

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.

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 10/11/79

Mine name(s) J.O.L. (Royal) County Rio Arriba

Section SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  24 Twنش. 28 N R. 7 E

Quadrangle sheet Burned Mountain

Mining district Bromide #2

Elevation 9,840'

Nearest city and/or dwellings 7 miles E-SE of Hopewell Lake campground

The J.O.L. Mine is located on the south side of Tusas Mountain, which is between Cunningham and Cleveland Gulch's. Access is by logging road south from New Mexico 111, through Cunningham Gulch, and then by dirt road south of Tusas Mountain.

Workings consist of a collapsed adit, which trends N 50° W (Photo a). The collapsed area is 15-20' wide, 25-30' deep and approximately 15' high. A dump extends to the south and west of the opening. It's dimensions are 50' N-S x 25-30' E-W and it has a maximum height of 15-20'.

The mineralization occurs as fract fillings in the Precambrian Petaca schist (Bingler, 1968). The mineralization is associated with a granitic intrusion and fluorite veining (Hilpert, 1967). Scintillometer readings at the collapsed area read up to 2,500 cps.

A claimpost at the sight read - Bruno Claims #5 and 6, and were apparently end centers.

- References:
- (1) Bingler, Edward C., 1968, Geology and Min. Res. of Rio Arriba Co., N.M. N.M.B.M. Bull. 91.
  - (2) Hilpert, Lowell, 1965, Uranium, in Min. & Water Res. of N.M. N.M.B.M., Bull. 87.
  - (3) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uran. Res. of N.W., N.M., U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.

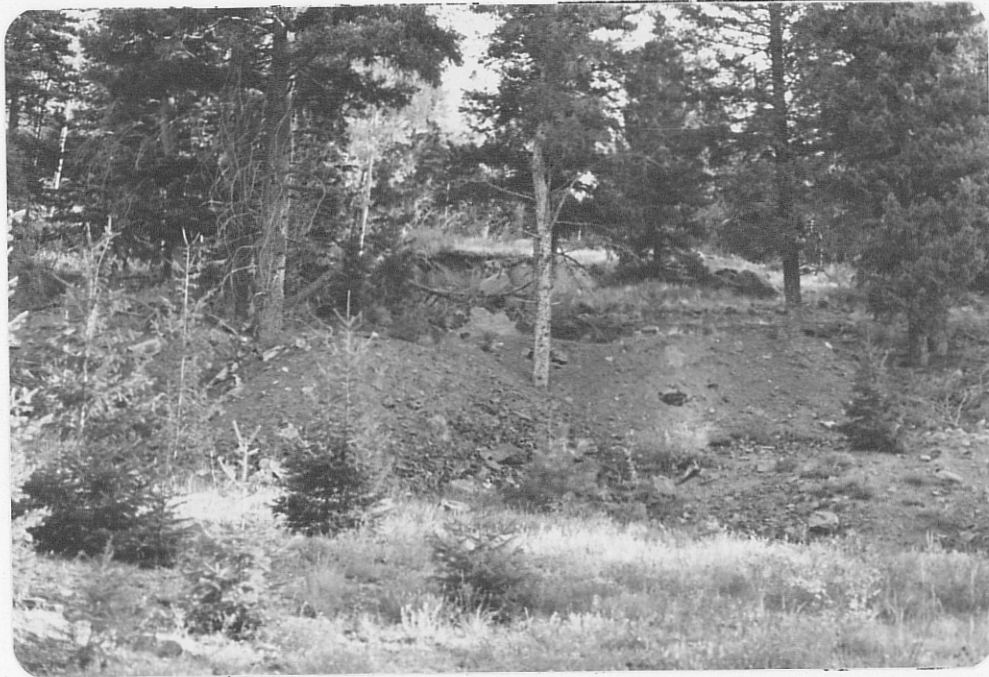


Photo (a) J.O.L. Mine-collapsed pit and dump. Small pine tree in center of photo is 3' high.



Photo (b) Collapsed workings J.O.L.