

ABANDONED OR INACTIVE URANIUM
MINES IN NEW MEXICO

A report of investigation carried out
between August 1979 and May 1980 under
contract with the New Mexico Energy and
Minerals Department.

by

Orin J. Anderson

New Mexico Bureau of Mines and
Mineral Resources
Open-File Report 148

INTRODUCTION

During the course of this investigation approximately 200 uranium mine sites were visited. Although these sites are distributed throughout 20 counties the majority are in McKinley, San Juan, and Valencia Counties, along the western and southern margin of the San Juan Basin. Other counties with an appreciable number of sites are Grant, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Sierra, and Socorro.

Field work commenced in August, 1979 and extended although not continuously, into May, 1980. Information obtained during the on-site visits included location, type and size of mine, condition of mine, host formation, dimensions of remaining structures, proximity to residences or villages, water quality data, and radiation levels, although a gamma ray scintillometer was not obtained for the project until October 20, 1979. An effort was made to contact landowners whenever and wherever possible, however, no systematic attempt was made to determine land and mineral ownership during this phase of the investigation.

Mine operation data has been included where available. This consists of information on ore grades, production history mineralogy, and mine operator. Old publications of the U.S. AEC and the State Mine Inspectors office were helpful in this area.

The mine reports are arranged alphabetically by county with each county having its own index. A NM- or AZ-mine identification number is given with each mine name in the index. It is an AML numbering system devised by Don Baker, Jr. The first part of this

identification number is based on a U.S. Soil Conservation Service numbering system of 15' quadrangles beginning with 1 in the northwest corner of the state to 24 in the northeast corner, then returning to the western border to start a new tier. The second part refers to a 7½' quad within the 15' quad; these are numbered counterclockwise from 1 in the NE quadrant to 4 in the SE. The last part of the number refers to a particular mine within the 7½' quad. An AZ- prefix indicates the 15' quadrangle is an Arizona quad that overlaps the New Mexico state boundary.

Acknowledgments - The writer wishes to thank the following people for their valuable assistance in the field: Lars (Skip) Skotte, Richard Chamberlin, JoAnne Osburn, Mary Ann Anderson, and Cheryl Kyllonen.

A special thanks is extended to Mr. William Chenoweth of the U.S. Department of Energy, both for his time in the field as well as the claim maps and A.E.C. mine production records he provided. Mr. John Blagbrough provided helpful information about the Chuska district. The editorial assistance of Wyatt Brewster and Lars (Skip) Skotte is gratefully acknowledged.

The help and cooperation of the Navajo Tribe Office in Window Rock, Arizona permitted a statewide investigation to be completed; a note of thanks goes to Mr. R. Zaman and Mr. William Armstrong of that office.

Quad: Bread Springs 7½'

1. NM-146-2-1 Page 33
Diamond 2 (Largo)

Quad: Church Rock 7½'

1. NM-122-4-1 Page 39
CD & S (Sec. 35)
2. NM-122-4-2 Page 41
Foutz #3 (Yellow Jacket)
3. NM-122-4-3 Page 45.
Foutz 1 and 2
4. NM-122-4-4 Page 48
William and Reynolds
5. NM-122-4-5 Page 50
Christenson (Rimrock #2)
6. NM-122-4-6 Page 58
Santa Fe Christensen (Rimrock #1)

Quad: Dos Lomas 7½'

1. NM-149-4-1 Page 62
Isabella
2. NM-149-4-2 Page 67
Spencer Shaft (Centennial)
3. NM-149-4-3 Page 69
Hogan
4. NM-149-4-4 Page 74
Gossett Incline (Beacon Hill #23)

Date visited 12/4/79

Mine name(s) Foutz 1 and 2 County McKinley

Section NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 4; NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 Twنش. 15 N R. 16 W

Quadrangle sheet Church Rock 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Church Rock

Elevation 7,250'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Springstead Trading Post, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. N.W.; numerous additional single family dwellings within a 2 mi. radius of mine site.

The Foutz 1 and 2 Prospects are located adjacent to one another, #1 being in Sec. 4, and #2 being in Sec. 5. They are 1 mi. east of the Foutz 3 and may be reached by taking the same dirt road to the east 3 mi. north of Church Rock that leads to the Foutz 3. At 1.5 mi. down this dirt road take right fork and proceed 1/2 mi. and take right fork again. This is the road to the Williams and Reynolds Mine and to reach the Foutz 1 and 2 requires a 1/2 mi. trip on foot to the west. The old mine access road lies in the N-S trending canyon in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of adjacent Sec. 32; the condition of this road is unknown, but it is not in general use.

The Foutz 1 consists of a stub adit with a northward heading driven into a nose of the Westwater Sandstone member of the Morrison fm. (see photos a & b). This working is about 20' wide and 6' long; height is difficult to determine due to slumping, but is presently about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. Radioactivity is low, about 2 x background, and no uranium mineralization was noted. The dump appears disproportionately large for the size of the workings, being of the order of 150' x 100'.

The Foutz 2 lies adjacent to the #1, about 300' to the west. A 110' long E-W dozer cut is the primary workings (see photo c); south trending adit referred to by Hilpert, 1969, is not in evidence. Scintillometer readings in the cut were about 120 cps (or 2 x background) and no uranium mineralization was noted.

Some ore was reportedly shipped from these workings in 1953.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium Section, in Mineral & Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bur. of Mines and Mineral Resources, Bull. 87.
 - (3) Field Notes, 12/4/79.



Photo (a) Looking N-NE at access road to Foutz 1; person in photo standing on mine dump.



Photo (b) Looking N, into beginnings of adit on Foutz 1 claim, Sec. 4.

118 Mc 46



Photo (c) Looking E at 110' long bulldozer cut on Foutz 2 claim.