

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

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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.

Quad: Mariano Lake 7½'

1. NM-123-4-1 Page 214  
Mac #1
2. NM-123-4-2 Page 217  
Black Jack #2

Quad: Pinedale 7½'

1. NM-123-3-1 Page 222  
Westwater

Quad: San Mateo 7½'

1. NM-150-3-1 Page 224  
Rialto (Chill Wills)

\*San Mateo Quad report #2 found under Valencia County

Quad: Thoreau NE 7½'

1. NM -148-1-1 Page 230  
Alta
2. NM-148-1-2 Page 234  
Silver Bit 15 and 18 (Pentada Prospect)
3. NM-148-1-3 Page 237  
Francis
4. NM-148-1-4 Page 241  
Evelyn
5. NM-148-1-5 Page 247  
Billy The Kid and Greer Warren and McCormack

6.	NM-148-1-6	Page 252
	Elkins (Tom Elkins) (Lawrence Elkins)	
7.	NM-148-1-7	Page 255
	Maddox and Teague	
8.	NM-148-1-8	Page 258
	Golver	
9.	NM-148-1-9	Page 260
	Red Top	
10.	NM-148-1-10	Page 262
	Haven (Sec. 21)	
11.	NM-148-1-11	Page 265
	Red Cap Prospect	
12.	NM-148-1-12	Page 267
	Yucca #2	

Mine name(s) Maddox and Teague County McKinley  
 Section NE $\frac{1}{2}$  19 Twنش. 14 N R. 11 W  
 Quadrangle sheet Thoreau NE 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '  
 Mining district Smith Lake  
 Elevation 7,040'  
 Nearest city and/or dwellings Prewitt, 5 miles south

The Maddox and Teague is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19, a little south and east of the Billy The Kid. To reach the site travel north from Prewitt on dirt road for 5 miles to the Andrews Ranch, then east to the mine.

The mine consists of several shallow open pit areas and at least two small areas where soil overburden has been stripped, but no rock disturbed. Photo (a) is a view of an 80' x 100' area prospected by bulldozer to a depth of about 3', with the waste piles being the most conspicuous feature. Photo (b) is of the same workings, but gives a better feel for how shallow the pits are and how little overburden there is on the Todilto limestone at this site. Scintillometer readings ranged up to 650 cps.

About 250' north of the area just described is another very shallow pit prospected by bulldozer (see photo c). This area measures about 40' x 75', 2'-3' deep with scintillometer readings up to 1,000 cps. However, even with this strong response, secondary oxidized uranium minerals are only sparingly present.

To the east of the first described area about 300' is another shallow pit measuring 30' x 70', and 2' deep (see photo d). Scintillometer readings ranged from 700-900 cps. Again the workings are conspicuous mainly because of the surrounding waste piles.

Hilpert, (1969) describes the property as one or more deposits in Todilto limestone; some ore mined in 1953. The State Mine Inspector's Office registered the property in July, 1953. Location was given as sections 18, 19, and 20. However, during the present investigation no workings were identified in sec. 18. It is possible some workings of this mine may extend across the sec. 20 line towards the Glover workings.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 41.
  - (2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium, in Mineral and Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Bull. 87; p. 214.
  - (3) State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.
  - (4) Field notes, 12/12/79.



Photo (a) Looking northeastward into 80' x 100' shallow prospect pit at Maddox and Teague workings.



Photo (b) Looking northward at same pit as shown in (a).

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Photo (c) Looking north at a 40' x 75' prospected area.



Photo (d) Looking northeastward at a 30' x 70' area prospected by bulldozer.