

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Frost, Coal Geologist, NMBMMR

FROM: H. B. Nickelson, Mining Geologist, Consultant, NMBMMR
Gallup East quad

SUBJECT: Reclamation evaluation for OSM, Gallup Field, Chiaramonte Mine

Chiaramonte Mine 4900' NL, 600' EL, 9-15-18 Loc. 38

The Chiaramonte mine was operated by the Chiaramonte Family who opened the mine through the old workings of the Stewart mine. They began operation in 1932. The mine is on the Black Diamond bed of coal. The mine ceased operations in 1961. Information in my records is scanty, but they employed 7 to 10 men until 1941, then about 25 men during the W W II years, and later only 4 or 5 men. A good bed of coal is exposed in the main entry. The main entry is open but barred by railroad rails. Access is possible with a small amount of picking. An air shaft was found that is 10' to 12' deep. At one time it had been filled but now is open again with a 2' diameter opening. This hole is very dangerous as children play in this area and the loose banks could cave and trap a child. The examiners put some old timber and other material into the hole to make it less dangerous and at least aid someone to get out if he fell in. The dump area also presents a hazard as the banks are steep and tend to cave. They present a falling hazard. The appearance could be improved as it doesn't look very good.

Photos taken at the site are as follows:

G-5-12 This photo was taken part way up the dump looking into the main portal of the Chiaramonte mine. The railroad rail bars entrance but access could be made by a little picking. A good bed of coal is exposed at the portal.

Water from the arroyo runs into this opening.

G-6-4 This is a view of the 2' diameter opening that has reopened in the partly filled shaft located 120' easterly of the main adit at G-5-12. This

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opening could present a serious hazard to children that play in the area. The banks around the hole cave, and dirt in the shaft looks as if it may drop into the opening. This should be backfilled.

G-6-5 View of the Chiaramonte dump looking S. 10° E. The dump on the far left which was probably a tram road leads to the shaft at G-5-12. The shaft is about 50' this side of the old car in the arroyo. The iron rails sticking up mark the main adit. Some policing up would help this mess.

Another bar may be welded to the rail grid over the main adit. The shaft needs to be backfilled. The examiners put some material in this very dangerous hole to try to alleviate the situation temporarily. The dumps need to be smoothed down and landscaped to eliminate the steep banks and improve the appearance. A search should be made to determine if holes exist from subsidence.

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