

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)  
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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)  
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15. AZ-40-0-15  
Begay (Begay #1)  
Page ~~111~~ 113

- |     |                                     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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.

*Orin J. Anderson*

*New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources  
Socorro, New Mexico  
June, 1980*

Date visited 11/2/79

Mine name(s) King Tutt Point (VCA Plot #2) County San Juan  
Section Unsurveyed Twنش. 29 N R. 21 W  
(Probably 23)  
Quadrangle sheet Redrock Valley 15'  
Mining district East Carrizo  
Elevation 5550'  
Nearest city and/or dwellings Oak Spring; 3 mi. N NW

The King Tutt Point Mine is located on the south side of King Tutt Mesa on VCA Plot #2 (see claim index map). It consists of three adits, plus one stub adit on the west side of the "point", and one adit in a box cut on the east side of the "point". Two of the three west side adits are shown in Photo a, indicated by arrows; Photo b is a close-up of the one on the right. A lenticular sand unit lies above this adit and consequently the height decreases from 7' on the left (north) to 4' on the right (south). It is nearly 15' wide and 40' long with another 4' high drift at the rear going off to the left. Black vanadium staining with some carnotite overgrowth was noted at several places along the walls and back near the portal. One timber remains in place and holding. The other adit shown in Photo a is somewhat smaller and was not photographed close-up. Both were driven eastward into the southeastward trending face that was probably part of an open cut worked before the decision was made to go underground.

The third west side adit was driven N NE in the small re-entrant at the north edge of the open cut; the re-entrant is just visible at the left, middle foreground of Photo a; the adit is shown in Photo c; it is 5' high, 15' wide, and 15' in length at which point a small drift goes in another 40'. Some run off flows into the mine; the floor is silting up and is quite damp. Mineralization in the form of black vanadium staining is apparent on adit faces.

The west side stub adit is located 100' west of the adit in Photo c. It is 4' high, 6' wide, and goes back about 12' (see Photo d). It was driven north after a small trench was cut; some crude timbering remains in place. Evidence of mineralization is scant.

The east side adit is located 150' to the east of (behind) the two shown in Photo a. Driven E NE from the end of a 30' long cut, the portal is 5' high, 12' wide, and adit extends back 15' at which point it forks; left fork continues for another 20'; right fork is a stub. Both the cut and the timbered adit entrance are shown in Photos e and f. Note tailings at left foreground and just to left of adit entrance in Photo e. Photo f shows the neat "hand stacking" of coarse waste rock just to left of adit entrance.

The main tailings dump which resulted from the west side operations is shown in Photo g. The tailings at the angle of repose extend down-slope 50'-60' into a small tributary of Blackrock Wash.

Access is provided by a dirt road that ascends King Tutt Mesa just east of state

ine mile post marker #20; road is still passable.

The mine produced from the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. It was operated in 1950-51, 1953, and 1956 by VCA and by Carl Thomas. Total production was 294 tons of ore averaging .32%  $U_3O_8$  and 2.59%  $V_2O_5$ . The ore contained 1900 lbs.  $U_3O_8$  and 15,222 lbs.  $V_2O_5$ ; U:V ratio about 1:5<sup>2</sup> in these workings.

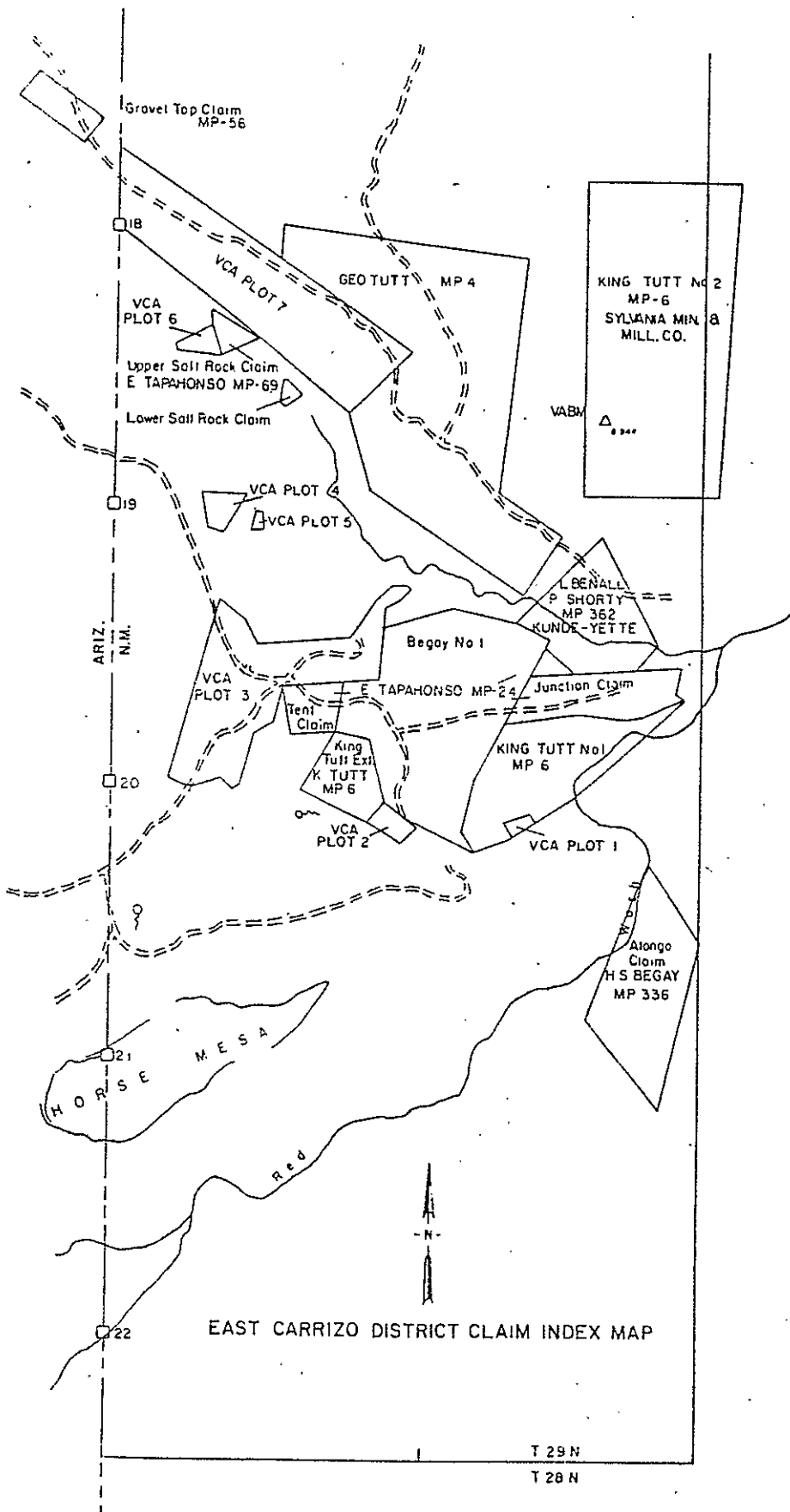
- References:
- (1) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwest New Mexico; U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603, p. 52.
  - (2) AEC Production Records, courtesy of Wm. Chenoweth, U.S. Dept. of Energy

one mile post marker #20; road is still passable.

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- References: (1) Chenoweth, W.L., 1980, Historical Review of Uranium-Vanadium in The Eastern Carrizo Mountains, San Juan County, New Mexico, U.S. DOE, TM-210.
- (2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwest New Mexico; U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 603, p. 52.
- (3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.

\*Some earlier production, 1942, and 1948, was included in East Reservation Lease production figures.



EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP

T 29 N

T 28 N



Photo A - King Tutt Point, looking SSE; two adits indicated by arrows.

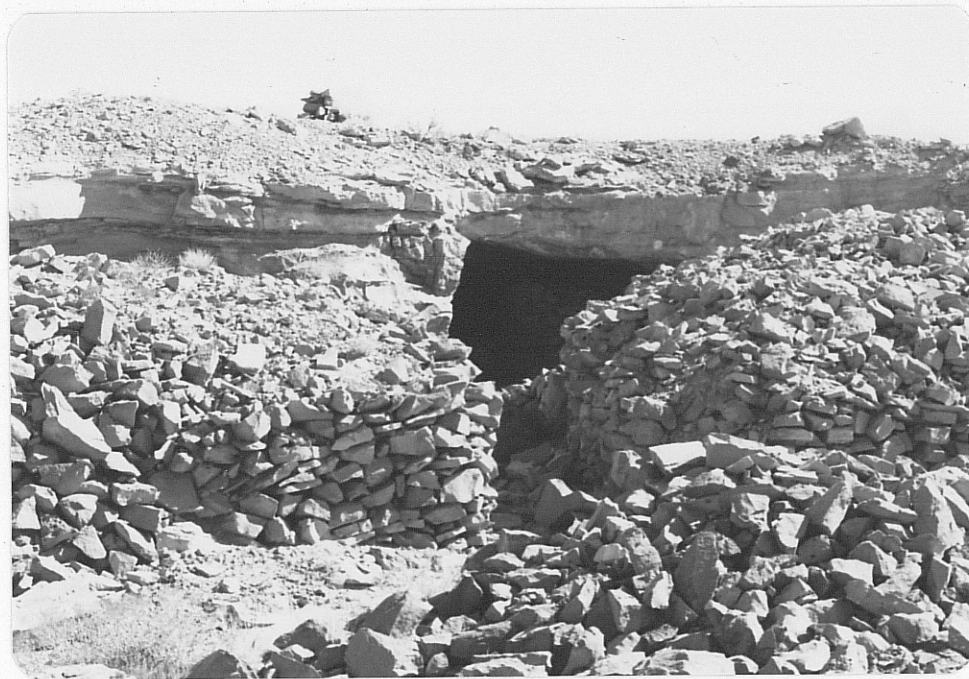


Photo B - King Tutt Point, looking east; note hand stacking of coarse waste rock just outside adit.



Photo C - King Tutt Point, looking NE into adit entrance 5' high, 15' wide.

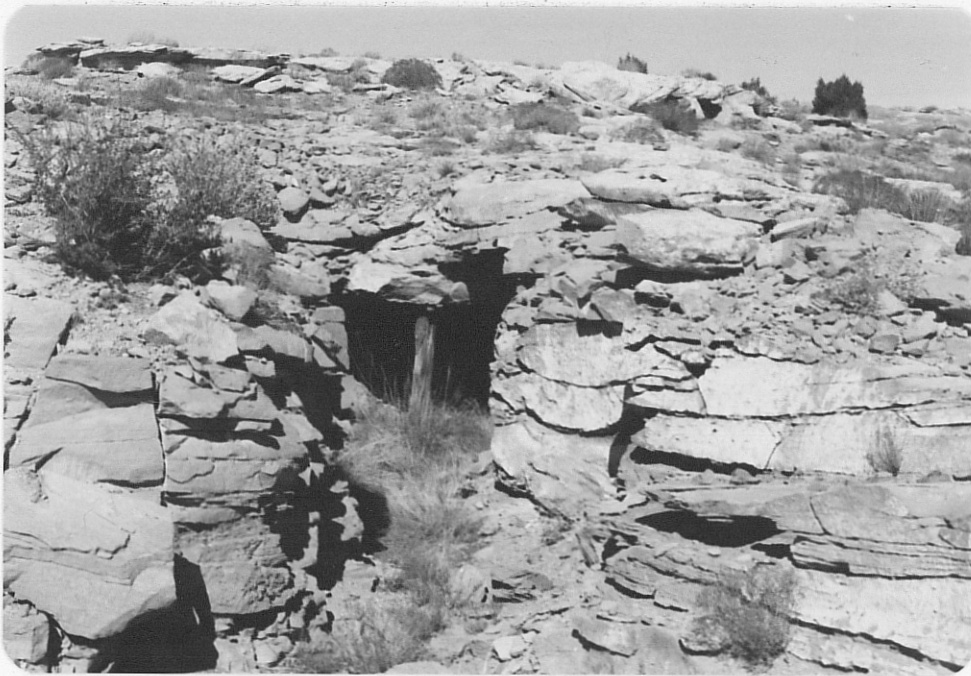


Photo D - King Tutt Point, looking north into stub adit; exposed portion of timber about 4'.



Photo E - King Tutt Point, looking NE toward eastside adit; portal about 5' high, 8' wide.



Photo F - King Tutt Point, looking NE into eastside adit; note hand stacking of coarse waste rock just left of portal.



Photo G - King Tutt Point, looking east at main dump at west side of point.