

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.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Quad: Arroyo del Agua 7½'

1. NM-82-2-1 Page 1
Lucky Strike (Mid Continent?)
2. NM-82-2-2 Page 4
Hillfoot (Serrano)
3. NM-82-2-3 Page 6
Red Head (Tinney #2) Claims, Red Bird

Quad: Burned Mountain 7½'

1. NM-36-2-1 Page 8
Tusas East Slope #5
2. NM-36-2-2 Page 10
J.O.L. (Royal)

Quad: Ghost Ranch 7½'

1. NM-59-3-1 Page 13
Lucky Dog/Horny Toad (Onego?)

Quad: La Madera 7½'

1. NM-60-1-1 Page 15
La Paloma
2. NM-60-1-2 Page 20
Pineapple

Date visited 10/11/79

Mine name(s) Tusas East Slope #5 County Rio Arriba

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 24 Twish. 28 N R. 7 E

Quadrangle sheet Burned Mountain

Mining district Bromide #2

Elevation 9,620'

Nearest city and/or dwellings 7 miles E-SE of Hopewell Lake

The Tusas East Slope is located on the eastern side of Tusas Mountain. Access to the mine is from the NW, on a logging road south from New Mexico 111, through Cunningham Gulch, and then by dirt road south of Tusas Mountain.

Workings at the prospect consist of a series of bulldozer cuts (photos a & b). The total disturbed area was 40' x 60'. The cuts had removed the topsoil, which is piled up in dumps, and exposed the bedrock. The bedrock is the same as at the J.O.L., a Precambrian schist, granite, and intrusive dike. Readings at waist level were 300 cps maximum, in several traverses of the cut. No uranium mineralization was visible.

A claim post 1/2 mile to the west read:

Urania Exploration Co.
1800 Jackson Street
Golden, Colorado 80401

and was dated 29 October, 1975. The post was for the discovery of claim #41.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L.; 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwestern New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.
 - (2) U.S. AEC, uranium mine records.
 - (3) Field notes 10/11/79.



Photo (a) Bulldozer cuts-Tusas east slope.



Photo (b) Bulldozer cuts.