

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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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 MIGUEL COUNTY

Quad: El Porvenir 7½'

1. NM-135-2-1 Page 1
Sparks - Stone (Sparks Stone #1)

Quad: Honey Boy Ranch 7½'

1. NM-131-1-1 Page 2
High Peak(High Peak Claims)

Quad: Sabinoso 7½'

1. NM-139-2-1 Page 6
Sabinoso Uranium Coop. (Lujan Ranch) (Asco Mine)
2. NM-139-2-2 Page 10
Windy 9
3. NM-139-2-3 Page 12
Bish Claims
4. NM-139-2-4 Page 14
Verde (Hunt Oil Co. Sab)
*Unlocated on Sabinso Quad.

Date visited 9/18/79

Mine name(s) Windy 9 County San Miguel

Section SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 14 Twنش. 17 N R. 23 E

Quadrangle sheet Sabinoso

Mining district Sabinoso

Elevation 4920'

Nearest city and/or dwellings 2 mi. NE of Lewis Ranch; 3 mi. due west of Sabinoso

The Windy #9 is located 1/4 mile north of Canon Largo, 200' off the creek bed floor, on a series of low hills. Canon Largo drains eastward into the Canadian River, but there is no apparent danger of seepage of tailings into the river.

The bulldozing (photo a) covers a total of 3,600 linear feet (A.E.C., P.R.R.), and bedrock is exposed in only a few cuts. For the most part, only the soil cover was disturbed, and bedrock was not encountered. No scintillometer readings were available to determine anomalies in the lower, soil covered area.

The adit (photo b), is timbered by 6 x 8" cedar posts with poles on top at the entrance. The entrance is 6' wide, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high. Some filling of the floor has occurred at the entrance. The adit trends N 20° W for 25' where it bends to the right. No dump of appreciable size was noted.

The adit is in the middle unit of the Chinle Formation. Ore seems to be associated with a gray carbonaceous trash zone. Trial shipments totaling 80 tons were made from the Windy 9, Good Luck 1, and Little Rattler (Finch, 1972). No visible uranium minerals.

- Reference: (1) Finch, W. F., 1972, Uranium in Eastern New Mexico, U.S.G.S. open file rept.
(2) State Mine Insp.
(3) U.S. A.E.C. Uranium Mine Records

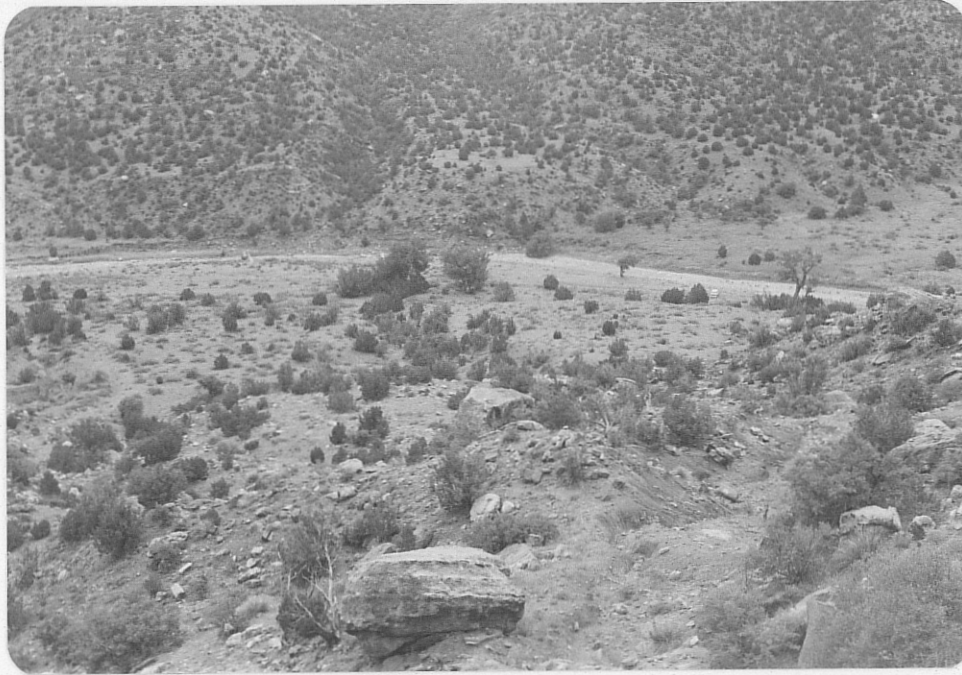


Photo (a) Bulldozer activity-Canon Largo in background.



Photo (b) Adit entrance Windy #9.

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