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Land
12/19/85

CALENDAR ITEM

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12/19/85
W 40463 PRC 6930
Pelka

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

APPLICANT: United States Borax and Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION: Approval of a prospecting permit for two years to prospect for borate and other valuable minerals, other than oil, gas, geothermal resources, sand and gravel on 640 acres of land, more or less, located in San Bernardino County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, processing fee of \$250 and an acreage deposit of \$640.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION: State school land - Section 16, T15N R7E, SBM, San Bernardino County, approximately 15 miles northwest of Baker.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The applicant per an amended project description, proposes to conduct exploration for borate minerals by drilling three holes, six inches in diameter, up to 2000 feet deep. The holes will be drilled with a truck mounted mud rotary drill rig such as a Failing 1100 or a truck mounted air rotary rig which would utilize a truck mounted air compressor. Drilling fluid pits would not be utilized with an air rotary rig. Drilling fluid if required,

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 18 (CONT'D)

will be contained within the pits and allowed to dry before burial when the pits are back filled. Drill holes penetrating water bearing rocks will be abandoned by cementing a plug above the water zone and backfilling the hole with drill cuttings.

There will not be any new road construction. The existing dirt road will be cleared and smoothed with a grader but not widened. The drilling activities will be located on the existing dirt road. Favorable geological and mineralogical data obtained from the three drill holes may lead to further exploration on the northern half of the section under a future amended application.

Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit will not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared and certified prior to issuing a mineral extraction lease.

TERM: The primary term of a Prospecting Permit is two years. The Commission may, in its discretion, extend the term for one additional year.

ROYALTY: Royalty payable under the permit shall be 20 percent of the gross value of the minerals secured from the permit area and sold, or otherwise disposed of or held for sale or other disposition.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the applicant.
2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential lease issued shall not be less than ten percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands, less any

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 13 (CONT'D)

charges approved by the Commission made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production. The determination of said royalty and charges shall be at the discretion of the Commission and set forth in said lease.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.

B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.

AB 884:

01/19/86.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has prepared and circulated for public review a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 389, State Clearinghouse 85051307 pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".

Based upon the initial study, the proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074(b)).

2. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable deposits of minerals have been discovered within the limits of the permit, the applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 160 acres embraced within the permit. Said right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The issuance of the permit shall not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such lease because of environmental considerations.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 13 (CONT'D)

3. Permit shall provide for a performance bond of \$10,000 in favor of the State.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6890, the subject permit application and form have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General as to compliance with the applicable provisions of the law.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION EIR ND 389, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 85051307, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PROSPECTING PERMIT AND ANY EXTENSION THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT IN ITS DISCRETION FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. ANY EXTENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.
4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO UNITED STATES BORAX AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL ON SECTION 16, T15N R7E, SBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 640 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE 20 PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF ALL MINERAL PRODUCTION FROM THE LEASED LANDS, LESS ANY CHARGES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION MADE OR INCURRED WITH RESPECT TO TRANSPORTING OR PROCESSING THE STATE'S ROYALTY SHARE OF PRODUCTION. THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTY AND CHARGES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40463

A parcel of California State school lands in San Bernardino County,
California, described as follows:

Section 16, T15N, R7E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED JULY 16, 1985, BY BOUNDARY SERVICES UNIT, M. L. SHAFER, SUPERVISOR

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STATE LANDS COMMISSION
1007 13TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



EXHIBIT "C"

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR NO 389

File Ref.: W 40463

SCH#: 85051307

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Southern Avawatz Mountains

Project Proponent: United States Borax and Chemical Corporation

Project Location: Section 16, T.15 N., R.7 E., S.B.M., approximately 15 miles northwest of Baker, San Bernardino County.

Project Description: The applicant will drill up to three exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, up to a maximum depth of 2,000 feet, to explore for borate minerals.

Contact Person: Ted T. Fukushima

Telephone: (916) 322-7313

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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MITIGATION MEASURES

PROPOSED FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Upon completion of the prospecting project all drill holes shall be restored to their original natural condition to the extent feasible.
2. Each drill hole site should be inspected to determine if burrowing animals are present and would be adversely affected. If potential impacts could occur, prospecting activities should be located where burrows and wildlife would not be adversely affected.

The project operator should specifically avoid burrowing areas of the desert tortoise, a State-protected species. Rules and regulations regarding protection of desert tortoise should be distributed to employees.

File Ref.: W 40463

SCH //85051307

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY AND RESPONSES TO
COMMENTS PER AN AMENDED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The attached Initial Study was circulated for review and comment for the subject State Section 16. Based on responses to the Initial Study, U.S. Borax amended their project description. The amended project description includes drilling only three holes instead of the original six that were planned. The three holes up to six inches in diameter up to 2000 feet deep, will be drilled on the existing dirt road, therefore no drill site pad excavation will be necessary. No new road construction will be performed, therefore the previously planned 8000 feet of new roads will not be excavated.

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1. Department of Transportation

Comments:

"It does not appear that this project will have an impact on the transportation system. A Negative Declaration would be appropriate for our needs."

Response:

None required.

2. Native American Heritage Commission

Comments:

"If in fact a cultural resource survey has indicated that this project will not impact Native American cultural resources, then it would seem from the Commission's standpoint that a Negative Declaration (ND) would be in order."

Response:

An archaeological record search performed by the Eastern Information Center of the California Archaeological Inventory at the University of California at Riverside revealed that there are no archaeological sites recorded on the section or in the surrounding vicinity. In addition, no comments were received from the Serrano and Luiseno Indian tribes on the Initial Study mailed to them for review and comment.

3. Department of Fish and Game

Comments:

"In accordance with the intent and purpose of the California Endangered Species Act, we have determined the proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any State-designated threatened or endangered plant or animal.

If the following measures were included as Conditions of any permit, we could concur with the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration:

1. Upon completion of the prospecting project all drill holes shall be restored to their original natural condition to the extent feasible.

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2. Each drill hole site should be inspected to determine if burrowing animals are present and would be adversely affected. If potential impacts could occur, prospecting activities should be located where burrows and wildlife would not be adversely affected.

The project operator should specifically avoid burrowing areas of the desert tortoise, a State-protected species. Rules and regulations regarding protection of desert tortoise should be distributed to employees.

3. The project sponsor should be advised that diversion of the natural flow or changes in the channel, bed, or banks of any river, stream, or lake will require notification to the Department of Fish and Game as called for in the Fish and Game Code. This notification (with fee) and the subsequent agreement must be completed prior to initiating any such changes. Notification should be made after the project is approved by the lead agency."

Responses:

1. See Mitigation Measure number 1.
2. See Mitigation Measure number 2.
3. The applicant will be advised of the provisions of Fish and Game Code 1603. In addition, any permit issued by the Commission requires any applicant to receive and comply with all other laws, regulations and permit conditions.
4. County of San Bernardino

Comments:

1. The detailed project description describes creation of 8000 feet of new roads, 1200 cubic yards of excavation for drilling, and possible mud pits. Does this meet the State Mining and Reclamation Act criteria? If not, we would suggest that additional reclamation measures be required. We are particularly concerned with the creation of new easily passable roads.
2. As you may be aware, new roads often create access to ORV's whom previously were prevented from these areas. What provisions are proposed to mitigate any potential impacts by creating new access to the

SEARCHED	88.10
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unnamed canyon which enters the northwest corner of Section 16? What sensitive resources exist?

3. The County would recommend a records search to establish the potential for Cultural Resources. From our experience, it appears likely that resources may occur in the immediate area, particularly northwest of the project site.
4. Our concern for increased access and impacts to surrounding lands is, in part, based upon existing Wilderness Study Area status (WSA 221A) of the area. Impairment and/or physical improvements, including roadways could affect pending Congressional decisions. A discussion of the Land Use and Planning implications should be included in your assessment.
5. State Lands may wish to consider additional mitigations to lessen potential impacts. These could include: no road construction, revegetation of disturbed areas, no changes to existing drainage patterns, etc. At times, these types of conditions have proven beneficial to the County."

Responses:

1. Refer to amended project description. The construction of the 8000 feet of new roads under the original project description was exempt under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Chapter 9, Section 2714 (2), "Excavations or grading for onsite construction."
2. Refer to amended project description. No new roads will be constructed.
3. See response to Native American Heritage Commission comment.
4. Refer to amended project description. No new roads will be constructed. See Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist - Part II. The Bureau of Land Management approved a Plan of Operations for U.S. Borax on March 14, 1985 for their surrounding federal claims contained in Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 20, 21 and 22.
5. Refer to amended project description. See response number 3 to Department of Fish and Game.

MAILING LIST - LETTERS
W 40463

U.S. Borax & Chemical Corporation
P. O. Box 75128, Sanford Station
Los Angeles, CA 90075

San Bernardino Co. Planning Dept.
Attn: Fred Hinshaw
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0180

San Manuel Reservation
Attn: Henry Duro, Chairperson
5771 North Victoria Ave.
Highland, CA 92346

Twenty Nine Palms Reservation
Attn: Dean Mike, Spokesman
2116 "A"
Bellingham, WA 98225

Katherine S. Saubeo
P. O. Box 373
Banning, CA 92220

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MAILING LIST - MEMOS
W 40463

Regional Water Quality
Control Board
Lahontan Region (6)
Roy C. Hampson, Executive Officer
2092 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
P.O. Box 9428
South Lake Tahoe, California 95731

Department of Parks & Recreation
Attn: James M. [unclear]
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Department of Transportation
District 8
Attn: Robert Pote
247 West Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92403

Native American Heritage Commission
Attn: Loretta Allen
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of Historic Preservation
Hans Kreutzberg
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dept. of Fish and Game
Fred A. Worthley, Jr.,
Regional Manager
245 W. Broadway, Suite 350
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dept. of Health
Peter Rank
714 "P" Street, Room 1253
Sacramento, CA 95814

Air Resources Board
Ann Geraghty
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attorney General's Office
Robert Collins, Deputy Attorney General
3580 Wilshire Boulevard, 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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Dennis O'Bryant
Department of Conservation
Environmental Program Coordinator
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1326-2
Sacramento, CA 95814

Robert Tharratt
Dept. of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Joan Jurancich
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95801

CALL :	88.14
MAIL :	3560

File Ref.: W 40463
SCH#: 85051307

June 19, 1985

INITIAL STUDY
INTRODUCTION

United States Borax and Chemical Corporation has applied to the State Lands Commission for a prospecting permit on State lands located in the Silver Lake Mining District, 15 miles northwest of Baker, in northern San Bernardino County, California. The proposed project consists of drilling up to six exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, up to a maximum depth of 2000 feet to explore for borate minerals.

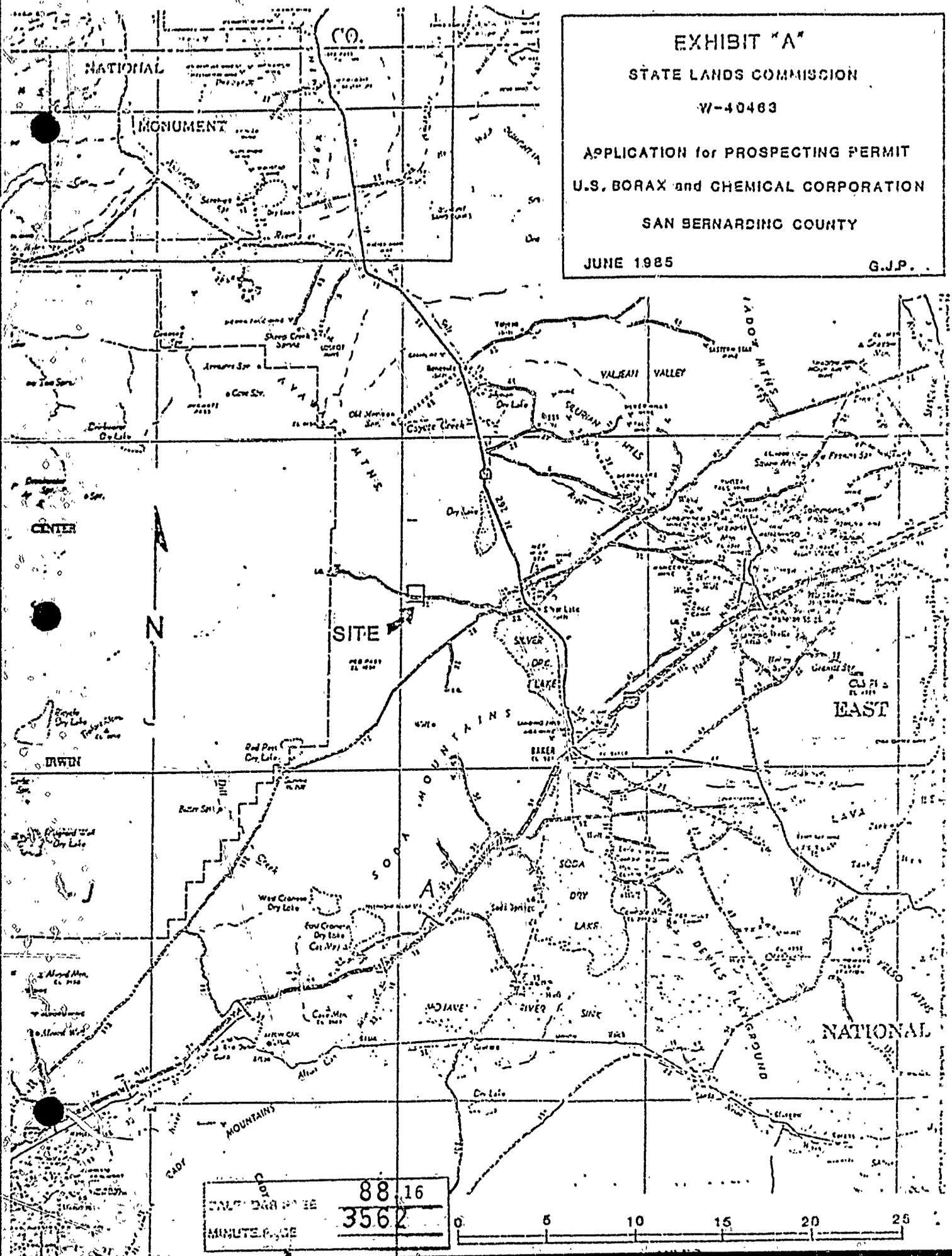
The permit when issued, is for a two-year period and may be extended for a maximum of one year.

This initial study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, information form response, and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
June 1985

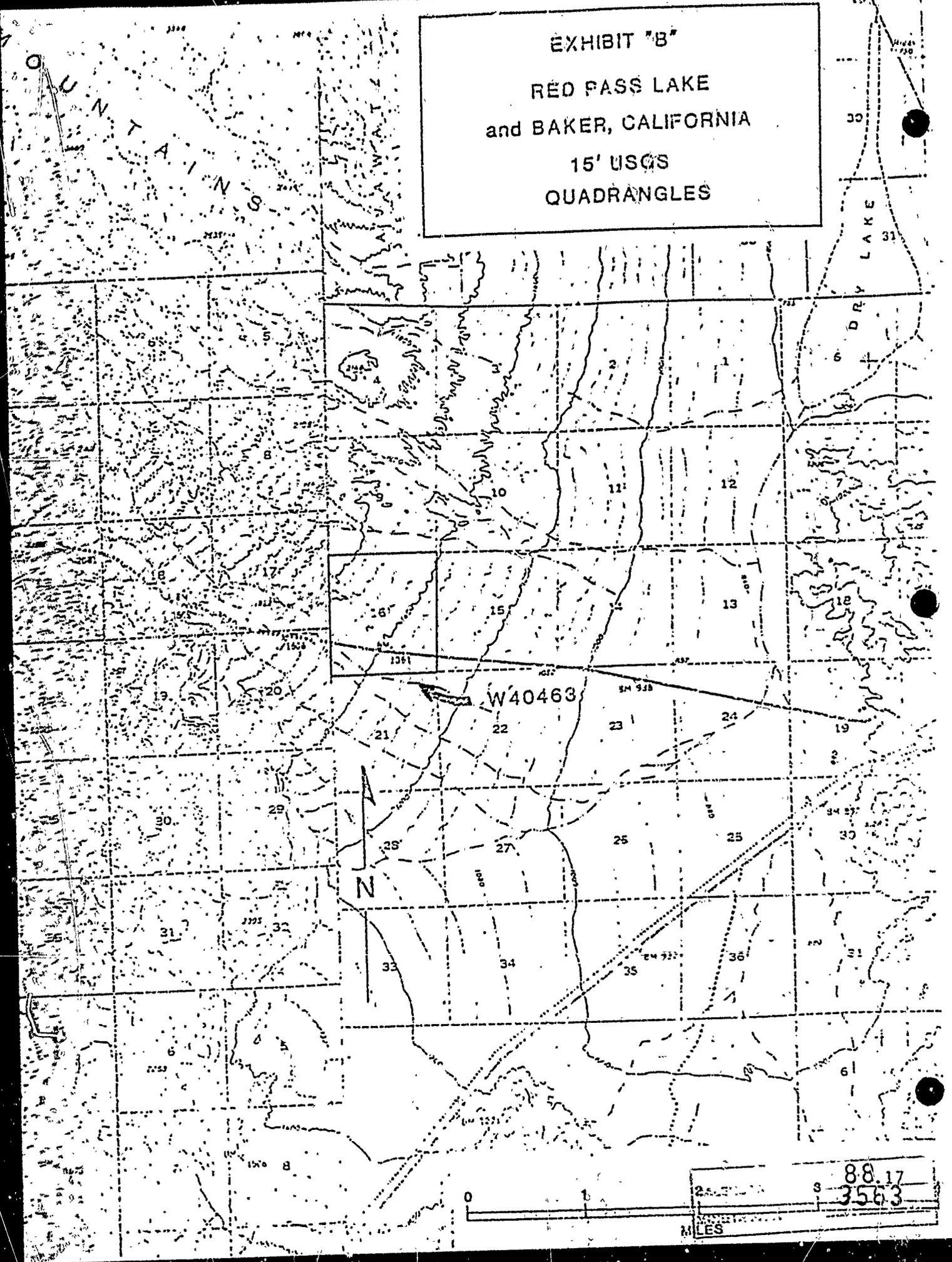
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EXHIBIT "A"
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
 W-40483
APPLICATION for PROSPECTING PERMIT
U.S. BORAX and CHEMICAL CORPORATION
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
 JUNE 1985 G.J.P.



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EXHIBIT "B"
RED PASS LAKE
and BAKER, CALIFORNIA
15' USGS
QUADRANGLES



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40163

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: United States Borax and Chemical Corporation
P.O. Box 75128, Sanford Station
Los Angeles, CA 90075

B. Checklist Date: 06 / 19 / 85

C. Contact Person: Gregory J. Pelka, State Lands Commission
Telephone: (213) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospect for valuable minerals

E. Location: Section 16, T 15 N, R. 7 E, S38M, San Bernardino County 610 acres
See attached maps.

F. Description: Applicant will drill up to six holes to a maximum depth of 2000' to
prospect for valuable minerals. See detailed project description.

G. Persons Contacted:

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?
3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?
4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?
7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?

Yes Maybe No

Grid of checkboxes for Yes, Maybe, No for each item.

Summary counts: 88.18, 356.4

- | | Yes | Maybe | No |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B. Air. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The creation of objectionable odors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C. Water. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| D. Plant Life. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| E. Animal Life. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| F. Noise. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Increase in existing noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| G. Light and Glare. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. The production of new light or glare? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| H. Land Use. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| I. Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| 1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

PROJECT NO. 88-19
 MAP SHEET 3565

J. Risk of Upset Does the proposal result in:

Yes Maybe No

- 1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?
- 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

K. Population. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?

L. Housing. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

M. Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?
- 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?
- 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?
- 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?
- 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?
- 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?

N. Public Services. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?
- 2. Police protection?
- 3. Schools?
- 4. Parks and other recreational facilities?
- 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- 6. Other governmental services?

O. Energy. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?
- 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?

P. Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- 1. Power or natural gas?
- 2. Communication systems?
- 3. Water?
- 4. Sewer or septic tanks?
- 5. Storm water drainage?
- 6. Solid waste and disposal?

Q. Human Health. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?
- 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

R. Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?

S. Recreation. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?

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Yes Maybe No

T. Cultural Resources.

- 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?
- 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
- 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?
- 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

U. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?
- 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?
- 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

See attached Detailed Project Description, Discussion of Environmental Evaluation, and Project Environmental Data.

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: 10 / 17 / 85

Hugon J. Peltier
For the State Lands Commission

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DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

United States Borax and Chemical Corporation proposes to conduct exploration in the permit area by drilling up to six exploratory holes, six inches in diameter, up to 2000 feet deep. (See Exhibit C). Existing dirt roads needed for access will be cleared and smoothed with a grader but not widened. Repair of old road would include only minor work on washed out sections which total about 500 feet. Some drill sites will require new road building. New road building will require a bulldozer cut approximately 12 feet wide but only sufficiently deep to move boulders and smooth out small irregularities. Total new roads if all drill sites are used will be about 8000 feet. Assuming an average cut depth of one foot, the new roads will result in a maximum excavated volume of 3,600 cubic yards and surface area disturbance of 2.2 acres. Drill site preparations require leveling an area approximately 75 feet square. This will require bulldozer scraping to a depth of no more than one foot to remove boulders and small irregularities. Estimated maximum excavated volume would be about 200 cubic yards per drill site or 1,200 cubic yards total. Due to varying geologic conditions, two different types of drilling equipment may have to be used. A mud rotary set up may include a failing 1500 truck-mounted rotary drill rig or equivalent.

Accessory equipment would include a truck-mounted water tank and utility pickup truck. Two or three backhoe-dug mud pits approximately 4 feet wide by 10 feet long and 8 feet deep will be utilized. An air rotary set-up will utilize a similar drill rig and water truck, except a truck mounted air compressor will be used and no mud pits will be required.

Drilling mud if utilized, will be contained within the mud pits and allowed to dry before burial when the pits are backfilled. If mud removal is necessary, it will be pumped into a truck, and transported to a landfill disposal site. Drill holes penetrating water bearing rocks will be abandoned by cementing a plug above the water zone and backfilling the hole with drill cuttings.

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EXHIBIT C

NEW ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED

DRILLSITE

DRILLSITE

DRILLSITE

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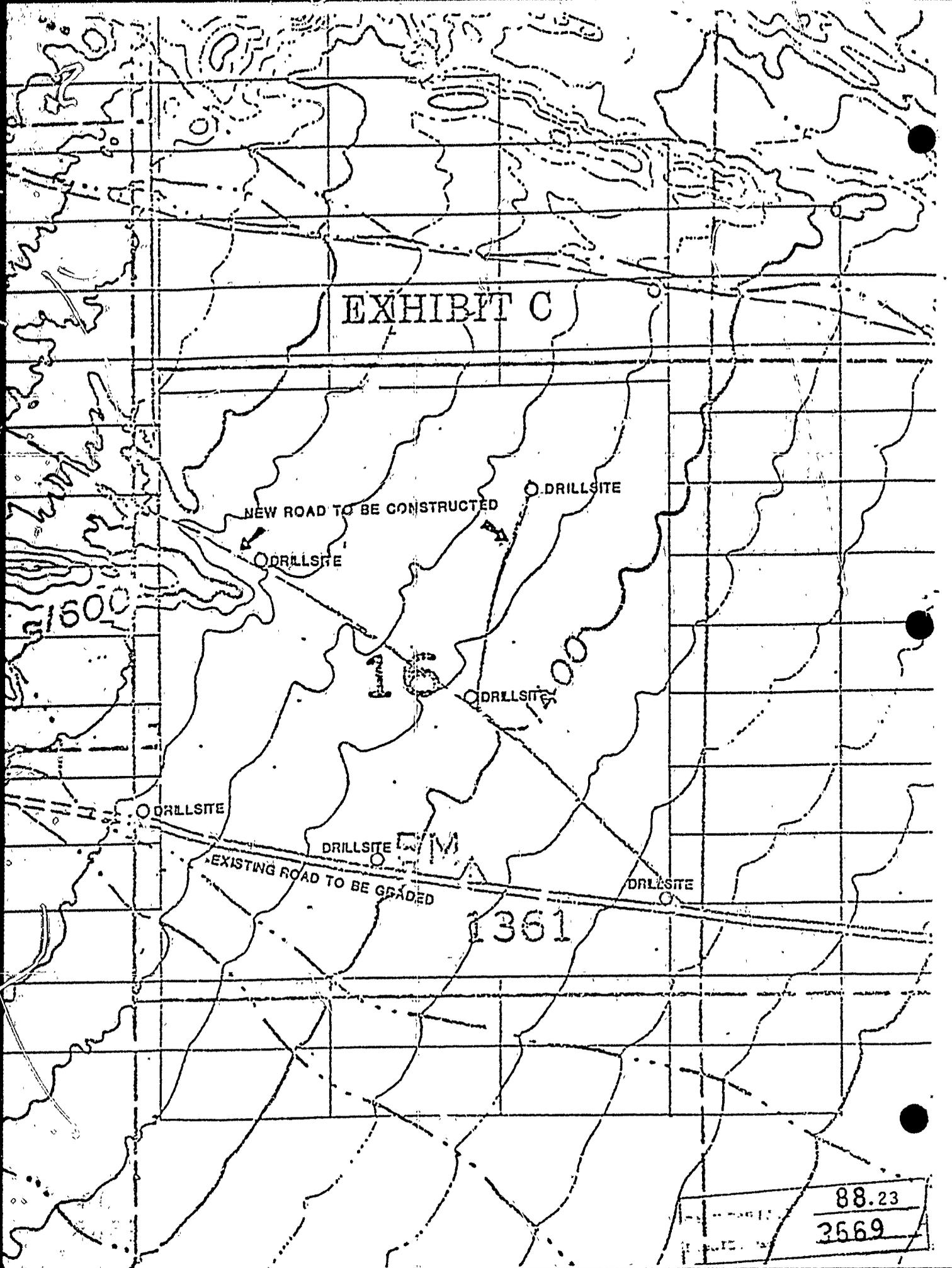
EXISTING ROAD TO BE GRADED

DRILLSITE

1361

88.23

2569



III Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

A 2. Disruption, displacement, compaction and overcovering of the soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the drill sites. All drill sites will be cleaned of all trash and debris and all drill holes will be backfilled. A minimum amount of disruption and compaction of the soil will occur when the drilling equipment is moved on and off a site.

A 5. An increase in wind and water erosion of the disturbed soil at the drill sites will take place during wind and rain storms.

C 6. Should the drill holes penetrate water bearing rocks, upon abandonment a cement plug shall be placed above the water bearing zone, and the remainder of the hole shall be backfilled with cuttings.

F 1. The operating drill rig and accessory activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels.

SECTION C: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

All phases of a project, such as planning, acquisition, development and operation, shall be considered when evaluating its impact on the environment. Please answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe" on additional sheet(s).

Will the project involve:	YES	MAYBE	NO
1. A change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. A change in scenic views from existing residential areas or public lands or roads? . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. A change in pattern, scale or character of the general area of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Significant effect on plant or animal life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Significant amounts of solid waste or litter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. A change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes or odors in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. A change in ocean, bay, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or an altering of existing drainage patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. A change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Construction on filled land or on a slope of 10 percent or more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables or explosives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. A change in demand for municipal services (e.g., police, fire, water, sewage)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Increase in fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electricity, oil, natural gas)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. A larger project or a series of projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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PART II

PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Form 33.45c (5/84)

SECTION A: PROJECT INFORMATION

Please answer all questions and provide the following information on separate sheet(s) of paper. Please respond in detail. The information is needed to process the application. If any question is inapplicable or otherwise inappropriate to the application, please state the reasons for so concluding.

1. *Project Location.* Submit the following maps and/or drawings: (a) a small-scale (topographic) map or drawing showing the general vicinity of the proposed project including nearby landmarks, roads and other features that would make clear its relationship to the general vicinity, and (b) a large-scale (topographic) map or drawing showing the project location in detail and such features as existing structures, fills, dredged areas and public access. On one of these maps, indicate the property(ies) that are adjacent to the State lands in question and that are owned, leased or otherwise available for use by the applicant. Include copies of all conveyances, leases, permits, easements or other documents that show the extent of the applicant's interest to use or have access to the property(ies) adjacent to the State lands in question.
2. *Existing Zoning and General Plan Designation of Project Site.* Submit all zoning information and include (to the extent available and applicable) the project's street address, city, county, Assessor's parcel number, quad sheet name, section, township, range, base and meridian designation, and/or legal description of the property.
3. *Existing Land Use of Project Site.* Describe the current land use of the area (e.g., residential, commercial, agricultural).
4. *Project Description and Proposed Use of Site.* Describe fully and in detail the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use.
5. *Other Permits Required.* Identify other public agencies having approval authority over the proposed project (e.g., Corps of Engineers, Coastal Commission, county and city agencies) and submit copies of all acquired approvals relating to this project.

SECTION B: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The data and degree of specificity required in this section shall correspond with the data and degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity. Typically, larger projects require more data and a greater degree of specificity, and smaller projects require less data and a lesser degree of specificity.

1. Describe the project site as it exists before commencement of the project. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, the use of the structures, and whether they will be retained or removed. Include photograph(s) of the site, if available.
2. Describe the surrounding properties. Include information such as topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use (e.g., residential, commercial, agricultural), intensity of land use (e.g., one-family dwellings, apartment buildings, shops, department stores) and scale of development. Include photograph(s) of the area, if available.
3. Include a statement of the proposed liquid, solid or gaseous waste disposal methods necessary for the protection and preservation of existing land and water uses.

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PROJECT NAME

Dead Man Project

PROJECT LOCATION

- Sec. 16, T15N R7E S8M
- Silver Lake Mining District
- Red Pass Lake and Baker 15' Quads
- 15 miles northwest of Baker, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Drill up to six exploratory drill holes, six inches in diameter, up to 2,000 feet in depth to explore for minerals other than oil and gas or geothermal resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The project site is in a desert-type environment, typified by low humidity, high/low temperature extremes and low rainfall. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush, greasewood, and cactus.

The site is a gradually sloping alluvial surface covered mainly by coarse sand, cobbles, and boulders. There are no structures on the project site and the only improvement is a graded dirt road across the south half of the section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Prospecting work on the project site would have little adverse impact on the environment. Some dust, fumes, and noise will be present in the immediate vicinity of the drilling rig during the actual drilling operation. The drill sites will require only a few hundred square feet of land use and will be left in such a way as to minimize evidence of prospecting work.

MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED:

- 1) Vehicular traffic to be kept to a minimum and at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour to reduce wildlife road mortality.
- 2) Existing roads and trails to be utilized as much as possible. Additional access roads will be of the minimum width and length necessary for the drilling program.
- 3) Mud pits, if needed for drilling, will have dirt berms to restrict wildlife access and will be backfilled as soon as possible after completion of drilling.
- 4) All casing pipe, if needed for drilling, will be removed if possible and drill holes will be backfilled.
- 5) Drill sites will be cleaned of all trash and debris.

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