

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.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Quad: Arroyo del Agua 7½'

1. NM-82-2-1 Page 1  
Lucky Strike (Mid Continent?)
2. NM-82-2-2 Page 4  
Hillfoot (Serrano)
3. NM-82-2-3 Page 6  
Red Head (Tinney #2) Claims, Red Bird

Quad: Burned Mountain 7½'

1. NM-36-2-1 Page 8  
Tusas East Slope #5
2. NM-36-2-2 Page 10  
J.O.L. (Royal)

Quad: Ghost Ranch 7½'

1. NM-59-3-1 Page 13  
Lucky Dog/Horny Toad (Onego?)

Quad: La Madera 7½'

1. NM-60-1-1 Page 15  
La Paloma
2. NM-60-1-2 Page 20  
Pineapple

Date visited 10/12/79

Mine name(s) Pineapple County Rio Arriba

Section SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  30 Twنش. 26 N R. 9 E

Quadrangle sheet La Madera

Mining district Petaca

Elevation 7,460'

Nearest city and/or dwellings La Madera is 5 miles to the south.

The Pineapple can be reached by going north on the Petaca road 6 miles from La Madera, to the northern half of Sec. 29, T 26 N., R 9 E. Then go west on a dirt road for one mile, to a road intersection. Take the left fork, and south for 1/2 a mile to the mine.

Workings at the Pineapple are restricted to shallow bulldozer cuts (photo a) in an area 100' square. Maximum depth on any cut is 3'. A low dump, 40' long x 20' wide x 5' high is located on the northern end of the workings (photo b). In comparing the size of the dump versus the size of the bulldozer cuts, it is possible there may have been a small shaft which has since been obliterated, as there appears to be more material on the dump than can be accounted for in the small cuts. No mention of a shaft has been found in the literature.

The open cuts are in a light green to white muscovite rich pegmatite. No uranium minerals are visible. Several traverses of the dump and the workings registered a maximum scintillometer reading of 100 cps.

References: (1) U.S. AEC, uranium mine records- New Mexico.



Photo (a) Looking NE at small bulldozer cuts and the dump on the Pineapple property.



Photo (b) Looking north at the Pineapple dump.