

Trinitite – The First Atomic Rock

At 5:29 MWT, Monday, 16 July, 1945 the first atomic bomb was detonated in the desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico. The arkosic sands from the test site were fused into a glass that was ultimately referred to as Trinitite. This glass is chemically complex and has a number of distinguishable phases. The glass also contains remnants of the bomb and support structures and a variety of fission products and radioactive isotopes. Samples from this site have been extensively studied by a variety of investigators with the goal of establishing criteria that can be used to characterize post detonation nuclear debris. So what does an igneous petrologist/geochemist see when he looks at this material? Come to the Trinitite talk and find out.