

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: Bread Springs 7½'

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Diamond 2 (Largo)

Quad: Church Rock 7½'

1. NM-122-4-1 Page 39
CD & S (Sec. 35)
2. NM-122-4-2 Page 41
Foutz #3 (Yellow Jacket)
3. NM-122-4-3 Page 45.
Foutz 1 and 2
4. NM-122-4-4 Page 48
William and Reynolds
5. NM-122-4-5 Page 50
Christenson (Rimrock #2)
6. NM-122-4-6 Page 58
Santa Fe Christensen (Rimrock #1)

Quad: Dos Lomas 7½'

1. NM-149-4-1 Page 62
Isabella
2. NM-149-4-2 Page 67
Spencer Shaft (Centennial)
3. NM-149-4-3 Page 69
Hogan
4. NM-149-4-4 Page 74
Gossett Incline (Beacon Hill #23)

5.	NM-149-4-5	Page 78 ⁷⁷
	Blue Peak (Garcia 1)	
6.	NM 149-4-6	Page 84 ⁸³
	Mesa Top 7 & 18 (Malpais Raise)	
7.	NM-149-4-7	Page 93 ⁹²
	Dog Incline (Dog and Flea)	
8.	NM-149-4-8	Page 99 ⁹⁸
	Marquez	
9.	NM-149-4-9	Page 104
	Faith (Westvaco) (Sec. 29)	
10.	NM-149-4-10	Page 109
	Barbara J #3	
11.	NM-149-4-11	Page 112
	Barbara J #1	
12.	NM-149-4-12	Page 114
	Baily and Fife (Rimrock)	
13.	NM-149-4-13	Page 117
	T-20 Shaft (T-9 ore body)	
14.	NM-149-4-14	Page 120
	Flat Top (Flat Top #3 & 4)	
15.	NM-149-4-15	Page 124 ✓
	Roundy Shaft (Rimrock)	
16.	NM-149-4-16	Page 126
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 Strip	
17.	NM-149-4-17	Page 131
	Sec. 25 Strip Complex	

18.	NM-149-4-18	Page 141
	Sec. 25 Shaft	
19.	NM-149-4-19	Page 144
	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25, Decline and Open Pits	
20.	NM-149-4-20	Page 149
	Hanosh	
21.	NM-149-4-21	Page 152
	Sec. 23 and 26 Open Pit	
22.	NM-149-4-22	Page 156
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 (Rimrock) Homer Scriven)	
23.	NM-149-4-23	Page 160
	Sec. 31 Open Pit	
24.	NM-149-4-24	Page 163
	Moe No. 4 (Sec. 32)	
25.	NM-149-4-25	Page 165
	Charlotte	

*Dos Lomas Quad reports #26 - #35 found under Valencia County

Quad: Gallup East 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-122-3-1	Page 167
	Hogback (Hogback 3-5)	
2.	NM-122-3-2	Page 171
	Becenti	

Quad: Goat Mountain 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

1.	NM-149-2-1	Page 174
	Kermac Sec. 10 (Kermac No. 10)	

Date visited 1/15/80

Mine name(s) Sec. 23 and 26 Open Pit County McKinley
Section S $\frac{1}{4}$ 23, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 26 Twنش. 13 N R. 10 W
Quadrangle sheet Dos Lomas 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
Mining district Poison Canyon Trend
Elevation 7,040'
Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile southwest

The Sec. 23-Sec. 26 Open Pit complex extends for about 1/3 mile along the south side of main road through the area. The workings have a W NW-E SE trend overall, but individual pits follow no such pattern.

The workings are actually a westward continuation of the Hanosh Mine, also in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 26; however, the Hanosh workings contain an incline and are limited to sec. 26, and are therefore described in a separate report.

The Sec. 23-26 Open Pit complex exploits an ore body or cluster of ore bodies in the middle and lower parts of the Todilto limestone. Trenches up to 40' deep and 450' long occur, with secondary oxidized uranium mineralization apparent on face cuts; scintillometer readings up to 5,000 cps were recorded in mineralized zones. Area was worked between 1952 and 1958. A description of the ore bodies in these two sections is given in McLaughlin (1963).

The photographs on the following pages illustrate the type of workings on the complex and each carries its own description.

- References: (1) McLaughlin, E. D. Jr., 1963, Uranium Deposits in the Todilto Limestone of the Grants District, in Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Mem. 15, p: 146-147.
(2) State Mine Inspector's Office, inactive uranium mine file.
(3) Field notes, 1/15/80.



Photo (a) Looking southwestward at Sec. 23-26 Strip Mine complex with soil overburden piles up to 16' high in foreground, and a cluster of 6 to 8 indian dwellings in background; note person at lower left for scale. The photographs on the following pages show nature of pits and trenches within these spoil piles.



Photo (b) Looking southwest very near the Sec. 23-26 line at 30' deep sinuous trench; face counts up to 1,500 cps.



Photo (c) Looking eastward into small box cut 18' deep, showing some fold structures in the Todilto; unconsolidated overburden runs to 12'-14' thick locally. Face counts here run as high as 4,800 cps.

225 MC 154



Photo (d) Looking east into a 450' long, 35' deep pit at eastern edge of area described in this report; dump from Hanosh incline may be seen at upper right. This locality is very near north line of Sec. 26. Note person at bottom of pit for scale.



Photo (e) Looking southward at an example of "undisturbed ground" at this locality, except for small prospect pit with 8' high waste piles at each end, in center middle distance.