

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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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.

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Quad: Holy Ghost Spring 7½'

1. NM-129-2-1 Page 1
Collins (Warm Springs) (Goodner-Collins leases)

Quad: La Gotera 7½'

1. NM-152-3-1 Page 5
Dory (Dorie) Prospect
2. NM-152-3-2 Page 7
Betty (Betty Claims)

Quad: La Ventana 7½'

1. NM-105-3-1 Page 12
Butler Brothers
2. NM-105-3-2 Page 16/17
Rambler #2 Prospect

Quad: Regina 7½'

1. NM-81-2-1 . *found under Rio Arriba County; Quad: Regina
Whiteflow.. (Corral #3)
2. NM-81-2-2 Page 18/20
Sla-Tex Open Pit (Corral #3 Claim)

Date visited 3/3/80

Mine name(s) Collins (Warm Springs) County Sandoval

(Goodner-Collins leases)

Section NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25 Twنش. 17 N R. 1 W

Quadrangle sheet Holy Ghost Spring, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Nacimiento-Jemez Region

Elevation 6,500'

Nearest city and/or dwellings San Ysidro, 14 mi. S on highway 44

The Collins and Warm Springs workings found during this investigation lie in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 25. They are located approximately 3/4 mi. north of the major bend in highway no. 44 in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 36 T. 17 N., R. 1 W. Gates along the highway are kept locked and the quickest access is to walk in this last 3/4 mi. Workings are on Zia Indian land.

The workings consist of two small open pits in the Brushy Basin member of the Morrison fm. The one on the east side of the south trending drainage line is a 100' long, 12' high cut on a steep southwest facing slope (see photo a). A fine to medium grained, tan to buff sandstone exposed in this cut (see photo b) produced scintillometer readings of 1,500 cps. The disturbance is relatively minor. A claim marker at the site identified this as the Warm Springs Prospect, with a later claim dated June, 1968 calling it the White Lille I, signed by R. R. King.

The other workings lie to the southwest on the west side of the drainage. It consists of a 125' long, northeast trending shallow cut on a bench above a massive red sandstone; no photographs available, see Fig. 1. Scintillometer readings in the pit were in the 400-600 range, but highs of over 2,500 cps were recorded in the small notch cut into the north face shown in Fig. 1. A small dump area, approximately 75' x 100', 3-4' high, extends southward from the southwest edge of the pit. The disturbance is minor and no hazards exist. Site is largely revegetated, and the selenium concentrator, Astragalus, is very common.

Chenoweth, 1974, stated that 395 tons of ore averaging .13% U₃O₈ were produced from the Goodner and Collins leases during 1957-1959; the Collins lease was located in sec. 23, the Goodner in sec. 25. The State Mine Inspector's Office, however, has on record a Collins uranium operation in sec. 25 registered in 1957; and also a Warm Springs, in the same section, registered in 1959; no sec. 23 operation is on record. The present investigation revealed no significant workings in sec. 23.

- References:
- (1) Chenoweth, W. L., 1974, Uranium Occurrences of the Nacimiento-Jemez Region, Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties, N.M., in, New Mex. Geol. Soc. 25th Guidebook, Ghost Ranch, p. 311.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.
 - (3) New Mexico State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.

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(4) Field notes, 3/3/80.



Photo (a) Looking northeast at 100' long cut on the Goodner-Collins lease (Warm Springs Prospect).



Photo (b) Close-up of cut shown in photo (a); note range pole for scale.

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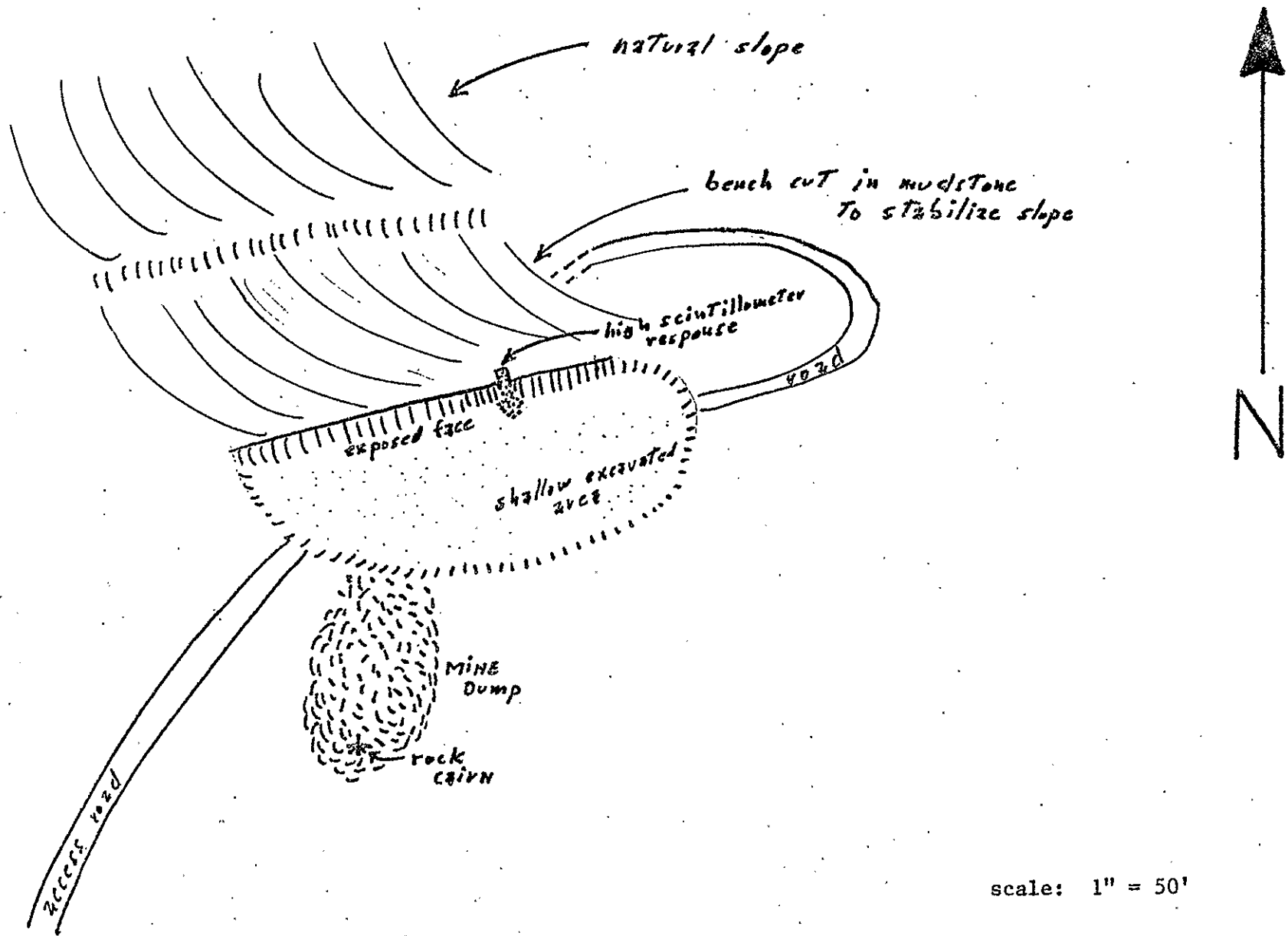


Fig. 1 Diagrammatic sketch of the open pit on west side of drainage, on the Goodner-Collins lease.

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