

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.

Quad: Regina 7½'

1. NM-81-2-1

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Whiteflow (Corral #3)

2. NM-81-2-2 *found under Sandoval County; Quad: Regina

Sla-Tex Open Pit (Corral #3 Claim)

Quad: Youngsville 7½'

1. NM-82-1-1

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Box Canyon (Box Canyon Claims) (Wasson)

Date visited 10/26/79

Mine name(s) Whiteflow (Corral #3 Claim)* County Rio Arriba

Section SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 19 Twنش. 23 N R. 1 E

Quadrangle sheet Regina

Mining district Vegitas Cluster-Gallina

Elevation 8,100'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Gallina Plaza is 4 miles to the northeast

To reach the workings, go west on New Mexico 96 from Gallina High School $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Then proceed south on a dirt road through Gallina Plaza and along the Rio Gallina for $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the intersection of Corral Canyon. Go west along Corral Canyon for 2 miles. The open pit is on the north side of the road.

The Whiteflow is an open pit which trends northeast. The cut is 100' long x 20' wide and has a maximum depth of 6' (photo a). The bench of the cut is poorly exposed (photo b), has been overgrown by low grasses, rocky mountain juniper, ponderosa, fir, and oak. The dump (photo c) is below and to the south of the bench. It has a conical shape, 125' long x 10-12' wide with an average height of 4'. The dump is marked by a stand of Ponderosa 6'-12' high.

The bench cut is in a light gray and red arkosic siltstone, and mudstone along channel scours in the Cutler Formation (Hilpert, 1969). No uranium mineralization was observed. Scintillometer readings of 60-70 cps were recorded at the face of the cut, and a maximum of 200 cps registered on the dump.

According to Hilpert (1969), some material was mined from the bulldozer cut.

* The Whiteflow and Sla-Tex deposits are both located on the Corral #3 claim (see attached map). The Whiteflow is in Rio Arriba County, and the Sla-Tex is in Sandoval County.

- References:
- (1) Chenoweth, W. L., 1956, Preliminary Rec. Report on Sla-Tex open pit (Corral #3 Claim), U.S. AEC file no ED: R-610.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwestern New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603, p. 46.
 - (3) Field notes, 10/26/79.



Photo (a) Looking east at the bulldozer cut on the Whiteflow workings.



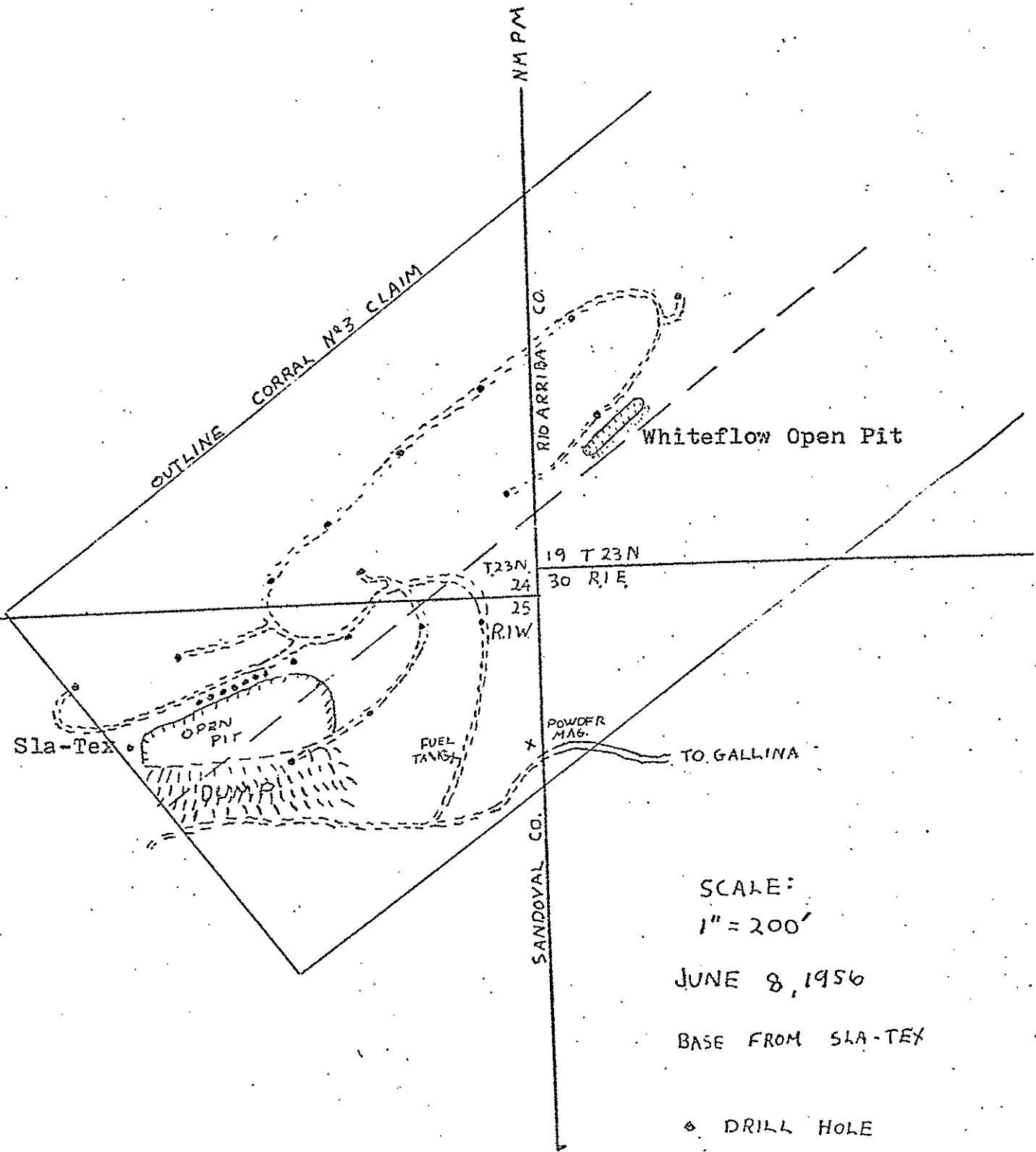
Photo (b) Looking NW at access to, and bench cut of the Whiteflow.

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Photo (c) is looking NW at the dump of the Whiteflow.

Sla-Tex and Whiteflow open pits on the Corral #3 Claim



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