

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.

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)	

2. NM-149-2-2	Page 178
Sec. 34	
3. NM-149-2-3	Page 180
Sec. 35 Strip (Lost Mine)	
4. NM-149-2-4	Page 183
Febco (Small Stake)	
5. NM-149-2-5	Page 188
Silver Spur 1 (Silver Spur 5)	
6. NM-149-2-6	Page 194
Pat Mine	
7. NM-149-2-7	Page 197
Dakota	
8. NM-149-2-8	Page 199
Junior	
9. NM-149-2-9	Page 201
Sec. 5 (Westvaco) (No. 2)	
10. NM-149-2-10	Page 202
Sec. 1 Strip	
11. NM-149-2-11	Page 204
Sec. 2 Strip	
 <u>Quad: Hosta Butte 7½'</u>	
1. NM-124-3-1	Page 206
Blackjack #1	
2. NM-124-3-2	Page 212
Mac #2	

Date visited 1/8/80

Mine name(s) Sec. 34 County McKinley

Section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 34 Twنش. 14 N R. 11 W

Quadrangle sheet Goat Mountain 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Grants

Elevation 7,200'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings are visible from mine area, several miles down the Rincon Canyon southwest of mine.

The Sec. 34 Mine is indicated by an adit symbol and a strip mine symbol in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 34. It may be reached by proceeding northward from the Silver Spur Mine in sec. 31 for several miles to the old pipeline road, and then turning left to follow pipeline road into the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 26. From this point on it is advisable to walk.

The workings consist of 270' long bench cut (photo a). Near the center a small adit was driven northward into the highwall (photo b), but caving and slumping has nearly concealed the portal. Opening was originally about 5' x 5'; adit turns left immediately inside; total length unknown. Workings are in carbonaceous shale zone in basal Dakota sandstone. Maximum scintillometer readings along bench cut = 170 cps, at portal = 600 cps, and on mine dump 150 cps. No uranium mineralization is apparent.

- References: (1) Thaden, R.E., et al, 1966, Geologic Map of Goat Mountain Quadrangle, GQ-518.
(2) Field notes, 1/8/80.



Photo (a) Looking eastward along bench cut in basal Dakota ss. at sec. 34 Mine. Note person at center for scale.



Photo (b) Caving at portal of adit near center of cut shown in photo (a); person is pointing to remaining small opening.