
|----------|---|----|
| Table 1  | Nine-Township Area Casing Sizes                                   | 26 |
| Table 2  | Nine-Township Area Bit Sizes                                      | 26 |
| Table 3  | Nine-Township Area Drilling Survey Information                    | 27 |
| Table 4  | Nine-Township Area Estimated Drilling Completion Times            | 28 |
| Table 5  | Nine-Township Area Drilling Fluids Information                    | 30 |
| Table 6  | Air-Drilled Wells in the New Mexico Portion of the Delaware Basin | 31 |
| Table 7  | Shallow Well Status in the Delaware Basin                         | 32 |
| Table 8  | Deep Well Status in the Delaware Basin                            | 33 |
| Table 9  | Past Drilling Rates for the Delaware Basin                        | 34 |
| Table 10 | Drilling in Relationship to the Cost of Crude Oil Since 1980      | 35 |
| Table 11 | Castile Brine Encounters in the Vicinity of the WIPP Site         | 36 |
| Table 12 | Plugged Well Information  | 37 |
| Table 13 | Plugging Summary by Well Type                                     | 39 |
| Table 14 | Seismic Activity in the Delaware Basin                            | 40 |
| Table 15 | Nine-Township Injection and SWD Well Information                  | 41 |
| Table 16 | Brine Well Status in the Delaware Basin                           | 43 |

## 1.0 Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program

The Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program (DBDSP) is designed to monitor drilling activities in the vicinity of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This program is based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. The EPA environmental radiation protection standards for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, high-level and transuranic radioactive wastes are codified in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 191 (EPA 1993). Subpart B of the standard addresses the disposal of radioactive waste. The standard requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to demonstrate the expected performance of the disposal system using a probabilistic risk assessment or performance assessment (PA). The results of the PA must show that the expected repository performance will not result in the release of radioactive material above limits set by the EPA's standard. This assessment must include the consideration of inadvertent drilling into the repository at some future time.

In Title 40 CFR Part 194 (EPA 1996), the EPA defined the geographical area for the evaluation of the historical rate of drilling for resources, as the Delaware Basin. This same area is to be used for monitoring drilling and drilling-related activities. The definition of the Delaware Basin in Title 40 CFR Part 194.2 is:

“Delaware Basin means those surface and subsurface features which lie inside the boundary formed to the north, east and west of the [WIPP] disposal system, by the innermost edge of the Capitan Reef, and formed, to the south, by a straight line drawn from the southeastern point of the Davis Mountains to the most southwestern point of the Glass Mountains.”

The Delaware Basin, depicted in Figure 1, includes all or part of Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler counties in west Texas, and portions of Eddy and Lea counties in southeastern New Mexico.

The DOE continues to provide surveillance of the drilling activity in the Delaware Basin in accordance with the criteria established in Title 40 CFR Part 194. This will continue until the DOE and the EPA mutually agree no further benefit can be gained from continued surveillance. The results of the ongoing surveillance will be used to determine if a significant and detrimental change has occurred that would affect the performance of the disposal system.

The *Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Plan* (WP 02-PC.02) places specific emphasis on the nine-township area that includes the WIPP Site and provides data to build on the information presented in Appendix DEL of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) (DOE 1996).

## **2.0 2003 Updates**

PA is required by regulation to consider disturbed case scenarios that include intrusions into the repository by inadvertent and intermittent drilling for resources. The probability of these intrusions is based on a future drilling rate of 46.8 boreholes per square kilometer per 10,000 years which was established for the 1996 CCA in Appendix DEL. This rate is based on consideration of the past record of drilling events in the Delaware Basin. The DOE models multiple types of human intrusion scenarios in the PA. These include both single intrusion events and combinations of multiple boreholes.

Two different types of boreholes are considered: (1) those that penetrate a pressurized brine reservoir in the underlying Castile Formation and (2) those that do not. While the presence of pressurized brine under the repository is speculative, it cannot be completely ruled out based on available information. The primary consequence of contacting pressurized brine is the introduction of an additional source of brine beyond that which is assumed to be released into the repository from the Salado Formation. The human intrusion scenario models are based on extensive field data sets collected by the DOE. The DBDSP collects the drilling related data to be used for future PA calculations. The data have been collected from the time of the 1996 submittal of the CCA to the present and include specific wells drilled during the last year in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin, specifically that of the nine-township area immediately surrounding the WIPP Site. These data are summarized in the following sections.

### **2.1 Miscellaneous Drilling Information**

The EPA provided criteria in Title 40 CFR §194.33(c) to address the consideration of drilling in PA. These criteria led to the formulation of conceptual models that incorporate the effects of these activities. The conceptual models use parameter values as documented in Appendix DEL of the CCA, such as:

- drill collar diameter and length
- casing diameters
- drill pipe diameter
- speed of drill string rotation through the Salado Formation
- penetration rate through the Salado Formation
- instances of air drilling
- types of drilling fluids
- amounts of drilling fluids
- borehole depths
- borehole diameters
- borehole plugs
- fraction of each borehole that is plugged
- instances of encountering pressurized brine in the Castile Formation

The DBDSP tracks borehole depths for all wells drilled in the Delaware Basin. Borehole depths tracked by the DBDSP range from 19 feet to 25,201 feet. The 19-foot hole is an exhaust shaft water monitoring well located on the WIPP Site, and the 25,201-foot hole is a gas well located in Texas. Borehole depths in the immediate vicinity of the WIPP Site typically range from 8,000 to 9,000 feet for oil wells and 13,000 to 16,000 feet for gas wells.

The diameter of each well bore is more difficult to ascertain. The DBDSP tracks the casing size and depth for each section of the hole (Table 1). Drill bit size is not a reportable element, although hole sizes are sometimes reported on Sundry notices (miscellaneous forms) maintained by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD). The casing size or hole size is used to determine the size of the bit used to drill that particular section of the well. Currently, the most common bit sizes being used are 17 1/2" for the surface section, 11" for the intermediate section, and 7 7/8" for the production section of the hole. Table 2 shows the bit sizes used in drilling a well in the nine-township area.

In the early days of well drilling, the 12 1/4" bit was popular with rotary drill operators for the surface section of the hole. In those days, the wells were much shallower and did not require the larger sections of casing. Most holes drilled at that time were two-string (string refers to the different size of casing in the wellbore) holes versus the three- and four-strings commonly used now. In the area of the WIPP Site, regulations require a three-string hole making the larger bit sizes more popular. The typical hole and casing sizes for a three-string well in the vicinity of the WIPP Site are shown in Figure 2.

Table 3 shows miscellaneous drilling information collected during the Annual Survey of area operators and Table 4 shows the estimated time (from records) to drill a well.

### **2.1.1 Drilling Techniques**

The drilling techniques reported in Appendix DEL of the CCA are still being implemented by area drillers. There were a total of 148 hydrocarbon wells spudded, not necessarily completed, in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin from September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003. This number is derived from the databases maintained by the DBDSP. In reality, the number of new wells is higher; but the paperwork on some of the wells has not been filed with the NMOCD or will be filed after the writing of this report. Therefore, those wells are not included in the count listed above. For example, during the last year 153 wells were added to the databases for New Mexico, meaning five wells were reported late.

Rotary drilling rigs were used to drill all 148 wells. Some have been completed as oil wells, others as gas wells, while the rest are still in the process of being completed. All were conventionally drilled utilizing mud as a medium for circulation. Fifty-six of these wells were in the nine-township area. The depths of the completed wells in the nine-township area range from 8,160 feet to 11,300 feet. Outside of the nine-township area the depths of the completed wells range from 3,200 feet to 14,085 feet.

A technique used by operators to increase production is to drill a well directionally or horizontally, which allows for more area of the wellbore to be in the production zone. As reported in Appendix DEL, this technique is not often used in this area because of the increased costs. The DBDSP monitors directional or horizontal drilled wells only in the nine-township area. None of the 56 new wells spudded during the last year in the nine-township area were directional or horizontal drilled wells. One well, spudded in 2000 and reported in Rev. 1 of this report, was completed as a directionally drilled well. This well is located outside of the WIPP Site boundary but is drilled into a lease located on Section 31 underneath the WIPP Site. There were nine more wells slated to be drilled into the same lease, all of which have been canceled since the initial well was drilled. There are currently two wells that have been drilled under the WIPP Site in Section 31 leases, with surface locations outside the WIPP Site boundary.

### **2.1.2 Drilling Fluids**

Employing a rotary rig for drilling involves the use of drilling fluids. Drilling fluid is commonly known as mud, which is the liquid circulated through the wellbore during rotary drilling and workover operations. In addition to its function of bringing cuttings to the surface, drilling mud cools and lubricates the bit and drill stem, protects against blowouts by holding back subsurface pressures, and deposits a mud cake on the wall of the borehole to prevent loss of fluids to the formation.

Typically, a driller will use fresh water and additives to drill the surface section of the hole which ends at the top of the Salado Formation. A change in drilling practices would necessitate a change in the application of drilling fluids. Within the Known Potash Lease Area (KPLA) of southeastern New Mexico, drillers are required under Title 19, Chapter 15, Order R-111-P of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) to use a saturated brine to drill through the salt formation which is usually called the intermediate section. This requirement is to keep the salt from washing out and making the hole larger than necessary and to protect the potash reserves that occur in this formation. Once this section has been drilled and cased, the driller again changes to fresh water and additives to finish drilling the hole to depth.

All the operators of new wells completed in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin during the last year that reported information on mud weights, listed mud weights from 8.6 to 8.8 pounds per gallon while drilling the intermediate portion of the wellbore. The operators completing wells in the nine-township area that reported mud weights used a solution of 9.9 to 10.2 pounds per gallon saturated brine for drilling the intermediate section of the well through the salt formation. Further information on drilling fluids used in the nine-township area is available in Table 5.

### **2.1.3 Air Drilling**

A method of hydrocarbon drilling not emphasized in Appendix DEL is air drilling. As defined by the oil industry, air drilling is a method of rotary drilling using compressed air as the circulation medium. The conventional method of removing cuttings from the wellbore is to use

a flow of water or drilling mud. In some cases, compressed air removes the cuttings with equal or greater efficiency. The rate of penetration is usually increased considerably when air drilling is used; however, a fundamental problem in air drilling is the penetration of formations containing water, since the entry of water into the system reduces the ability of the air to remove cuttings.

Critics noted the air drilling scenario was not included by the DOE in the CCA and raised several issues: (1) air drilling technology is currently successfully used in the Delaware Basin, (2) air drilling is thought to be a viable drilling technology under the hydrological and geological conditions at the WIPP Site, and (3) air drilling could result in releases of radionuclides that are substantially greater than those considered by the DOE in the CCA. Much research on the issue of air drilling in the Delaware Basin has been done. It has been shown that although air drilling is a common method of drilling wells it is not practiced in the vicinity of the WIPP Site because (1) it is against R-111-P regulations to drill with anything but saturated brine through the salt formation in the KPLA; (2) it is not economical to drill with air when a driller has to use saturated brine for the intermediate section; and (3) if water is encountered prior to or after drilling the salt formation, the driller would have to convert to a conventional system of drilling.

Additional information was provided to EPA Air Docket No. A-93-02, IV-G-7. In this information, the following was provided:

The well record search has continued and now includes information from the entire New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin. Within the nine-townships surrounding the WIPP, the records showed no evidence of air drilling. One possible exception to this may be the Lincoln Federal #1. This well is said to have been air drilled due to a loss of circulation at a depth of 1290 feet, but this has not been verified. The records associated with the Lincoln Federal #1 do not contain any evidence of air drilling. Rather, this information is based on verbal communications with the operating and drilling companies involved with the well. Nonetheless, the Lincoln Federal #1 may have been drilled with air, although it was not a systematic use of the technology. Air drilling at this well was used from 2984' to 4725' merely as a mitigative attempt to continue drilling to the next casing transition depth. After this casing transition, mud drilling was used for the remainder of the hole.

The area of the expanded search contains 3,756 boreholes. Of these, 407 well files were unavailable for viewing (in process), therefore, 3,349 well files constitute the database. Among these wells, 11 instances of air drilling were found in which any portion of the borehole was drilled with air. Only 7 of these were drilled through the Salado Formation at the depth of the repository. This results in a frequency of 7/3349, or 0.0021. This value is conservative in that it includes the Lincoln Federal #1, and four other wells which were proposed to be drilled with air, but no subsequent verification of actual drilling exists in the records.

During the summer of 1999, another search of these same records was conducted as a follow up to the original research. This search of the records was performed by an independent third party and was used as a quality assurance check of the original search. The database consisted of 3,810 boreholes with only 12 records unavailable for viewing. This search added five more wells with indications of some portion of the hole being drilled with air. None were air drilled through the Salado Formation or were located in the nine-township area. Of the five wells added

to the count, one (the Sheep Draw "28" Federal #13) had the first 358 feet air drilled while the other four had the conductor pipe drilled with air which consists of the first 40 feet of the borehole and is not usually reported in the drilling process. The conductor casing is typically drilled, set in place, and cemented prior to setting up the rotary drilling rig that will eventually drill the well.

The records on the new wells spudded during the last year (September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003) are being checked as they become available at the NMOCD Internet site for instances of air drilling. The records can be submitted to the NMOCD offices as late as two years after the well has been drilled. The record review is an ongoing process conducted on a continuous basis. None of the records reviewed to date have indicated any instances of air drilling. As was presented in the testimony (public hearings conducted by the EPA on WIPP certification) and continues to be validated by ongoing review, air drilling is not a common practice in the vicinity of the WIPP Site. Table 6 shows all of the known air drilling incidents that have occurred in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin.

## **2.2 Shallow Drilling Events**

One of the requirements of Title 40 CFR Part 194 is that the CCA must adequately and accurately characterize the frequency of shallow drilling within the Delaware Basin, as well as, support the assumptions and determinations, particularly those that limit consideration of shallow drilling events based on the presence of resources of similar type and quantity found in the controlled area. The DOE concluded in Appendix SCR that shallow drilling could be removed from PA consideration based on low consequence. As a result, the DOE did not include shallow drilling in its PA drilling rate calculations and did not include any reduction in shallow drilling rates during the active and passive institutional control periods. In Compliance Application Review Document (CARD) 32, the EPA accepted the DOE's finding that shallow drilling would not be of consequence to repository performance and need not be included in the PA.

Although the EPA has agreed shallow drilling can be eliminated from PA and need not be tracked, the DBDSP collects data on all wells drilled within the boundaries of the Delaware Basin. The program makes no distinctions between shallow and deep drilling events except when calculating the intrusion rate for deep drilling. Information on all wells drilled is vital for trending future activities. Table 7 shows a breakdown of the various types and number of shallow wells located within the Delaware Basin.

## **2.3 Deep Drilling Events**

In accordance with the criteria, the DOE used the historical rate of drilling for resources in the Delaware Basin to calculate a future drilling rate. In particular, in calculating the frequency of future deep drilling, Title 40 CFR §194.33(b)(3)(i) (EPA 1996) provided the following criteria to the DOE:

Identify deep drilling that has occurred for each resource in the Delaware Basin over the past 100 years prior to the time at which a compliance application is prepared.

The DOE used the historical record of deep drilling for resources below 2,150 feet that has occurred over the past 100 years in the Delaware Basin. This was chosen because it is the depth of the repository, and the repository is not directly breached by boreholes less than this depth. In the past 100 years, deep drilling occurred for oil, gas, potash, and sulfur. These drilling events were used in calculating a rate for deep drilling for PA as discussed in Appendix DEL of the CCA. The period of calculation used was from 1896 through June 1995. Historical drilling for purposes other than resource exploration and recovery (such as WIPP Site investigation) were excluded from the calculation in accordance with criteria provided in §194.33.

In the Delaware Basin, deep drilling events are usually associated with oil and gas drilling. Commercial sources and visits to the NMOCD offices and Internet site are used to identify these events. The DBDSP collects data on all drilled wells within the Delaware Basin, making no distinction between resources. Two separate databases are maintained on hydrocarbon wells, one for Texas and one for New Mexico. As information on wells is acquired, it is entered into the individual databases. The Texas database contains information only on the current status of the well, when it was drilled, its location, who the operator is, and the total depth of the well. The Texas portion of the Delaware Basin is used only for calculating the drilling rate. The database for the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin contains the same basic information as Texas along with all the information required for PA related drilling events.

The DBDSP continues to monitor all hydrocarbon drilling activity and any new potash, sulfur, water, or monitoring wells for deep-drilling events. Information from the drilling of these wells is added to the databases maintained for these separate resources. During the last year, there were 226 new wells added to the databases. Most of the wells were drilled for hydrocarbon extraction and almost all were deep drilling events. Fifty-six of these new wells are in the nine-township area immediately surrounding the WIPP Site. Table 8 shows the number and type of deep wells located in the Delaware Basin.

## **2.4 Past Drilling Rates**

The EPA provided a formula for calculating the current drilling rate or intrusion rate when 40 CFR Part 194 was promulgated. The formula is as follows: number of holes times 10,000 years divided by the area of the Delaware Basin (23,102.1 km<sup>2</sup>) divided by 100 years (1897-1996, the year the CCA was submitted). This formula is used to calculate both shallow and deep drilling rates for each resource. Since shallow drilling events are of no consequence, only deep drilling events are applied to the formula. The DBDSP uses all deep drilling events of any resource (potash, oil, gas, water, etc.) to calculate the drilling or intrusion rate. Including resources other than hydrocarbon will not affect the product of the formula due to the high number of deep drilling events recorded over the last 100 years in the Delaware Basin.

The drilling rates since the submittal of the CCA in 1996 are shown in Table 9. The large increase between 1996 and 1997 is the result of updating the databases with information from June 1995 through August 1997. Also, the 100-year window is considered a sliding window, in which 100 years worth of data is used each time the calculation is performed. As each new year's data are added, the oldest year's data are dropped. For example, the drilling rate was calculated in 1999 by using the data from 1900 through 1999. In 2000, the data from 1901 through 2000 was used to calculate the drilling rate.

## **2.5 Current Drilling Rate**

The calculated intrusion or drilling rate for 2003 was derived from the information provided in Table 8. There were 18,346 resource holes within the Delaware Basin; of those, 12,316 were deeper than 2,150 feet. Applying the formula results in the following:  $12,316 \text{ boreholes} \times 10,000 \text{ years} / 23,102.1 \text{ km}^2 / 100 \text{ years}$ . This results in a drilling or intrusion rate of 53.3 boreholes per  $\text{km}^2$  over 10,000 years.

This is an increase from the 46.8 boreholes per  $\text{km}^2$  reported in the 1996 CCA. This number is anticipated to rise for quite a few years before it begins to drop. This is because of the 100-year time frame used for drilling results. As new wells are added to the count, wells older than 100 years are dropped. It will be 2011 before any wells are dropped from the count while a number of new wells will be added due to increased oil and gas activity, thus driving up the count. Petroleum exploration activity is directly related to the price of crude oil and gas. The number of wells drilled per year for the last 24 years in the Delaware Basin and the average price per barrel of domestic crude oil is shown in Table 10.

### **2.5.1 Nine-Township Area Drilling Activities**

From September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003, there were 56 new wells spudded in the nine-township area immediately surrounding the WIPP Site. Four new wells were drilled in the one-mile area surrounding the WIPP Site. Figure 3 shows the status of all known hydrocarbon wells drilled within the one-mile area of the WIPP Site. Of the 56 new wells, 35 were drilled in Eddy County and 21 in Lea County. Thirty-four of the wells were to the northeast and east of the site, four to the west of the site, while the rest were all south of the site. Yates Petroleum Corporation drilled the most new wells in the nine-township area with 17 wells. Pogo Producing Company had 16 new wells, and Devon Energy Production Company drilled 15 new wells in the nine-township area during the last year. These three companies are the major producers in the area along with other companies such as, EOG Resources, Bass Enterprises Production Company, Chevron USA, Harvard Petroleum, Maralo, Inc., and Matador Operating Company.

## **2.6 Castile Brine Encounters**

WIPP PA included the assumption that a borehole results in the establishment of a flow path between the repository and a pressurized brine pocket that might be located beneath the repository in the Castile Formation. Research was performed in an attempt to verify this assumption. Studies recorded a total of 27 encounters with pressurized brine in the Castile Formation; of these, 25 were hydrocarbon wells scattered over a wide area in the vicinity of the WIPP Site. Two wells, ERDA 6 and WIPP 12, were drilled in support of WIPP Site characterization.

As indicated earlier, the independent search of the records performed in 1999 for instances of air drilling also looked for instances of pressurized brine. Although the search of the records noted a number of instances of encounters with sulfur water and brine water, none but the original 27 were found to have been pressurized brine encounters in the Castile Formation.

The DBDSP researches the well files of all new wells drilled in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin each year looking for instances of encounters with pressurized brine. The program also sends out an annual survey to operators of new wells asking if they encountered pressurized brine during the drilling process. As of this report, none of the records reviewed indicated encounters with pressurized brine during the drilling process on new wells spudded in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin between September 2002 and August 2003.

As reported in Rev. 2 of this report, there were two Castile Brine encounters by area drillers reported to WIPP Site personnel but not reported in records on file at NMOCD offices. Rev. 3 of this document recorded three more brine encounters, all unofficial as they do not appear in the records for these wells at the NMOCD offices. Two were located near ERDA 6 northeast of the WIPP Site and reported encountering several hundred barrels of brine per hour. All brine was contained within the pits thus requiring no report to the NMOCD. The other encounter was to the southwest of the WIPP Site reporting an initial flow from 400 to 500 barrels per hour. Flow dissipated in a matter of minutes. Of the five new Castile Brine encounters recorded since the 1996 CCA, four were picked up when WIPP Site personnel performing field work talked to area drillers. The other encounter was reported by an operator in the Annual Survey of area drillers. All the new encounters have been in areas where Castile Brine is expected to be encountered during the drilling process. Table 11 shows all known Castile Brine encounters in the vicinity of the WIPP Site.

## **2.7 Borehole Permeability Assessment - Plugging Practices**

The hydrocarbon well plugging practices used for the borehole permeability assessment remain valid. The regulations in place during the submittal of the CCA have not changed. The assessment will not change unless the regulations change to allow a different method of plugging. Regulations require the well be plugged in a manner that will permanently confine all oil, gas, and water in the separate strata in which they were originally found. These regulations require a notice of intent to plug from the operator. This notice includes a diagram of the well

bore and the placement of the plugs. A 24-hour notice to the NMOCD or to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required before plugging may commence.

Most of the wells in the vicinity of the WIPP Site are in the KPLA. Under R-111-P regulations, the operator is required to run a solid cement plug through the entire salt section and water-bearing zones in addition to installing a bridge plug above the perforations. Installing a solid cement plug through the salt provides additional assurance no fluids or gases escape through the casing into potash mining areas or fresh water formations.

In the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin, the DBDSP retrieves a copy of the plugging report from the NMOCD Internet site when a well has been plugged and abandoned. This information is added to the records maintained by the DBDSP on each well drilled within the Delaware Basin. By maintaining records in such a fashion, should the regulations change and the plugging methods differ from what is now occurring, a trend would be noticed and the borehole permeability assessment revisited. Table 12 shows various plug information on the wells plugged and abandoned within the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin in the last year.

CCA Appendix MASS, Attachment 16-1 describes the development of a conceptual model for long-term performance of plugged boreholes. The study did not attempt to predict the effectiveness of plugs, but to identify the location and physical characteristics of plugs which might be important to performance assessment. Guidance in 40 CFR 194 states that “Performance assessments should assume that the permeability of sealed boreholes will be affected by natural processes, and should assume that the fraction of boreholes that will be sealed by man equals the fraction of boreholes which are currently sealed in the Delaware Basin.” The rule also state that “...drilling practices will remain as those of today.” Only wells plugged in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin were used for the study and only wells drilled after 1988, when the current plugging regulation went into effect, were used. The results of this study indicated that PA should assume a 100% plugging frequency.

To determine the typical configuration and composition of a borehole plug, the study considered both current drilling and plugging practices to arrive at a model depicting six different types of plugging configurations (see Figure 4):

- Type I      Plugs will be located at the transition between the surface and intermediate casings and the transition between the intermediate and production casings. This area is usually the top of the Salado Formation and the bottom of the Castile Formation, roughly 800 feet and 4,000 feet below the surface.
  
- Type II      This plugging configuration has a portion of the production casing salvaged. Where the production casing was cut a plug must be installed. If a plug occurs between 2,150 and 2,700 feet (above the hypothetical brine pocket) and the other plugs occur at the top of the Salado Formation and below the Castile Formation, it is considered a Type II configuration.

- Type III      This configuration is the same as above except the removed production casing plug occurs above 2,150 feet.
- Type IV      Extra plugs, in addition to those of Type II, have been emplaced above 2,150 feet.
- Type V      The minimum regulatory requirements require a surface plug and a plug occurring at the bottom, provided no water-bearing zones were encountered. This type of plugging configuration is not common.
- Type VI      This configuration has a solid cement plug through a significant portion of the salt section. This configuration, like the others, may have additional plugs above and below the salt-section plug.

There was one hydrocarbon well, which was not located in the R-111-P area, plugged in the nine-township area during 2003 and 22 others outside the nine-township area. Only 20 of the 23 will be used in the permeability assessment update (see Table 13), because three were too shallow (less than 2,150 feet deep).

## **2.8      Seismic Activity in the Delaware Basin**

The DBDSP records in a database and on a map all known seismic events occurring in Southeast New Mexico and West Texas, specifically that of the Delaware Basin. This information is provided every quarter in a report from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico, which utilizes an array of seven seismographs in the vicinity of the WIPP Site.

During 2003, 121 events occurred in the area monitored by the DBDSP. Since the DBDSP monitors an area smaller than the area monitored by New Mexico Tech, there are a greater number of events reported in New Mexico Tech's report. Of the 121 events, three occurred in the Delaware Basin, one in Lea County, New Mexico and two in Culberson County, Texas. The smallest event in the Delaware Basin was 0.8 magnitude and the largest was 2.0 magnitude. Of the events that occurred outside of the Delaware Basin, the smallest was 0.8 magnitude and the largest was 3.4 magnitude. New Mexico accounted for one hundred seven events, with the remainder occurring in Texas. In Eddy County there were one hundred events. All were located northwest of the WIPP Site, outside of the Delaware Basin, in the Dagger Draw, or the Cass Ranch area of Central Eddy County where a large number of oil and gas activities are conducted. Table 14 provides information on all recorded events which occurred in the Delaware Basin.

## **2.9 Secondary and Tertiary Recovery**

Secondary recovery is defined by the oil industry as the first improved recovery method of any type applied to a reservoir to produce oil not recoverable by primary recovery methods. Waterflooding is one such method. This method involves pumping water through the existing perforations in a well in which production has decreased sufficiently to merit stimulation. As the water is pumped into a formation, it stimulates production of oil or gas in other nearby wells. This is a proven method of recovering hydrocarbons that otherwise would be economically unretrievable. Waterflooding has been a popular form of secondary recovery for over 40 years. Waterflooding can be accomplished by one injection well or several injection wells in the immediate vicinity of other producing wells.

In the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin, there are three major waterflood projects and several one and two injection well operations. One of the major waterflood projects in the area is the El Mar, located in T26S-R32E, on the Texas border. At one time, this project (currently operated by Quay Valley, Inc.) had 31 permitted injection wells. Currently, there are only two wells actively injecting water. The remaining wells are either shut-in (not being used) or plugged and abandoned. The operation for this facility has not changed since last year. The Paduca waterflood project, located in T25S-R32E, has 19 permitted injection wells with eight (up from seven this time last year) injecting water into the formation. The third major waterflood project in this area (Indian Draw), located in T22S-R28E, is currently injecting into nine of the ten permitted wells. At this time last year, this facility was not injecting into any of its permitted wells.

Tertiary recovery is defined by the oil industry as the use of any improved recovery method to remove additional oil after secondary recovery. One method of tertiary recovery practiced in the industry, where conditions permit, is the injection of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the formation. This consists of injecting a prescribed amount of CO<sub>2</sub> into the reservoir followed by an injection of water and a subsequent injection of CO<sub>2</sub>. Although CO<sub>2</sub> can be injected continuously, it is not cost effective to implement this process. At the time of this report, there are no known CO<sub>2</sub> injection wells or tertiary recovery projects being operated in the vicinity of the WIPP Site, although several are being operated by oil companies in the Texas portion of the Delaware Basin.

### **2.9.1 Nine-Township Injection Wells**

Secondary recovery projects occurring in the nine-township area are on a small scale. There are six injection wells, up from five this time last year, located in the nine-township area surrounding the WIPP Site. Phillips Petroleum operates two injection wells, James "A" #3 and #12, located in section 2-T22S-R30E, northwest of the site. Both are active and injecting near the maximum permitted pressure of 945 psi for #3 and 1,120 psi for #12. Both first injected water in the early 1990s. The other four injection wells are operated by Pogo Producing Company. The Neff Federal #3 is located in section 25-T22S-R31E. This well went on-line in 1995 and has injected approximately 3,807,382 barrels (2,850,700 barrels this time last year) of

water at a maximum permitted pressure of 1,410 psi. The Pure Gold “B” Federal #20 (23S-31E-20) has injected 244,642 barrels to date but is currently sitting idle. The third Pogo well (Prize Federal #4 located in 22S-32E-27) recently went on-line and no injection data has been reported at this time. The fourth Pogo well (State “2” #5 located in 22S-31E-02) was just recently permitted but has yet to start actively injecting. All six wells are or will be injecting into the Brushy Canyon Formation of the Delaware Mountain Group at approximately 7,200 feet. Figure 5 shows a typical injection or salt water disposal well configuration.

## **2.9.2 Nine-Township Salt Water Disposal Wells**

The most common type of injection well is for the disposal of brine water coming from the producing formation in oil and gas wells. Figure 6 shows the location of active injection and salt water disposal wells in the nine-township area. Most producing oil and gas wells produce water along with oil or gas. Salt Water Disposal (SWD) wells have become necessary as a result of the EPA’s ruling that formation water may no longer be disposed of on the surface. The oil companies now dispose of this water by injecting it into approved SWD wells.

There are currently 35 SWD wells, an increase of one over the last year, operated by 12 companies (12 companies in 2002) located in the nine-township area surrounding the WIPP Site. Two operators, Devon Energy and Pogo Producing, operate the majority of the SWD wells. Injection depths range from 3,800 to 8,200 feet. During the last year, all operated within their maximum permitted injection pressure. The volume of disposed brine water depends on the number of producing wells maintained by the operator in the immediate vicinity of the SWD well. Table 15 provides disposal information on all SWD and injection wells in the nine-township area.

## **2.10 Pipeline Activity**

Pipeline activity is monitored in the nine-township area, specifically within a five mile radius of the WIPP Site. Only pipelines of permanent construction, such as buried rigid metal pipelines, are of concern to the DBDSP. Many oil, gas, and SWD wells are connected to tank batteries by gathering systems constructed of poly flowlines (flexible plastic pipe) that may or may not be buried. These flowlines are semi-permanent. When they are no longer needed, they are removed for use elsewhere. This type of pipeline activity is not monitored by the DBDSP. Metal pipeline activity is of interest because it will be around for a long time thus requiring the locations of these pipelines to be documented. Only natural gas and water pipelines are located within the immediate vicinity of the WIPP Site. The natural gas pipelines are owned and operated by three companies, El Paso Natural Gas Company, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, and Transwestern Pipeline Company.

One type of pipeline activity of major concern to the DBDSP is CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, a form of tertiary recovery of oil discussed previously involving the use of CO<sub>2</sub>. An indicator of this form of recovery would be the construction of a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline in the area. Currently, there are no CO<sub>2</sub>

pipelines within the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin. The nearest CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline is located south of the WIPP Site in the Texas portion of the Delaware Basin.

## **2.11 Mining**

Resources found in the Delaware Basin that can be mined are potash, sulfur, caliche, gypsum, and halite. Potash and sulfur are present in quantities large enough to be mined profitably. Only caliche, of the other resources available, is economically extracted from the earth in conventional mining methods. Caliche is mainly used in the construction of pads for oil and gas well drilling rigs.

### **2.11.1 Potash Mining**

Potash mining in the immediate vicinity of the WIPP Site continues as reported in Appendix DEL of the CCA. Figure 7 shows the location and the extent of mining of the potash mines in the vicinity of the WIPP Site. There have been several changes to the companies that operate in the area, most notably, only two potash mining companies remain in operation. No plans have been promulgated by either company to sink new shafts or encroach upon the potash reserves identified in Appendix DEL. Currently, these reserves are not economically recoverable.

In August 1996, Mississippi Potash (a subsidiary of Mississippi Chemical Corporation) purchased all the assets of New Mexico Potash Corporation and Eddy Potash, Inc. These plants were renamed Mississippi East and Mississippi North, respectively. December 1997 saw the Mississippi North plant shut down because it could no longer be economically operated. Mississippi Potash continues to produce potash fertilizer from both the east and west plant mines and refineries.

The other potash producer in the area, IMC Kalium Potash, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IMC Global. Western Ag-Minerals was purchased by IMC Global September 1997. This acquisition doubled the potash reserves for IMC Kalium and increased their other reserves by 30 percent. IMC Global merged with Freeport-McMoRan, a major world potash producer, December 1997 with IMC Global as the surviving entity in the transaction.

### **2.11.2 Sulfur Extraction**

The only viable sulfur mining activity within the Delaware Basin was being conducted by Freeport-McMoRan Sulphur, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of McMoRan Exploration Company. The mine is located in Culberson County, Texas. The mine recovered sulfur utilizing the Frasch process (solution mining) which consists of a hole drilled into the sulfur bearing formation and then cased. The next step involves the placement of three concentric pipes within the protective casing to facilitate pumping superheated water down the hole, melting the sulfur, and recovering the molten sulfur to the surface. In June 1998, it was announced the mine would cease production September 1998 because it was no longer economically feasible to operate. Because of problems at other sulfur facilities, the Culberson mine was operated until it

permanently ceased production on June 30, 1999. Abandonment and salvage operations continued until the early summer of 2000.

Recently, a number of sulfur exploration coreholes were found in the BLM records. These coreholes were drilled in the late 1960s through the early 1980s in the Yeso Hills near Washington Ranch in the far southwest corner of the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin. These coreholes have yet to be added to the databases. All were shallow (less than 2,150 feet) drilling events that were conducted for various small-time operators. There have been no reports on whether any of the holes encountered sufficient quantities of mineable sulfur.

### **2.11.3 Solution Mining**

Solution mining is the process by which water is injected into a mineral formation, circulated to dissolve the mineral, and the solution then pumped back to the surface where the minerals are precipitated out of the water, usually by evaporation. There are several brine mines or wells in the area, two in New Mexico and nine in Texas (see Figure 8), that use this process to provide a brine solution for area drilling operators to use in the drilling process. These are all shallow wells using injected fresh water to dissolve the salt into a brine solution.

In early 1997, Mississippi Potash proposed to set up a pilot potash solution mining project at the former Eddy Potash mine located north of the WIPP Site and outside of the Delaware Basin. BLM was provided with all of the necessary documentation to acquire a permit to operate the pilot project, but the project was postponed. In March 2002, Mississippi Potash again applied for a permit to operate a pilot potash solution mining project. In May 2002, the project was given approval to proceed by the BLM though the project has not been started. If the project is initiated, it will be approximately three acres in size. Although this project is outside of the Delaware Basin, it will be closely followed because of its importance.

In the late 1960s, Conoco Minerals installed a pilot solution mining project on leases it held on the former AMAX property north of the WIPP Site. The project was designed to test solution mining of potassium minerals and consisted of one injection well and three withdrawal wells, but the potash ore zone was deemed too thin to make this method economically viable.

### **2.11.4 Brine Wells**

Brine wells are classified as Class II injection wells. In the Delaware Basin, the process involves injecting fresh water through the wells into a salt formation to create a saturated brine solution, which is then extracted and utilized as a drilling agent when drilling a new well. These wells are tracked by the DBDSP on a continuing basis. Table 16 provides the status of brine wells in the Delaware Basin.

## **2.12 New Drilling Technology**

New drilling methods are researched by the DBDSP for impacts to the drilling methods currently used in the area. To date, no new methods of drilling have been identified or implemented in the vicinity of the WIPP Site.

## **3.0 Survey of Well Operators for Drilling Information**

A survey of local well operators is performed annually to acquire information on drilling practices normally not available on the Sundry notices supplied to the local state and federal offices by the operator or through commercial sources maintained by the DBDSP. There are no regulatory requirements to provide the information. This survey requests information on other items of interest to the WIPP such as hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) encounters, Castile Brine encounters, or if any section of the well was drilled with air. The DBDSP personnel review the records on all new wells drilled to look for the above data. The survey provides an additional source of information on drilling activities in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin.

The first survey of area operators was performed July 1999. Drilling information was requested on the 16 wells drilled in the nine-township area of the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin. In July 2000, 45 surveys were sent out to nine different operators on wells their companies drilled in the nine-township area during that year (twelve surveys were returned). In July 2001, 44 surveys were sent out to nine different operators and no responses were received. During July 2002, 27 surveys were mailed to three local operators. One operator returned five surveys on wells drilled by their company in the nine-township area. One of the surveys reported on a Castile Brine encounter as discussed in Section 2.6 of this report. The survey conducted for 2003 saw 49 surveys mailed out to eight area operators. To date, 12 surveys have been returned from four operators. Information from this survey is provided in Table 3.

## **4.0 Summary - 2003 Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program**

Very little has changed since 1996 when the CCA was submitted to the EPA. Drilling practices continue to be the same, as do the methods for mineral extraction. The 2003 drilling rate is steadily increasing although not at the same rate as in recent years, even though the price of oil is relatively high. The potash mining activity has declined from five companies to two companies in recent years with several mines operated by these two companies ceasing active production.

## 5.0 References

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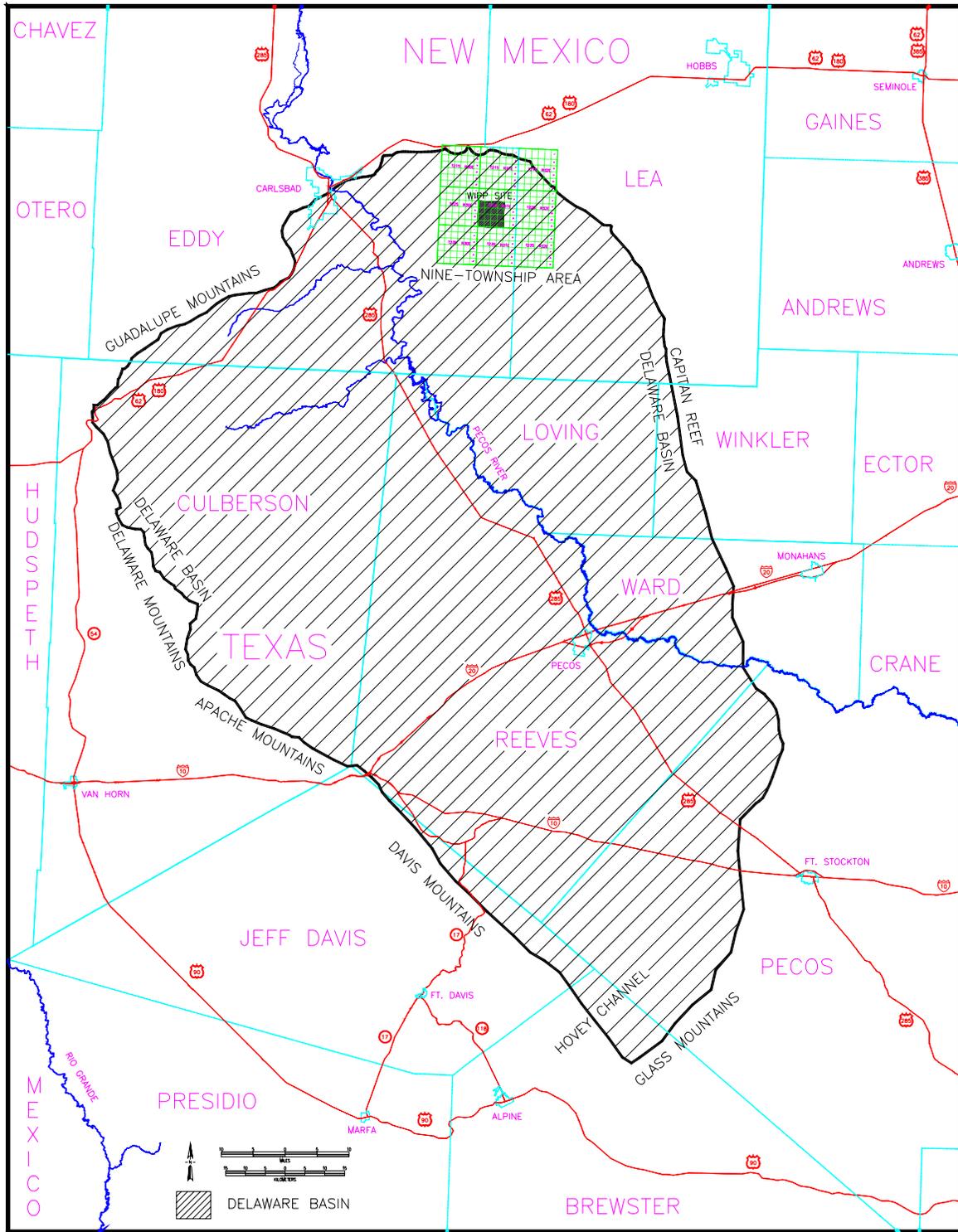
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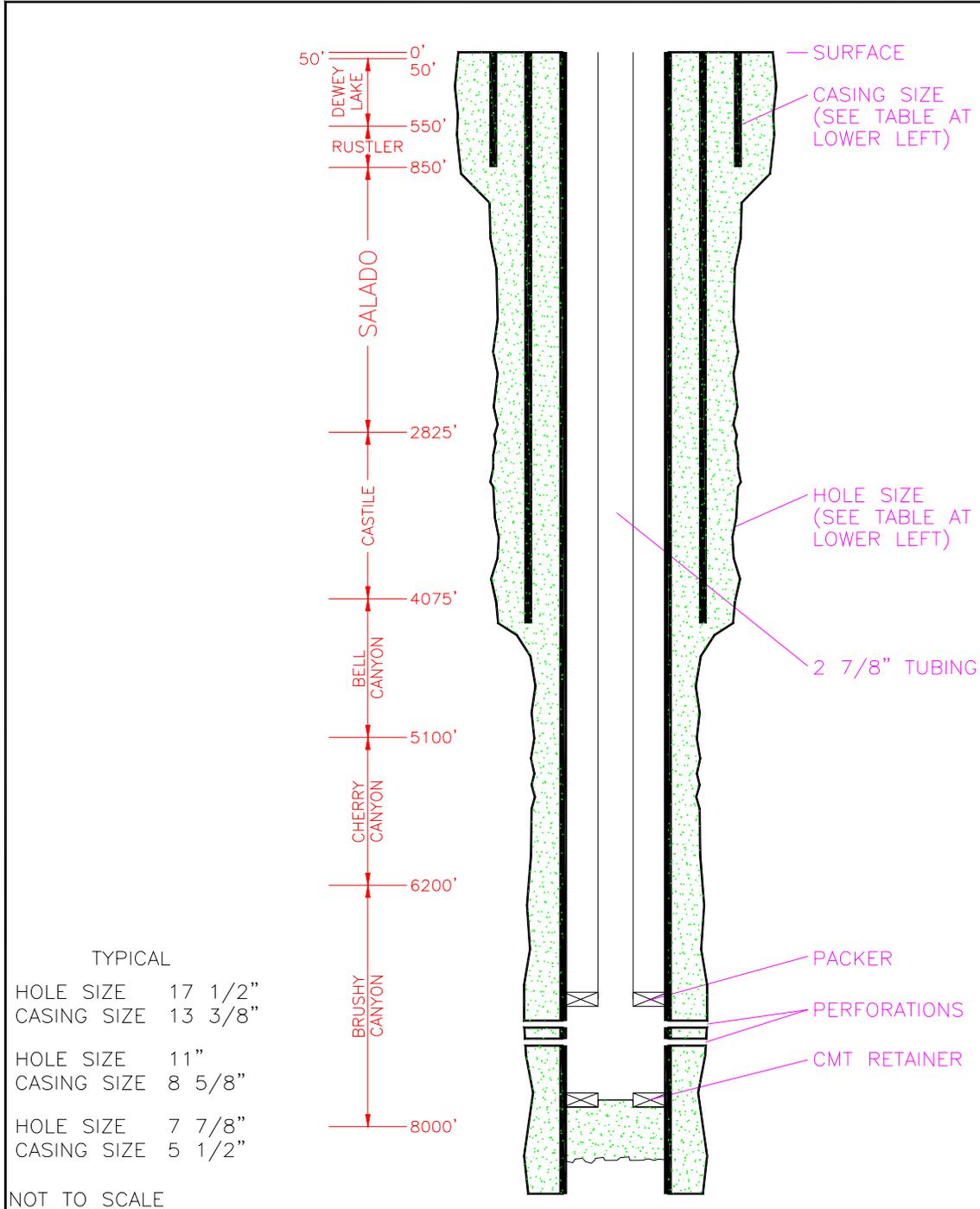
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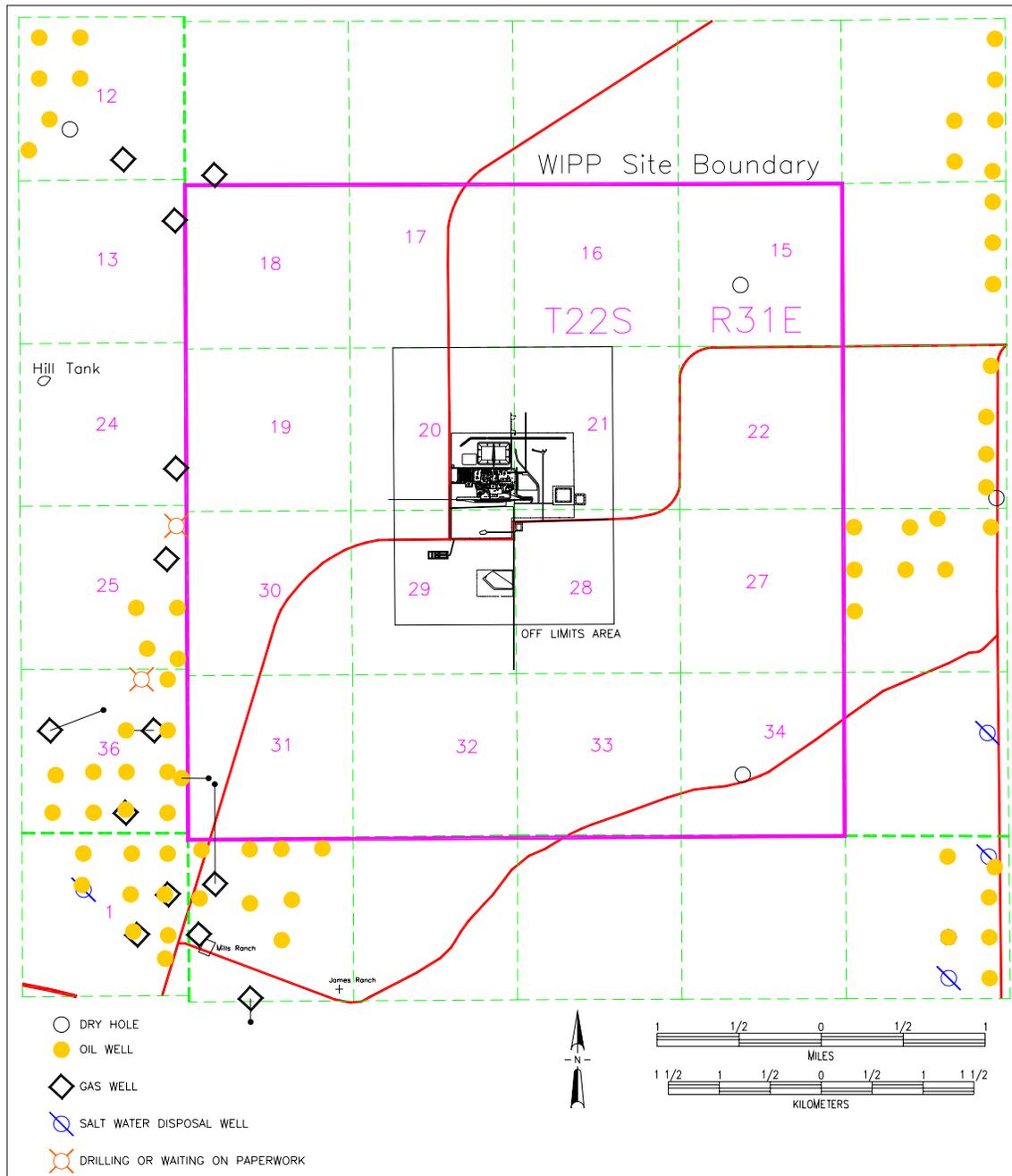
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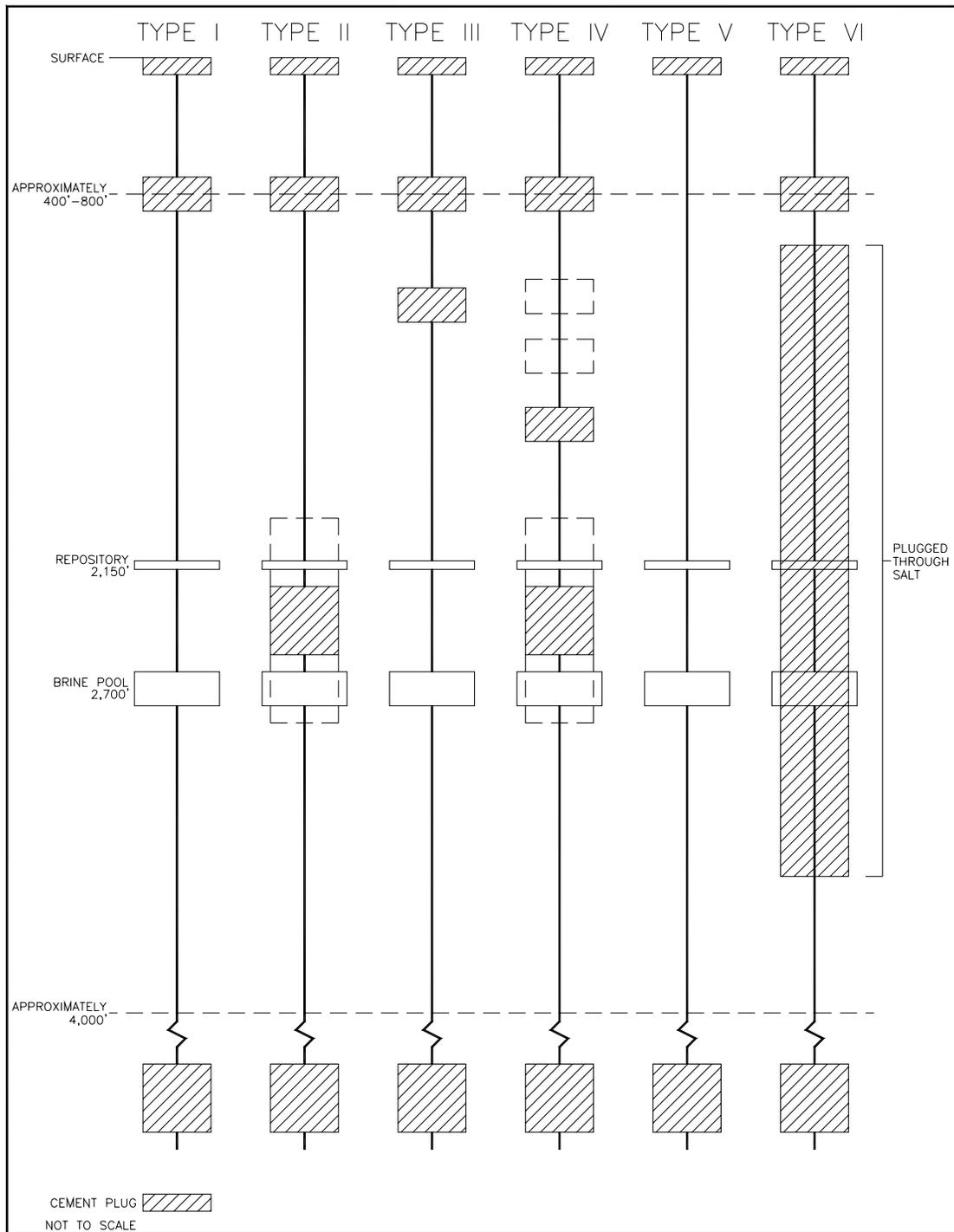
**FIGURE 1**  
**WIPP Site, Delaware Basin, and Surrounding Area**



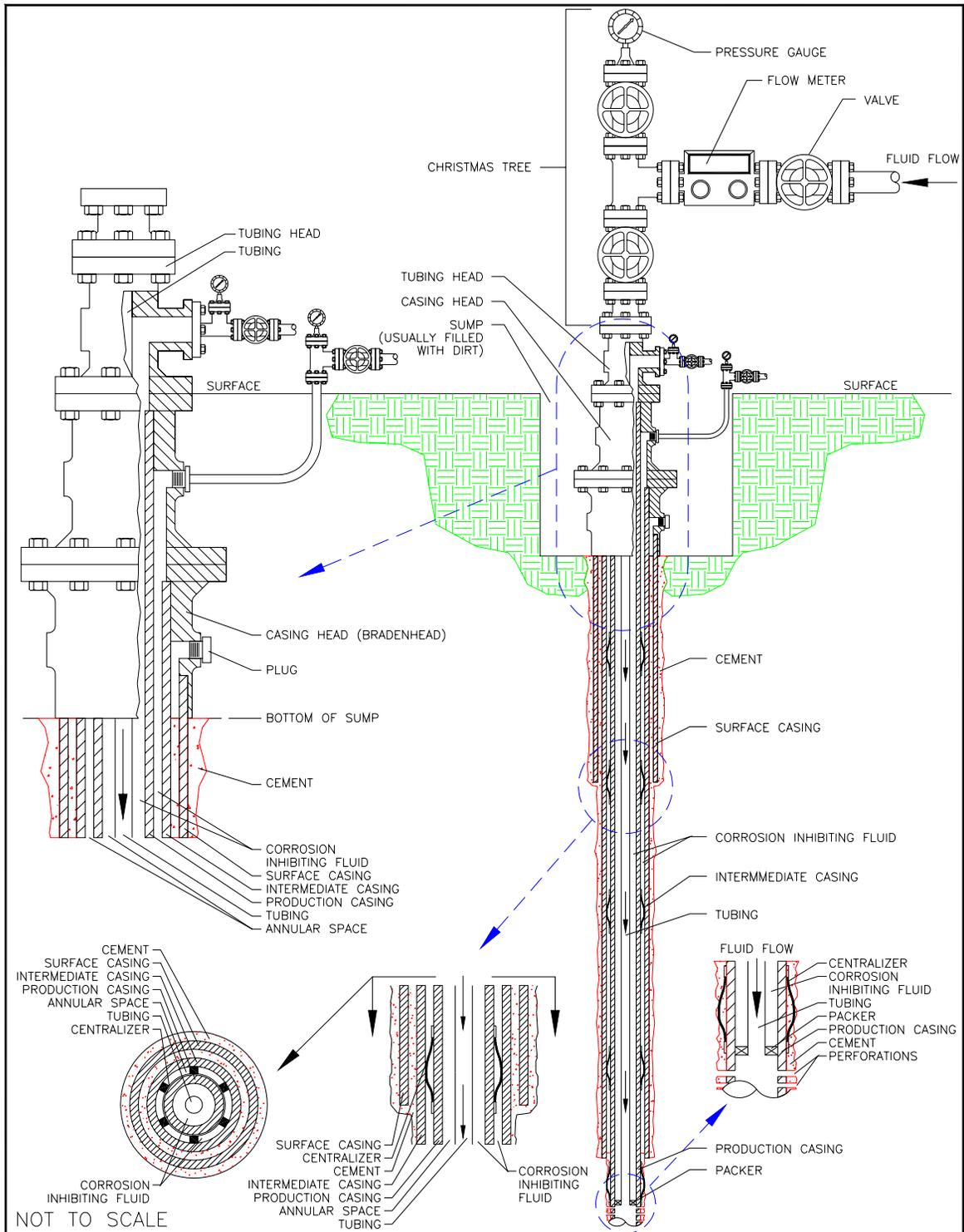
**FIGURE 2**  
**Typical Well Structure and General Stratigraphy Near the WIPP Site**



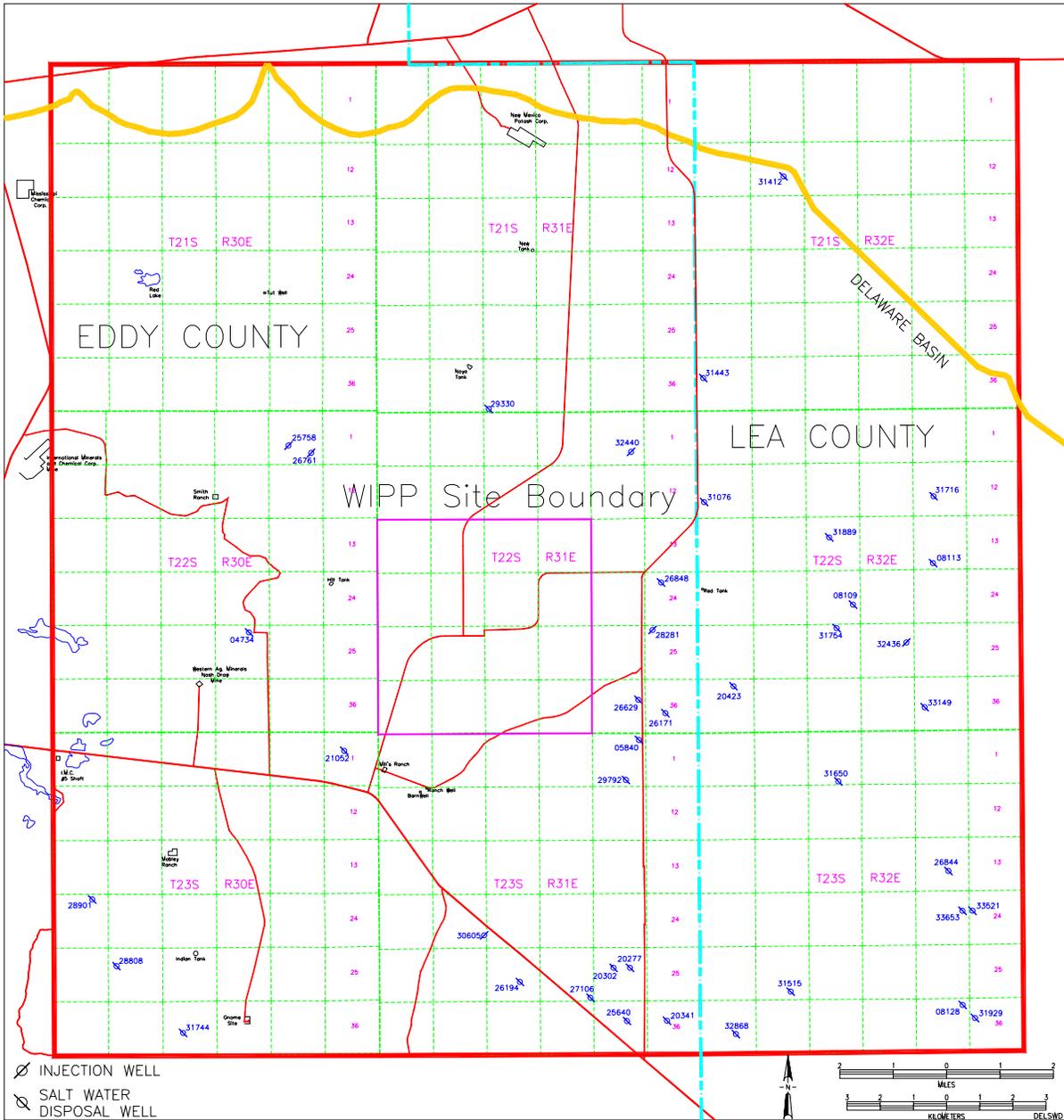
**FIGURE 3**  
***Oil and Gas Wells Within One-Mile of the WIPP Site***



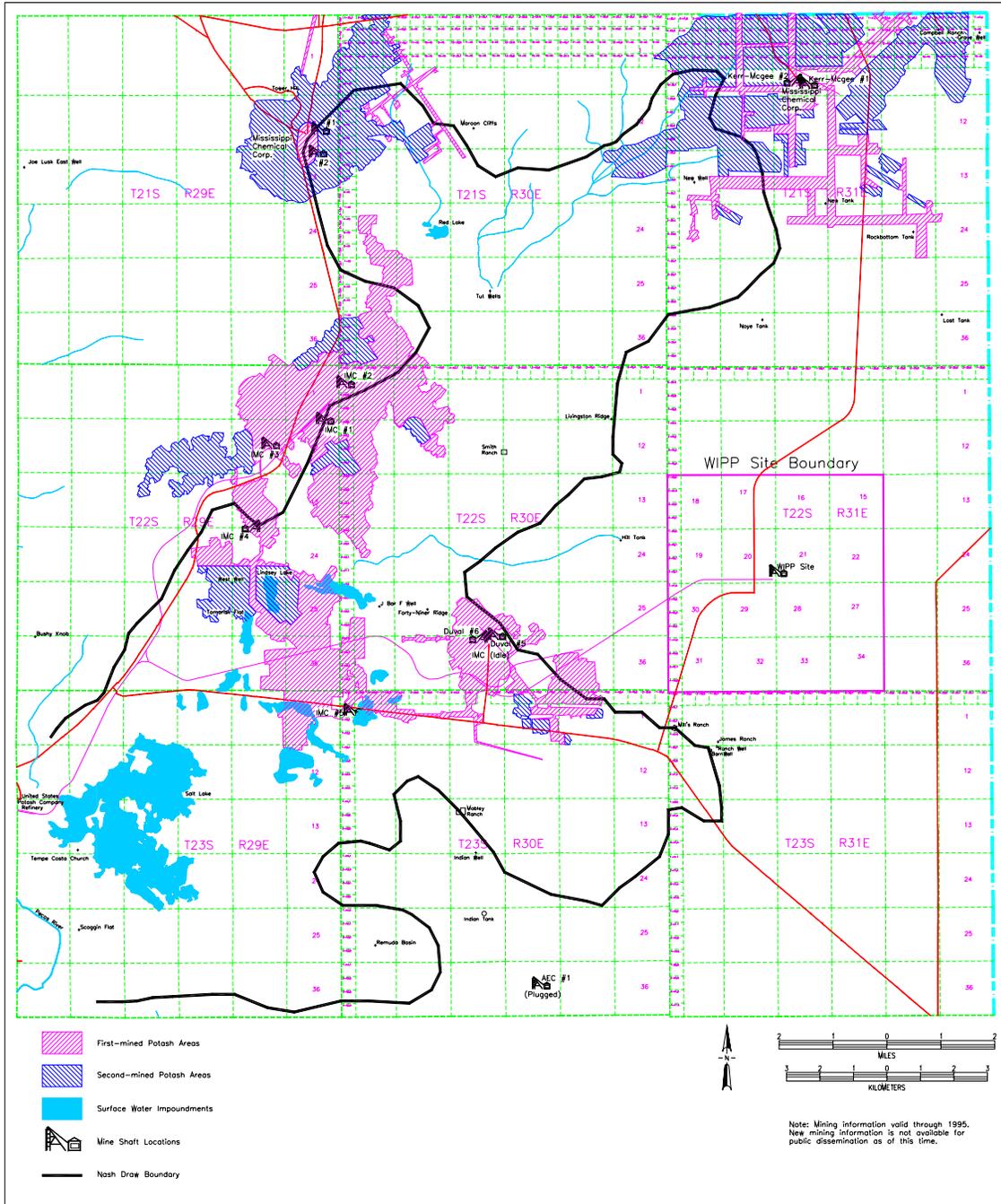
**FIGURE 4**  
*Typical Borehole Plug Configurations in the Delaware Basin*



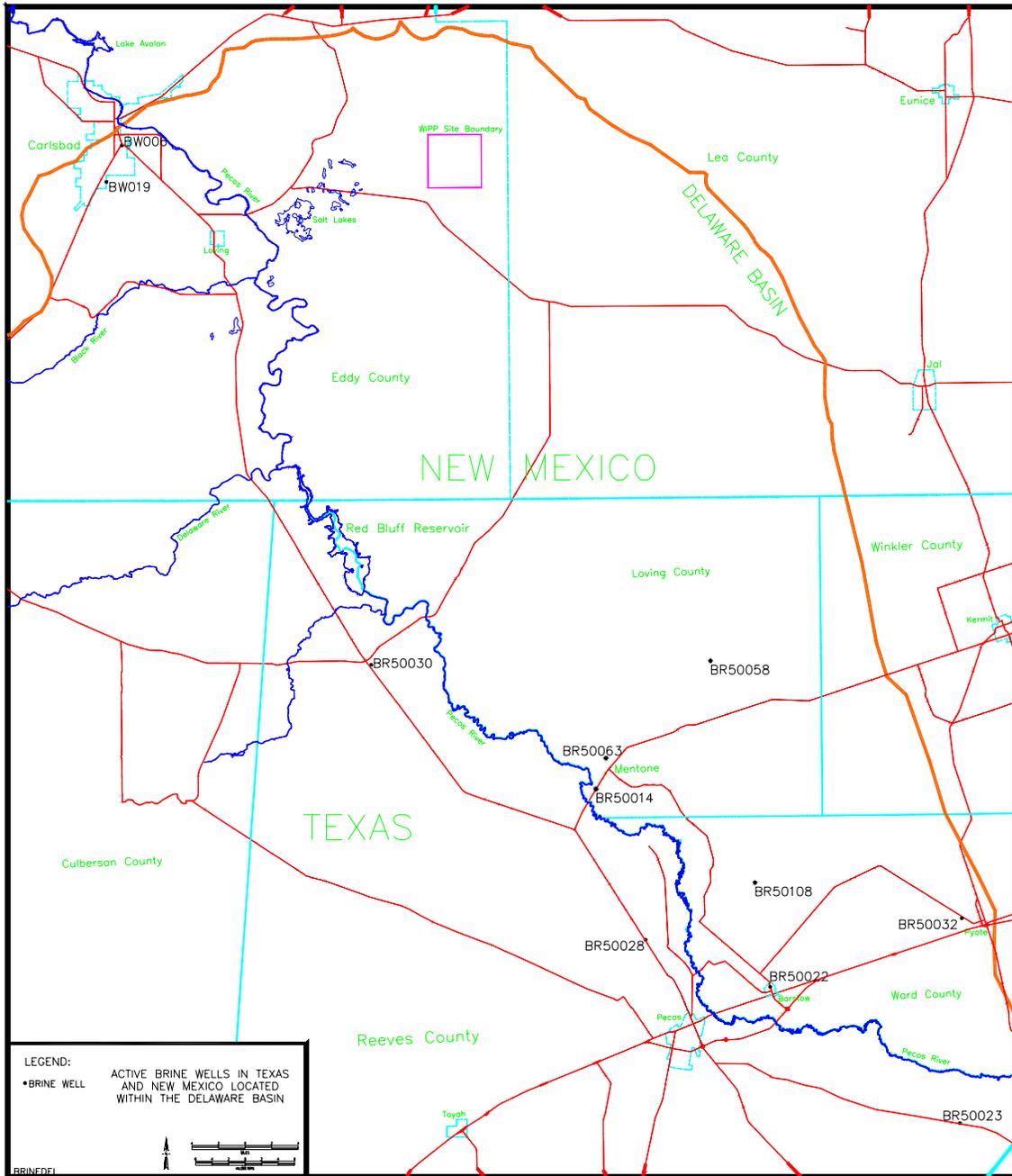
**FIGURE 5**  
**Typical Injection or Salt Water Disposal Well**



**FIGURE 6**  
*Active Injection and SWD Wells in the Nine-Township Area*



**FIGURE 7**  
*Potash Mining in the Vicinity of the WIPP Site*



**FIGURE 8**  
*Active Brine Well Locations in the Delaware Basin*

**TABLE 1**  
**Nine-Township Area Casing Sizes**

| <i>Casing Size</i> | <i>Surface Casing</i> | <i>Intermediate Casing</i> | <i>Production Casing</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 13 3/8"            | 53                    | 0                          | 0                        | 53            |
| 11 3/4"            | 1                     | 0                          | 0                        | 1             |
| 9 5/8"             | 0                     | 1                          | 0                        | 1             |
| 8 5/8"             | 0                     | 51                         | 0                        | 51            |
| 7"                 | 0                     | 0                          | 1                        | 1             |
| 5 1/2"             | 0                     | 0                          | 50                       | 50            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | 54                    | 52                         | 51                       | 157           |

NOTE: There were 56 wells drilled in the nine-township area between September 1, 2002 and August 31, 2003. Fifty-one of the wells had complete records available on casing sizes. The other five wells had partial records available on casing sizes. All available information is indicated in the above table.

**TABLE 2**  
**Nine-Township Area Bit Sizes**

| <i>Bit Size</i> | <i>Surface Hole</i> | <i>Intermediate Hole</i> | <i>Production Hole</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 17 1/2"         | 51                  | 0                        | 0                      | 51            |
| 14 3/4"         | 1                   | 0                        | 0                      | 1             |
| 12 1/4"         | 0                   | 2                        | 0                      | 2             |
| 11"             | 0                   | 48                       | 0                      | 48            |
| 7 7/8"          | 0                   | 0                        | 49                     | 49            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>   | 52                  | 50                       | 49                     | 151           |

NOTE: Of the 56 wells drilled in the nine-township area, complete records were available on 49 wells. The other seven wells had partial records available on bit sizes. All available information is reported in the above table.

**TABLE 3**  
**Nine-Township Area Drilling Survey Information**

| <b>#</b> | <b>Well Name and No.</b>    | <b>Drill Pipe</b> | <b>Rotation Speed</b> | <b>Penetration Rate</b> | <b>Collar Diameter</b>                    | <b>Collar Length</b>               |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1        | Neff "13" Federal #16       | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 28 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=737 Ft<br>I=984 Ft<br>P=929 Ft   |
| 2        | Getty "24" Federal #16      | 4 ½"              | 60-75 RPM             | 40 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=706 Ft<br>I=1,016 Ft<br>P=927 Ft |
| 3        | Getty "24" Federal #14      | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 33.4 Ft/Hr              | S=8"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"               | S=476 Ft<br>I=766 Ft<br>P=800 Ft   |
| 4        | Getty "24" Federal #13      | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 49 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=584 Ft<br>I=640 Ft<br>P=848 Ft   |
| 5        | Federal "BA" #1             | 4 ½"              | 65 RPM                | 29 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=850 Ft<br>I=800 Ft<br>P=635 Ft   |
| 6        | Bootleg "11" Federal Com #1 | 4 ½"              | 0.78 Ft/Sec           | 40 Ft/Hr                | S=8"                                      | 30 Ft                              |
| 7        | Todd "13 L" Federal #12     | 4 ½"              | 65 RPM                | 29 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=674 Ft<br>I=886 Ft<br>P=857 Ft   |
| 8        | Todd "14 N" Federal #14     | 4 ½"              | 60 RPM                | 30 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=835 Ft<br>I=768 Ft<br>P=887 Ft   |
| 9        | Todd "23 C" Federal #18     | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 32 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=8" and 6" | S=419 Ft<br>I=767 Ft<br>P=912 Ft   |
| 10       | Todd "13 E" Federal #26     | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 51 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=720 Ft<br>I=767 Ft<br>P=887 Ft   |
| 11       | Todd "13 M" Federal #31     | 4 ½"              | 70 RPM                | 36 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=712 Ft<br>I=891 Ft<br>P=870 Ft   |
| 12       | Todd "14 I" Federal #9      | 4 ½"              | 65 RPM                | 45 Ft/Hr                | S=8" and 6"<br>I=8" and 6"<br>P=6"        | S=705 Ft<br>I=848 Ft<br>P=904 Ft   |

S=indicates surface string, I=indicates intermediate string, and P=indicates production string

NOTE: Of the 49 surveys mailed out to eight area operators, four operators responded with a total of 12 surveys. The requested information appears in the table above.

**TABLE 4**  
**Nine-Township Area Estimated Drilling Completion Times**

| <i>API #</i>  | <i>Surface Section of Hole<br/>17 1/2" Diameter</i> | <i>Intermediate Section of Hole<br/>11" Diameter</i> | <i>Production Section of Hole<br/>7 7/8" Diameter</i> |
|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Drilling times are estimated to the nearest day and derived from records on file with the NMOCD.</i> |   |  |   |
| 30-015-32000  | 4 days to complete to 850'                          | 10 days to complete to 4,100'                        | 9 days to complete to 8,322'                          |
| 30-015-32001  | 3 days to complete to 858'                          | 9 days to complete to 4,100'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,281'                          |
| 30-015-32002  | 2 days to complete to 860'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,125'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,300'                          |
| 30-015-32003  | 3 days to complete to 850'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,100'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,300'                          |
| 30-015-32240  | 4 days to complete to 829'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,100'                         | 12 days to complete to 8,350'                         |
| 30-015-32352  | 3 days to complete to 813'                          | 10 days to complete to 4,107'                        | 7 days to complete to 8,350'                          |
| 30-015-32522  | 2 days to complete to 850'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,200'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,508'                          |
| 30-015-32527  | 3 days to complete to 865'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,220'                         | 6 days to complete to 8,500'                          |
| 30-015-32720  | 3 days to complete to 596'                          | 7 days to complete to 3,868'                         | 25 days to complete to 11,295'                        |
| 30-015-32797  | 2 days to complete to 605'                          | 5 days to complete to 3,830'                         | 23 days to complete to 11,230'                        |
| 30-015-32719  | 2 days to complete to 624'                          | 6 days to complete to 3,812'                         | 9 days to complete to 7,960'                          |
| 30-015-32028  | 4 days to complete to 830'                          | 11 days to complete to 4,105'                        | 9 days to complete to 8,350'                          |
| 30-015-31912  | 4 days to complete to 865'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,125'                         | 10 days to complete to 8,400'                         |
| 30-015-32726  | 4 days to complete to 940'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,100'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,250'                          |
| 30-015-32761  | 3 days to complete to 795'                          | 9 days to complete to 4,465'                         | 11 days to complete to 8,600'                         |
| 30-015-31802  | 2 days to complete to 805'                          | 9 days to complete to 4,466'                         | 9 days to complete to 8,630'                          |
| 30-015-32644  | 3 days to complete to 807'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,462'                         | 12 days to complete to 8,600'                         |
| 30-025-35960  | 4 days to complete to 802'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,390'                         | 5 days to complete to 8,650'                          |
| 30-025-35918  | 3 days to complete to 845'                          | 9 days to complete to 4,420'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,570'                          |
| 30-025-35940 <sup>1</sup>   | 14 days to complete to 1,017'                       | 7 days to complete to 4,761'                         | 17 days to complete to 10,077'                        |
| 30-025-36004  | 3 days to complete to 868'                          | 9 days to complete to 4,510'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,620'                          |
| 30-025-36135  | 4 days to complete to 853'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,475'                         | 9 days to complete to 8,600'                          |
| 30-025-36136  | 4 days to complete to 863'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,500'                         | 6 days to complete to 8,574'                          |
| 30-015-32619  | 2 days to complete to 461'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,056'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,160'                          |
| 30-015-32333  | 3 days to complete to 856'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,390'                         | 12 days to complete to 8,495'                         |
| 30-015-32624  | 3 days to complete to 846'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,436'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,512'                          |

| <i>API #</i>  | <i>Surface Section of Hole<br/>17 1/2" Diameter</i> | <i>Intermediate Section of Hole<br/>11" Diameter</i> | <i>Production Section of Hole<br/>7 7/8" Diameter</i> |
|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Drilling times are estimated to the nearest day and derived from records on file with the NMOCD.</i> |   |  |   |
| 30-015-32632  | 5 days to complete to 862'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,438'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,540'                          |
| 30-015-32625  | 4 days to complete to 815'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,430'                         | 9 days to complete to 8,500'                          |
| 30-015-32628  | 3 days to complete to 832'                          | 8 days to complete to 4,410'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,486'                          |
| 30-015-32777  | 3 days to complete to 865'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,408'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,515'                          |
| 30-015-32866  | 3 days to complete to 868'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,430'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,500'                          |
| 30-015-32123  | 3 days to complete to 603'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,089'                         | 6 days to complete to 8,150'                          |
| 30-015-32203  | 3 days to complete to 711'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,360'                         | 9 days to complete to 8,375'                          |
| 30-015-32629  | 4 days to complete to 840'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,376'                         | 7 days to complete to 8,340'                          |
| 30-015-32019  | 6 days to complete to 763'                          | 7 days to complete to 4,373'                         | 10 days to complete to 8,415'                         |
| 30-015-32496 <sup>2</sup>   | 3 days to complete to 888'                          | 6 days to complete to 4,357'                         | 56 days to complete to 7,909'                         |
| 30-025-36111  | 2 days to complete to 866'                          | 5 days to complete to 4,678'                         | 8 days to complete to 8,750'                          |
| 30-025-36031  | 3 days to complete to 563'                          | 11 days to complete to 4,628'                        | 8 days to complete to 8,657'                          |

NOTE: Estimated drilling times for each section of the well may include several and/or all of the following:

- actual drilling times
- tripping in and out of hole (bit changes)
- setting casing
- cementing casing
- waiting on cement to harden
- bad cement jobs
- lost circulation while drilling
- mechanical breakdowns
- holidays

<sup>1</sup> This well lost circulation on the surface section of the hole; several methods were attempted to correct problem with no results. Hole was eventually cemented and re-drilled adding approximately 10 days to the estimated drilling time.

<sup>2</sup> This well had the production section of the hole drilled to 8,450' in nine days. The cement job on the production casing was faulty and necessitated the rig being set up again and the production casing cement job being repaired. Repairs did not work so the 5 1/2" casing was cut at 5,700' and removed. Hole was cemented and re-drilled to 7,909' adding approximately 47 days to the completion time.

**TABLE 5**  
***Nine-Township Area Drilling Fluids Information***

| <b>#</b> | <b><i>Well Name and No.</i></b> | <b><i>Mud Density</i></b> | <b><i>Mud Viscosity</i></b> | <b><i>Mud Yield</i></b> |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1        | Neff "13" Federal #16           | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | No Report               |
| 2        | Getty "24" Federal #16          | 10.1 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | No Report               |
| 3        | Getty "24" Federal #14          | 10.0 PPG                  | 30 Sec/Qt                   | No Report               |
| 4        | Getty "24" Federal #13          | 9.9 PPG                   | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 1                       |
| 5        | Federal "BA" #1                 | 10-10.1 PPG               | 29 Sec/Qt                   | No Report               |
| 6        | Bootleg "11" Federal Com #1     | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | No Report               |
| 7        | Todd "13 L" Federal #12         | 10.1 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |
| 8        | Todd "14 N" Federal #14         | 10.2 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |
| 9        | Todd "23 C" Federal #18         | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |
| 10       | Todd "13 E" Federal #26         | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |
| 11       | Todd "13 M" Federal #31         | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |
| 12       | Todd "14 I" Federal #9          | 10.0 PPG                  | 29 Sec/Qt                   | 0                       |

NOTE: Mud Density = the mass or weight of a substance per unit volume. In this case, PPG is pounds per gallon.

Mud Viscosity = viscosity as measured by the Marsh funnel, based on the number of seconds it takes for 1,000 cubic centimeters of drilling fluid to flow through the funnel. One thousand cubic centimeters roughly equals one quart.

**TABLE 6**  
***Air-Drilled Wells in the New Mexico Portion of the Delaware Basin***

| #   | Location   | Well Name and No.           | Spud Date  | Status   | Well Information  |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|---|
| <i>Wells Drilled Prior to Submittal of the 1996 CCA With Some Portion Drilled by Air.</i> |            |                             |            |          |   |
| 1   | 21S-28E-33 | Richardson & Bass #1        | 07/27/1961 | P&A      | Air drilled through the salt. Between 2,545' and 2,685' encountered water and changed from air to mud-based drilling. |
| 2   | 21S-32E-26 | Lincoln Federal Unit #1     | 04/01/1991 | P&A      | Lost circulation at 1,290'. Hole was dry drilled to 1,792'. Supposedly, air drilled from 2,984' to 4,725'.            |
| 3   | 23S-26E-17 | Exxon "17" Federal #1       | 08/01/1989 | Gas Well | Air drilled through the salt from 575' to 2,707'.   |
| 4   | 23S-28E-11 | CP Pardue #1                | 10/28/1958 | P&A      | Air drilled through the salt from 390' to 2,620'.   |
| 5   | 23S-28E-11 | Amoco Federal #1            | 08/04/1979 | Oil Well | Air drilled from 475' to 9,700'.  |
| 6   | 23S-28E-11 | Amoco Federal #3            | 02/28/1980 | Oil Well | Air drilled from 6,271' to 9,692'.  |
| 7   | 23S-28E-23 | South Culebra Bluff Unit #3 | 01/21/1979 | Oil Well | Air drilled from 6,345' to 8,000'.  |
| 8   | 23S-28E-23 | South Culebra Bluff Unit #4 | 08/09/1979 | Oil Well | Air drilled from 450' to 9,802'.  |
| 9   | 24S-31E-03 | Lilly "ALY" Federal #2      | 05/01/1994 | Oil Well | Air drilled conductor hole to 40'.  |
| 10  | 24S-31E-03 | Lilly "ALY" Federal #4      | 05/16/1994 | Oil Well | Air drilled conductor hole to 40'.  |
| 11  | 24S-34E-04 | Antelope Ridge Unit #2      | 09/13/1962 | Gas Well | Attempted to drill with gas. Had to convert to water at 1,035'. Tried again several times at different depths.        |
| 12  | 24S-34E-09 | Federal "9" Com #1          | 12/03/1963 | Gas Well | Hit water while gas drilling at 4,865'.   |
| 13  | 24S-34E-13 | Federal Johnson #1          | 06/23/1958 | P&A      | Proposed to drill with air, but no information in the records indicate air drilling.                                  |
| 14  | 26S-32E-20 | Russell Federal #1          | 03/16/1966 | Oil Well | Drilled with air to 1,330'.   |
| 15  | 26S-32E-36 | North El Mar Unit #44       | 02/19/1959 | Oil Well | Proposed to drill with air, but no information in the records indicate air drilling.                                  |
| <i>Wells Drilled after Supplemental Information Provided to the EPA Docket in 1997.</i>   |            |                             |            |          |   |
| 16  | 22S-26E-28 | Sheep Draw "28" Federal #13 | 07/01/1997 | Oil Well | Air drilled the first 358'.   |

NOTE: The research on "air drilling" is a continuous effort since every new well drilled is checked to determine if any portion of the well was drilled by air. A copy of all completion reports are on file for all wells completed within the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin.

**TABLE 7**  
**Shallow Well Status in the Delaware Basin**

| <i>Well Type</i>                         | <i>Texas</i> | <i>New Mexico</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Core Hole                                | 31           | 2                 | 33            |
| Dry Hole                                 | 326          | 150               | 476           |
| Gas Well                                 | 6            | 0                 | 6             |
| Injection Well                           | 5            | 0                 | 5             |
| Junked and Abandoned Well                | 59           | 28                | 87            |
| Oil Well                                 | 87           | 7                 | 94            |
| Oil and Gas Well                         | 1            | 0                 | 1             |
| Plugged Gas Well                         | 1            | 2                 | 3             |
| Plugged Oil Well                         | 14           | 13                | 27            |
| Plugged Brine Well                       | 2            | 1                 | 3             |
| Plugged Salt Water Disposal Well         | 0            | 4                 | 4             |
| Drilling or Waiting on Paperwork         | 40           | 43                | 83            |
| Brine Well                               | 1            | 2                 | 3             |
| Salt Water Disposal Well                 | 0            | 1                 | 1             |
| Service Well                             | 13           | 0                 | 13            |
| Stratigraphic Test Hole                  | 1,170        | 0                 | 1,170         |
| Sulfur Core Hole                         | 502          | 0                 | 502           |
| Potash Core Hole                         | 0            | 992               | 992           |
| Water Well                               | 1,706        | 590               | 2,296         |
| WIPP Well                                | 0            | 187               | 187           |
| Other (Mine Shafts, Gnome Project Wells) | 0            | 44                | 44            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                            | <b>3,964</b> | <b>2,066</b>      | <b>6,030</b>  |

NOTE: Only the known holes that occur in the Delaware Basin, except several WIPP holes, are listed in the above table. The WIPP holes are shown for completeness. The 83 wells under the listing of "Drilling or Waiting on Paperwork" do not have an associated depth until one has been reported on paperwork. These are listed as shallow wells but will eventually be placed in the deep classification when a depth has been listed in the paperwork.

**TABLE 8**  
**Deep Well Status in the Delaware Basin**

| <i>Well Type</i>                         | <i>Texas</i> | <i>New Mexico</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Core Hole                                | 5            | 0                 | 5             |
| Dry Hole                                 | 2,176        | 842               | 3,018         |
| Gas Well                                 | 845          | 641               | 1,486         |
| Injection Well                           | 244          | 63                | 307           |
| Junked and Abandoned Well                | 56           | 15                | 71            |
| Oil Well                                 | 3,845        | 1,890             | 5,735         |
| Oil and Gas Well                         | 91           | 5                 | 96            |
| Plugged Gas Well                         | 177          | 135               | 312           |
| Plugged Injection Well                   | 4            | 30                | 34            |
| Plugged Oil Well                         | 511          | 285               | 796           |
| Plugged Oil and Gas Well                 | 36           | 0                 | 36            |
| Plugged Brine Well                       | 0            | 1                 | 1             |
| Plugged Salt Water Disposal Well         | 0            | 10                | 10            |
| Drilling or Waiting on Paperwork         | 17           | 6                 | 23            |
| Brine Well                               | 8            | 0                 | 8             |
| Salt Water Disposal Well                 | 6            | 103               | 109           |
| Service Well                             | 100          | 3                 | 103           |
| Stratigraphic Test Hole                  | 43           | 2                 | 45            |
| Sulfur Core Hole                         | 85           | 0                 | 85            |
| Potash Core Hole                         | 0            | 19                | 19            |
| WIPP Well                                | 0            | 11                | 11            |
| Other (Mine Shafts, Gnome Project Wells) | 0            | 6                 | 6             |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                            | <b>8,249</b> | <b>4,067</b>      | <b>12,316</b> |

NOTE: The 23 wells under the category of "Drilling or Waiting on Paperwork" have a depth associated with them which classifies them as deep wells, but the paperwork classifying these wells as oil, gas, or some other type of well have yet to be posted. When posted, the classification of these types of wells will be changed.

**TABLE 9**  
**Past Drilling Rates for the Delaware Basin**

| <i>Year</i>       | <i>No. of Deep Holes</i>          | <i>Drilling Rate</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1996              | 10,804 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 46.8                 |
| 1997              | 11,444 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 49.5                 |
| 1998              | 11,616 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 50.3                 |
| 1999              | 11,684 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 50.6                 |
| 2000              | 11,828 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 51.2                 |
| 2001              | 12,056 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 52.2                 |
| 2002 <sup>1</sup> | 12,139 Holes Deeper Than 2,150 Ft | 52.5                 |

NOTE: The notable increase in the drilling rate between 1996 and 1997 was not due to the drilling of wells, but to the fact that the Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program was not began until 1997 when a review of the records from July 1995 through 1997 was necessary to bring the databases up to date. Since that time, the drilling rate has risen approximately the same each year.

<sup>1</sup> In Rev. 3 of this report dated September 2002, the drilling rate for 2002 was shown as 52.9 with 12,219 deep holes. While reviewing the databases to develop reports for the Compliance Recertification Application, it was noticed that 80 shallow wells in Texas were listed as being deep. Several days investigation found the problem, and it was corrected. Correcting the classification of the 80 holes to shallow resulted in a reduction in the drilling rate from 52.9 to 52.5. This was reported in the *Delaware Basin Monitoring Quarterly Report*, December 2002.

**TABLE 10**  
***Drilling in Relationship to the Cost of Crude Oil Since 1980***

| <i>Year</i> | <i>No. of New Wells in NM<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>No. of New Wells in Texas<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Total No. of New Wells</i> | <i>Domestic Price of Crude Oil<sup>2</sup></i> |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1980        | 99  | 232  | 331                           | \$21.59  |
| 1981        | 133                                       | 327  | 460                           | \$31.77  |
| 1982        | 149                                       | 295  | 444                           | \$28.52  |
| 1983        | 99  | 235  | 334                           | \$26.19  |
| 1984        | 101                                       | 268  | 369                           | \$25.88  |
| 1985        | 127                                       | 231  | 358                           | \$24.09  |
| 1986        | 81  | 223  | 304                           | \$12.51  |
| 1987        | 50  | 143  | 193                           | \$15.40  |
| 1988        | 42  | 179  | 221                           | \$12.58  |
| 1989        | 29  | 103  | 132                           | \$15.86  |
| 1990        | 79  | 166  | 245                           | \$20.03  |
| 1991        | 112                                       | 139  | 251                           | \$16.54  |
| 1992        | 125                                       | 75   | 200                           | \$15.99  |
| 1993        | 199                                       | 67   | 266                           | \$14.25  |
| 1994        | 192                                       | 58   | 250                           | \$13.19  |
| 1995        | 193                                       | 54   | 247                           | \$14.62  |
| 1996        | 149                                       | 75   | 224                           | \$18.46  |
| 1997        | 181                                       | 121  | 302                           | \$17.23  |
| 1998        | 118                                       | 54   | 172                           | \$10.87  |
| 1999        | 38  | 30   | 68                            | \$15.56  |
| 2000        | 95  | 42   | 137                           | \$26.72  |
| 2001        | 122                                       | 151  | 273                           | \$21.84  |
| 2002        | 77  | 83   | 160                           | \$22.51  |
| 2003        | 148                                       | 56   | 204                           | \$27.93 <sup>3</sup>                           |

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program Databases.

<sup>2</sup> Price per barrel from the DOE-Energy Information Administration.

<sup>3</sup> Price for current year is the average of the first six months and does not reflect the entire year.

**TABLE 11**  
**Castile Brine Encounters in the Vicinity of the WIPP Site**

| #   | Location   | Well Name and No.        | Spud Date  | Status     | Well Information  |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---|
| <i>Original CCA-related Castile Brine Encounters - 1896 Through June 1995</i> |            |                          |            |            |   |
| 1   | 21S-31E-26 | Federal #1               | 10/31/1979 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 2   | 21S-31E-35 | ERDA-6                   | 06/13/1975 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 3   | 21S-31E-35 | Federal "FT" #1          | 09/25/1981 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 4   | 21S-31E-36 | Lost Tank "AIS" State #1 | 12/07/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 5   | 21S-31E-36 | Lost Tank "AIS" State #4 | 11/19/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 6   | 21S-32E-31 | Lost Tank SWD #1         | 11/12/1991 | SWD        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 7   | 22S-29E-09 | Danford Permit #1        | 05/18/1937 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 8   | 22S-31E-01 | Unocal "AHU" Federal #1  | 04/02/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 9   | 22S-31E-01 | Molly State #1           | 09/25/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 10  | 22S-31E-01 | Molly State #3           | 10/20/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 11  | 22S-31E-02 | State "2" #3             | 11/28/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 12  | 22S-31E-11 | Martha "AIK" Federal #3  | 05/06/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 13  | 22S-31E-11 | Martha "AIK" Federal #4  | 09/02/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 14  | 22S-31E-12 | Federal "12" #8          | 03/28/1992 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 15  | 22S-31E-13 | Neff "13" Federal #5     | 02/04/1991 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 16  | 22S-31E-17 | WIPP-12                  | 11/17/1978 | Monitoring | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 17  | 22S-32E-05 | Bilbrey "5" Federal #1   | 11/26/1981 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 18  | 22S-32E-15 | Lechuza Federal #4       | 12/29/1992 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 19  | 22S-32E-16 | Kiwi "AKX" State #1      | 04/28/1992 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 20  | 22S-32E-25 | Covington "A" Federal #1 | 02/07/1975 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 21  | 22S-32E-26 | Culberson #1             | 12/15/1944 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 22  | 22S-32E-34 | Red Tank "34" Federal #1 | 09/23/1992 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 23  | 22S-32E-36 | Richardson State #1      | 07/20/1962 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 24  | 22S-32E-36 | Shell State #1           | 02/22/1964 | Oil Well   | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 25  | 22S-33E-20 | Cloyd Permit #1          | 09/07/1937 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 26  | 22S-33E-20 | Cloyd Permit #2          | 06/22/1938 | P&A        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| 27  | 23S-30E-01 | Hudson Federal #1        | 02/25/1974 | SWD        | Identified as encountering Castile Brine.   |
| <i>Castile Brine Encounters Since July 1995</i>                               |            |                          |            |            |   |
| 1   | 21S-31E-35 | Lost Tank "35" State #4  | 09/11/2000 | Oil Well   | Estimated several hundred barrels per hour. Continued drilling.   |
| 2   | 21S-31E-35 | Lost Tank "35" State #16 | 02/06/2002 | Oil Well   | At 2,705 ft., encountered 1,000 B/H. Shut-in to get room in reserve pit with pressure of 180 psi. Shut-in next day with pressure at 100 psi and waterflow of 450 B/H. Two days later now water flow and full returns. |
| 3   | 22S-31E-02 | Graham "AKB" State #8    | 04/12/2002 | Oil Well   | Estimated 105 barrels per hour. Continued drilling.   |
| 4   | 23S-30E-01 | James Ranch Unit #63     | 12/23/1999 | Oil Well   | Sulfur water encountered at 2,900 ft. 35 PPM was reported but quickly dissipated to 3 PPM in a matter of minutes. Continued drilling.   |
| 5   | 23S-30E-01 | Hudson "1" Federal #7    | 01/06/2001 | Oil Well   | Estimated initial flow at 400 to 500 barrels per hour with a total volume of 600 to 800 barrels. Continued drilling.  |

**TABLE 12**  
**Plugged Well Information**

| # | Location   | API #                     | Plug Date  | R-111-P | Well Depth | Plug Depth  | Plug Length   |
|---|------------|---------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---|---|
| 1 | 21S-27E-36 | 30-015-32688 <sup>1</sup> | 06/10/2003 | No      | 12143 Ft   | 595-0   | 595 Ft  |
| 2 | 22S-26E-36 | 30-015-10908              | 07/29/2003 | No      | 2208 Ft    | 1,900-1,850<br>1,759-1,650<br>414-303<br>100-0  | 50 Ft<br>109 Ft<br>111 Ft<br>100 Ft   |
| 3 | 22S-27E-30 | 30-015-20430              | 05/31/2003 | No      | 11760 Ft   | 11,290-11,255<br>10,450-10,350<br>8,745-8,645<br>5,350-5,250<br>3,150-3,050<br>1,692-1,592<br>385-285<br>Surface                                | 35 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft                     |
| 4 | 22S-27E-30 | 30-015-20336              | 01/29/2003 | No      | 11840 Ft   | 11,350-11,315<br>10,730-10,630<br>10,062-9,962<br>8,776-8,676<br>7,000-6,900<br>5,343-5,243<br>2,300-2,200<br>1,678-1,578<br>402-302<br>Surface | 35 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft<br>100 Ft |
| 5 | 23S-26E-19 | 30-015-32144              | 04/25/2003 | No      | 11650 Ft   | 3,375-3,275<br>1,775-1,492<br>1,200-1,075<br>735-605<br>350-221<br>50-0   | 100 Ft<br>283 Ft<br>125 Ft<br>130 Ft<br>129 Ft<br>50 Ft                               |
| 6 | 23S-27E-09 | 30-015-22290              | 06/27/2003 | No      | 12205 Ft   | 11,485-11,450<br>10,890-10,855<br>8,070-7,708<br>5,655-5,390<br>2,606-2,441<br>415-0  | 35 Ft<br>35 Ft<br>362 Ft<br>265 Ft<br>165 Ft<br>415 Ft                                |
| 7 | 23S-32E-31 | 30-015-32717              | 04/08/2003 | No      | 10005 Ft   | 8,585-8,358<br>5,400-5,200<br>2,650-2,397<br>1,074-877<br>212-0   | 227 Ft<br>200 Ft<br>253 Ft<br>197 Ft<br>212 Ft  |
| 8 | 23S-33E-25 | 30-025-34762              | 04/04/2003 | No      | 9000 Ft    | 7,770-7,392<br>7,270-6,892<br>5,290-4,985<br>2,200-2,004<br>1,500-1,378<br>734-632<br>Surface   | 378 Ft<br>378 Ft<br>305 Ft<br>196 Ft<br>122 Ft<br>102 Ft                              |
| 9 | 25S-26E-01 | 30-015-28561              | 04/17/2003 | No      | 5625 Ft    | 2,300-2,068<br>1,975-1,689<br>325-0   | 232 Ft<br>286 Ft<br>325 Ft  |

| <i>#</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>API #</i> | <i>Plug Date</i> | <i>R-111-P</i> | <i>Well Depth</i> | <i>Plug Depth</i>   | <i>Plug Length</i>                                     |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|--|
| 10       | 25S-26E-14      | 30-015-25661 | 06/20/2003       | No             | 12225 Ft          | 1,900-1,750<br>1,070-9,05<br>466-346<br>60-0                            | 150 Ft<br>165 Ft<br>120 Ft<br>60 Ft                    |
| 11       | 26S-32E-25      | 30-025-08274 | 04/17/2003       | No             | 4656 Ft           | 4,550-4,440<br>3,750-3,460<br>733-518<br>Surface                        | 110 Ft<br>290 Ft<br>215 Ft                             |
| 12       | 26S-32E-25      | 30-025-08277 | 04/01/2003       | No             | 4665 Ft           | 4,623-4,500<br>705-466<br>Surface                                       | 123 Ft<br>239 Ft                                       |
| 13       | 26S-32E-25      | 30-025-08278 | 04/28/2003       | No             | 4719 Ft           | 4,625-4,256<br>3,400-3,266<br>3,245-2,876<br>700-686<br>670-295<br>30-0 | 369 Ft<br>134 Ft<br>369 Ft<br>14 Ft<br>375 Ft<br>30 Ft |
| 14       | 26S-32E-25      | 30-025-08283 | 04/02/2003       | No             | 4683 Ft           | 4,545-4,195<br>938-724<br>570-128<br>Surface                            | 350 Ft<br>214 Ft<br>442 Ft                             |
| 15       | 26S-32E-26      | 30-025-08292 | 03/12/2003       | No             | 4641 Ft           | 4,641-4,333<br>457-0  | 308 Ft<br>457 Ft                                       |
| 16       | 26S-32E-26      | 30-025-08293 | 03/28/2003       | No             | 4643 Ft           | 4,490-4,287<br>992-769<br>406-112<br>Surface                            | 203 Ft<br>223 Ft<br>294 Ft                             |
| 17       | 26S-32E-27      | 30-025-08300 | 03/25/2003       | No             | 4550 Ft           | 4,295<br>2,938-667<br>351-137<br>30-0                                   | 2,271 Ft<br>214 Ft<br>30 Ft                            |
| 18       | 26S-32E-35      | 30-025-08309 | 03/20/2003       | No             | 4523 Ft           | 4,430-4,174<br>938-780<br>403-188<br>30-0                               | 256 Ft<br>158 Ft<br>215 Ft<br>30 Ft                    |
| 19       | 26S-32E-36      | 30-025-08316 | 04/09/2003       | No             | 4721 Ft           | 4,575-4,444<br>938-772<br>506-198<br>Surface                            | 131 Ft<br>166 Ft<br>308 Ft                             |
| 20       | 26S-33E-30      | 30-025-08430 | 04/11/2003       | No             | 4742 Ft           | 4,675-4,417<br>3,300-3,182<br>900-790<br>388-0                          | 258 Ft<br>118 Ft<br>110 Ft<br>388 Ft                   |

<sup>1</sup> This well had the casing collapse at approximately 600 feet when cementing the production casing in the well bore. Numerous attempts to correct the problem failed. Permission was obtained from NMOCD to leave the well bore full of mud and install a solid plug 597 feet from the surface.

**TABLE 13**  
**Plugging Summary by Well Type**

| <i>Type</i>   | <i>CRA</i> | <i>CRA Frequency</i> | <i>2003</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>2005</i> | <i>2006</i> | <i>2007</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Current Frequency</i> | <i>Change</i> |
|---------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| I             | 116        | 34.1%                | 3           |             |             |             |             | 119          | 33.0%                    | -1.1%         |
| II            | 60         | 17.7%                | 2           |             |             |             |             | 62           | 17.2%                    | -0.5%         |
| III           | 111        | 32.6%                | 10          |             |             |             |             | 121          | 33.6%                    | +1.0%         |
| IV            | 38         | 11.2%                | 3           |             |             |             |             | 41           | 11.4%                    | +0.2%         |
| V             | 10         | 02.9%                | 1           |             |             |             |             | 11           | 03.1%                    | +0.2%         |
| VI            | 5          | 01.5%                | 1           |             |             |             |             | 6            | 01.7%                    | +0.2%         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | 340        | 100.0%               | 20          |             |             |             |             | 360          | 100.0%                   |               |

NOTE: The 1996 CCA used the 188 wells categorized into the above classifications to arrive at the percentage or frequency of each plugging event. The CRA followed up on that study and 152 wells were added to the original number to update the frequency. In 2003, 23 wells were plugged and abandoned in the New Mexico portion of the Delaware Basin. Three were ruled out because they were less than 2,150 feet deep. Twenty wells were categorized into one of the above plugging configurations and added to the count. The change indicated above is between the current and the CRA frequencies for each type of plugging configuration.

**TABLE 14**  
**Seismic Activity in the Delaware Basin**

| <i>County</i> | <i>No. of Events</i> | <i>Earliest Event</i> | <i>Latest Event</i> | <i>Smallest Magnitude</i> | <i>Largest Magnitude</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Culberson     | 8                    | 12/30/1997            | 03/13/2003          | 1                         | 2.0                      |
| Eddy          | 5                    | 04/24/1983            | 12/03/1998          | 1.1                       | 3.5                      |
| Lea           | 1                    | 04/24/2003            | 04/24/2003          | 2.0                       | 2.0                      |
| Loving        | 3                    | 02/04/1976            | 04/28/1997          | 1.1                       | 1.3                      |
| Pecos         | 10                   | 04/03/1977            | 12/22/1998          | 1                         | 2.2                      |
| Reeves        | 16                   | 08/03/1975            | 05/25/2002          | 1                         | 2.5                      |
| Ward          | 26                   | 09/24/1971            | 08/18/1984          | 0.8                       | 3                        |
| Winkler       | 1                    | 04/30/1976            | 04/30/1976          | 1.5                       | 1.5                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | 70                   | 09/24/1971            | 08/04/2002          | 0.8                       | 3.5                      |

**KEY:**  
Magnitude  
Less than 2    Very seldom ever felt  
2.0 to 3.4    Barely felt  
3.5 to 4.2    Felt as a rumble  
4.3 to 4.9    Shakes furniture; can break dishes  
5.0 to 5.9    Dislodges heavy objects; cracks walls  
6.0 to 6.9    Considerable damage to buildings  
7.0 to 7.3    Major damage to buildings; breaks underground pipes  
7.4 to 7.9    Great damage; destroys masonry and frame buildings  
Above 8.0    Complete destruction; ground moves in waves

**NOTE:** Three of the five earthquake events in Eddy County can be directly attributed to mining activities. The other two remain unexplained. Most of the seismic events recorded in the vicinity of the Delaware Basin can be attributed to oil and gas activities - such as the number of events that continue to occur in the Dagger Draw or Cass Ranch area of Central Eddy County - where a large number of oil and gas activities are being conducted.

**TABLE 15**  
**Nine-Township Injection and SWD Well Information**

| <b>#</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>API #</b> | <b>Status</b> | <b>Injection Zone</b> | <b>Permitted</b> | <b>Last Injection</b> | <b>Cumulative Barrels</b> |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1        | 21S-31E-33      | 30-015-29330 | SWD           | 4166-5160             | 1998             | April-2003            | 1,701,602                 |
| 2        | 21S-32E-08      | 30-025-31412 | SWD           | 4826-5978             | 1991             | April-2003            | 5,536,033                 |
| 3        | 21S-32E-31      | 30-025-31443 | SWD           | 4618-6012             | 1992             | April-2003            | 162,423                   |
| 4        | 22S-30E-02      | 30-015-25758 | Injection     | 7200-7264             | 1993             | April-2003            | 6,959,524                 |
| 5        | 22S-30E-02      | 30-015-26761 | Injection     | 5600-7400             | 1991             | April-2003            | 7,339,347                 |
| 6        | 22S-30E-27      | 30-015-04734 | SWD           | 3820-3915             | 1981             | April-2003            | 2,232,043                 |
| 7        | 22S-31E-02      | 30-015-32440 | Injection     | 6989-7020             | 2003             | No Report             | No Report                 |
| 8        | 22S-31E-24      | 30-015-26848 | SWD           | 4519-5110             | 1991             | Dec-2002              | 5,134,605                 |
| 9        | 22S-31E-25      | 30-015-28281 | Injection     | 7050-7068             | 1995             | April-2003            | 3,807,382                 |
| 10       | 22S-31E-35      | 30-015-26629 | SWD           | 4500-5670             | 1991             | April-2003            | 8,813,961                 |
| 11       | 22S-31E-36      | 30-015-26171 | SWD           | 4500-5700             | 1998             | Jan-2003              | 3,174,636                 |
| 12       | 22S-32E-07      | 30-025-31076 | SWD           | 4676-5814             | 1991             | April-2003            | 5,389,999                 |
| 13       | 22S-32E-11      | 30-025-31716 | SWD           | 5200-8706             | 1994             | April-2003            | 1,018,905                 |
| 14       | 22S-32E-14      | 30-025-08113 | SWD           | 4900-6080             | 1994             | April-2003            | 2,793,571                 |
| 15       | 22S-32E-16      | 30-025-31889 | SWD           | 5240-8710             | 1995             | April-2003            | 5,779,929                 |
| 16       | 22S-32E-21      | 30-025-08109 | SWD           | 4755-5110             | 1992             | April-2003            | 2,009,378                 |
| 17       | 22S-32E-27      | 30-025-32436 | Injection     | 6831-8388             | 1998             | No Report             | No Report                 |
| 18       | 22S-32E-28      | 30-025-31754 | SWD           | 4690-5800             | 1993             | April-2003            | 595,907                   |
| 19       | 22S-32E-31      | 30-025-20423 | SWD           | 4662-5915             | 1993             | April-2003            | 3,169,987                 |
| 20       | 22S-32E-35      | 30-025-33149 | SWD           | 4950-6252             | 1995             | March-2003            | 2,431,527                 |
| 21       | 23S-30E-01      | 30-015-21052 | SWD           | 4040-4825             | 2001             | April-2003            | 835,024                   |
| 22       | 23S-30E-19      | 30-015-28901 | SWD           | 3402-4609             | 1997             | No Report             | No Report                 |
| 23       | 23S-30E-29      | 30-015-28808 | SWD           | 5479-7220             | 1996             | April-2003            | 1,798,297                 |
| 24       | 23S-30E-33      | 30-015-31744 | SWD           | 4546-6760             | 2002             | No Report             | No Report                 |
| 25       | 23S-31E-02      | 30-015-05840 | SWD           | 4489-5670             | 1997             | April-2003            | 4,948,254                 |
| 26       | 23S-31E-02      | 30-015-29792 | SWD           | 4500-5850             | 1998             | April-2003            | 4,442,566                 |
| 27       | 23S-31E-20      | 30-015-30605 | Injection     | 7740-7774             | 2001             | Dec-2001              | 244,642                   |
| 28       | 23S-31E-26      | 30-015-20277 | SWD           | 4460-5134             | 1992             | April-2003            | 3,382,327                 |
| 29       | 23S-31E-26      | 30-015-20302 | SWD           | 4390-6048             | 1971             | April-2003            | 4,679,900                 |
| 30       | 23S-31E-27      | 30-015-27106 | SWD           | 4694-5284             | 1998             | No Report             | No Report                 |
| 31       | 23S-31E-28      | 30-015-26194 | SWD           | 4295-5570             | 1993             | April-2003            | 3,052,626                 |

| <i>#</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>API #</i> | <i>Status</i> | <i>Injection Zone</i> | <i>Permitted</i> | <i>Last Injection</i> | <i>Cumulative Barrels</i> |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 32       | 23S-31E-35      | 30-015-25640 | SWD           | 4484-5780             | 1993             | April-2003            | 2,662,051                 |
| 33       | 23S-31E-36      | 30-015-20341 | SWD           | 5980-6560             | 1994             | April-2003            | 7,698,860                 |
| 34       | 23S-32E-04      | 30-025-31650 | SWD           | No Report             | 2003             | April-2003            | 472,969                   |
| 35       | 23S-32E-14      | 30-025-26844 | SWD           | 5496-6014             | 1991             | April-2003            | 1,111,234                 |
| 36       | 23S-32E-23      | 30-025-33653 | SWD           | 5954-6064             | No Report        | May-2001              | 911,167                   |
| 37       | 23S-32E-24      | 30-025-33521 | SWD           | 5925-6042             | No Report        | April-2003            | 887,025                   |
| 38       | 23S-32E-29      | 30-025-31515 | SWD           | 4844-4944             | 1992             | April-2003            | 3,437,655                 |
| 39       | 23S-32E-31      | 30-025-32868 | SWD           | 5150-5700             | 1996             | Dec-2002              | 657,195                   |
| 40       | 23S-32E-35      | 30-025-08128 | SWD           | 5062-5100             | 1969             | March-2002            | 142,681                   |
| 41       | 23S-32E-36      | 30-025-31929 | SWD           | 5364-6138             | 1995             | April-2003            | 1,219,399                 |

NOTE: Information collected from OCD offices in Artesia and Hobbs, New Mexico. Also, cumulative barrels information is collected from the New Mexico Oil & Gas Engineering Committee, Inc. and is always six months behind the current date.

**TABLE 16**  
**Brine Well Status in the Delaware Basin**

| <i>County</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>API #</i> | <i>Well Name and No.</i>        | <i>Operator</i>           | <i>Status</i>      |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Eddy          | 22S-26E-36      | 30-015-21842 | City Of Carlsbad #WS-1          | Key Energy Services       | Brine Well         |
| Eddy          | 22S-27E-03      | 30-015-20331 | Tracy #3                        | Ray Westall               | Plugged Brine Well |
| Eddy          | 22S-27E-17      | 30-015-22474 | Eugenie #WS-1                   | I & W, Inc.               | Brine Well         |
| Eddy          | 22S-27E-17      | 30-015-23031 | Eugenie #WS-2                   | I & W, Inc.               | Plugged Brine Well |
| Loving        | Blk 29-03       | 42-301-10142 | Lineberry Brine Station #1      | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |
| Loving        | Blk 01-82       | 42-301-30680 | Chapman Ford #BR1               | Herricks & Son Co.        | Plugged Brine Well |
| Loving        | Blk 33-80       | 42-301-80318 | Mentone Brine Station #1D       | Basic Energy Services     | Brine Well         |
| Loving        | Blk 29-28       | 42-301-80319 | East Mentone Brine Station #1   | Permian Brine Sales, Inc. | Plugged Brine Well |
| Loving        | Blk 01-83       | 42-301-80320 | North Mentone #1                | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |
| Reeves        | Blk 56-30       | 42-389-00408 | Orla Brine Station #1D          | Mesquite SWD, Inc.        | Brine Well         |
| Reeves        | Blk 04-08       | 42-389-20100 | North Pecos Brine Station #WD-1 | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |
| Reeves        | Blk 07-21       | 42-389-80476 | Coyanosa Brine Station #1       | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |
| Ward          | Blk 17-20       | 42-475-31742 | Pyote Brine Station #WD-1       | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |
| Ward          | Blk 01-13       | 42-475-34514 | Quito West Unit #207            | Seaboard Oil Co.          | Brine Well         |
| Ward          | Blk 34-174      | 42-475-82265 | Barstow Brine Station #1        | Chance Properties         | Brine Well         |