

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

Orin J. Anderson

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.

Quad: Bread Springs 7½'

1. NM-146-2-1 Page 33
Diamond 2 (Largo)

Quad: Church Rock 7½'

1. NM-122-4-1 Page 39
CD & S (Sec. 35)
2. NM-122-4-2 Page 41
Foutz #3 (Yellow Jacket)
3. NM-122-4-3 Page 45.
Foutz 1 and 2
4. NM-122-4-4 Page 48
William and Reynolds
5. NM-122-4-5 Page 50
Christenson (Rimrock #2)
6. NM-122-4-6 Page 58
Santa Fe Christensen (Rimrock #1)

Quad: Dos Lomas 7½'

1. NM-149-4-1 Page 62
Isabella
2. NM-149-4-2 Page 67
Spencer Shaft (Centennial)
3. NM-149-4-3 Page 69
Hogan
4. NM-149-4-4 Page 74
Gossett Incline (Beacon Hill #23)

5.	NM-149-4-5	Page 78 ⁷⁷
	Blue Peak (Garcia 1)	
6.	NM 149-4-6	Page 84 ⁸³
	Mesa Top 7 & 18 (Malpais Raise)	
7.	NM-149-4-7	Page 93 ⁹²
	Dog Incline (Dog and Flea)	
8.	NM-149-4-8	Page 99 ⁹⁸
	Marquez	
9.	NM-149-4-9	Page 104
	Faith (Westvaco) (Sec. 29)	
10.	NM-149-4-10	Page 109
	Barbara J #3	
11.	NM-149-4-11	Page 112
	Barbara J #1	
12.	NM-149-4-12	Page 114
	Baily and Fife (Rimrock)	
13.	NM-149-4-13	Page 117
	T-20 Shaft (T-9 ore body)	
14.	NM-149-4-14	Page 120
	Flat Top (Flat Top #3 & 4)	
15.	NM-149-4-15	Page 124 ✓
	Roundy Shaft (Rimrock)	
16.	NM-149-4-16	Page 126
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 Strip	
17.	NM-149-4-17	Page 131
	Sec. 25 Strip Complex	

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)	

Date visited 1/10/80

Mine name(s) NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 (Rimrock) (Homer Scriven) County McKinley

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 Twnsh. 13 N R. 10 W

Quadrangle sheet Dos Lomas 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Poison Canyon Trend

Elevation 6,970'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Office and dwellings at Todilto Exploration's Piedre Triste Mine headquarters.

The Sec. 36 or Rimrock is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 36. Old mine roads extend southward and eastward from the Roundy Mine area out to the mesa edge in sec. 36.

The mine consists of two open pit areas, one along the east section line shown in photos (a) through (d) and another area long the north section line shown in photos (e) and (f).

The eastern workings consist of a stripped NE-SW trending mesa top. The workings extend from the edge of the mesa northeastward (down dip) for about 600'-800' varying in width from 200'-300' (see photos a & b). The waste dumps from the operation are highly visible locally (see photos c & d), but often constitute only a thin veneer of waste rock on a natural slope or other feature.

The northern workings lie about 800' to the northwest and consist of an area at least 150' x 400' and up to 16'-18' in depth (see photos (e) & (f)). Some interesting Tee Pee folds may be seen in this area (photo f); gamma levels range up to 1,100 cps in a traverse of this pit.

The mine produced from a small deposit at outcrop of Todilto limestone. It was operated between 1952-1958 (Hilpert, 1969); however, the State Mine Inspector's Office received registrations on this property in November, 1960 under the name Rimrock, and again in February, 1964 under the name Homer Scriven. Mesa Mining was the operator at the time of the last registration.

- 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, 1/10/80.



Photo (a) Looking southwestward at stripped surface on dip slope of Todilto limestone.



Photo (b) Looking northeastward from southern edge of workings shown in photo (a). Stripped area extends for 600' to 800' into distance.



Photo (c) Looking eastward at prominent dump from stripped area shown in photos (a) and (b).

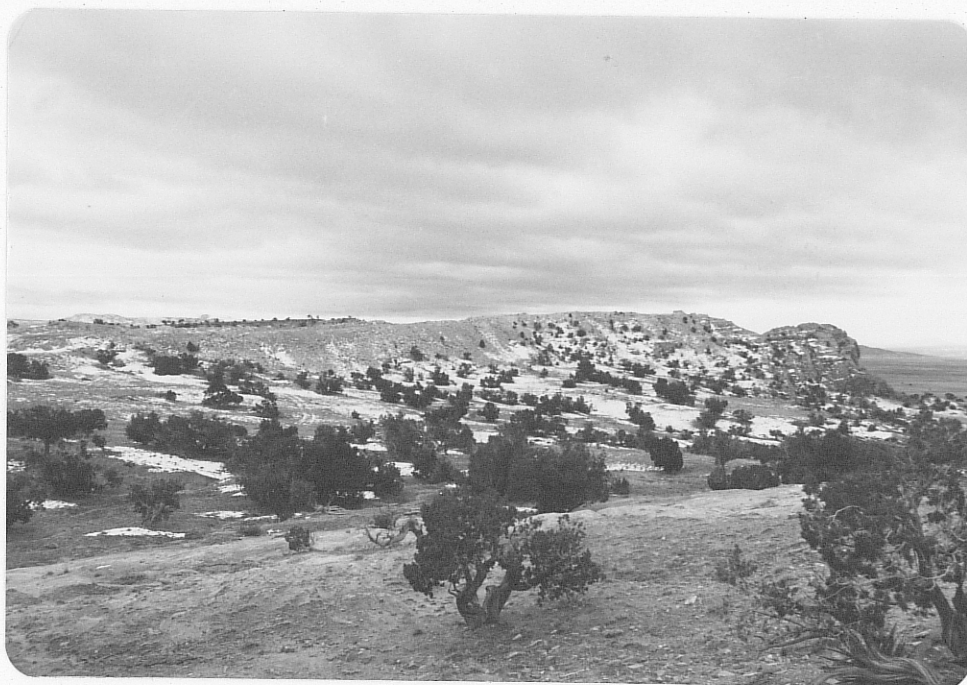


Photo (d) View eastward of sec. 36 mesa top shown in photos (a) and (b), and the waste dump extending down slope (arrow) along west side of mesa.



Photo (e) Looking eastward near north section line showing stripped area up to 16' deep in limestone; workings extend for about 400' into background; note person at left of center for scale.



Photo (f) Close up of Tee pee fold in workings shown in (e); note range pole for scale.