

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.

VALENCIA COUNTY

Quad: Dos Lomas 7½'

- |     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 26. | NM-149-4-26                                       | Page 1  |
|     | Double Jerry (Vallejo)                            |         |
| 27. | NM-149-4-27                                       | Page 4  |
|     | Christmas Day                                     |         |
| 28. | NM-149-4-28                                       | Page 8  |
|     | Red Bluff Claims 1,2,3,4,5,9                      |         |
| 29. | NM-149-4-29                                       | Page 15 |
|     | Black Hawk, Bunney, Gay Eagle, Red Bluff, and UDC |         |
| 30. | NM-149-4-30                                       | Page 28 |
|     | Last Chance                                       |         |
| 31. | NM-149-4-31                                       | Page 31 |
|     | Section Nine                                      |         |
| 32. | NM-149-4-32                                       | Page 39 |
|     | Taffy (Bonanza)                                   |         |
| 33. | NM-149-4-33                                       | Page 41 |
|     | La Jara   |         |
| 34. | NM-149-4-34                                       | Page 45 |
|     | Zia   |         |
| 35. | NM-149-4-35                                       | Page 52 |
|     | Linear Prospecting Trenches                       |         |

Quad: Dough Mountain 7½'

- |    |                            |         |
|----|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | NM-199-1-1                 | Page 54 |
|    | Sandy (South Laguna Mines) |         |

Date visited 2/1/80

Mine name(s) Double Jerry (Vallejo) County Valencia (McKinley)

Section NW $\frac{1}{4}$  3 Twنش. 12 N R. 9 W

Quadrangle sheet Dos Lomas

Mining district Grants

Elevation 6,980'

Nearest city and/or dwellings \_\_\_\_\_

The Double Jerry is located in sec. 3 of T. 12 N., R. 9 W., in Valencia Co., however, the portal is in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 34 of T. 13 N.; R. 9 W., in McKinley Co. Most references have listed the mine as being in Valencia Co.

The mine is accessible via the Roundy Ranch road which leaves state highway no. 53 7.3 mi. north of the no. 53 and no. 66 junction at Milan. Travel northeastward on the ranch road, staying left at all road forks until ascending the mesa in section 4. In the middle of sec. 4 turn left again and follow trail northward across drainage line to sec. 4/sec. 33 fence line, then right to U.S. Forest Service gate. Pass through gate and follow road approximately 1/2 mi. to mine which is very near the southern line of sec. 34.

The workings consist of a 600' long, 20<sup>o</sup> incline (inclined adit) driven into Todilto limestone. The 12' x 12' timber head frame and load out and the 12' x 16' wooden shack that housed the hoist remain at the site (see photos a & b). The portal is about 6' high x 8' wide and timbered; incline was tracked and timbered. Caving has exposed the first 25' of the incline and 100' back from the portal a 20' diameter hole has caved through to the incline (see photo c). Also shown in the photo is a small drainage line that passes immediately behind the caved area and across the top of the incline. All mine timbering is in poor condition and the site could be considered slightly hazardous. Scintillometer readings in the area of the portal and loadout facility range from 350-600 cps, or up to 9 x background. A small powder magazine is visible on the slope about 300' southwest of the mine.

The mine was opened in 1957 and operated by Vallejo Uranium Mines Inc., until it closed in 1962. By late 1958 it had produced about 1,600 tons of high lime, low vanadium ore that averaged .21% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. Total production is not known.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603.
  - (2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium Section; in, Mineral and Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bur. of Mines and Mineral Resources, Bull. 87, p. 215.
  - (3) U.S. A.E.C., 1959, Mine Operation Data Report, AEC-PED-1.
  - (4) Field notes, 2/1/80.

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Photo (a) View northeastward of Double Jerry Mine.



Photo (b) View northward of timbered incline and the headframe and loadout, from drainage line; range pole is on narrow divide between drainage line and caved area over the incline.



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Photo (c) View southward showing the mine dump on the left, the portal and caved area behind, and the small drainage line on the right.