

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  
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.

- |     |                                     |                         |
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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'

- |    |                        |          |
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| 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  |          |

Horace Ben

Quad: Sonsala Butte 1. NE 7 1/2'

1. AZ-60-1-1

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Kee and Tohe

2. AZ-60-1-2

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John Joe

3. AZ-60-1-3

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Castle Tsosie

4. AZ-60-1-4

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Joe Ben #2 Prospect

5. AZ-60-1-5

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Joe Ben #1 Prospect

6. AZ-60-1-6

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Joe Ben #3

7. AZ-60-1-7

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Enos Johnson

8. AZ-60-1-8

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Carl Yazzie #1

9. AZ-60-1-9

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H.B. Roy #2

10. AZ-60-1-10

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Reed Henderson (Reed Henderson Claims)

Date visited 11/14/79

Mine name(s) Dennet Nezz #1 and #2 County San Juan  
(Unsurveyed)  
Section Probably 5 Twنش. 25 N R. 20 W  
Quadrangle sheet Sanostee West 7½'  
Mining district Chuska  
Elevation 6800'  
Nearest city and/or dwellings Sanostee, 7 mi. E; other scattered single family dwellings within a 3 mi. radius.

The Dennet Nezz claims were staked in the N½ of Sec. 5, north of Sanostee Wash in the Recapture Member of the Morrison fm. The Dennet Nezz #1 and #2 are indistinguishable, hence are reported together. The workings consist of a 6' high by 6' wide adit driven westward into the hillside, see photo (a), and exploration or drill hole roads that wind up the slope above the adit (no photographs available). One or more areas along these roads may have been a bench cut or rim cut to which a separate name was given, e.g. #1 or #2. If so, slumping and erosion has obliterated the details thereof. Reduction was reported separately for the #1 and #2. The #1 was reported to have produced 131 tons of ore averaging .24% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (639 lbs. U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>), and the #2, 113 tons of ore averaging .14% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (327 lbs. U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>). The inclination would be to assign the higher grade ore to the underground workings, however, the adit is only 25' long and it is doubtful if more than 60 to 70 tons of material was taken out. A close-up view of the adit is given in photo (b); maximum scintillometer readings inside adit=120 cps. The ore is reported to have been in and around mineralized fractures in calcified logs, Hilpert 1969, p. 50.

Access to the claims is provided by dirt road leading west of Sanostee; at 5 mi. turn right at the road fork near windmill on north side of Sanostee Wash and stay on jeep trail that parallels the wash for 2 ¾ mi; workings are just to north at this point.

- Reference:
- (1) Blagbrough, J., et. at., 1959, Uranium Reconnaissance and Drilling in the Sanostee Area ..., AEC RME-111.
  - (2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uran. Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S. pp. 603.
  - (3) AEC Production Records, courtesy Wm. Chenoweth U.S. Dept. of Energy.

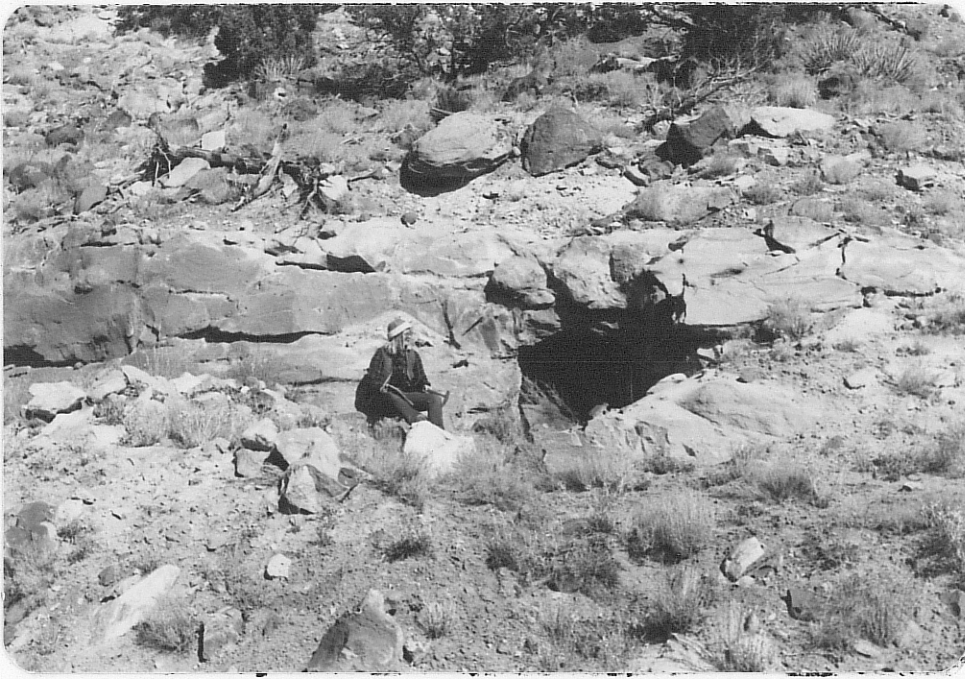


Photo (a) Dennet Nezz claim; looking east at small adit.

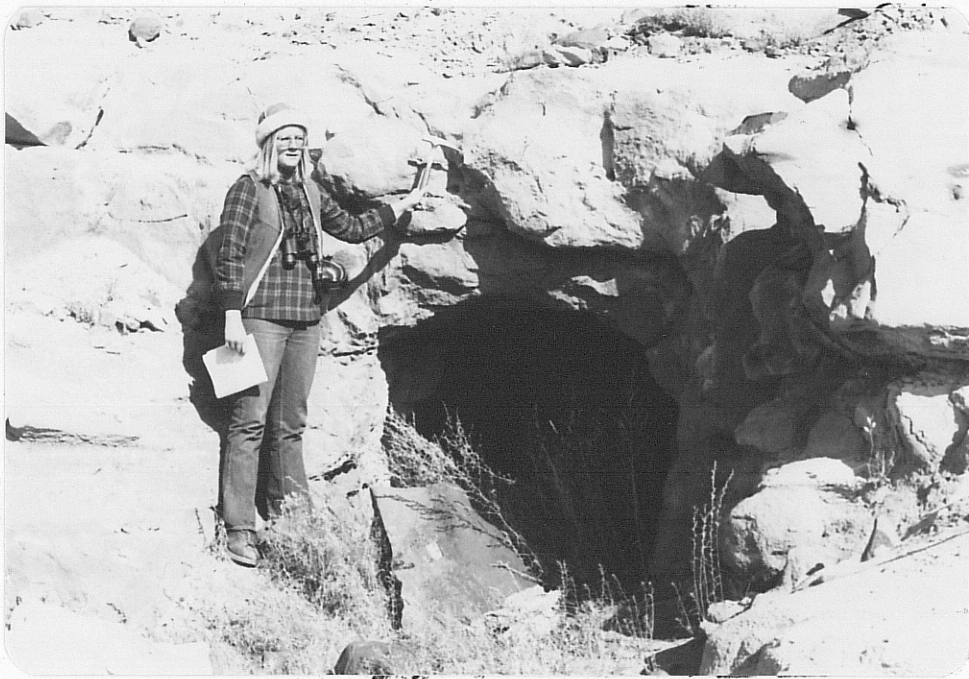


Photo (b) Dennet Nezz claims, looking east; close up of small adit shown in (a).