DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Drilling of well named 31-16H State1	Proposed Implementation Date: 5/1/04
Proponent: Bill Barrette Corporation	
Type and Purpose of Action: Bill Barrette Corporation is proposing to drill a located in at NW corner of section 16, T29N, R59E.They are proposing to access the well via an old section road on the north end of the property. The well is a horizontal well with the bottom hole marker ending 660'FSL and 950 REL from the projected southeast corner.	
Location: T29N, R59E S16 NW corner	County: ~~Phillips~~. Roosevelt

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2004

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The Department met with Rod Bruner Contract Surveyor for Bill Barrett Corporation. The Department has discussed the proposal with the Bill Barrett Corporation representative, the DEQ, and its surface lessee. Upon initial review, Department staff believe that the original proposed well location had the potential to negatively influence water quality, erosion, and agriculture economics. We discussed our concerns with the Bill Barrette Corporation via telephone call on 3/19/04. Based on that discussion, the Bill Barrett Corporation agreed to move the well location 100" to the east in order to minimize the Department concerns.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	DNRC (Board of Oil and Gas) DNRC (Trust Lands Management)
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Alternative 1: Grant permission to proponent to drill the well at the present proposed location (250 FNL and 1132 FEL of Section 16, T29N R59E, PMM> Alternative 3: Deny permission to access and drill the well. Alt 3.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
4.GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[Y] Alternative 1: The existing old N section line road will be scraped and have gravel material added to the surface. Additionally, a well pad (375 ft X 180 ft) will have the topsoil scraped off and stockpiled. The subsurface material will be used to level off the pad area. The drill bore site will be reside on the cut slope. Alternative 2 No new soil disturbance will take place. In general this area has Wabek-Tinsley-Cabba Soils; Shallow and deep; well drained and excessively drained; moderately steep to excessively steep; droughty and very droughty; on terraces, outwashedd plains and uplands.
5.WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[Y] Topography in this area is rolling hills, ravines and outwashed plains. This type of topography channels water during excessive water events to the ravines and overflow areas. These areas are extremely important during excess water events. It is the jurisdiction of the Board of Oil and Gas to regulate subsurface water. The Board of Oil and Gas will insure that drilling fluids do not leach into the subsurface ground water. The Board of Oil and Gas will also ensure that all water or fluid extracted from the well are disposed of properly. Alternative 1: The construction of the drill pad and the potential to operate and maintain a pumping site may allow for the spillage of contaminated influent to leave the well site and harm both surface and subsurface water sources. Alternative 1 Mitigation Measures: The southern boundary of the well pad will have a berm that is 6 feet wide by 1½ to 2" tall created along all fill areas in order to protect the drainages that are adjacent tot eh pad area. Alternative 2: No effect to water will take place.
6.AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[Y] Alternative 1: All fossil burning equipment used during the construction, maintenance, and extraction of oil activities will produce carbon byproducts. The level of emissions produced will be minimal.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	Spills on the oil pad may cause environmental degradation. Mitigation: The pad area will be constructed with a berm surrounding the pad area. The berm will be a minimal of 1.5 to 2 feet high and will be maintained at all times. Alternative 2 there will be no effect on air quality.
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[Y] Presently, the vegetative community is *Bogr, Syoc, Stco, Agsm, Pose, Kop, and Arfr.* And tame pasture. Alternative 1 The pad area will have the vegetative community completely destroyed. Alternative 2: The pad area will have the vegetative community completely destroyed. The area where new road construction will take place will have the vegetative community destroyed. Mitigation: All areas that are initially disturbed will be contoured to the natural slope, the stockpiled A-horizon will be evenly distributed across it and have a native grass seed stand reestablished through seeding. The native grass seed mixture will be: Western Wheatgrass (Agsm)@ 3 #'s PLS/AC Slender Wehatgrass (Agtr) @ 3 #'s PLS/AC Green Needlegrass (Stvi) @ 0.5 #'s PLS/AC Alternative 3: No vegetative communities will be destroyed.
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] There is not substantial use of this area by important wildlife, birds or fish. Therefore, Alternative 1, 2, or 3 will not effect or influence important wildlife, birds or fish.
9.UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?	[Y] Potentially, these lands could be used by Bald Eagles (Threatened), Mountain Plover (Proposed Threatened), and Piping Plover (Threatened). No documented observations of these species exist in the Department of Natural Resource and Conservations TLMD files.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	Alternative 1, 2,: No effect to threatened, endangered, or species of concerns.
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Area was traversed by R. Hoyt Richards, on two separate occasion in the during the spring of 2004. No archeological sites were observed within the boundaries of the proposed activity.
11.AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[Y] Alternative 1 : The proposed site is visible from the county road. Alternative 2: No activity will take place to be observed.
12.DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]No resources will be used that are limited in this area. Therefore, Alternative 1, 2 will not effect limited resources.
13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] Alternative 1 or 2 will not effect existing plans.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[Y] Alternative 1: There will be additional health and safety risk to workers performing the project. These risk are the responsibilities of Bill Barrett Corporation and its subcontractors. Alternative 3: No effect.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Alternative 1 & 2: This project will effect the operation of Elvin and Jim Horob ranching and farming operations. Both negative and positive effects will take place. The additional traffic will raise dust particles in the area of the well. The acreage encumbered by the well has the potential to remove a portion of the acreage from the existing CRP contract. The Horob's understand the terms and conditions of there existing surface lease may be amended at any

	time. Mitigations: No mitigations are needed. Alternative 2: No effect
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[Y] Alterative 1 will slightly increase the demand for local jobs. Alternative 3: No effect
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[Y] Alternative 1 : This alternative will increase the revenue that the Trust Lands Management division generates. Additionally, if the well is successfully, 1/12 of the oil generation revenue will be deposited into the Trust. Alternative 2: This alternative may detract from the state revenue.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[Y] Alternative 1 : Additional traffic to the roads will take place by implementation of one these proposals. Alternative 2: No demands to existing roads will take place.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] This land is zoned a agriculture land. No changes to this need to take place through the implementation t any of the alternatives.
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[Y] These tracts of lands are all legally accessible lands. No impacts to recreation are expected by any of these alternatives.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N] Selection of any of these alternative will not influence or add to the local demands of populations or housing.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] No distribution of native or traditional lifestyles or communities will take place by selection of any of the alternatives.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]No unique shift in quality will take place by implementation of this project.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]None.

EA Checklist Prepared By: _____ _____ Date: April 29, 2004
R. Hoyt Richards Glasgow Unit Manager

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [ ] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Clive Rooney Area Manager
Name Title

_____ Date: April 29, 2004
Signature

RODNEY A. BRUNER, ES
P.O. BOX 337
WOLF POINT, MONTANA 59201
(406) 653-2070
(406) 653-2068 FAX

DATE: *April 27, 2004*

TO: *Debbie Stanberry:*
Bill Barrett Corporation

RE: *FAX 31-16 H STATE*

Here are the copies of the well site layouts (five sheets). You have 3 original copies coming in the mail and one set went out to Hoyt Richards of DNRC.

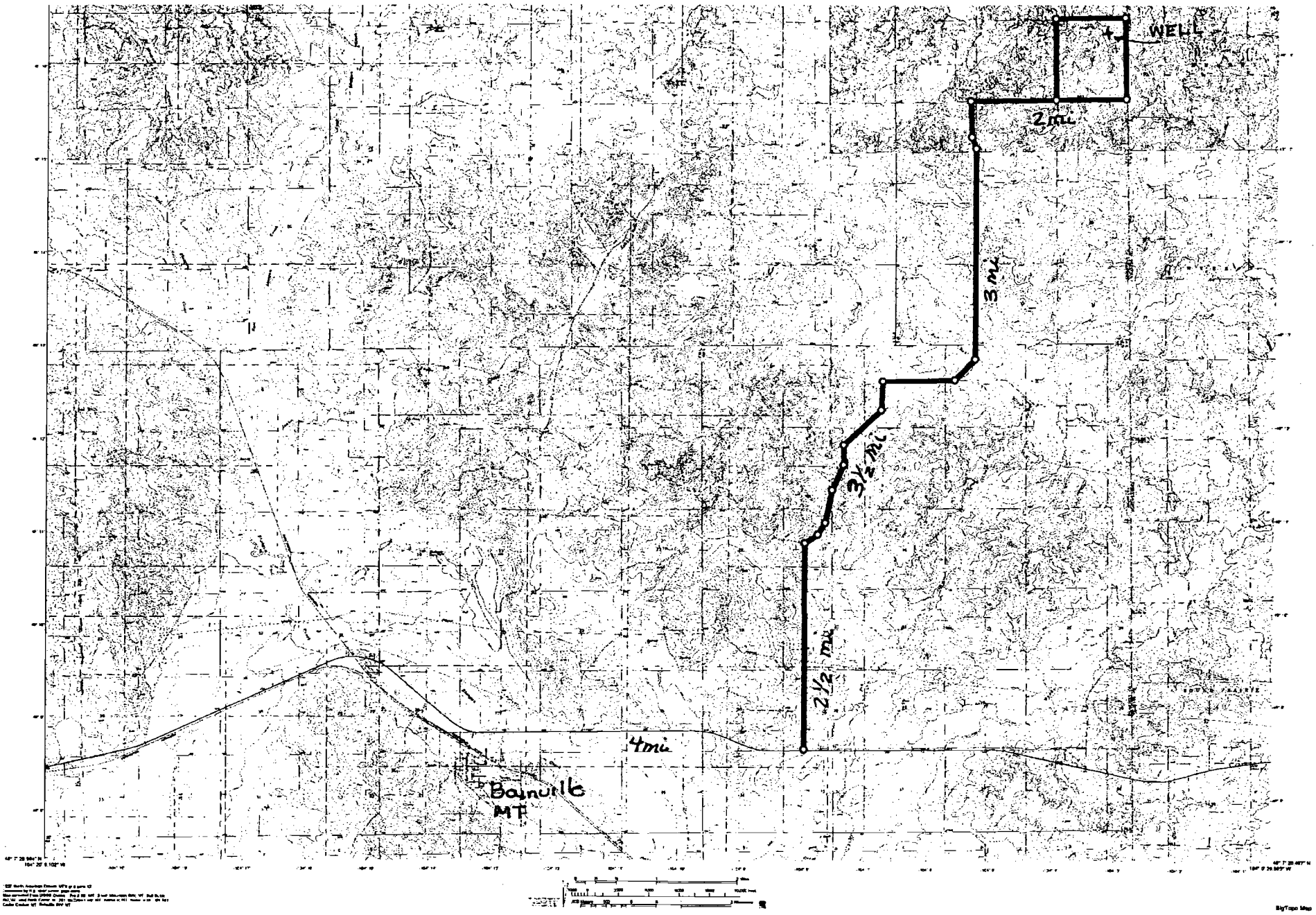
Note the Well Site final location was:

250 FNL
1132 FEL *Ground Elev. 2379*

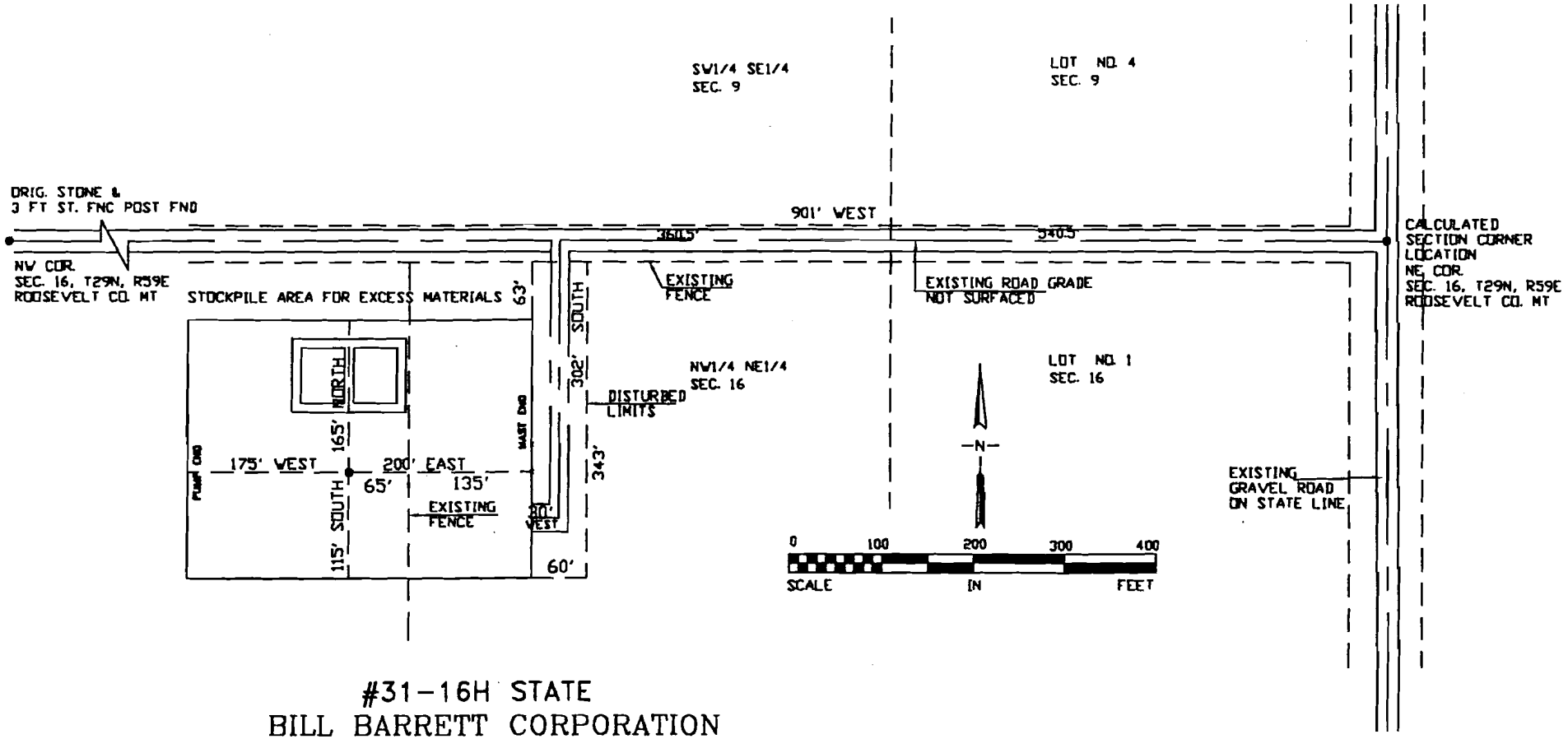
If we can be of any further assistance, please call.

Thanks,
Rod

Cc: Hoyt Richards DNRC



BILL BARRETT CORPORATION
31-16 H STATE
NW1/4 NE1/4 SECTION 16, T29N, R59E, PMM
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, MONTANA



#31-16H STATE
BILL BARRETT CORPORATION
ACCESS SURVEY

SURVEY CERTIFICATION

Commencing at the Northeast Section Corner of Section 16, T29N, R59E, PMM, said point also being the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING (TPOB); Thence, on and along the section line West a distance of 901 feet; Thence, South 302 feet; thence West a distance of 30 feet to the eastern limit of the rig grade for BILL BARRETT CORPORATION well site 31-16 H STATE.

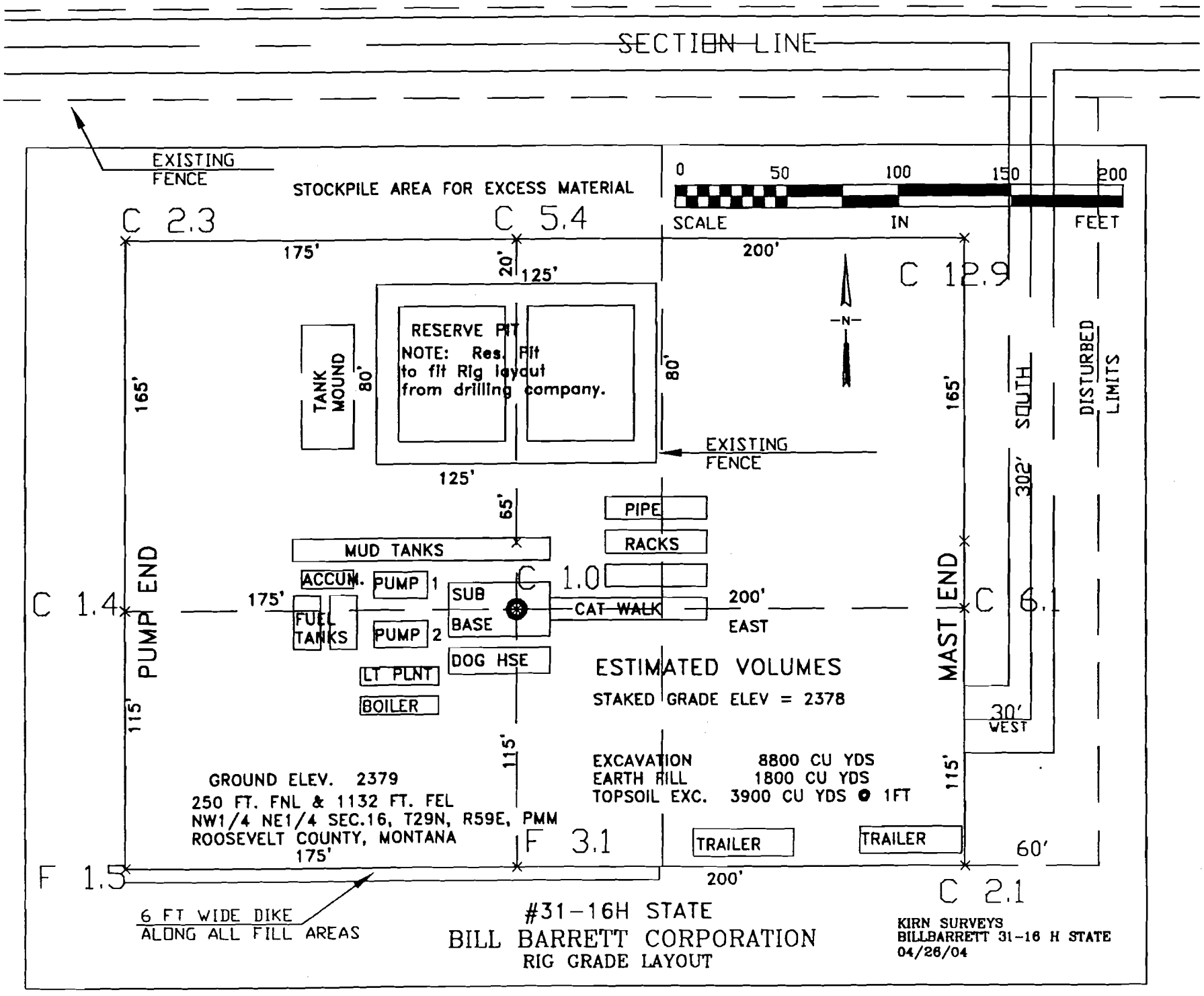
I certify that this plat is an accurate representation of a correct survey showing the ACCESS SURVEY to BILL BARRETT CORPORATION well site 31-16 H STATE.

4-27-04 Rodney A. Bruner

DATE Rodney A. Bruner, 3841 ES

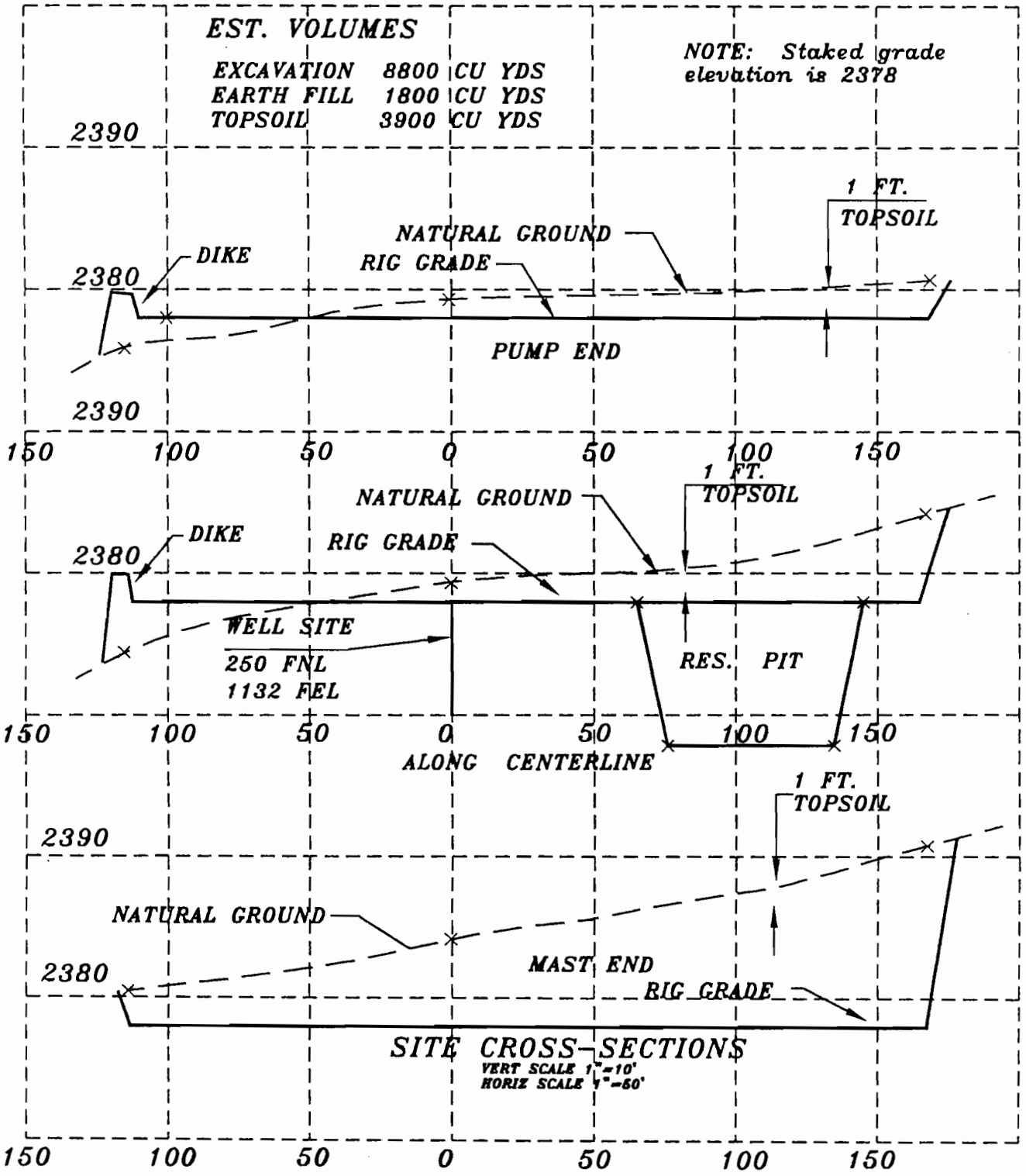
MONTANA
RODNEY A.
BRUNER
3841 ES
REGISTERED
PROF. ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR

KIRN SURVEYS
31-16 H STATE
04/26/04

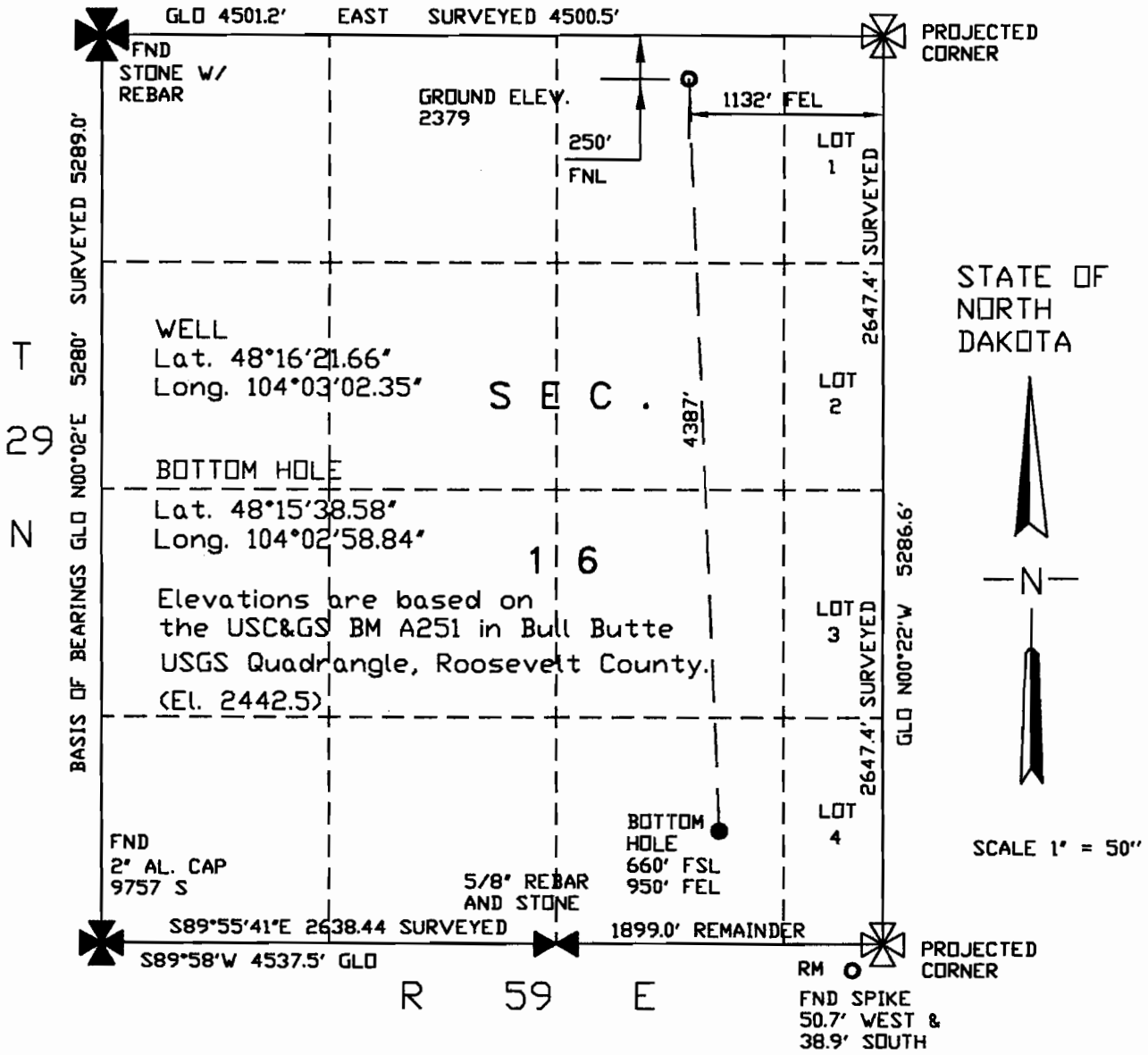

SECTION LINE
EXISTING FENCE
STOCKPILE AREA FOR EXCESS MATERIAL
0 50 100 150 200
SCALE IN FEET
C 2.3
C 5.4
C 12.9
175'
200'
20'
125'
RESERVE PIT
NOTE: Res. Pit to fit Rig layout from drilling company.
TANK MOUND
80'
80'
N
165'
165'
SOUTH
DISTURBED LIMITS
EXISTING FENCE
125'
302'
65'
PIPE
RACKS
MUD TANKS
ACCUM.
PUMP 1
C 1.0
C 1.4
175'
SUB BASE
CAT WALK
200'
EAST
C 6.1
FUEL TANKS
PUMP 2
DOG HSE
LT PLNT
BOILER
PUMP END
MAST END
ESTIMATED VOLUMES
STAKED GRADE ELEV = 2378
30' WEST
115'
115'
115'
EXCAVATION 8800 CU YDS
EARTH FILL 1800 CU YDS
TOPSOIL EXC. 3900 CU YDS @ 1FT
GROUND ELEV. 2379
250 FT. FNL & 1132 FT. FEL
NW1/4 NE1/4 SEC.16, T29N, R59E, PMM
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, MONTANA
175'
F 3.1
TRAILER
TRAILER
60'
F 1.5
200'
C 2.1
6 FT WIDE DIKE ALONG ALL FILL AREAS
#31-16H STATE
BILL BARRETT CORPORATION
RIG GRADE LAYOUT
KIRN SURVEYS
BILLBARRETT 31-16 H STATE
04/26/04

KIRN SURVEYS
04/26/04

BILL BARRETT CORPORATION
31-16 H STATE
NW1/4 NE1/4 SEC. 16, T29N, R59E, PMM
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, MONTANA



BILL BARRETT CORPORATION
31-16 H STATE
NW1/4 NE1/4 SECTION 16, T29N, R59E, PMM
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, MONTANA



In accordance with a request from BILL BARRETT CORPORATION the location 31-16 H STATE was determined to be 250 feet FNL and 1132 feet FEL of Section 16, T29N, R59E, PMM, Roosevelt County, Montana.

I certify that this plat is an accurate representation of a correct survey showing the location of 31-16 H STATE.

April 27, 2004

Rodney A. Bruner
MT Reg. No. 3841 ESL

MONTANA
RODNEY A. BRUNER
3841 ES
REGISTERED
PROF. ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR