

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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New Mexico Bureau of Mines and  
Mineral Resources  
Open-File Report 148

## 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.

Quad: Redrock Valley 15'

1. AZ-40-0-1  
VCA Plot #7 (Lower Oak Creek)  
Page ~~41~~ 42
2. AZ-40-0-2  
Franks Point (Plot. 6)  
Page ~~53~~ 54
3. AZ-40-0-3  
Lower Salt Rock  
AZ-40-0-3  
Upper Salt Rock  
Page ~~56~~ 57
4. AZ-40-0-4  
Williams Point (Plot #4)  
Page ~~64~~ 65
5. AZ-40-0-5  
Salt Canyon Mines (Salt Canyon Claim)  
Page ~~68~~ 69
- 6-9. AZ-40-0-6 to 9  
VCA Plot #3  
Page ~~73~~ 76
10. AZ-40-0-10  
Tent (Tent Claim)  
Page ~~90~~ 91
11. AZ-40-0-11  
Begay Incline  
Page ~~93~~ 94
12. AZ-40-0-12  
Begay #2  
Page ~~97~~ 98
13. AZ-40-0-13  
Carrizo #1 (MP-24)  
Page ~~100~~ 101
14. AZ-40-0-14  
King Tutt Point (VCA Plot #2)  
Page ~~104~~ 105
15. AZ-40-0-15  
Begay (Begay #1)  
Page ~~111~~ 113

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|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16. | AZ-40-0-16                          | Page <del>115</del> 118 |
|     | Red Wash Point (VCA Plot #1)        |                         |
| 17. | AZ-40-0-17                          | Page <del>119</del> 122 |
|     | King Tutt 1 (MPG)                   |                         |
| 18. | AZ-40-0-18                          | Page <del>125</del> 128 |
|     | Junction                            |                         |
| 19. | AZ-40-0-19                          | Page <del>128</del> 131 |
|     | Alongo (Alongo Claim)               |                         |
| 20. | AZ-40-0-20                          | Page <del>131</del> 134 |
|     | Canyon View ( Alongo Claim)         |                         |
| 21. | AZ-40-0-21                          | Page <del>135</del> 138 |
|     | KING Tutt #2 (MP-G Sylvania Mining) |                         |

REFERENCES FOR CARRIZO MINING DISTRICT

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| *Preface to Chuska District Reports                        | Page <del>138</del> 141 |
| *Road log to Sanostee Quad. and the Chuska Mining District | Page <del>141</del> 144 |

Quad: Sanostee West 7½'

- |    |                        |          |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 1. | NM-49-2-1              | Page 148 |
|    | Dennet Nezz #1 and #2  |          |
| 2. | NM-49-2-2              | Page 150 |
|    | Dennet Nezz #3         |          |
| 3. | NM-49-2-1001 (unnamed) | Page 151 |
|    | (unnamed) Sec. 8 Adit  |          |

## 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.

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Socorro, New Mexico  
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Date Visited 11/2/79

Mine name(s) King Tutt 1 (MP6) County San Juan

Section Center 24 Twnsh. 29 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle Sheet Redrock Valley 15'

Mining district East Carrizo

Elevation 5,520'

Nearest City and/or dwelling 2½ mi. SE of Oak Springs.

The King Tutt #1 is located on the west side of a small tributary which drains northeastward into Red Wash (photo a). Access is by dirt road eastward from the Oak Springs/Red Rock road towards Red Wash Point. The road runs ENE just north of Horse Mesa, and south of the 20 mile state line marker (see claim map).

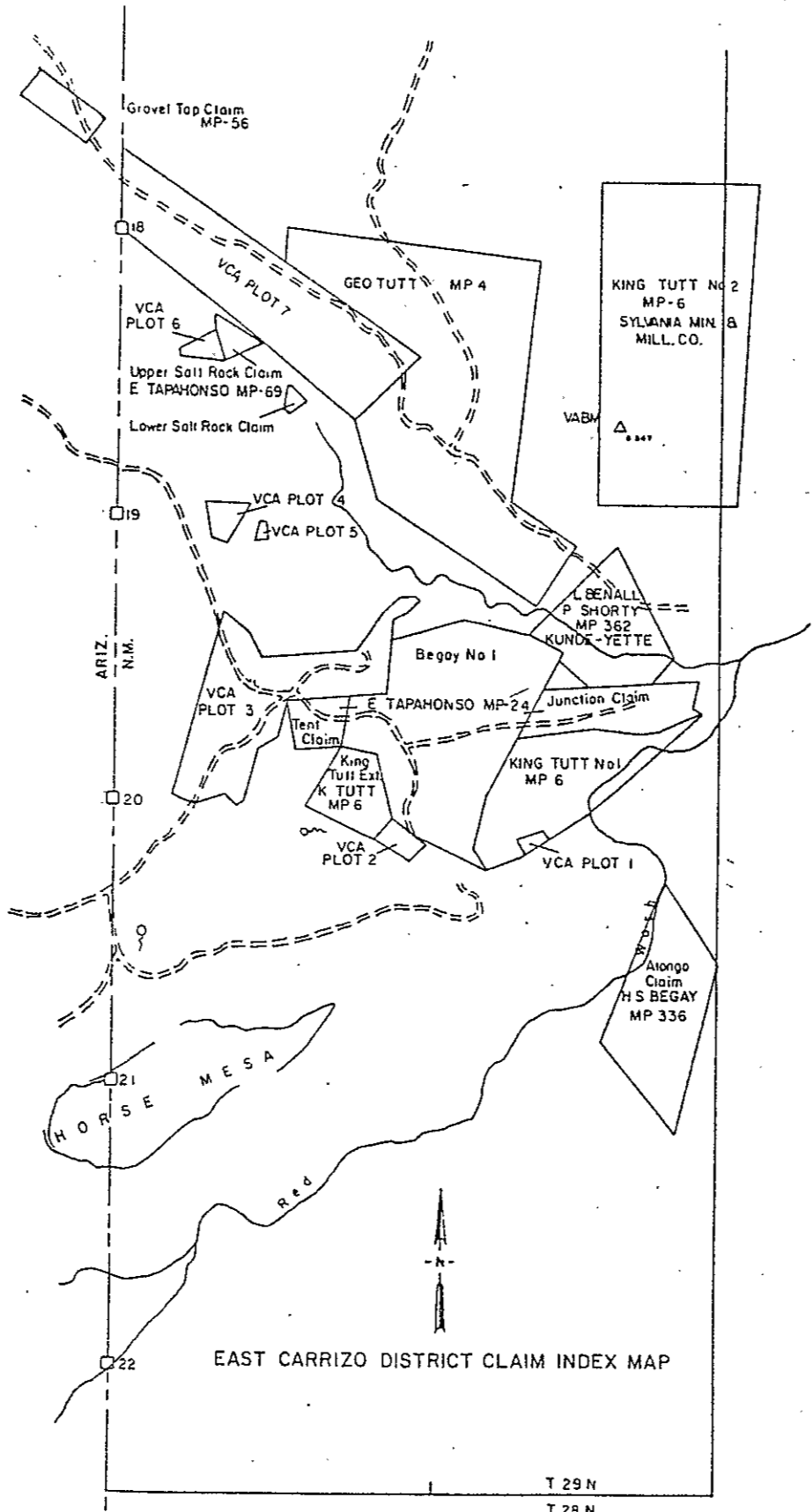
Workings at the King Tutt #1 consist of a southern decline and a northern adit. The southern decline (Photos b & c) trends S65°W with a 10-15° grade for the first 100', at which point it levels out to horizontal. The portal is 10' wide, 7' high, and the length is at least 150'. The northern adit is approximately 200 feet north of the decline (photos d & e). The area leading into the adit has been mined as an open cut. The open cut dimensions are 25 feet wide (N-S), 35 feet long (E-W), and attains a maximum depth of 6 feet. The portal is 4 feet high and 15 feet wide (see plan map for dimensions). The first ten feet of the small adit are timbered.

Both the adit and the decline are driven in the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. Mineralization is in the form of yellow uranium and black vanadium oxides. Scintillometer readings were 7,000 cps. 50 feet into the decline, and 8,000 cps. at the portal of the northern adit. The King Tutt #1 was worked by Shorty and Tutt; Sylvania Mining; and, Charles N. Pickens in 1951, 1953, 1956, and 1958. Total production was 290 tons of ore which contained 1,060 pounds of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> at an average grade of .18%, and 8,257 pounds of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at an average grade of 1.42% (A.E.C.). The U:V ratio was 1:3 (Hilpert, 1969).

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

(2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwestern New Mexico, U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603, p. 52.

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

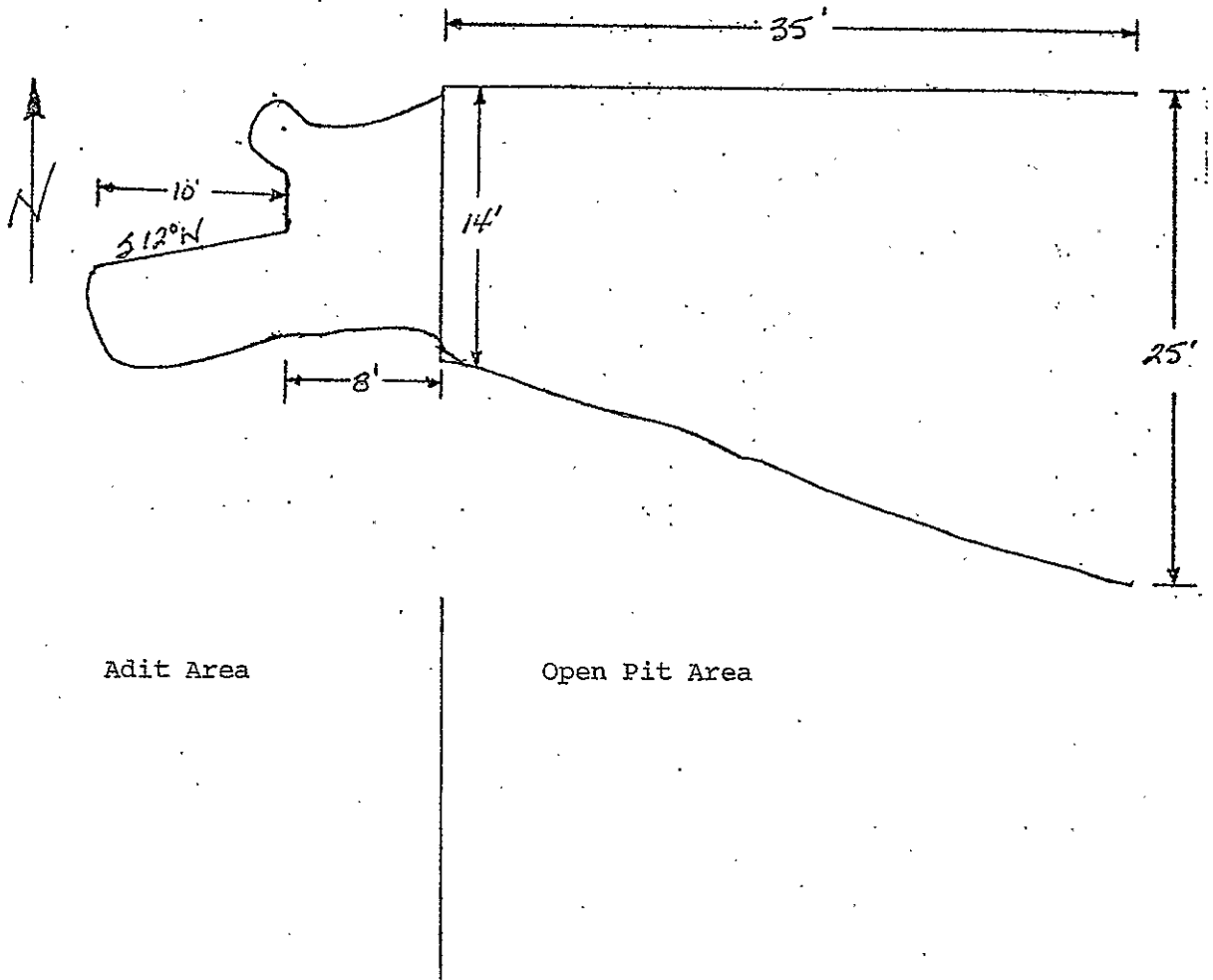


EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP

T 29 N  
T 28 N

Plan Map of the Northern King Tutt #1 Workings

Scale: 1"=10'



Adit Area

Open Pit Area



Photo A - location of King Tutt l. Wash in left foreground is the small tributary leading into Red Wash. Big Greg Mesa is located on the right center of the photo. The arrow indicates the location in the northern adit. The dump in the far right is the Red Wash Point workings. Photo looking NE.



Photo B - Portal to southern decline. Hammer in foreground for scale. Photo looking SW.



Photo C - Close up inside decline. Note leveling off of slope at the center of the photo. Material at the bottom of the decline is silt. Tumbleweed on the floor is approximately 1½ feet across.



Photo D - Looking west at pit leading to northern adit portal. Timbered entrance to adit is 4 feet high.



Photo E - Looking west. Close up of adit in Photo D showing timbering. Note hammer in left post for scale.