



In the distance is the El Paso & Northeastern Railroad, completed in 1898 from El Paso through the town of Orogrande (here) north to Alamogordo. The El Paso & Southwestern Railroad purchased the EP&NE in July 1905 and was later merged into the Southern Pacific and today the Union Pacific.

In this eastward view, the deteriorating branch line in the foreground runs west from the EP&NE route about half a mile to a loading area. Satellite imagery shows no evidence of the grade extending any further and appears to have always been a half-mile loading spur, likely for White Sands Missile Range and/or Fort Bliss. This spur is on the south end of the town of Orogrande and I could find no information about it. However, there is information for an abandoned line at Orogrande, the Jarilla Branch of the EP&NE, which according to the Abandoned Rails webpage ran 4.7 miles east of the EP&NE and several websites concur that the branch ran from Orogrande to Zora, but I could find no mention of a town called Zora online or on topo maps, with one exception. A ghost town website with a route to Brice, New Mexico, mentions a site called Zora about 5 miles west of Orogrande reached by following an "old railroad bed." Additionally, satellite imagery shows the grade for a wye on the west side of the EP&NE grade at Orogrande. Both the Jarilla Branch and military spur are too short to show on the map.