

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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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 1/9/80

Mine name(s) Sec. 25 Shaft County McKinley

Section N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ 25 Twنش. 13 N R. 10 W

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

Mining district Poison Canyon Trend

Elevation 6,920'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings on Navajo land in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 26, 1 mile to west.

The mine is located in the N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. 25 immediately north of the Poison Canyon-Haystack Mountain road. Site is just two miles west of highway no. 53.

The mine consists of a vertical shaft with the 35' high head frame still in place (photo a). The hoisting shed, 18' x 32' stands immediately north of head frame with hoist and engines still in place. Hoist spool is 6' in diameter, with about 20 wraps of cable on it (could indicate shaft depth of 120'). The skip remains suspended at ground level, shaft is open for first 25' or so and steel ladder in shaft allows entry to that depth. Scintillometer response at shaft area ranges up to 4,000 cps, but is not sensitive to proximity to shaft opening. The small ore pile just below ore chute at south edge of head frame produced the highest readings (see photo b).

A mine dump area exists south of the head frame (photo a), but a much more extensive dump area occurs 175' to the northwest; it would appear that much of this dump area extends up into sec. 24. Photo (c) shows a portion of the dump and an 8' x 20' reinforced concrete slab which rests over some type of ventilation shaft or escapeway; the slab and shaft appear stable. Counts at this covered shaft were about 2,000 cps, and vary between 1,200 cps and 1,700 cps throughout the dump area which may extend for about 800' northwest of head frame.

The mine produced from a deposit in the Todilto limestone during the middle to late 1960's. A description of the ore bodies in sec. 25 is given in McLaughlin, (1963). The State Mine Inspector's Office last registered the mine in February, 1967 with Farris Brothers Mines as the operator.

Additional workings exist $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to southwest in the form of a decline (described separately).

- References:
- (1) McLaughlin, E. D., Jr., 1963, Uranium Deposits in the Todilto Limestone of the Grants District, in Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region: New Mexico Bur. of Mines and Mineral Resources, Mem. 15, p. 146.
 - (2) State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.
 - (3) Field notes, 1/9/80.



Photo (a) Looking north at head frame and hoisting shed at Sec. 25 shaft; note small dump area in foreground. Shaft is about 35' high.



Photo (b) Close up of head frame, showing the skip suspended over shaft at ground level, and small ore pile lying below chute where person is standing.



Photo (c) View to northwest of shaft and head frame, showing an extensive mine dump area that continues into the background, and an 8' x 20' concrete slab covering a small ventilation shaft and/or escapeway; person is standing on concrete slab.