

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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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: Redrock Valley 15'

1. AZ-40-0-1  
VCA Plot #7 (Lower Oak Creek)  
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2. AZ-40-0-2  
Franks Point (Plot. 6)  
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3. AZ-40-0-3  
Lower Salt Rock  
AZ-40-0-3  
Upper Salt Rock  
Page ~~56~~ 57
4. AZ-40-0-4  
Williams Point (Plot #4)  
Page ~~64~~ 65
5. AZ-40-0-5  
Salt Canyon Mines (Salt Canyon Claim)  
Page ~~68~~ 69
- 6-9. AZ-40-0-6 to 9  
VCA Plot #3  
Page ~~73~~ 76
10. AZ-40-0-10  
Tent (Tent Claim)  
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11. AZ-40-0-11  
Begay Incline  
Page ~~93~~ 94
12. AZ-40-0-12  
Begay #2  
Page ~~97~~ 98
13. AZ-40-0-13  
Carrizo #1 (MP-24)  
Page ~~100~~ 101
14. AZ-40-0-14  
King Tutt Point (VCA Plot #2)  
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15. AZ-40-0-15  
Begay (Begay #1)  
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| 16. | AZ-40-0-16                          | Page <del>115</del> 118 |
|     | Red Wash Point (VCA Plot #1)        |                         |
| 17. | AZ-40-0-17                          | Page <del>119</del> 122 |
|     | King Tutt 1 (MPG)                   |                         |
| 18. | AZ-40-0-18                          | Page <del>125</del> 128 |
|     | Junction                            |                         |
| 19. | AZ-40-0-19                          | Page <del>128</del> 131 |
|     | Alongo (Alongo Claim)               |                         |
| 20. | AZ-40-0-20                          | Page <del>131</del> 134 |
|     | Canyon View ( Alongo Claim)         |                         |
| 21. | AZ-40-0-21                          | Page <del>135</del> 138 |
|     | KING Tutt #2 (MP-G Sylvania Mining) |                         |

REFERENCES FOR CARRIZO MINING DISTRICT

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| *Preface to Chuska District Reports                        | Page <del>138</del> 141 |
| *Road log to Sanostee Quad. and the Chuska Mining District | Page <del>141</del> 144 |

Quad: Sanostee West 7½'

- |    |                        |          |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 1. | NM-49-2-1              | Page 148 |
|    | Dennet Nezz #1 and #2  |          |
| 2. | NM-49-2-2              | Page 150 |
|    | Dennet Nezz #3         |          |
| 3. | NM-49-2-1001 (unnamed) | Page 151 |
|    | (unnamed) Sec. 8 Adit  |          |

## 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 11/2/79

Mine name(s) Begay #2 County San Juan

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$  23 (Unsurveyed) Twنش. 29 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle sheet Redrock Valley 15'

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 5650'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Oak Springs is located 2 mi. to the NW

The workings may be reached by a dirt road trending E NE from the Oak Spring/Red Rock road (see claim map for location and roads).

Workings at the Begay #2 consist of one adit or decline, and small bulldozer cuts and pits. The entrance to the adit (Photo a), is collapsed. A small pit (20' wide x 50' long x 15' deep) leads to the adit entrance. The pit runs north-south, with the adit located in the southern end. A circular dump (60' diameter), and several small bulldozer cuts and pits are located north of the pit and adit (Photo b).

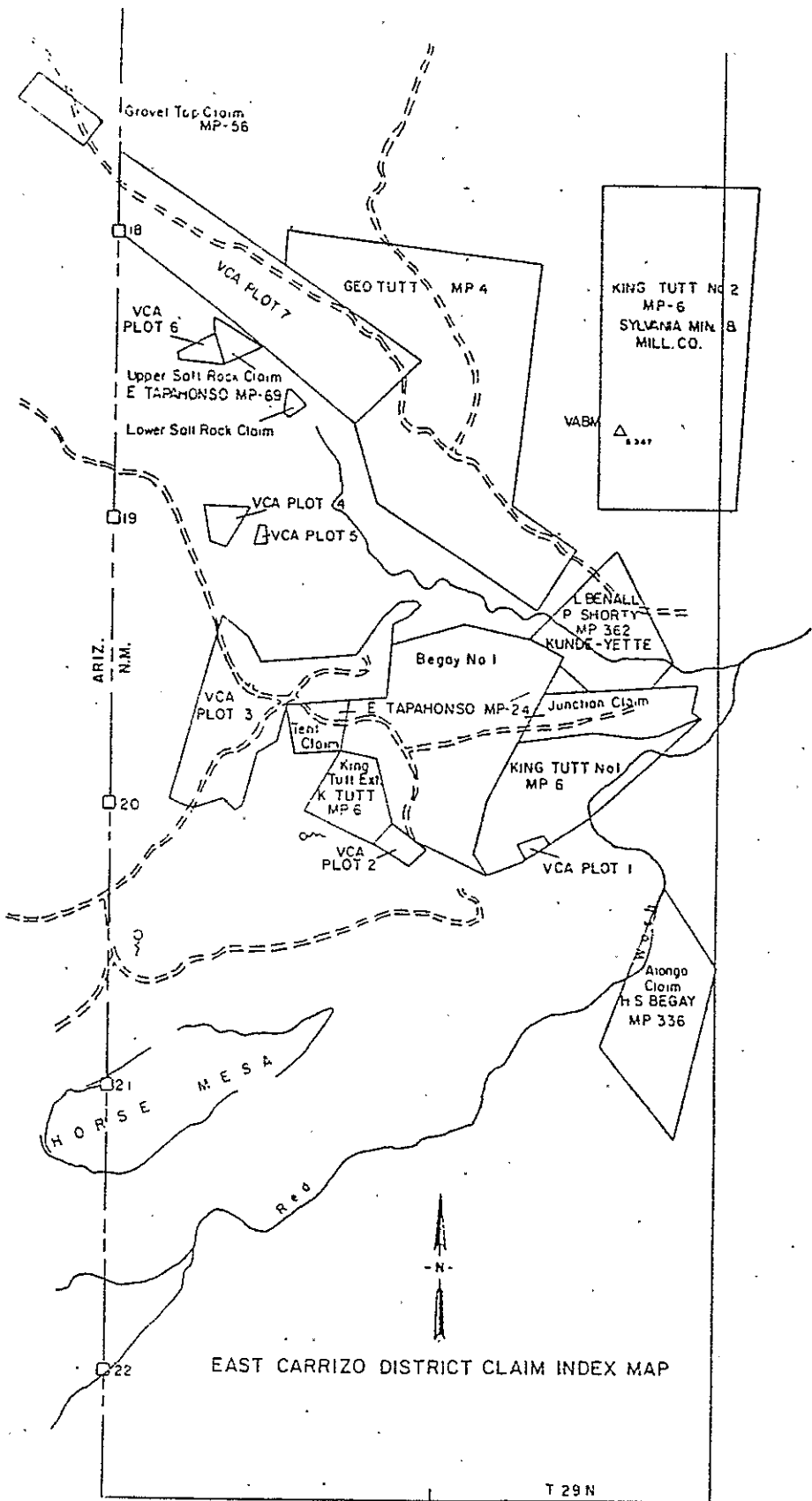
No uranium minerals were visible in the pit or on the dumps. A maximum scintillometer reading of 200 cps. was obtained midway in the pit. Readings of up to 400 cps. were recorded on the dumps. Workings are in the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation.

The Begay #2 was operated by the Davis Mining Company; Hazel I Davis; Fritz-Erickson Co., and the Vanadium Corp. of America from 1962-1967. The workings produced 4,515 pounds of ore, containing 18,450 pounds of  $U_3O_8$  at an average grade of .20%, and 190,638 pounds of  $V_2O_5$  at an average grade of 2.11%. The U:V ratio is 1:5 (Hilpert, 1969).

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 Northwestern New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603, p.52.

(3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.



EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP

T 29 N  
T 28 N



Photo A - looking south at pit entrance to collapsed adit.



Photo B - looking NE at circular dump and surface workings in the Begay #2.