

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.

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.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

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Quad: Pastora Peak 15'

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King #6 (Jimmy King #6)

2. AZ-20-0-2 Page 7

Barton & Begay (Beclabito lease)

3. AZ-20-0-3 Page 12

Rocky Flats #1

4. AZ-20-0-4 Page 15

Canyon #1

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John John #1

6. AZ-20-0-6 Page ~~23~~ 24

Jimmy King #2

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Rocky Flats #2

8. AZ-20-0-8 Page ~~31~~ 32

Cottonwood Butte Mine (VCA Plot 8)

9. AZ-20-0-9 Page ~~37~~ 38

Lone Star (on VCA Plot #9)

## PREFACE TO EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT REPORTS

The East Carrizo District lies along or within several miles of the Arizona border in townships 29 and 30 N., and ranges 20 and 21 west.

The area is covered on the Pastora Peak and Redrock Valley 15' topographic quadrangles, but is largely unsurveyed. A land net was projected in solely to determine if our locations agreed with those given in other publications such as Hilpert, L., (1969), and does not appear on the East Carrizo District claim maps (after AEC, 1953, Claim Maps, East Carrizo District) that accompany each report.

These claim maps were provided for our use on this project by Mr. William Chenoweth of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office, Grand Junction, Colorado. They show access roads, drainage lines, and the claims in the area as of 1953. The only scale they carry is the mile post markers along the New Mexico/Arizona state line.

*Orin J. Anderson*

*New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources  
Socorro, New Mexico  
June, 1980*

Date Visited 10/31/80

Mine name(s) Barton & Begay (Beclabito lease) County San Juan Co.

Section Unsurveyed Twنش. 30 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle sheet Pastora Peak 15'

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 5,800'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Beclabito, 2½ mi. N.

This lease produced from 3 closely spaced workings along the sandstone rim in the NW¼ of projected Sec. 25 (see claim map). The westernmost workings consist of 50' long rim cut that resulted in a 22" wide bench; (see photo a). A small untimbered adit near the west edge of the cut, 4½ high & 5 wide, leads back approx. 12' in a southwesterly direction (see photo b). Scintillometer zones-vanadian stains with secondary uranium minerals on the face. A small mine dump extends downslope to to base of cliff at or near the angle of repose; scintillometer readings on the tailings generally less than 500 cps.

Approximately 150' to the east of the rim cut & adit, and slightly back from the rim is a patchwork area of open cuts & pits. The main pit is roughly 25 feet square and 12' deep, shown in photo c. A channel scour and fill feature on the south wall of this pit is shown in photo d. Additional workings lie immediately to the NE of the main pit (see photo e) resulting in a total disturbed area here that measures 150' x 55" with a NE-SW trend. Several traverses gave maximum scintillometer readings of 1200 cps.

A third area, the smallest, consists of one inclined dozer cut 25' long, 8' wide, lying 125' south of the pit shown in photo c. This cut is shown in photo f; exposed faces in the cut showed little evidence of mineralization. The floor perhaps showed some promise of ore grade materials, but it has now been covered with washed-in-debris and vegetation.

The host rock in all these workings is the Salt Wash member of the Morrison fm. The uranium occurs in association with vanadium with a u:v ratio of 1:9. The mine was worked between 1950 and 1953. It produced a total of 254 tons of ore averaging .15%  $U_3O_8$  and 2.23%  $V_2O_5$ ;  $U_3O_8$  content was 740 lbs.,  $V_2O_5$  content was 11,311 lbs.

References: (1) Chenoweth, W.L., 1980, Historical Review of Uranium-Vanadium in The Eastern Carrizo Mountains, San Juan County, New Mexico, U.S. DOE, TM-210.

(2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uran. Res. of NW New Mex; USGS pp.603, p.52.

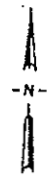
(3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.

34/35 T 31 N  
3 | 2 T 30 N  
R 21 W

VAEM

BECLABITO TRDG POST

### EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP



ARIZ.  
N.M.

11

12

13

JJ KING No 6 MP 292  
TROY ROSE

BARTON & BEGAY

ROCKY FLATS #1

CANYON #1

JOHN JOHN No 1 MP-334

JIMMY KING # 2

C BEKIS No 1 MP-41  
TROY ROSE

ROCKY FLATS #2

H BARTON  
&  
T LEE  
MP 30

Canyon

VCA PLOT 8  
5705

VCA PLOT 9812  
5705 (LONESTAR)

R 21 W  
R 20 W

T 30 N  
T 29 N

Upper & Lower Canyon Claims  
CATO SELLS MP-56

W SELLS  
MP-431

Upper Canyon Claims  
PETTIGREW  
MP-337  
(Laroy MP-552)

Lower Canyon Claim  
E LEUPPE MP-430

5-6

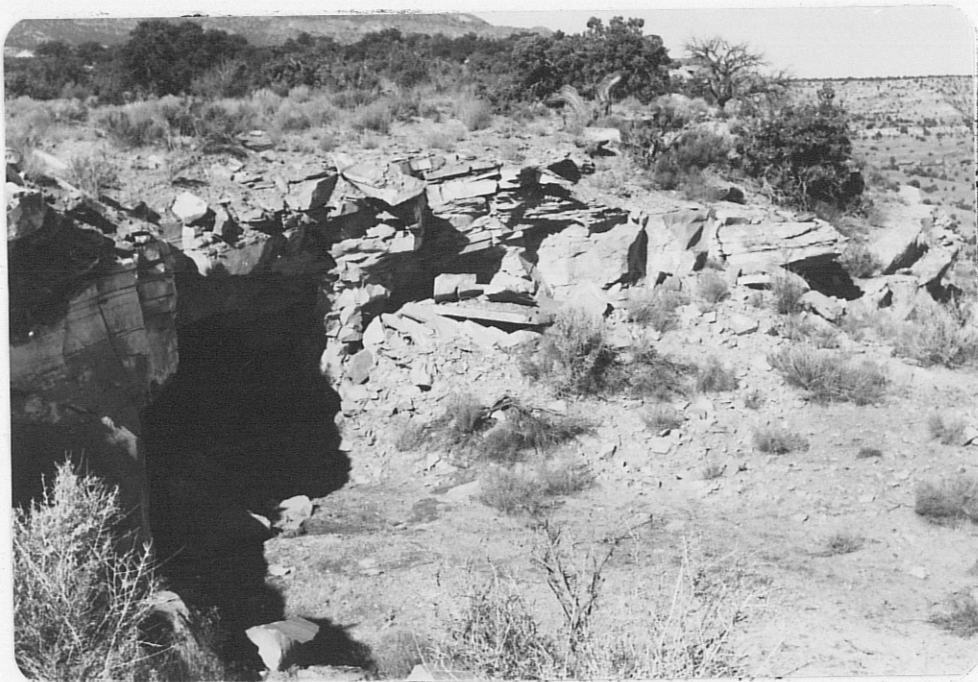


Photo (a) Barton & Begay workings; looking west.

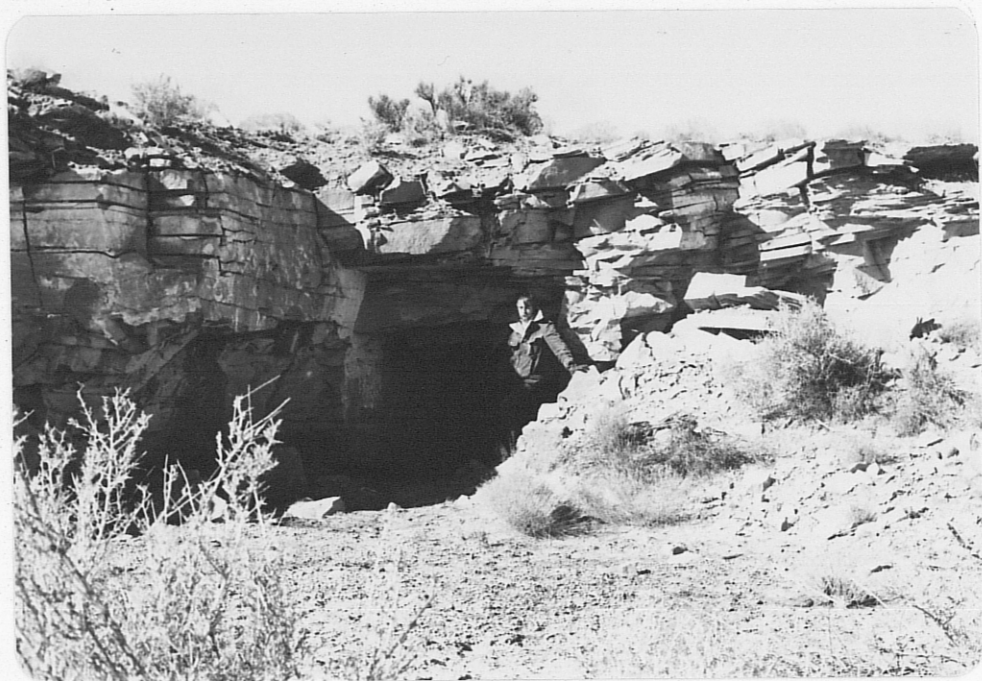


Photo (b) Adit in workings shown in photo a; looking SW.



Photo (c) Barton & Begay workings; looking SW into pit.



Photo (d) Scour & fill feature exposed on south wall of pit shown in photo c.

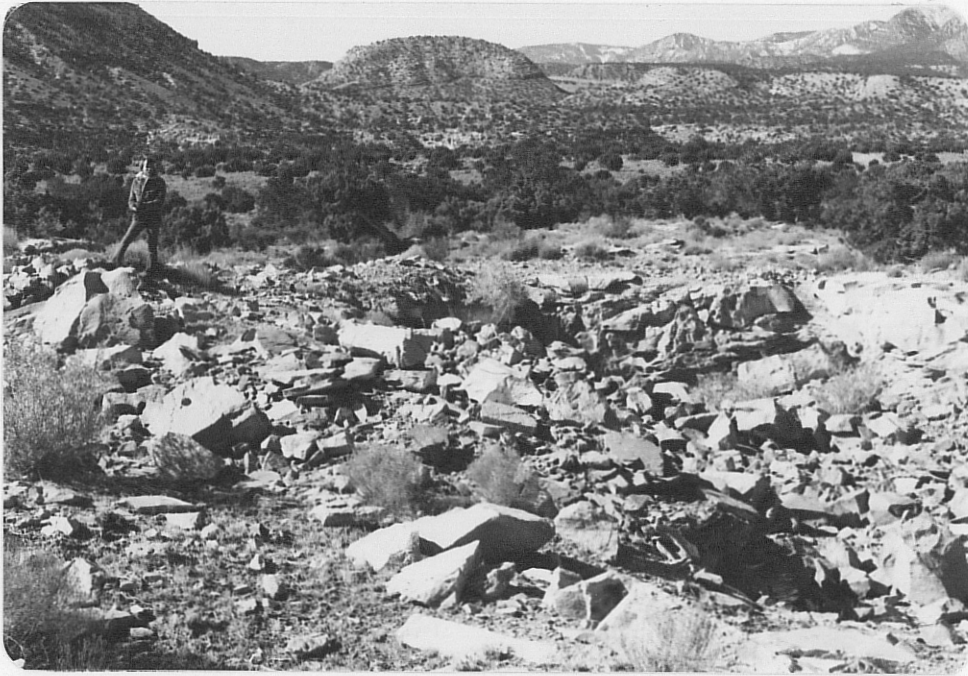


Photo (e) Barton & Begay eastern workings; looking SW. Carrizo Mountains at right in the distance.



Photo (f) Barton & Begay southern workings; looking NW.

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