



In July 1908, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad-owned Eastern Railway of New Mexico completed construction of the "Belen Cutoff," allowing through freight trains to bypass the original AT&SF-A&P route via Raton Pass.

The ERNM here, at the siding of Culebra, is east of the western mountains and well onto the Great Plains. Note that one of the tracks has concrete ties and the other still has wooden ties, as does the siding where a westbound container train waits.



Modern switch for the siding at Culebra.



An old stock pen adjacent to the ERNM at Encino, about 20 miles east of Culebra. The train does not stop here anymore. Note the distant mesa, the last vestige of topography and a manifestation of the flat-lying sedimentary rocks that underlie the Great Plains.