

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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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: Bread Springs 7½'

1. NM-146-2-1 Page 33
Diamond 2 (Largo)

Quad: Church Rock 7½'

1. NM-122-4-1 Page 39
CD & S (Sec. 35)
2. NM-122-4-2 Page 41
Foutz #3 (Yellow Jacket)
3. NM-122-4-3 Page 45.
Foutz 1 and 2
4. NM-122-4-4 Page 48
William and Reynolds
5. NM-122-4-5 Page 50
Christenson (Rimrock #2)
6. NM-122-4-6 Page 58
Santa Fe Christensen (Rimrock #1)

Quad: Dos Lomas 7½'

1. NM-149-4-1 Page 62
Isabella
2. NM-149-4-2 Page 67
Spencer Shaft (Centennial)
3. NM-149-4-3 Page 69
Hogan
4. NM-149-4-4 Page 74
Gossett Incline (Beacon Hill #23)

5.	NM-149-4-5	Page 78 ⁷⁷
	Blue Peak (Garcia 1)	
6.	NM 149-4-6	Page 84 ⁸³
	Mesa Top 7 & 18 (Malpais Raise)	
7.	NM-149-4-7	Page 93 ⁹²
	Dog Incline (Dog and Flea)	
8.	NM-149-4-8	Page 99 ⁹⁸
	Marquez	
9.	NM-149-4-9	Page 104
	Faith (Westvaco) (Sec. 29)	
10.	NM-149-4-10	Page 109
	Barbara J #3	
11.	NM-149-4-11	Page 112
	Barbara J #1	
12.	NM-149-4-12	Page 114
	Baily and Fife (Rimrock)	
13.	NM-149-4-13	Page 117
	T-20 Shaft (T-9 ore body)	
14.	NM-149-4-14	Page 120
	Flat Top (Flat Top #3 & 4)	
15.	NM-149-4-15	Page 124 ✓
	Roundy Shaft (Rimrock)	
16.	NM-149-4-16	Page 126
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 Strip	
17.	NM-149-4-17	Page 131
	Sec. 25 Strip Complex	

18.	NM-149-4-18	Page 141
	Sec. 25 Shaft	
19.	NM-149-4-19	Page 144
	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25, Decline and Open Pits	
20.	NM-149-4-20	Page 149
	Hanosh	
21.	NM-149-4-21	Page 152
	Sec. 23 and 26 Open Pit	
22.	NM-149-4-22	Page 156
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 (Rimrock) Homer Scriven)	
23.	NM-149-4-23	Page 160
	Sec. 31 Open Pit	
24.	NM-149-4-24	Page 163
	Moe No. 4 (Sec. 32)	
25.	NM-149-4-25	Page 165
	Charlotte	

*Dos Lomas Quad reports #26 - #35 found under Valencia County

Quad: Gallup East 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-122-3-1	Page 167
	Hogback (Hogback 3-5)	
2.	NM-122-3-2	Page 171
	Becenti	

Quad: Goat Mountain 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-149-2-1	Page 174
	Kermac Sec. 10 (Kermac No. 10)	

Mine name(s) Blue Peak (Garcia 1)County McKinleySection S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 24Twnsh. 13 NR. 10 WQuadrangle sheet Dos Lomas 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 'Mining district Poison Canyon TrendElevation 7,350'Nearest city and/or dwellings Ambrosia Lake junction, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ air miles east.

The Blue Peak is located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 24 on the south facing escarpment of Mesa Montanosa. The mine is immediately west of the active Hope Mine, operated by Ranchers Exploration. Before proceeding on to property stop at Ranchers Hope Mine office and obtain permission to cross their property. Also a sign on approach to the Blue Peak indicates that Mr. Lee Garcia of Grants (Tele. 287-2406) may have active claims in area. Some recent drilling was noted in area.

The Blue Peak workings consist of 6 separate localities along the outcrop where adits have been driven or started. Going from east to west they are (1) a northward driven 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high, 10' wide, 12' long adit with maximum scintillometer reading of 1,700 cps (see photo a); (2) 85' west of first adit is a 4' high, 9' wide portal opening to a 100' long tunnel driven on a N 25° W heading with scintillometer readings up to 3,200 cps (photo b); (3) 100' west of second adit is the 3rd adit with a 6' high, 7' wide portal, going back at least 75' (photo c). Some roof falls have occurred in this adit and entire length was therefore not explored; scintillometer readings 25' inside were up to 1,500 cps. The wooden ore chute shown in the last photograph of series is between 2nd and 3rd adits; (4) 200' west of 3rd adit is the 4th locality, which consists of a pair of gopher holes 3' deep, one of which has caved (see photo d); (5) 15' west of the gopher holes is a stub adit 3' high, 6' wide, 4' long (photo e); and (6) the main adit is 85' to the west of (5); it has a 7' high, 8' wide timbered portal (see photo f). The adit goes in on a N 15° E heading for at least 75', at which point there appears to be some room and pillar structures. Scintillometer reading at portal is 4,000 cps; at 50' inside where drifts to both left and right were noted, readings of 3,600 cps were recorded. This adit still carries a notice of a 1964 inspection by Mine Inspector's Office to determine working levels of Radon daughters; inspector was D. B. Buddeke.

Photo (g) is a view of the wooden ore chute between the 2nd and 3rd adits. It dropped ore about 40' to the load out level.

The deposits are all in the Poison Canyon sandstone tongue in the Brushy Basin member of the Morrison fm. They were mined intermittently between 1951-1964 (Hilpert, 1969), probably by Four Corners Exploration. Additional information on the geology and uranium mineralization is given in Rapaport (1963).

- References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 37.
- (2) Rapaport, I., 1963, Uranium Deposits of the Poison Canyon Ore Trend, Grants District, in Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Mem. 15, p. 123.

(3) Field notes, 1/9/80.



Photo A Looking northward at easternmost workings at Blue Peak; adit is $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' high, 10' wide, 12' long; (may be only powder magazine but scintillometer read 1700 cps).

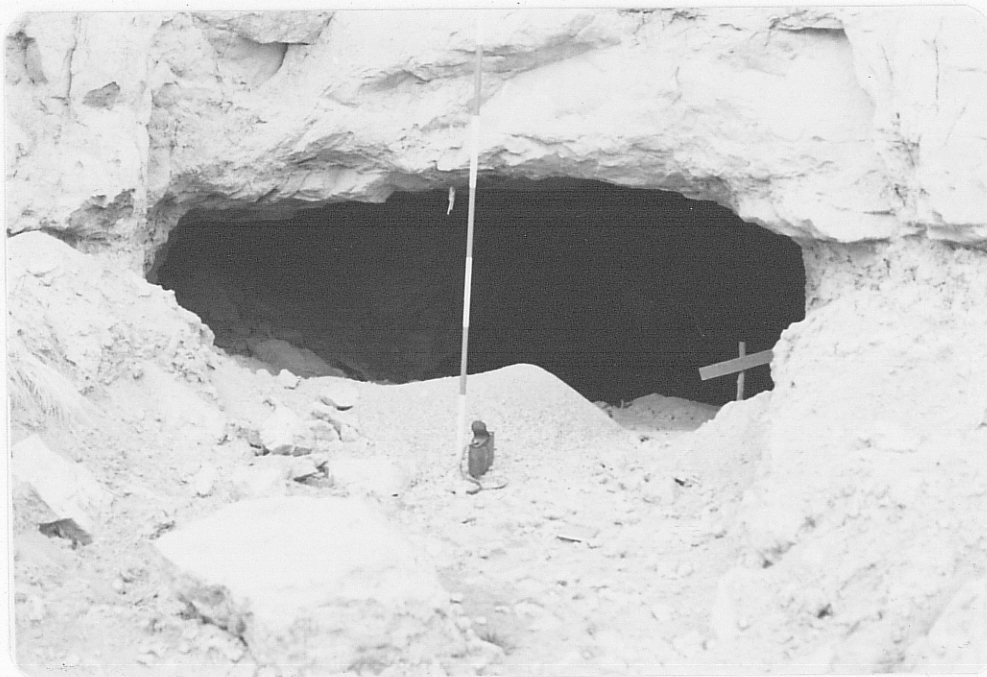


Photo B Looking northward at second adit 85' west of A; portal is 4' high, 9' wide and tunnel continues on a $N 25^{\circ} W$ trend for at least 100'.

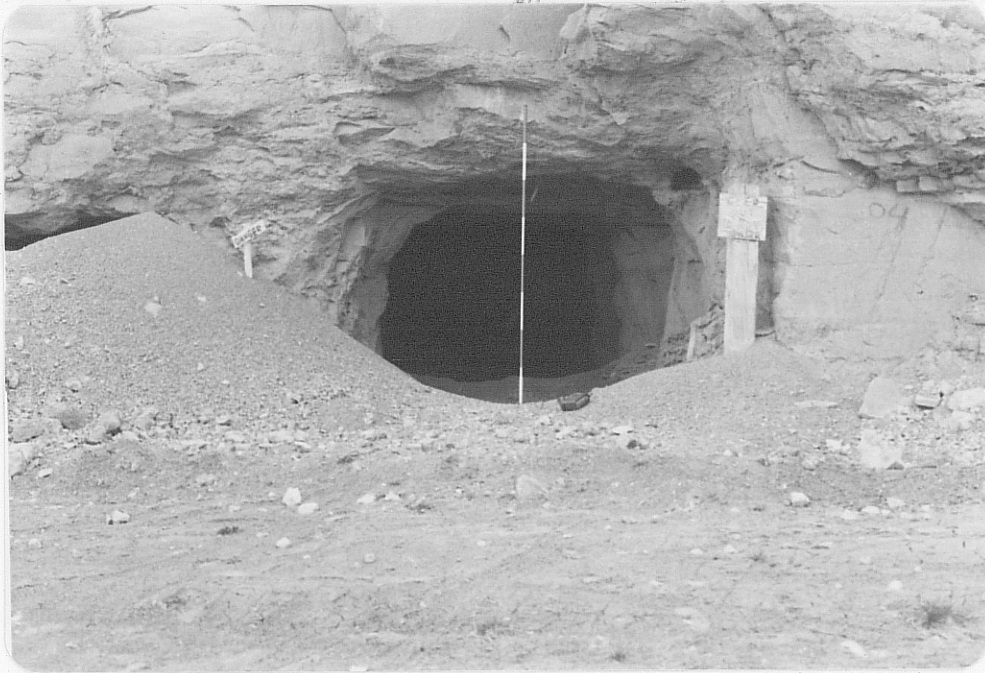


Photo C Looking northward at 3rd adit going west; portal is nearly 6' high, 7' wide, and continues on a N 15° W trend for as far as light goes (at least 75').

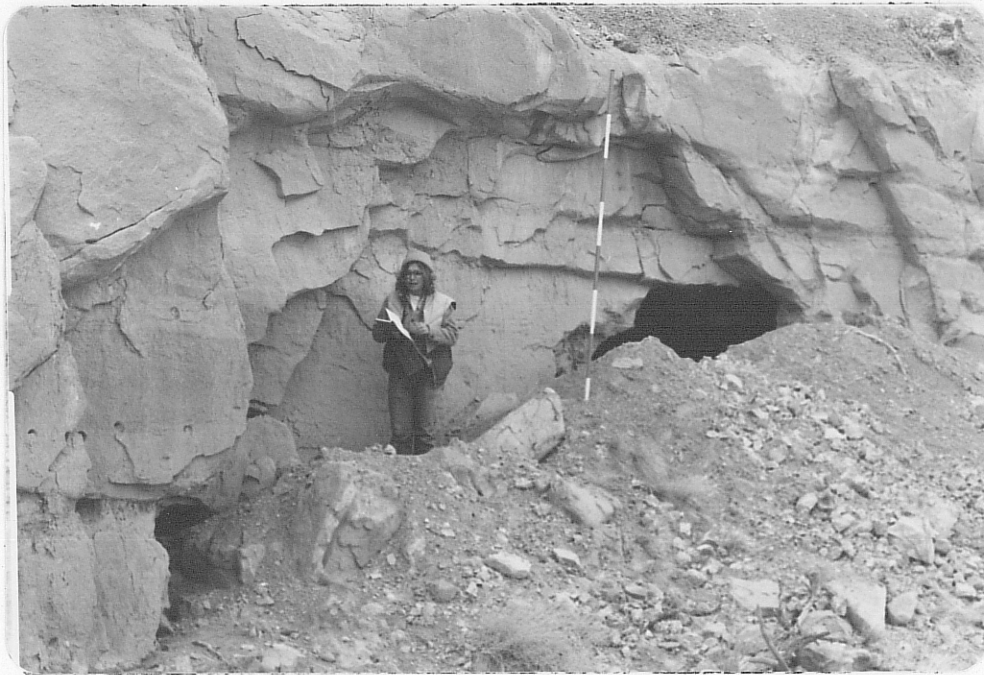


Photo D Looking northward at 4th workings in series, 200' west along outcrop from No. 3 in C; probably consists of a pair of gopher holes, each about 3' deep, but left one has caved or has been blasted.

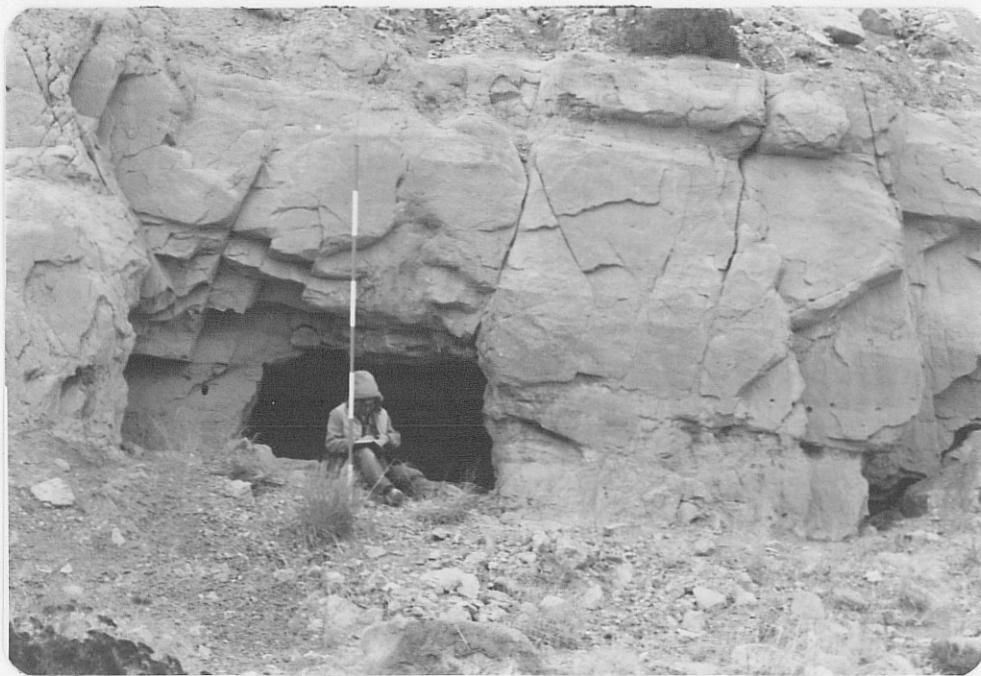


Photo E Looking northward at 5th workings, 15'-20' west of No. 4 shown in D; portal is 4' high, 6' wide, but adit is a stub going in only 4'.

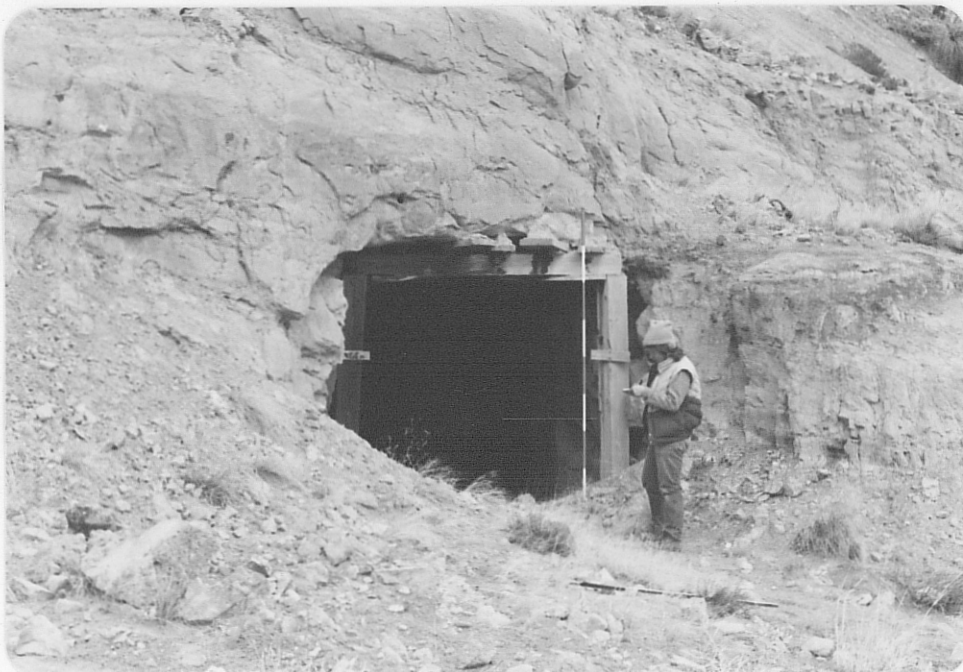


Photo F Looking northward at last or westernmost adit on Blue Peak workings, 85' west of stub shown in E. Portal is 7' high, 8' wide, and adit continues on a N 15° E trend for at least 75' at which point there may be some room and pillar structures.



Photo G View westward along south facing escarpment into which Blue Peak adits were driven (upper cut); wooden ore chute extends from adit level down to loadout level, a vertical distance of about 40'.