REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
MAR 19 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

March 6, 1951

Re: Docket No. DMA-453

Mr. S. J. Landfair
P. O. Box 52
Dragoon, Arizona

Dear Mr. Landfair:

Your application for financial aid in unspecified amount for producing copper ore from the Centurion mine, Dragoon, Arizona has been given careful consideration by the Copper Branch of the Defense Minerals Administration.

I regret that all the data available to us indicate that the mine does not now contain a sufficient reserve of commercial ore to justify the conclusion that operations could be conducted profitably and also repay a loan to rehabilitate the mine. It also appears from the work already done in the lower levels that exploration to greater depth would not justify our participation in an exploration project.

Very truly yours,

/s Tom Lyon

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

CHJohnson:pf

Copy to: Executive Officer, DMA Field Team, Region IV,
224 New Customhouse, Denver 2, Colorado
Copper Commodity Committee
Files

Copy to
Kirchwey
Anderson
Brown
Zeo

March 6, 1951

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
MAR 19 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary, DMA

Through: Operating Committee

From: Copper Commodity Committee

Subject: Centurion Mine, Dragoon, Ariz. DMA-453

The applicant, S. J. Landfair, P. O. Box 52, Dragoon, Arizona has applied for aid in unspecified amount to produce "at least two carloads of copper ore per day".

The mine was operated in 1943-44 with a premium allowance of 9.2¢ (under name of Captain Copper Mine) by the applicant, after the mine was unwatered with the aid of a $5,000 R.F.C. loan.

We recommend that the application for financial assistance either for exploration or development work to produce copper be denied for the following reasons:

(1) Past operation of the mine in 1943 and 1944 has indicated that the output of ore will not be significant either quantitatively or in grade and will not justify the expense of rehabilitating the mine.

(2) Technically, the feasibility of the proposed operation is refuted by examinations and reports by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, the U. S. Geological Survey and the Arizona Bureau of Mines since the 1943-44 operations. The following points illustrate this conclusion:

(a) So far as known or as claimed by the applicant, no work has been done since 1944; and the actual operations during the clean-up of the mine in 1943-44 yielded 842 tons of ore averaging 2.21 percent copper. This was obtained largely from screenings of mine fill and dump and from gouging of pockets in the old workings.

(b) Development to a depth of 625 feet has shown that the deeper ore bodies are small and erratic, and that they occur in a less favorable formation (Mississippian limestone) than do the more productive bodies already mined in the old upper levels (in Devonian limestone). These conclusions were reached by both the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines field parties.

(c) As the mine is all in Mississippian limestone below the 325-foot level, and as the more favorable Devonian limestone appears only as a fault wedge above this level, it is not likely that deeper exploration would reveal large bodies of ore. Development at the deepest level (625-foot) covers a strike length of 565 feet, which resulted in only one small stope, less than 50 feet long.

(d) Although the workings were not sampled extensively either by the Geological Survey or Bureau of Mines in 1945, careful inspection and detailed mapping indicate that the exposed ore is chiefly seams and small erratic pockets of chrysocolla and limonite, which probably could not support a successful operation even at the current price for copper. No substantial production can be expected from the ore occurrences now exposed.

These conclusions are supported by four samples taken by a Bureau of Mines engineer in 1943, one on each of four levels, to determine the possible value of the "residual" material left in place after the small pods and crusts of good ore had been taken out. The four samples ranged from 0.20 to 0.89 percent copper, over widths of 3 to 4 feet.

(e) It is believed from the above data that ore of shipping grade could be obtained only by careful screening and sorting of the exposed ore, which is practically all limonitic material encrusted with chrysocolla and other oxide minerals. Available data indicate that this was the actual mode of operation in 1943 and 1944.

Applicant submits assay maps, undated, showing practically all of the upper five levels in ore, with 50 channel samples ranging from 1 to 25 percent copper and averaging 6.25 percent, over an average width of 3.6 ft. In view of the reports of examinations by Survey and Bureau men subsequent to the most recent period of operation, we do not believe these samples represent any significant quantity of ore now remaining in the mine. We cannot absolutely refute them on the basis of the five samples, but do not believe the case should be referred to the field unless and until we may be forced to do so.

From the above items the Committee concludes that any work done would fall under an exploration program. As explained under items (b) and (c) above, the chances for favorable results are not good.

The application and file on this project are attached herewith.

A letter for signature of the acting Director, Supply Division, advising the applicant of the unfavorable decision, accompanies this memorandum.

/s Tom Lyon

Tom Lyon, Chairman
Copper Commodity Committee

Attachments

Approved:

Chairman, Operation Committee

Geological Survey

Bureau of Mines

no longer necessary

CHJohnson:cw

Copy to: Executive Officer, DMA Field Team, Region IV
Copper Commodity Committee
Files

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DMA

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
JAN 29 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

January 25, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary

Through: Operating Committee

From: Chairman, Copper Commodity Committee

Subject: Centurion Mine, Dragoon, Arizona. Docket No. DMA-453.

We recommend this application be turned down on the basis of the emphatic denial of exploration or development possibilities made by John R. Cooper, USGS, who mapped the mine in detail as part of a recent district study.

A letter to the owner is attached for signature of the Director, Supply Division.

/s/ J. K. Richardson
J. K. Richardson, Chairman
Copper Commodity Committee

JJCollins:ba

Copy to J. H. East, 224 New Customhouse, Denver 2, Colorado
Copper Commodity Committee
Files

JHE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
REGION IV

Mining Division
Date Rec'd
JAN 16 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

OFFICE OF
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

January 16, 1951

453

~~Mr. E. J.~~ Landfair
Centurion Mine
P. ~~O. Box~~ 52
Dragoon, Arizona

Dear Mr. Landfair:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated January 10, 1951, maps, and Forms NSRB-146, Application for Government Loan under the Defense Production Act of 1950.

Your letter, maps, and application forms will be forwarded to the Defense Minerals Administration, Washington, D. C., for their consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. East, Jr.
Regional Director

/vt

cc: PT Allsman

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
REGION IV

OFFICE OF
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

November 22, 1950

Mr. S. J. Landfair
P. O. Box 52
Dragoon, Arizona

Dear Mr. Landfair:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 20, 1950 requesting information regarding Government mining loans under the Defense Production Act of 1950.

The regulations governing mining loans have not been issued from Washington; however, we are enclosing a form letter which indicates the type of information which will probably be required with loan applications.

Additional information may be required when the regulations have been established.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. East, Jr.
Regional Director

Enclosure

/ln

cc: PZ Allsman
WR Storms

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
NOV 22 1950
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

P.O. Box 52
Dragoon, Arizona
November 20, 1950

J.H. East Jr. Regional Direstor
U.S. Bureau of Mines
Region No. 1V, 224 New Costumhouse,
Denver 2 Colorado

Dear Sir:

Mr. Charles F. Willis has suggested I write you for all information and applications for the new Government Aid program.

I have a copper mine that could be put in production with very little trouble and a lead prospect. There are maps, reports and smelter returns. Does one have to hire an Engineer to make the applications or will the Government take care of that too?

Yours very truly,

S. J. Landfair

S. J. Landfair

Form 6-98

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—53493-2

January 16, 1951

DMA
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Centurion Mine
P. O. Box 52
Dragoon, Arizona

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Sincerely yours,

J. H. East, Jr.
Regional Director

/vt

cc: PT Allsman

JSPB - (~~orig & 2 copies~~ to DMA 1/16/51)