

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.

McKINLEY COUNTY

Quad: Ambrosia Lake 7½'

1. NM-149-1-1 Page 1
Mary No. 1 (Dysart No. 3)
2. NM-149-1-2 Page 5
Dysart #1 (Rio de Oro)
3. NM-149-1-3 Page 9
Dysart #2
4. NM-149-1-4 Page 12
United Western (J and M)
5. NM-149-1-5 Page 16
UN-NP Sec. 32
6. NM-149-1-6 Page 18
Sec. 26 (Ike No. 1)

Quad: Bluewater 7½'

1. NM-149-3-1 Page 21
Red Point Lode
2. NM-149-3-2 Page 24
Williams & Thompson (Sec. 18)
3. NM-149-3-3 Page 29
Sec. 24 (Glen & Edith)

Date visited 12/14/79

Mine name(s) Red Point Lode County McKinley

Section SW $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 Twنش. 13 N R. 10 W

Quadrangle sheet Bluewater 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Mining district Ambrosia Lake

Elevation 7,040'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Single family dwellings within $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west at the base of Haystack Mountain.

The Red Point is located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 16 on an isolated Todilto limestone knob. The mine may be reached by proceeding west on the Poison Canyon road for about 5 miles from its junction with highway no. 53. Then proceed north on side road for about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles and jog left to mine.

The mine consists of a cluster of small open pits and trenches ranging from 3' to 6' deep. A few are isolated, such as in photo (a) and others are very closely spaced (photo b). Photo (c) offers a view of the deepest pit at the site; it is 18' wide, 35' long, and 6' deep. Scintillometer readings here were in the 1200-1500 cps range. The small pit in photo (a) yielded readings of up to 3,800 cps.

Conical mine dump piles are scattered throughout the workings; one of the larger ones is shown in photo (d); scintillometer readings here ranged up to 1,500 cps. A linear ridge of waste material 3'-4' high and over 200' long, stands isolated about 300' west of the main cluster of workings; scintillometer readings of about 500-600 cps were recorded.

The deposit is classified as small, Hilpert (1969). Mineralization is associated with an eastward trending intraformational fold in the Todilto limestone. Secondary uranium minerals are present on rock fragments in muck and waste piles.

The mine is not mentioned in the State Mine Inspector's inactive uranium mine file.

- References: (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S., Prof. Paper 603, p. 36.
(2) Field notes, 12/14/79.



Photo (a) Looking north at 3' deep pit, about 20' across at eastern edge of Red Point workings.



Photo (b) Looking east at group of closely spaced open pits, up to 4' deep.

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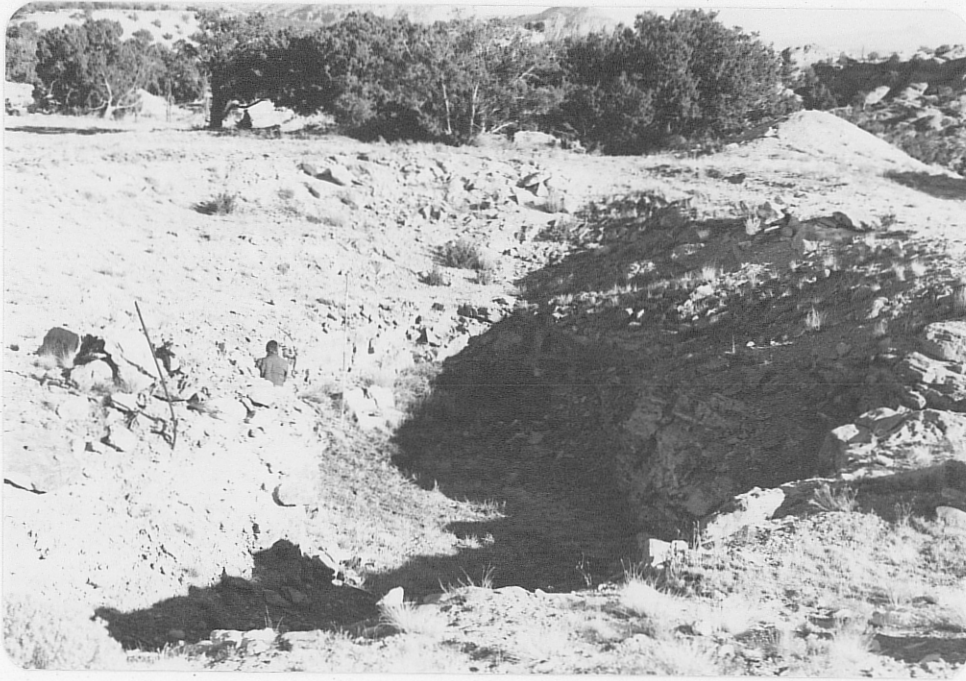


Photo (c) Looking east at deepest pit at the site slightly more than 6' deep; note range pole just left of center for scale.



Photo (d) Looking northward near west edge of Red Point workings at one of the more prominent waste dumps, 6'-7' high.

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