

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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New Mexico Bureau of Mines and
Mineral Resources
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.

Acknowledgments - The writer wishes to thank the following people for their valuable assistance in the field: Lars (Skip) Skotte, Richard Chamberlin, JoAnne Osburn, Mary Ann Anderson, and Cheryl Kyllonen.

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.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

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Quad: Pastora Peak 15'

1. AZ-20-0-1	Page 2
King #6 (Jimmy King #6)	
2. AZ-20-0-2	Page 7
Barton & Begay (Beclabito lease)	
3. AZ-20-03	Page 12
Rocky Flats #1	
4. AZ-20-0-4	Page 15
Canyon #1	
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John John #1	
6. AZ-20-0-6	Page 23 24
Jimmy King #2	
7. AZ-20-0-7	Page 27 28
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Cottonwood Butte Mine (VCA Plot 8)	
9. AZ-20-0-9	Page 37 38
Lone Star (on VCA Plot #9)	

PREFACE TO EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT REPORTS

The East Carrizo District lies along or within several miles of the Arizona border in townships 29 and 30 N., and ranges 20 and 21 west.

The area is covered on the Pastora Peak and Redrock Valley 15' topographic quadrangles, but is largely unsurveyed. A land net was projected in solely to determine if our locations agreed with those given in other publications such as Hilpert, L., (1969), and does not appear on the East Carrizo District claim maps (after AEC, 1953, Claim Maps, East Carrizo District) that accompany each report.

These claim maps were provided for our use on this project by Mr. William Chenoweth of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office, Grand Junction, Colorado. They show access roads, drainage lines, and the claims in the area as of 1953. The only scale they carry is the mile post markers along the New Mexico/Arizona state line.

Orin J. Anderson

*New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
Socorro, New Mexico
June, 1980*

Date Visited 10/31/79

Mine name(s) John John #1 County San Juan

Section (Unsurveyed) Probably 22 Twنش. 30 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle sheet Pastora Peak 15'

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 6200'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Beclabito; 3 mi. N

The John John #1 consists of a small adit on the north wall of the small canyon that follows the north side of Cottonwood Butte. The adit, about 6' high, 5' wide, and 20' long, was driven on a north 5° east heading into the Sandstone Cliffs, (see photos a & b); a very minor amount of mine tailings are present below the adit entrance. A 2 inch thick fine grained vanadium stained sandstone lens can be traced along the adit wall and may have been the primary ore bearing zone.

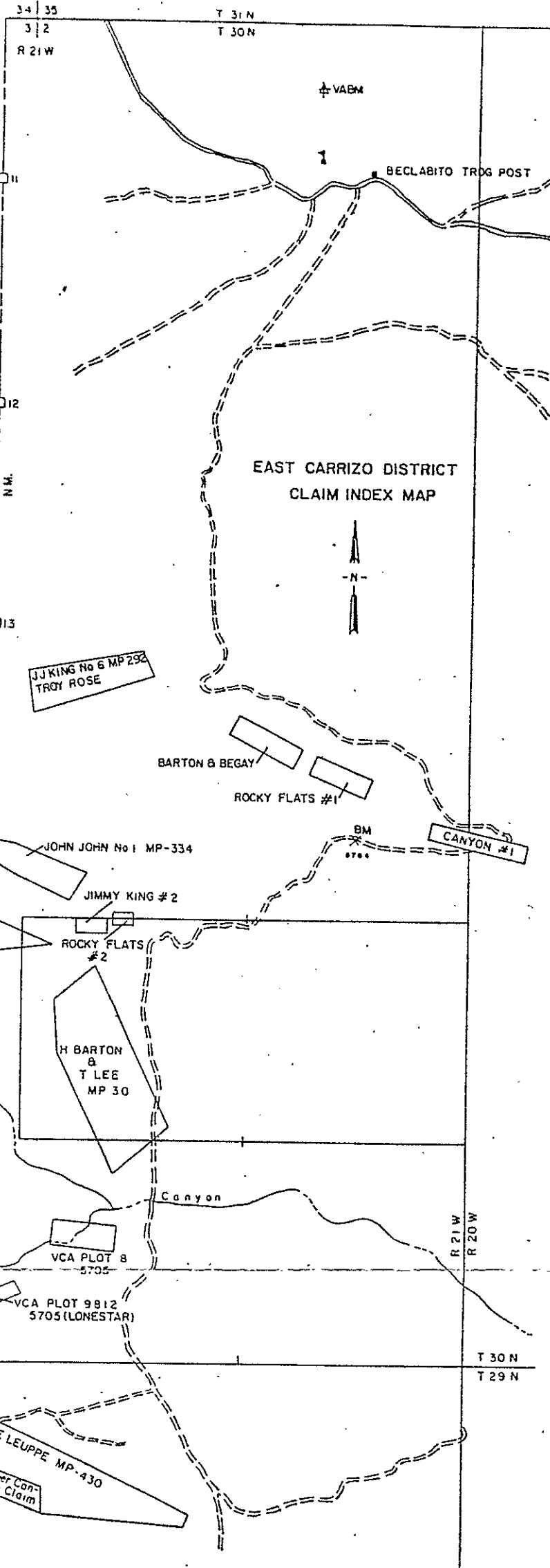
Access to the mine was by a road in from the east above the mine; it is no longer passable, and walking in from the Oak Springs road is the recommended way. The area is actively grazed.

The mine is in the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison fm. The uranium occurs in association with vanadium, the u:v ratio in this vicinity being about 1:12. The mine was active during 1955 only producing a total of 25 tons of ore averaging .19% U_3O_8 and 2.78% V_2O_5 . The ore contained 97 lbs. U_3O_8 and 1,392 lbs. of V_2O_5 .

The additional adits that reportedly explored this were not found. One was a 6' long stub; the other had 60' of drift in two legs. Entrances to these have probably caved.

See attached claim index map.

- References:
- (1) Chenoweth, W.L., 1980, Historical Review of Uranium-Vanadium in The Eastern Carrizo Mountains, San Juan County, New Mexico, U.S. DOE, TM-210.
 - (2) 1960 AEC office memorandum, "Field Examination of the John John #1 Tract.
 - (3) Eastern Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.



C BEKIS No 1 MP-41
TROY ROSE

JJ KING No 6 MP 292
TROY ROSE

BARTON & BEGAY
ROCKY FLATS #1

JOHN JOHN No 1 MP-334
JIMMY KING # 2

ROCKY FLATS #2
H BARTON & T LEE
MP 30

BM
5784
CANYON #1

VCA PLOT 8
5705

VCA PLOT 9812
5705 (LONESTAR)

W SELLS
MP-431

Upper Canyon Claim
PETTIGREW
MP-337
(Leroy MP-352)

Lower Canyon Claim
E LEUPPE MP-430

Upper & Lower Canyon Claims
CATO SELLS MP-56

SS-22



Photo (a) John John #1; looking NW.

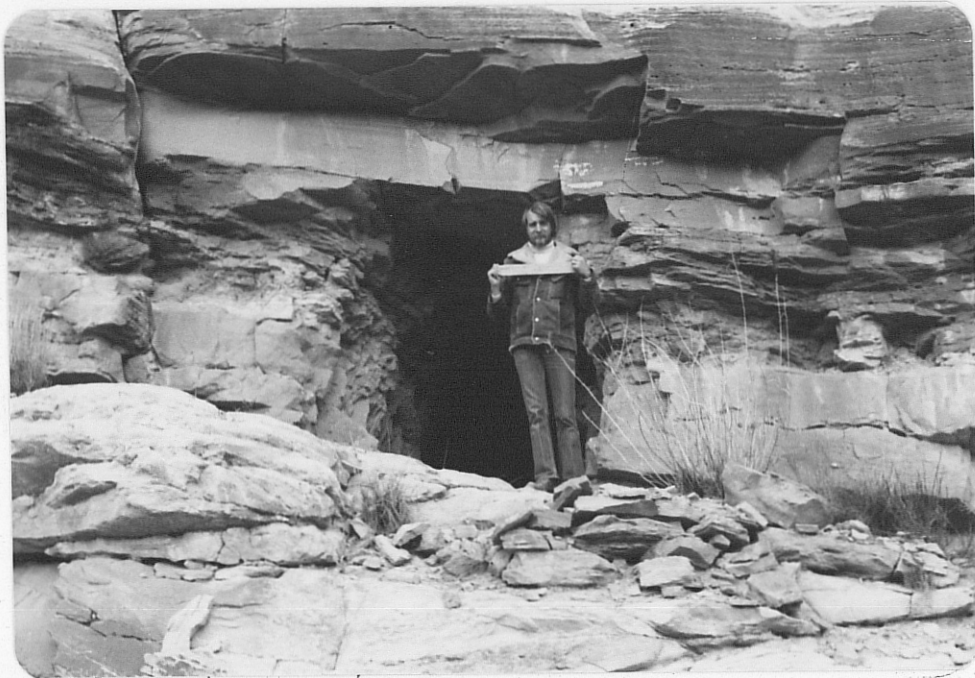


Photo (b) John John #1; looking N.