

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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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.

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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.

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)	

2.	NM-149-2-2	Page 178
	Sec. 34	
3.	NM-149-2-3	Page 180
	Sec. 35 Strip (Lost Mine)	
4.	NM-149-2-4	Page 183
	Febco (Small Stake)	
5.	NM-149-2-5	Page 188
	Silver Spur 1 (Silver Spur 5)	
6.	NM-149-2-6	Page 194
	Pat Mine	
7.	NM-149-2-7	Page 197
	Dakota	
8.	NM-149-2-8	Page 199
	Junior	
9.	NM-149-2-9	Page 201
	Sec. 5 (Westvaco) (No. 2)	
10.	NM-149-2-10	Page 202
	Sec. 1 Strip	
11.	NM-149-2-11	Page 204
	Sec. 2 Strip	
 <u>Quad: Hosta Butte 7½'</u>		
1.	NM-124-3-1	Page 206
	Blackjack #1	
2.	NM-124-3-2	Page 212
	Mac #2	

Date visited 1/8/80

Mine name(s) Sec. 35 Strip (Lost Mine) County McKinley

Section NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 35 Twنش. 14 N R. 11 W

Quadrangle sheet Goat Mountain 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Grants

Elevation 7,120'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings are visible several miles southwest down the Rincon Canyon.

The Sec. 35 Strip Mine is indicated by a strip mine symbol in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 35 on the Goat Mountain quadrangle. It may be reached by proceeding northward from the Silver Spur Mine in sec. 31 for several miles to the old pipeline road and then turning left to follow the pipeline road into the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 26; walk in from this point.

The workings consist of a 400' long, east-west trending strip mine or bench cut about 70' below the rim of the mesa (see photo a & b). Workings are in a zone of multiple carbonaceous beds at the base of the Dakota sandstone. Scintillometer readings recorded were up to 180 cps (or 3 x background); on dump immediately below cut (photo c) readings were about the same 150-170 cps.

The highwall (photo b) and the dump slope are both somewhat unstable; waste material will eventually reach the drainage line in Rincon Canyon.

- References: (1) Thaden, R.E., et al, 1966, Geologic Map of Goat Mountain Quadrangle, GO-518.
(2) Field notes, 1/8/80.



Photo (a) Looking eastward along bench cut at sec. 35 Strip Mine; most of face is natural exposure now made somewhat unstable by 25' cut in soft carbonaceous shales. Note person (center) for scale.



Photo (b) View northward showing a 15' thick sequence of carbonaceous shale just above floor of cut.

#252 Mc181



Photo (c) View northeastward from valley floor showing 50' "high" veneer of mine waste on slope.

#253 Mc 182