

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

McKINLEY COUNTY

Quad: Ambrosia Lake 7½'

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Mary No. 1 (Dysart No. 3)
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Quad: Bluewater 7½'

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Sec. 24 (Glen & Edith)

Date visited 1/31/80

Mine name(s) Dysart #1 (Rio de Oro) County McKinley

Section SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 11 Twنش. 14 N R. 10 W

Quadrangle sheet Ambrosia Lake 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Ambrosia Lake

Elevation 7,100'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Ambrosia Lake junction, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. southeast

The Dysart #1 is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 11, near the northwestern edge of the Ambrosia Lake District. It may be reached by highway no. 509; from the junction of no. 53 and no. 509 proceed northwestward on no. 509 for approximately 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. to the Dysart #1 headframe.

The mine consists of a 395' deep, 3 compartment, vertical shaft completed in 1956 by Rio de Oro Mining Company. The mine produced from a cluster of east-west trending deposits in the Westwater Canyon member sandstones. It was operated until 1961, during which time it produced 900,000 tons of low vanadium, low lime ore that averaged .21% U₃O₈. Structurally the mine is located on the northern flank of Ambrosia Lake dome. An oil test well drilled $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of the mine near the crest of the dome in 1959 was terminated at 2,869 ft.; no oil show reported, but the topographic sheet identified it as an oil well.

At present the mine site is much as it was upon cessation of activity in 1962. The headframe, most of the buildings, and the dump remain (see photo a); a caretaker lives at the site to watch the property for the present owner, United Nuclear-Homestake Partners. The shaft is covered with timber and the skip rests at top of the shaft; no unusually high scintillometer readings were recorded at the shaft-700 to 1,000 cps. is common, but related to ore spillage in area and not to proximity of scintillometer to shaft opening. The covered ore bin and load out facility is in place on east side of headframe (see photo b). Scintillometer readings in the mine dump and ore stockpile areas west and south of the shaft range from 400 to 700 cps, or up to 10 x background.

United Nuclear-Homestake Partner representative Mr. Gary Boyer explained that the company considers the property "active," and they are in no way waiting for assistance in any reclamation work. There are several ore bodies under sec. 11 and in adjoining sec. 10, and development of these will ultimately take place, the time depending only upon market conditions. UN-HP controls all but the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 11. For these reasons no detailed measurements of the buildings and mine dump area were made during the investigation. The caretakers are Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Seat; Mr. Seat is also employed by Cobb Nuclear Corporation at the Sec. 12 Mine.

References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603.

- (2) U.S. AEC-PED-1, 1959, Mine Operation Data Report, GJO/AEC; p. 51;
(microfische only).
- (3) New Mexico State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine
file.
- (4) United Nuclear-Homestake Partners, oral communication with Mr. Gary
Boyer, 1/29/80.
- (5) Field Notes 1/31/80.

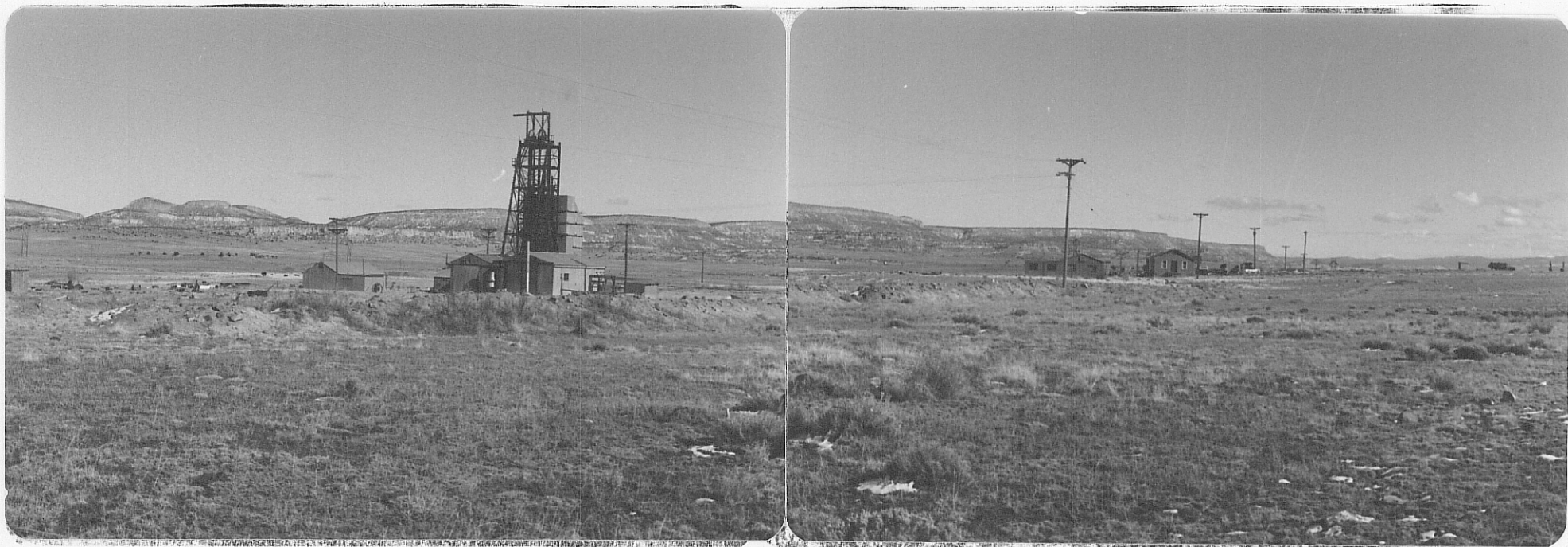


Photo (a) Looking eastward at Dysart No. 1 Mine; headframe is 40' high. House at far right is used by United Nuclear-Homestake Partner's caretaker.

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Photo (b) Close-up, looking northward at the Dysart #1 headframe and ore bin.

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