

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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McKINLEY COUNTY

Quad: Ambrosia Lake 7½'

1. NM-149-1-1 Page 1
Mary No. 1 (Dysart No. 3)
2. NM-149-1-2 Page 5
Dysart #1 (Rio de Oro)
3. NM-149-1-3 Page 9
Dysart #2
4. NM-149-1-4 Page 12
United Western (J and M)
5. NM-149-1-5 Page 16
UN-NP Sec. 32
6. NM-149-1-6 Page 18
Sec. 26 (Ike No. 1)

Quad: Bluewater 7½'

1. NM-149-3-1 Page 21
Red Point Lode
2. NM-149-3-2 Page 24
Williams & Thompson (Sec. 18)
3. NM-149-3-3 Page 29
Sec. 24 (Glen & Edith)

Date visited 1/8/80

Mine name(s) Sec. 24 (Glen & Edith) County McKinley

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 24 Twnsh. 13 N R. 11 W

Quadrangle sheet Bluewater 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Ambrosia Lake

Elevation 7,100'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Numerous single family dwellings clustered around Haystack Mtn., within 1 mile of mine.

The mine is located just south of Haystack Mountain in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 24. It may be reached by proceeding northward on highway no. 53 for about 10 miles north of Milan (from U.S. 66 junction) and turning left on the Poison Canyon road. Proceed eastward on Poison Canyon road for about 8 miles to Todilto Exploration Companies Haystack Mine in sec. 13; get permission to proceed into sec. 24. Todilto Exploration has sections 13 and 19 under active lease.

The mine consists of an extensively worked NW trending area measuring about 900' by 300' (see photo a). The stripping sometimes involved removing more than 10' of unconsolidated overburden from the underlying Todilto limestone, forming conspicuous piles (photo b). Some of the cuts and pits extend for several hundred feet in maximum dimension (see photos b, c, and d). Photo (e) shows a small mine dump near the center of the strip complex. Photo (f) is a view "backward" toward the starting point shown in photo (a).

The deposit is in Todilto limestone. It is classified as a medium deposit by Hilpert, (1969). Ore was produced from 1952-1957. Mine was last registered with the State Mine Inspector's Office in December, 1954, under the name Glen and Edith Mine, with the Federal Uranium Corporation as owner/operator.

- References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 37.
(2) State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.
(3) Field notes, 1/8/80.



Photo (a) Looking NW into stripped area from SE edge of sec. 24 mine; note overburden piles at upper center and upper left extending for nearly 1,000' away from viewer. Mine trends NW.



Photo (b) Looking again to NW, from within mine area, showing size and nature of individual pits; unconsolidated overburden is often more than 10' thick as seen in highwall below vehicle at left. Note large overburden and waste piles at center, middle distance.

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Photo (c) Looking NE at SE trending cut with waste piles on far side; note person at left for scale. Todilto Exploration Co., offices are just visible at left between last two utility poles.



Photo (d) View to NW from small pit within the mine complex showing proximity of Haystack Mountain.

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Photo (e) View eastward from near the center of the mine showing veneer of mine waste on slope behind shallow cut.



Photo (f) Looking SE back toward starting point in photo (a).

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