

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

Orin J. Anderson

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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.

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

REFERENCES FOR CARRIZO MINING DISTRICT

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

Quad: Sanostee West 7½'

- | | | |
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| 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 | |

Horace Ben

Quad: Sonsala Butte 1. NE 7 1/2'

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Kee and Tohe

2. AZ-60-1-2

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John Joe

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Joe Ben #2 Prospect

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Joe Ben #1 Prospect

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Enos Johnson

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Carl Yazzie #1

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H.B. Roy #2

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Reed Henderson (Reed Henderson Claims)

Date visited 11/14/79

Mine name(s) Dennet Nezz #3 County San Juan
(Unsurveyed)
Section Probably 5 Twنش. 25 N R. 20 W
Quadrangle sheet Sanostee West
Mining district Chuska
Elevation Approx. 6800'

Nearest city and/or dwellings Sanostee, 7 mi. E; other scattered single family dwellings within a 3 mi. radius.

Although The Dennett Nezz #3 claims reported production separate from the #1 and #2, no recognizable workings were found at or near the location specified by Blagbrough, et. al., 1959, fig. 5. Exploration and drill hole roads pass through the area in question and perhaps a small road cut may have been worked as a rim cut or bench cut. However, no anomalous scintillometer readings were recorded along the roads traversed in the area.

Total production was listed as 7 tons of ore from the Recapture member of the Morrison fm., averaging .39% U_3O_8 (60 lbs. U_3O_8). Deposit reportedly was worked as an open cut in 1955; the ore occurred in and around fractures in calcified logs.

- Reference:
- (1) Blagbrough, J., et. al., 1959, Uranium Reconnaissance and Drilling in the Sanostee Area ..., AEC RME-111.
 - (2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uran. Resources of NW New Mexico, U.S.G.S. pp. 603.
 - (3) AEC Production Records, courtesy Wm. Chenoweth U.S. Dept. of Energy.