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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

Press Release

Contact: Hollie Brown
(801) 538-5324 - Office
(801) 243-9466 - Cell
holliebrown@utah.gov

ABANDONED MINES CLOSED IN MOAB

Moab – The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M), Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program permanently closed 17 hazardous mine openings including five shafts, with funding provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The 12 uranium mine openings were located in close proximity to a popular mountain bike and jeep trail in the Klondike Bluffs area north of Moab. The copper mines were located in the North Klondike Bluffs area, near the Baby Steps Recreational Trail.

“These mines were closed to protect public safety,” stated Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Project Manager Susan White. “People are intrigued by mine openings and often want to explore inside. These old mines can contain dangerous gases and unstable structures.”

The mines were closed using grates, polyurethane foam and waste rock to prevent people from accessing the sites. Abandoned mines often provide habitat for bats. Rebar grates are often installed to prevent people from entering, while still allowing bats access. At several of the mine openings complete backfilling was the only option to protect the public from high radon levels.

The mines are located on BLM land. DOGM assisted the BLM with closing abandoned mine features, which were a priority due to their proximity to areas with high visitation and recreation use.

For more information on the abandoned mine reclamation program, visit www.ogm.utah.gov.