

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
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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.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

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Quad: Pastora Peak 15'

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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 10/23/79

Mine name(s) Lone Star (on VCA Plot #9 or #9812) County San Juan

Section (Unsurveyed) Twنش. 30 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle sheet Pastora Peak 15'

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 5900'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Oak Springs, 1 1/2 mi. S

The Lone Star Mine on VCA plot 9 consists of a small adit on the north edge of the ridge that extends eastward into N.M. from Syracuse Butte (Ariz.). Photo a offers a view looking southward into this ridge with the mine dump from the Lone Star extending downslope just right of center. Photos b & c show the adit, partially timbered, with a considerable amount of caved material at the entrance. The adit was originally about 5' high, 12' long, and 8' wide. Both photos are looking generally SW. It is possible that these workings are on the Arizona side as no stateline marker was visible to sight on.

The ore occurs in a 1' thick zone of fine grained ss. within the Salt Wash member of the Morrison fm. The ore zone appears greenish gray in color because of numerous clay galls, but the sandstone is arkosic, light brown, and has in places secondary carnotite/tyuamunite overgrowths. Scintillometer readings were indicative of ore grade mineralization, 800 cps. max., but not as high grade as the production records show; perhaps all the high grade material was mined out.

The production records show that the mine was opened in 1950 and operated initially by VCA. It continued to operate under various individual operators through 1952, went through a long inactive stage, was operated again during 1962 and amassed a total ore production of 276 tons that averaged .3% U_3O_8 . The ore contained 1814 lbs. U_3O_8 and 16,852 lbs. of V_2O_5 .* As there is no road to the top of the ridge where the adit is located. The ore was apparently sent downslope via some type of crude chute and trucked out from below along the still visible road that follows a drainage to the east.

See attached claim index map.

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, Uran. Res. of NW New Mex.; USGS pp. 603, p. 53.

(3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953

* Some earlier production, 1943, and 1949, was included with East Reservation Lease production figures.

34 35
3 2
R 21 W

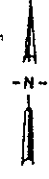
T 31 N
T 30 N

VABM

BECLABITO TROG POST

ARIZ.
N.M.

EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP



JJ KING No 6 MP-292
TROY ROSE

BARTON & BEGAY

ROCKY FLATS #1

CANYON #1

BM
5700

JOHN JOHN No 1 MP-334

JIMMY KING # 2

C BEKIS No 1 MP-41
TROY ROSE

ROCKY FLATS #2

H BARTON
&
T LEE
MP 30

Canyon

VCA PLOT 8
5705

VCA PLOT 9812
5705 (LONESTAR)

R 21 W
R 20 W

T 30 N
T 29 N

55 39

W SELLS
MP-431

Upper & Lower Canyon Claims
CATO SELLS MP-56

Upper Con-
yon Claims
PETTIGREW
MP-337
(Leroy
MP-532)

E LEUPPE MP-430

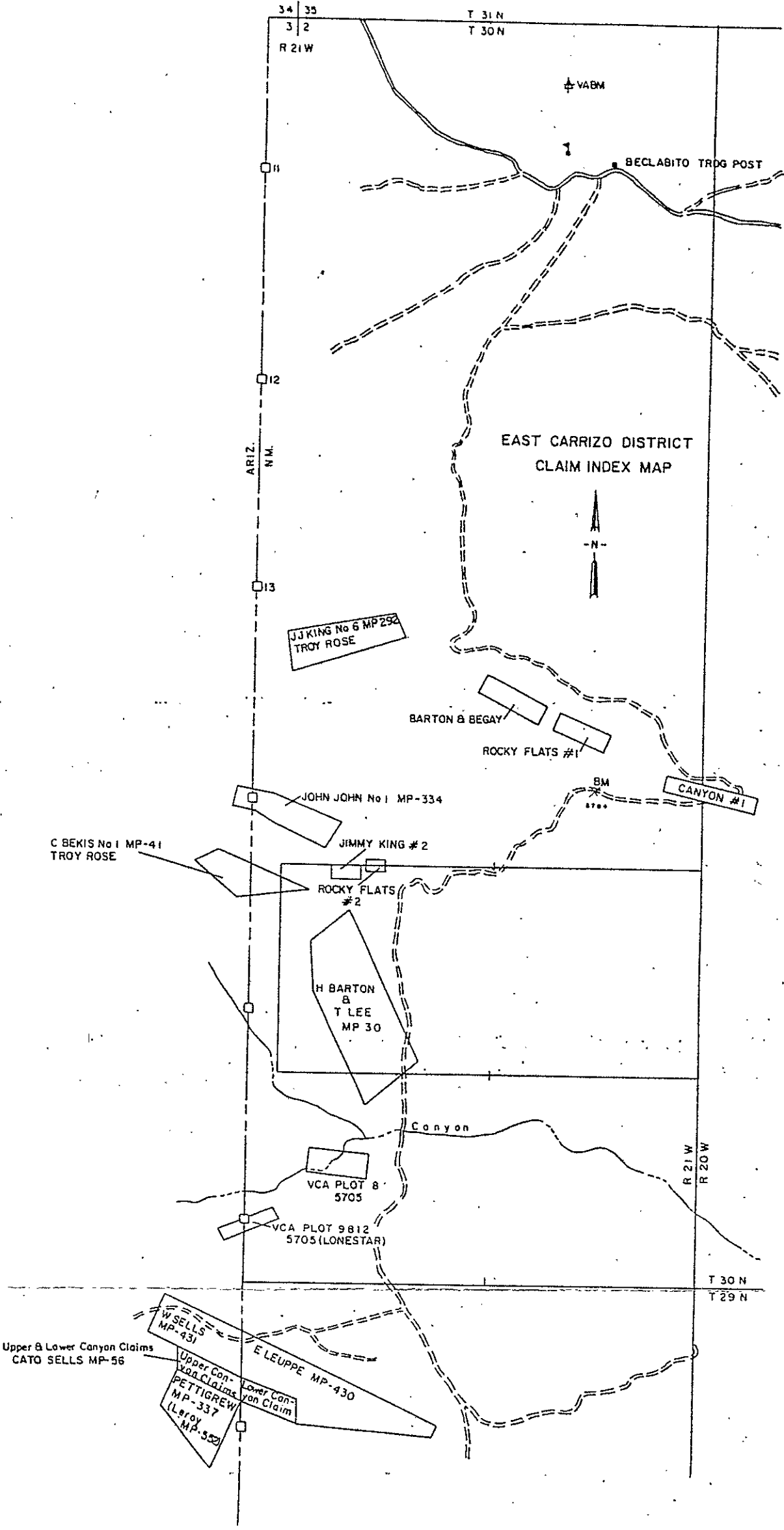




Photo (a) Looking S; note mine tailings from Lone Star just to right of center.

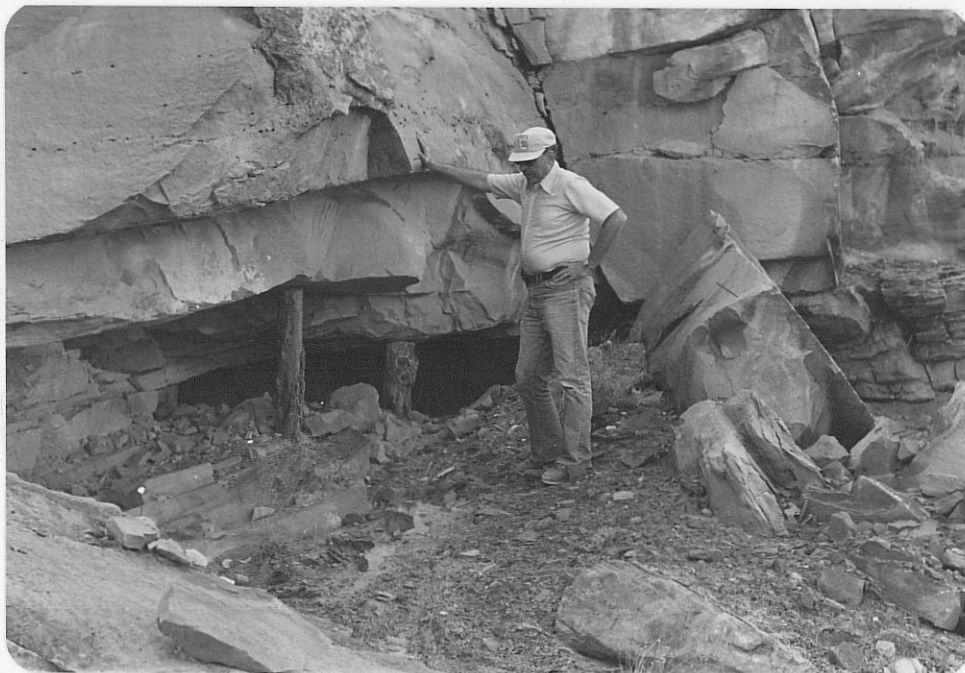


Photo (b) Lone Star adit, looking S SW.

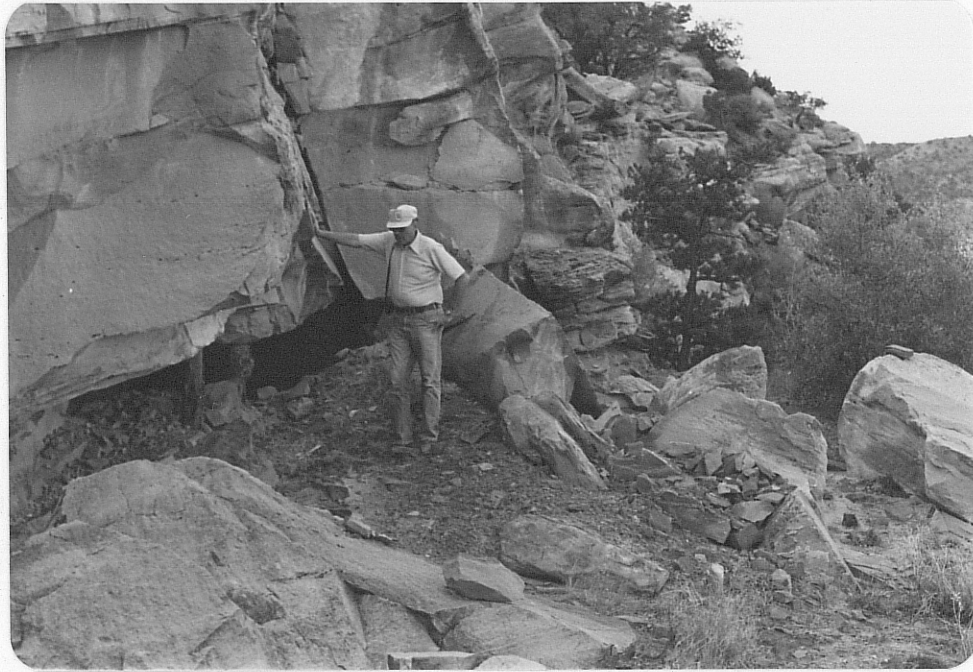


Photo (c) Lone Star adit, looking SW.