

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

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## 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.

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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.

18.	NM-149-4-18	Page 141
	Sec. 25 Shaft	
19.	NM-149-4-19	Page 144
	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25, Decline and Open Pits	
20.	NM-149-4-20	Page 149
	Hanosh	
21.	NM-149-4-21	Page 152
	Sec. 23 and 26 Open Pit	
22.	NM-149-4-22	Page 156
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 (Rimrock) Homer Scriven)	
23.	NM-149-4-23	Page 160
	Sec. 31 Open Pit	
24.	NM-149-4-24	Page 163
	Moe No. 4 (Sec. 32)	
25.	NM-149-4-25	Page 165
	Charlotte	

\*Dos Lomas Quad reports #26 - #35 found under Valencia County

Quad: Gallup East 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-122-3-1	Page 167
	Hogback (Hogback 3-5)	
2.	NM-122-3-2	Page 171
	Becenti	

Quad: Goat Mountain 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-149-2-1	Page 174
	Kermac Sec. 10 (Kermac No. 10)	

Date visited 12/4/79

Mine name(s) Becenti County McKinley

Section NW 28 Twنش. 15 N R. 17 W

Quadrangle sheet Gallup East 7 1/2'

Mining district Gallup

Elevation 6,960'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Rehoboth, 1 1/2 mi. N; additional single family dwellings within 1 mi. radius of mine.

The Becenti Mine is located 2 mi. south of U.S. Interstate 40 and may be reached via the Sundance Coal Mine road which runs southward from I-40 at a point 4 mi. east of Gallup on the frontage road. At 1.8 mi. down the coal mine road turn west for approximately 1 mi. to vicinity of mine site.

The workings consist of an open pit on the dip slope of a sandstone lens near the crest of the hogback. The pit is approximately 175' along the crest and up to 80' in the down dip direction (see photo a). Dip is about 30' in a southwesterly direction.

The deposit occurs near the upper part of a 10-15' thick sandstone at the base of the Dakota Sandstone and is overlain by a 2' to 3' thick carbonaceous shale (see photo b). Scintillometer readings along the sandstone face range up to 1,500 cps; in the overlying shale only 250 cps.

The mine dump lies immediately west of and downslope from the mine; it measures about 160' by 50', up to 30' high; (width of the dump is very difficult to determine, and may be anywhere between 25' and 100'). The dump is shown from the downslope direction in photo (c). Yellow uranium mineralization may be seen on sandstone fragments in the dump; scintillometer readings up to 900 cps recorded on dump traverse.

Mine reportedly produced some ore between 1952-58.

- References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969 Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603.  
(2) Field notes, 12/4/79



Photo (a) Looking southeast into Becenti open pit; note range pole at right center for scale.

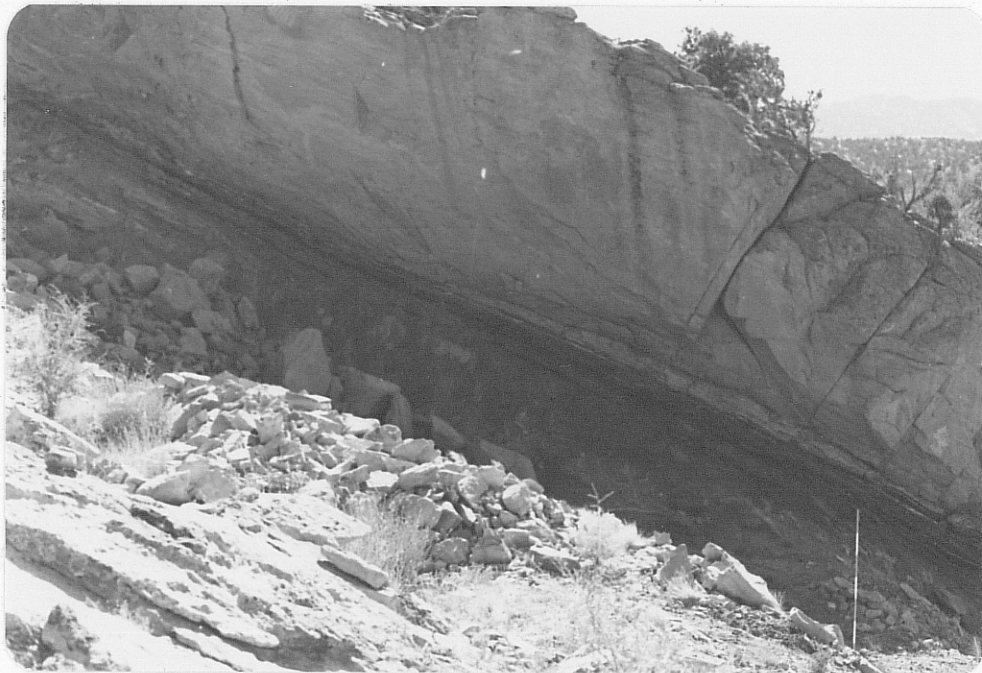


Photo (b) Looking south at south face of cut showing ore bearing sandstone at base with overlying carbonaceous shale in turn overlain by massive red sandstone; again note range pole.



Photo (c) Looking northeast from below at toe of tailings dump.

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