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: Grants 7½'

1. NM-173-1-1 Page 58

Anaconda F-33 (F-33)

2. NM-173-1-2 Page 66

Tom 13 (Tom)

3. NM-173-1-3 Page 68

Lone Pine 3 (Lone Pine)

4. NM-173-1-4 Page 74

Cedar 1 (Yucca) (Falcon?)

Quad: Mesa Gigante 7½'

1. NM-176-3-1 Page 78

Chavez (Canoncito)

Quad: Moquino 7½'

1. NM-175-1-1 Page 80

Woodrow (Woodrow Breccia Pipe)

Quad: San Mateo 7½'

1. NM-150-3-1 Found under McKinley Co; Quad: San Mateo

Rialto (Chill Wills)

2. NM-150-3-2 Page 83

San Mateo

Quad: South Butte 7½'

1. NM-199-2-1 Page 92

Crackpot Mine

Date visited 1/29/80

Mine name(s) Tom 13 (Tom) County Valencia

Section NW¼ SW¼ 4 Twnsh. 11 N R. 9 W

Quadrangle sheet Grants 7½'

Mining district Mt. Taylor

Elevation 7,050'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Grants, 3½ mi. SW

The Tom 13 is located near the center of Sec. 4 on the west edge of East Grants Ridge. It is accessible by taking the U.S. Forest Service access road that leaves state highway no. 53 at a point .75 mi. north of the UN-HP uranium mill. Travel eastward on the access road for about 3.6 mi. to the Cibola National Forest boundary then turn right (south) and follow dirt trail toward the F-33 Mine. The Tom is approximately 1 mi. beyond the turnoff to the F-33.

The workings consist of several areas of rim stripping and/or bench cuts in the Todilto limestone. A semi-circular rim stripped area 110' in length is shown in photo (a). Scintillometer readings of 100 cps were only slightly higher than background which is about 70 cps in this area. No uranium mineralization is apparent. Several hundred feet to the northwest is a 100' long E-W trending bench cut that exposed a dark colored band 4"-5" thick in the Todilto limestone which produced a scintillometer response of 900 cps, (see photo b). The bench is about 35' in width and some material may have been taken out of this working, however, no uranium mineralization was apparent on the face or in the waste pile below the bench or road. Hilpert, 1969, stated that some ore was produced from a 2' to 3' thick deposit during 1954-55.

References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603.
(2) Hilpert, L., 1965, Uranium section, in, Mineral and Water Resources of New Mexico: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Bull. 87.
(3) Field notes, 1/29/80.

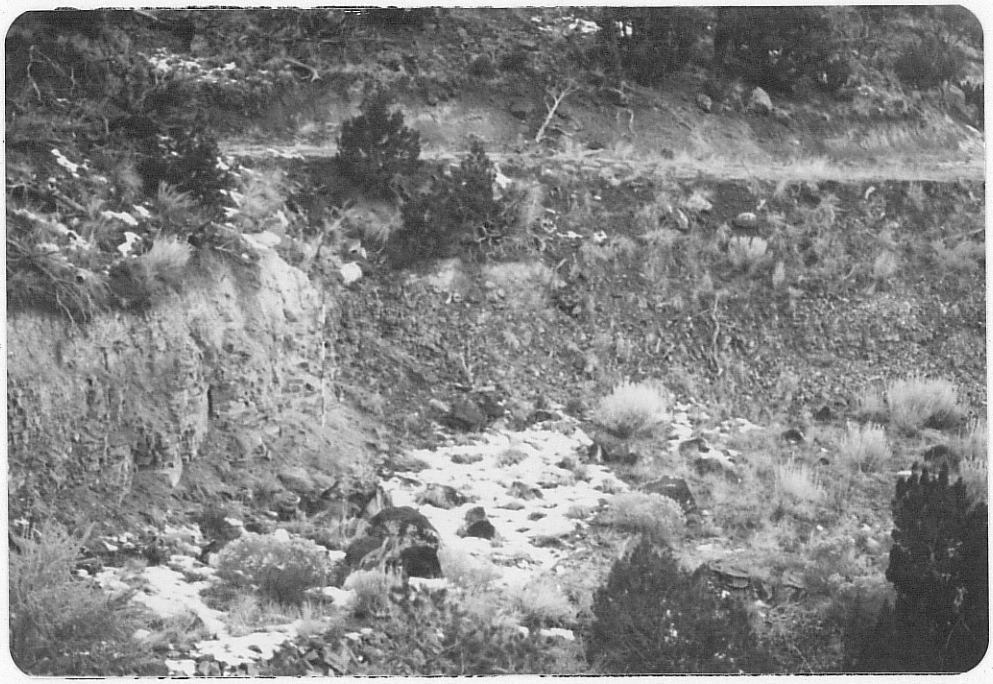

Photo (a) Looking southward at a semi-circular rim stripped area of Todilto limestone; range pole is indicated at left (arrow) for sale.

Photo (b) Looking northwest at bench cut; high scintillometer reading of 900 cps was obtained at face immediately behind range pole.