

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)	
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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
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Junior	
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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 12/14/79

Mine name(s) Sec. 5 (Westvaco) (No. 2) County McKinley

Section W $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 Twنش. 13 N R. 10 W

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

Mining district Grants

Elevation 7,220'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings along the Two Fault
Butte-Haystack Mountain road $\frac{1}{2}$ mi., to the west.

The Sec. 5 Mine (Westvaco) is located just below the top of the mesa in the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 5. Access is via the Haystack Mountain-Two Fault Butte road. Two miles north of Haystack Mountain take dirt road leading to the northeast for 1.4 miles. Old access road takes off to the left at this point but is no longer passable and gate is locked at east section 5 line. Last $\frac{3}{4}$ miles is on foot. Alternatively, one can walk in from the road on the west side of the mesa in sec. 6.

The mine workings consist of one adit driven northeastward into a carbonaceous shale zone at the base of the Dakota sandstone. Some mineralization may extend down into the underlying Brushy Basin member of the Morrison fm. Portal is 6' x 6', adit is well timbered, and at least 60' long, but total length was not explored. Maximum scintillometer readings in the adit were about 800 cps. No secondary, oxidized, uranium mineralization was visible. The dump extends downslope immediately out front of the portal 70' downslope at the angle of repose. Maximum scintillometer readings on dump were 300 cps. Dump is visible from the road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to west. Access road which descends from mesa top just to north of the adit continues for 200' south of the mine and terminates.

The mine was operated by Farris Brothers Mining during 1958 (Hilpert, 1969); total production is not known. Mine is on a Santa Fe Railway section (AEC, RME 160). No photographs available.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 36.
 - (2) U.S. AEC-PED-1, 1959, Mine Operation Data Report, GJO/AEC, p. 49; (microfiche only).
 - (3) Field notes, 12/14/79.

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