

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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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.

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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.

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| 17. AZ-40-0-17                      | Page <del>119</del> 122 |
| King Tutt 1 (MPG)                   |                         |
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| Alongo (Alongo Claim)               |                         |
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| 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

- |  |                         |
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| *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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| 2. NM-49-2-2              | Page 150 |
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| 3. NM-49-2-1001 (unnamed) | Page 151 |
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Horace Ben

Quad: Sonsala Butte 1. NE 7½'

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Kee and Tohe

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John Joe

3. AZ-60-1-3

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Joe Ben #1 Prospect

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Joe Ben #3

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Enos Johnson

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Carl Yazzie #1

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H.B. Roy #2

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Reed Henderson (Reed Henderson Claims)

NM-49-2-1001

Date visited 11/6/79

Mine name(s) (Unnamed) Sec. 8 Adit County San Juan

Section (Unsurveyed) 8 Twish. 25 N R. 20 W

Quadrangle sheet Sanostee West 7½'

Mining district Chuska

Elevation 7,100'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Sanostee, 7 air miles east; additional single family dwellings in 3-4 mi. radius.

This adit was found while doing an exploratory traverse generally northeastward from the Enos Johnson Mine toward Sanostee Wash. It is located about 1/2 air mile E NE from the Joe Ben #3, in the Recapture member of the Morrison Fm., driven eastward into an alternating red sandstone-maroon to greenish gray mudstone sequence. Photo (a) shows the adit from across the canyon, photo (b) shows the access road, below which is the mine dump, and photo (c) is a close up of the 7' x 9' portal. The adit is about 50' long, untimbered, but in good stable condition; two prominent mudstone lens can be traced into the adit and probably are uraniferous (no scintillometer readings available).

Site can be reached by following road which parallels Sanostee Wash up to the approximate locality of the Joe Ben #1 and #2 turnoff. From here on the journey is on foot and necessitates climbing the south wall of Sanostee Wash Canyon for several hundred feet to reach the Joe Ben #3, then eastward along the canyon along an exploration/drill road. Can also be reached by a walk from the active Enos Johnson Mine (see the Chuska District map).

Reference: (1) Field notes, 11/6/79.



Photo (a) Looking eastward at portal of adit (shown by arrow) in Sec. 8; road at adit level in Recapture member continues to the active Enos Johnson Mine.



Photo (b) Looking northeastward at adit (arrow); a small portion of the excavated material mantling lower slope is mine waste, but larger portion is from road construction.



— Photo (c) Looking eastward into 7'x 9' portal of Sec. 8 adit;  
note field glasses hanging at left of portal for scale.