

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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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: Grants 7½'

1. NM-173-1-1 Page 58
Anaconda F-33 (F-33)
2. NM-173-1-2 Page 66
Tom 13 (Tom)
3. NM-173-1-3 Page 68
Lone Pine 3 (Lone Pine)
4. NM-173-1-4 Page 74
Cedar 1 (Yucca) (Falcon?)

Quad: Mesa Gigante 7½'

1. NM-176-3-1 Page 78
Chavez (Canoncito)

Quad: Moquino 7½'

1. NM-175-1-1 Page 80
Woodrow (Woodrow Breccia Pipe)

Quad: San Mateo 7½'

1. NM-150-3-1 Found under McKinley Co; Quad: San Mateo
Rialto (Chill Wills)
2. NM-150-3-2 Page 83
San Mateo

Quad: South Butte 7½'

1. NM-199-2-1 Page 92
Crackpot Mine

Paisano Prospect

Date visited 5/6/80

Mine name(s) Paisano Prospect County Valencia

Section SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 16 Twنش. 8 N R. 6 W

Quadrangle sheet South Butte 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district South Laguna

Elevation 6,160'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Marmon Ranch, 6 miles S-SE; Mesita, 14 miles NE.

The prospect is located just north of Alamo Spring in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 16. The site may be reached by leaving I-40 at the Mesita exit and proceeding southward and westward for about 14 miles toward Alamo Spring.

No recognizable workings exist at the site. One 4" x 4" claim post was found about 600' northeast of Alamo Spring. One small area on a Todilto limestone outcrop nearby produced a scintillometer reading of 90 cps, or about 2 x background. No uranium minerals visible.

The small open pit referred to by Hilpert (1969) was not identified.

- References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 56.
(2) Field notes, 5/6/80.