

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
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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.

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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*Other San Juan Co. Mine Reports Page 178

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-20-0-3 Page 12

Rocky Flats #1

4. AZ-20-0-4 Page 15

Canyon #1

5. AZ-20-0-5 Page ~~20~~ 21

John John #1

6. AZ-20-0-6 Page ~~23~~ 24

Jimmy King #2

7. AZ-20-0-7 Page ~~27~~ 28

Rocky Flats #2

8. AZ-20-0-8 Page ~~31~~ 32

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 10/23/79

Mine name(s) Jimmy King #2 County San Juan Co.

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

Quadrangle sheet Pastora Peak (15')

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 5800'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Oak Springs, 3 mil; Beclabito, 3½ mi.

The Jimmy King #2 consists of a small open pit in the Salt Wash ss. member, (see photo a). It is approximately 150' long in an E-W direction and the bench cut that resulted as work progressed may have reached 100' in width. Several other localities immediately adjacent show minor disturbance, but the original workings. Main cut is 10' deep at maximum (see photos b & c) scintillometer readings in the pit area are generally about 450 cps., with the mine dump area slightly less.

Access was provided by a road leading in from the east, the remnants of which may be seen in photo a. It joins the main road in drainage ¼ mi. to the east but is now impassable. Although unsurveyed the mine appears to be in the NW¼ of projected Sec. 26.

The mine produced between the years 1950-1954. Production totaled 557 tons of ore averaging .16% U_3O_8 , and yielded 1716 lbs. of uranium oxide, and 31,424 lbs. of V_2O_5 . u:v ratio here is about 1:12.

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) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwest New Mexico; USGS pp. 603, p. 53
- (3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.

55-24

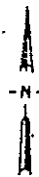
34 35
3 2
R 21W

T 31N
T 30N

VADM

BECLABITO TRDG POST

EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT
CLAIM INDEX MAP



ARIZ.

NM

11

12

13

JJ KING No 6 MP-292
TROY ROSE

BARTON & BEGAY

ROCKY FLATS #1

CANYON #1

JOHN JOHN No 1 MP-334

JIMMY KING # 2

ROCKY FLATS #2

H BARTON
&
T LEE
MP 30

C BEKIS No 1 MP-41
TROY ROSE

Canyon

VCA PLOT 8
5705

VCA PLOT 9812
5705 (LONESTAR)

R 21W
R 20W

T 30N
T 29N

SJ-25

W SELLS
MP-431

Upper & Lower Canyon Claims
CATO SELLS MP-56

Upper Can-
yon Claims
PETTIGREW
MP-337
(Leroy
MP-552)

E LEUPPE MP-430
Lower Can-
yon Claim



Photo (a) Looking E SE into open cut of King #2. Note access.



Photo (b) Looking SE into deepest portion of pit.



Photo (c) Jimmy King #2; looking west into open cut from access road. Area shown in photo b appears in center of photo c.