

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.

McKINLEY COUNTY

Quad: Ambrosia Lake 7½'

1. NM-149-1-1 Page 1  
Mary No. 1 (Dysart No. 3)
2. NM-149-1-2 Page 5  
Dysart #1 (Rio de Oro)
3. NM-149-1-3 Page 9  
Dysart #2
4. NM-149-1-4 Page 12  
United Western (J and M)
5. NM-149-1-5 Page 16  
UN-NP Sec. 32
6. NM-149-1-6 Page 18  
Sec. 26 (Ike No. 1)

Quad: Bluewater 7½'

1. NM-149-3-1 Page 21  
Red Point Lode
2. NM-149-3-2 Page 24  
Williams & Thompson (Sec. 18)
3. NM-149-3-3 Page 29  
Sec. 24 (Glen & Edith)

Date Visited 3/20/80

Mine name(s) UN-NP Sec. 32 County McKinley

Section N $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32 Twنش. 14 N R. 9 W

Quadrangle Sheet Ambrosia Lake 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Ambrosia Lake

Elevation 6,940'

Nearest City and/or dwelling Ambrosia Lake junction, 5 mi. SE

The Sec. 32 Mine was active through 1979. It is presently inactive, but it is not abandoned, (see photo a).

The vertical shaft was completed in 1958 at a total depth of 651', 593' to haulage way. Production was from a multi-layered deposit in the Westwater Canyon member, near the point where the middle and southern trends of the Ambrosia Lake district come together. Ore was low lime, low vanadium, and throughout production history has averaged better than 20%  $U_3O_8$ .

Mine is wet; it is not known whether pumpage is continuing.

The mine is not considered abandoned, merely inactive.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.
  - (2) U.S. AEC-PED-1, 1959, Mine Operation Data Report; GJO/AEC; p. 62; (microfische only).
  - (3) Field notes, 3/20/80.
- 11-16

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photo (a) Looking southwest at the UN-HP Sec. 32 Mine site and headframe; portion of Kerr McGee Ambrosia uranium mill visible at far right.