

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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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.

Quad: Mariano Lake 7½'

1. NM-123-4-1 Page 214
Mac #1
2. NM-123-4-2 Page 217
Black Jack #2

Quad: Pinedale 7½'

1. NM-123-3-1 Page 222
Westwater

Quad: San Mateo 7½'

1. NM-150-3-1 Page 224
Rialto (Chill Wills)

*San Mateo Quad report #2 found under Valencia County

Quad: Thoreau NE 7½'

1. NM -148-1-1 Page 230
Alta
2. NM-148-1-2 Page 234
Silver Bit 15 and 18 (Pentada Prospect)
3. NM-148-1-3 Page 237
Francis
4. NM-148-1-4 Page 241
Evelyn
5. NM-148-1-5 Page 247
Billy The Kid and Greer Warren and McCormack

6.	NM-148-1-6	Page 252
	Elkins (Tom Elkins) (Lawrence Elkins)	
7.	NM-148-1-7	Page 255
	Maddox and Teague	
8.	NM-148-1-8	Page 258
	Golver	
9.	NM-148-1-9	Page 260
	Red Top	
10.	NM-148-1-10	Page 262
	Haven (Sec. 21)	
11.	NM-148-1-11	Page 265
	Red Cap Prospect	
12.	NM-148-1-12	Page 267
	Yucca #2	

Mine name(s) Glover County McKinley
 Section NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 20 Twنش. 14 N R. 11 W
 Quadrangle sheet Thoreau NE 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
 Mining district Smith Lake
 Elevation 7,040'
 Nearest city and/or dwellings Prewitt, 6 miles southwest

The Glover Prospect is in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 20 east of the Maddox and Teague. The site may be reached by traveling north from Prewitt on dirt road for 5 miles to the Andrews Ranch, then proceeding east for about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the mine.

The Glover workings consist of some shallow prospecting that has disturbed an area about 120' x 70' (see photos a & b). Pits are no more than 3' deep, and waste piles about 4'-5' high. The workings are at the point of a small re-entrant in mesa front.

The deposit is in Todilto limestone. Secondary oxidized uranium minerals were noted in fractures and in cavities and bedding planes in rock fragments on muck piles. Maximum scintillometer readings at the site were 450-500 cps.

The Glover Claims were owned by Fred Glover of Prewitt, N.M., in 1950. A geiger counter was used to examine the claims in 1950, after carnotite, manganese oxide, and calcite had been identified along a Todilto outcrop (Lovering, 1956).

According to Hilpert (1969) some ore was mined in 1950. The State Mine Inspector's Office carries no record of a mine under this name in the inactive file.

- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 41.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium, in Mineral and Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bur. of Mines and Mineral Resources, Bull. 87, p. 214.
 - (3) Lovering, T. G., 1956, Radioactive Deposits in New Mexico. U.S.G.S., Bull. 1009-L, p. 374.
 - (4) Field notes, 12/12/79.



Photo (a) Looking northeast at a shallow prospect pit 70' x 120', with 5' high waste pile at right; note range pole (center) for scale.

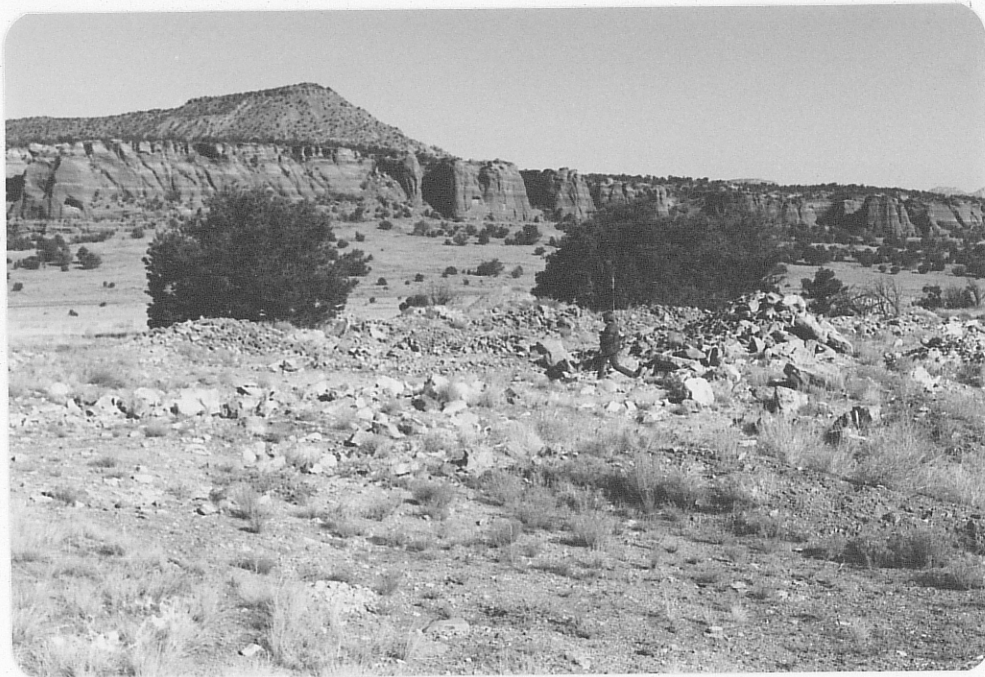


Photo (b) Looking north at west edge of prospect area shown in photo (a); note person just right of center for scale.