

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.

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 | |

Date visited 12/12/79

Mine name(s) Red Top County McKinley

Section SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 20 Twنش. 14 N R. 11 W

Quadrangle sheet Thoreau NE 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Smith Lake

Elevation 7,010'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Prewitt, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest

The Red Top is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 20 very near the center of the section. The site may be reached by proceeding southeastward for about 1 mile from the Billy The Kid Mine.

At the locality indicated as the Red Top Mines on GQ-954 all that was found were two shallow, parallel bulldozer cuts (see photos a & b). The longest cut was 30', the shorter one about 15', but it was about 1' deeper. Scintillometer response was 300 cps in cut; no bedrock exposed.

The deposit is on a dip slope of Todilto limestone, but no bedrock is exposed in cut.

- References:
- (1) Green, M.W., et al, 1971, Geologic Map of The Thoreau NE Quadrangle, GQ-954.
 - (2) U.S. AEC, list of Uranium Mines in New Mexico.
 - (3) Field notes, 12/12/79.



Photo (a) Looking northeast at prospected area marked as Red Top Mine in GQ-954.



Photo (b) Looking south into dozer cuts at site shown in photo (a).