

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.

SOCORRO COUNTY

Quad: Bustos Well 7½'

1. NM-274-3-1

Page 1.

Lucky Don. (Bonanza)

2. NM-274-3-2

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Little Davie

Quad: Indian Spring Canyon 7½'

1. NM-247-3-1

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Hook Ranch Prospect (Jaralosa)

Quad: Lemitar 7½'

1. NM-273-2-1

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Jackpot No. 1 (Carter, Tolliver, Cook)

Quad: Riley 15'

1. NM-248-0-1

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Jeter (or Charley #2)

Quad: Sierra de la Cruz 7½'

1. NM-274-2-1

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Union #1

Quad: South Baldy 7½'

1. NM-296-2-1

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Big Chief #4

Date visited 8/14/79

Mine name(s) Little Davie County Socorro

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35 Twنش. 2 S R. 2 E

Quadrangle sheet Bustos Well 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Chupadera (or Trementina)

Elevation 6,200'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Ranch house, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles west

The Little Davie is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 35 (Hilpert, 1969) about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south-southwest of the Bonanza, on a locally prominent ridge. The site may be reached by taking highway no. 380 east from San Antonio for about 10 miles to the Carthage area. Then take the ranch road to the left (north) along east side of hogbacks about 19 miles to sec. 35. Continue northeastward around north side of limestone ridge and take right fork and head south, east for about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile, then turn right again and begin climbing back side of ridge to mine site.

The workings consist of an 8' x 12' prospect pit about 6' deep (see photos a & b). Deposit is in middle limestone member of the San Andres fm. immediately east of and in footwall of a northeastward trending normal fault (Hilpert, 1969). No secondary uranium minerals are visible.

The mine was registered with the State Mine Inspector's Office in June, 1956 by the Umino Co.; Hilpert (1969), however, stated that some ore was produced in 1955.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium, in Mineral and Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bur. of Mines and Mineral Resources Bull. 87; p. 223.
 - (3) State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.
 - (4) Field notes, 8/14/79.



Photo (a) Looking eastward at 8'x 12' open pit on Little Davie workings; access road shows in background. Size of waste pile in background indicates additional stripping in immediate area.



Photo (b) Close-up of open pit shown in (a).