DMA Form 1

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
Control Slip

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DMA Docket No. 3024

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Copies to USBM, USGS, REG. III.

Routing Slip

To:	Code 400, Rm. 3538	Date	5/7/53
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400

AUG 12 1953

3024
Tung

Mr. Mello V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 302h - Tungsten
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Franceschi:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning the Locarno mine have been reviewed.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding materials of acceptable grade in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

Careful study of all our information, although noting the occurrence of tungsten mineralization at the Locarno mine, indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Program and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

FARutledge:foc
8-6-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. 3
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

August 6, 1953

Memorandum

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of exploration project in the amount of $4,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten mine
Kern County, California

The denial of the subject application by this Division is based on the following information:

(1) The applicant proposed to drive 250 to 300 feet of drift from the northeast face of the main workings on the tungsten prospect followed by crosscutting to the northwest for 100 feet at an estimated cost of $10.00 per foot.

(2) The field examination of subject property was made on June 12, 1951, by Benjamin H. Sheahan and Russell R. Trengove, Bureau of Mines, under Docket No. AR-41-Access Road. As a result of their examination, an access road costing $12,000.00 was approved but a change in the specifications by the Forest Service increased the expenditures for the same to $20,000.00.

(3) The property was re-examined June 9-10, 1953, by Jacques F. Robertson, Geological Survey, at the request of DMEA. Mr. Robertson recommended the subject application be denied.

(4) The exposed scheelite deposits are in a few, erratically distributed, tiny lenses, 2 to 4 inches wide by, at most, 3 feet long in sheared and altered granodiorite. Three of these lenses were exposed in the 370 feet of workings at the Locarno tungsten mine.

(5) The Field Team recommends denial of the subject application.

(6) The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in the denial.

SIGNED
W. S. Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

FARutledge:foc
8-6-53

cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File

400

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

1012 Flood Bldg.
870 Market Street
San Francisco 2, Calif.

July 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: George C. Selfridge, Chairman, Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III

Subject: Docket DMEA-3024 - Tungsten
N. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine, Kern County, Calif.

Reference is to the request, dated May 20, 1953, by Mr. W. S. Martin, Acting Chairman, Operating Committee, for a field examination of the Locarno Tungsten Mine.

The mine has now been examined and four copies of a report entitled "DMEA-3024 , Locarno Tungsten Prospect, Kern County, Calif.," by Jacques F. Robertson, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, dated July 16, 1953, are attached.

In line with the geologist's conclusions, Mr. Bailey and I agree that no DMEA loan should be granted to explore the Locarno prospect.

H. C. Miller
Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team
Region III

Attachment

Copy to: A. C. Johnson, Reno (With copy of report)
E. H. Bailey, USGS

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-3-53
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, D. McKAY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION III

DMEA-3024, Locarno tungsten prospect

Kern County, California

(Tungsten)

Jacques F. Robertson, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

July 16, 1953

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-3-53
(date)

Locarno Tungsten Prospect
Kern County, California

Jacques F. Robertson

Summary and Conclusions

Mr. N. V. Franceschi, owner of the Locarno tungsten prospect, DMA 3024, Kern County, California has applied for a government loan under the DMA program to assist in exploring for scheelite-bearing veins. The prospect lies in granodiorite that is transected by a set of northeast trending fault zones that carry minor scheelite. Locally, small concentrations of scheelite have been found in the eluvial mantle. The 370 feet of workings explore two parallel faults that strike N. 55° E. and bound a 25 foot wide zone of sheared and altered granodiorite. The proposed work consists of driving 250 to 300 feet of drift from the northeast face of the main workings and cross cut 100 feet to northwest, at a cost of $10 per foot or a total of about $4,000.

Not enough scheelite can reasonably be expected to be uncovered to warrant exploration of the Locarno tungsten prospect under the DMA program. The exposed scheelite deposits are in a few, erratically distributed, tiny lenses, 2-4 inches wide by, at most, 3 feet long in sheared and altered granodiorite. In all probability the same type of spotty occurrence would be found by extending the workings, but not enough could be mined to justify the exploration cost. Traces of scheelite occur in the eluvial mantle, but not in sufficient concentrations to justify placer mining.

It is recommended that no DMEA loan be granted to explore the Locarno tungsten prospect.

Introduction

The Locarno mine tungsten prospect, DMEA 3024, Kern County, California, was examined at the request of W. C. Miller, Executive Officer for DMEA, Region III, by J. F. Robertson of the U. S. Geological Survey the evening of June 9 and during the day of June 10, 1953. N. V. Franceschi, the owner and applicant for government assistance, accompanied the geologist on the examination. Dr. A. L. Bennett, research physicist for the U. S. Navy at China Lake, California, was present part of the time. Outcrops, mainly in new road cuts and pits, were inspected with ultra-violet lamp at night, and the surface and underground were visited and mapped during the day. One sample was taken from the scheelite-bearing eluvial deposit, and assayed for tungsten by the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Reno, Nevada.

The Locarno property was previously examined by U. S. Bureau of Mines engineers E. R. Trengove and B. H. Sheahan on June 12, 1951 in regard to an application for a 2 mile access road. The road was approved, and was constructed by the U. S. Forest Service in the fall of 1952 at a cost of $20,000. Franceschi applied for a DMEA loan for some exploratory work on May 7, 1953.

Location, Access, and General Description

The Locarno mine is located on 97 acres of patented land in the SE¼ sec. 21, T. 29 S., R. 34 E., MDB & M., Mojave 30 minute quadrangle, in Kern County, California. It is within but near the south boundary of the Sequoia National Forest, in the Piute Mountains. Most of the mine property is on the SE flank of a prominent spur between 6300 to 6800 feet elevation above sea level.

With the new access road, the property can be reached from Bakersfield by automobile via Caliente, a distance of 55.5 miles. The route from Bakersfield follows the Tehachapi Pass highway U. S. 466 for 22 miles to southeast. From this point a fair paved road to north and east is followed for 25.5 miles to the Piute ranch, by way of Caliente, Paris-Loraine, and the Sand Canyon Store. A one way, winding dirt road from the Piute ranch is followed for 8 miles to the Locarno mine. The last 2½ miles of newly constructed road has many sharp switchbacks that require backing and turning. The switchback turns should be enlarged, and large boulders and sluff from cut banks must be cleared before the road can be used extensively for hauling. According to Mr. Franceschi, the property is now accessible throughout most of the winter season, because the new road is on the south flank and in the lee of the main ridges of the Piute Mountains. The nearest railroad is the Southern Pacific line at Caliente, 29 miles from the property.

The camp and mill are supplied the year around with water from nearby springs. At present the property is not served by electricity, but it is equipped with a telephone. Timber may be cut on the property to satisfy the mine and fuel needs, but it is easier and no less expensive to haul in already cut lumber required for building or mining.

The Locarno is essentially a gold property consisting of adits and mine workings at several altitudes. Tungsten, in the mineral scheelite, occurs as a minor constituent in the gold veins. The greatest amount of scheelite uncovered on the property is at the southern-most and lowest workings, which are the subject of the operator's loan application. It is referred to, hereinafter, as the "Locarno tungsten prospect," to distinguish it from the upper workings of the Locarno gold mine.

Half a mile to the north of the Locarno property is the Swynne mine, belonging to the Geringer Bros. It has produced considerable gold from northeast-trending quartz veins in granodiorite. To the south of the Locarno mine half a mile is the Simon mine owned by Mr. Franceschi. It has produced some scheelite that was hand sorted, then milled at Atolia. The Simon mine is not being operated at the present time.

Mine Workings

The upper workings of the Locarno mine have been extensively mined for gold and are partly accessible. Little gold mining has been done on the property since before World War II. Examination of the upper workings disclosed a number of very small pockets of scheelite that could hardly be considered more than traces. Some scheelite is reported to have been recovered from surface concentrations in the soil. Several shallow pits are scattered about near the upper workings, but only a few specks of scheelite were observed in these prospects. The mine camp is situated near the upper mine workings.

The tungsten prospect is 600 to 1000 feet south of, and over 300 feet lower in altitude than, the mine camp. It is reached via the newly constructed access road, which, except for one switchback, is not shown on the attached map. The surface at the tungsten prospect is steep, with a slope of 30° or more, and is covered by a 3 to 5 feet mantle of loose rock and soil. Road cuts expose the bedrock; except for that, granodiorite in place cannot be distinguished from huge rounded boulders that have slid from above.

The soil, which contains traces of scheelite, has been prospected by pits and a small trench. One or two minor concentrations of scheelite have been found in the eluvial material, and two adits have been driven to explore the underlying rock for scheelite veins. The main adit is driven on a northerly heading for 130 feet, with 180 feet of drifting along a NE-trending hanging wall fault of a wide shear zone. A 30 foot crosscut off the drift to north explores

the shear zone. There are no stopes. The other adit is 350 feet to north, at the switchback in the road. It explores a northeast-trending fault for about 40 feet.

Geology

The Locarno mine occurs within the Isabella granodiorite mass that is part of the Sierra Nevada batholithic complex. All the mine workings are developed along a set of major northeast trending fault zones. Along some of them gold quartz veins have been formed. The granodiorite country rock is very fresh except adjacent to and within the fault zones where it is considerably altered.

The main adit of the Locarno tungsten prospect passes through fresh granodiorite and penetrates a zone of sheared and broken granodiorite 90 feet from the portal. The zone is 25 feet wide, strikes N. 55° E., and is bounded on the hanging wall side by a well defined fault that dips 60° south. The footwall side is less well defined by a fault that dips about 40° south and appears, with flattening of dip, to converge with the hanging wall fault in the southwest end of the workings. The main drift follows the hanging wall fault for 180 feet along the strike.

Within the sheared and broken zone the granodiorite is extensively altered, with development of clay minerals and sericite. Locally, it is also silicified. The rock is limonite stained throughout from alteration of biotite and other mafic minerals. Stringers and lenses of quartz, from less than an inch to 3-4 inches thick, occur in the zone, but they are only a few feet long and are erratically distributed.

Only three tiny pods of disseminated scheelite were seen in the sheared and altered zone. One spot, exposed in the southwest drift at the back, is 2 to 3 inches wide and a foot long, and is estimated to contain about 2 per cent WO_3. The second and third spots are in the northeast drift and in the crosscut. Each is 2-4 inches wide and 1-2 feet long, and is estimated to contain 0.2 per cent or less WO_3. No samples from these occurrences were taken because the samples would have constituted the total amount of scheelite showing, and would not have represented any potential production. Mr. Franceschi pointed out the location where a similar pod of scheelite had been mined out. Sample No. 5, taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers during the examination for the access road, came from this pod.

In the small adit just north of the switchback on the tungsten prospect, the altered and broken granodiorite is exposed in a N. 55° E. trending fault. A very small lens of scheelite was exposed at the face of this adit when examined earlier by the Bureau of Mines engineers, but it has since been removed. Sample No. 4 came from this lens. The fault exposed in the upper adit may be the up dip continuation of the footwall fault noted in the lower adit. The road cut between the two adits exposes some shear planes in altered granodiorite, which suggests the outcropping of the broken zone exposed in the lower adit.

The eluvial mantle on the tungsten prospect contains traces of scheelite derived from erosion of veins. Locally, small concentrations of scheelite have been found in the soil and prospecting has been carried on for larger placer concentrations. The 17 foot long trench located above the main adit contains one or two small concentrations,

but composite sample No. 6 taken by the writer from along the length of the trench assayed only 0.04 per cent WO_3. Listed below are assays of samples 1 to 5 taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers and sample No. 6 taken by the writer. The locations are shown on the map (fig. 1):

Sample No.	% WO_3	Oz. Au/T	Oz. Ag/T
1	0.15	0.08	0.20
2	4.65	0.01	0.20
3	0.51	0.035	0.15
4	0.93	.01	0.10
5	1.56	0.035	0.25
6	0.04		

The assays of samples 1 to 5 taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers give a false impression of the values that may be expected from the deposit. The samples are from the tiny lenses of disseminated scheelite, which in no way represent continuous mineralization in well defined patterns. Every sample is from a lens that would probably yield less than 30 pounds of scheelite-bearing rock. The Bureau of Mines engineers list 50 units WO_3 measured reserves in the workings of the tungsten prospect, but this figure is without substantiation. No measurable reserve of scheelite ore was observed by this writer.

Equipment

The mine camp has two cabins large enough to accommodate 10 to 15 men comfortably. The cabins are in excellent condition with stoves, kitchen and plumbing facilities, and furniture. Mr. Franceschi owns two pick-up trucks in fair to good condition.

There are two gold mills, one at the Locarno mine and the other at the Simon mine. As reported by the Bureau of Mines engineers, the

Locarno mill "contains a 15 ton gyratory mill, one 15 horsepower Fairbanks Z-type gasoline engine, 3 other small engines, and an 85 cu. ft. compressor."

The lower Simon mill "contains a 3½ foot diameter Huntington mill, an 8" x 12" jaw crusher, one 16 foot Wilfley table, one 20 horsepower Standard marine engine, and amalgam plates. Mr. Franceschi has the necessary equipment, rolls, and tables to convert the gold mills to tungsten mills."

Mr. Franceschi says that he has all the necessary pipe, rails, mine cars, jack hammers, and tools to undertake the proposed underground exploration. Powder, gas and oil, and possibly timber are the only items that would have to be bought.

Proposed Exploration

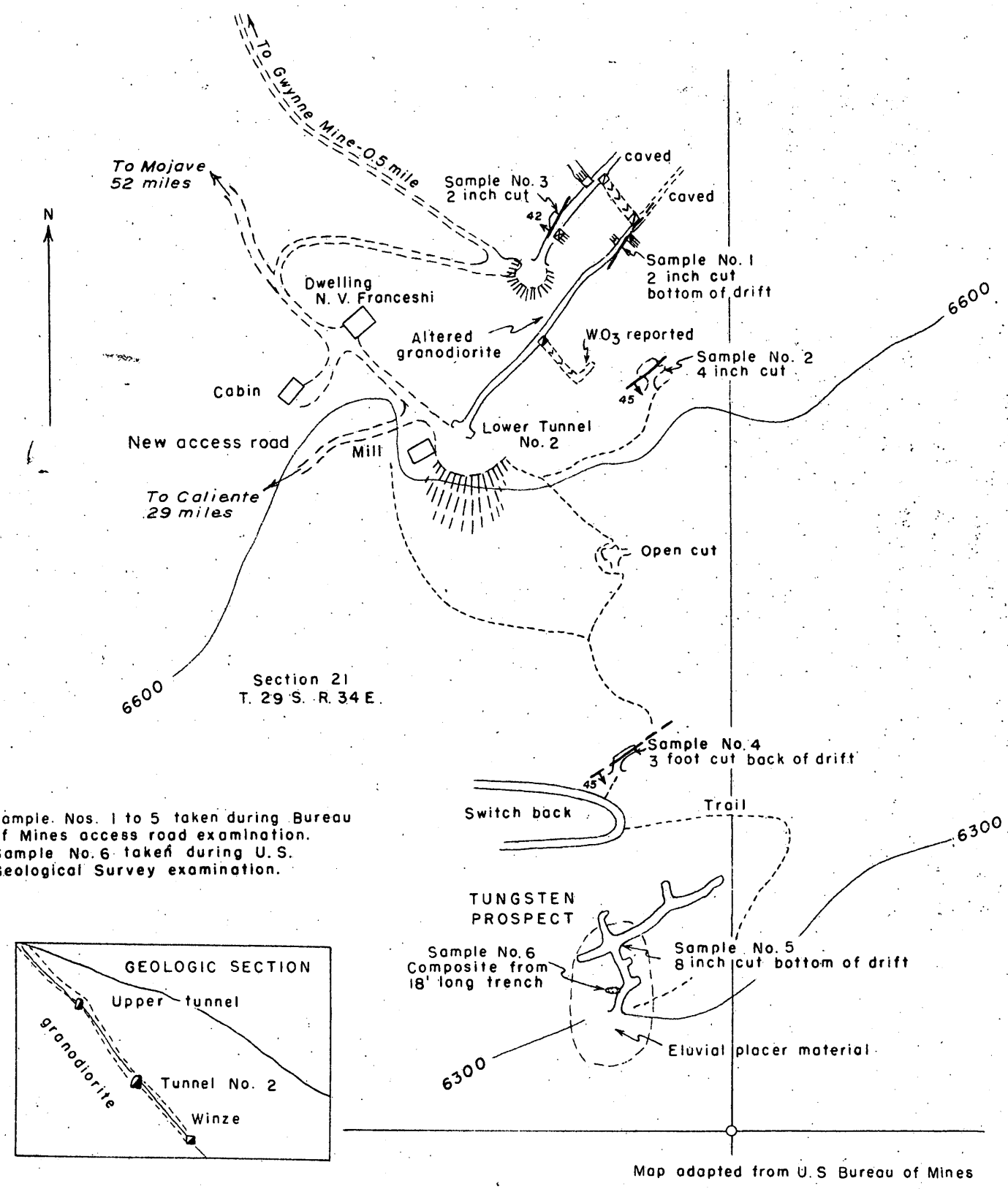
Applicant's proposal

The object of the DMEA loan application is to explore the extension of the broken and altered zone in the main adit of the tungsten prospect. Work proposed consists of extending the main drift for a distance of 250 to 300 feet along the strike of the hanging wall fault, toward the northeast from the present face of the drift, and then crosscut 100 feet northwest from the drift to explore the broken and altered zone and to find scheelite in possible parallel vein structures. Mr. Franceschi is amenable to alternate plans for underground exploration, but considers the total footage of about 400 feet a minimum requirement.

The mining would be undertaken by Mr. Franceschi with a helper at an estimated cost of $10 per foot including equipment, powder, timber, labor at $2 per hour, and contingencies. Work can progress at an average of 6 feet per day. Total cost, on the $10 per foot basis, amounts to about $4,000.

Conclusion

In view of the negligible amount of scheelite uncovered in the tungsten prospect, no exploration of the deposit is warranted. Only a few such tiny pods of scheelite as are already exposed in the workings can be expected by exploring the extension of the shear zone or crosscutting for parallel veins.



Sample Nos. 1 to 5 taken during Bureau of Mines access road examination. Sample No. 6 taken during U.S. Geological Survey examination.

Map adapted from U.S Bureau of Mines

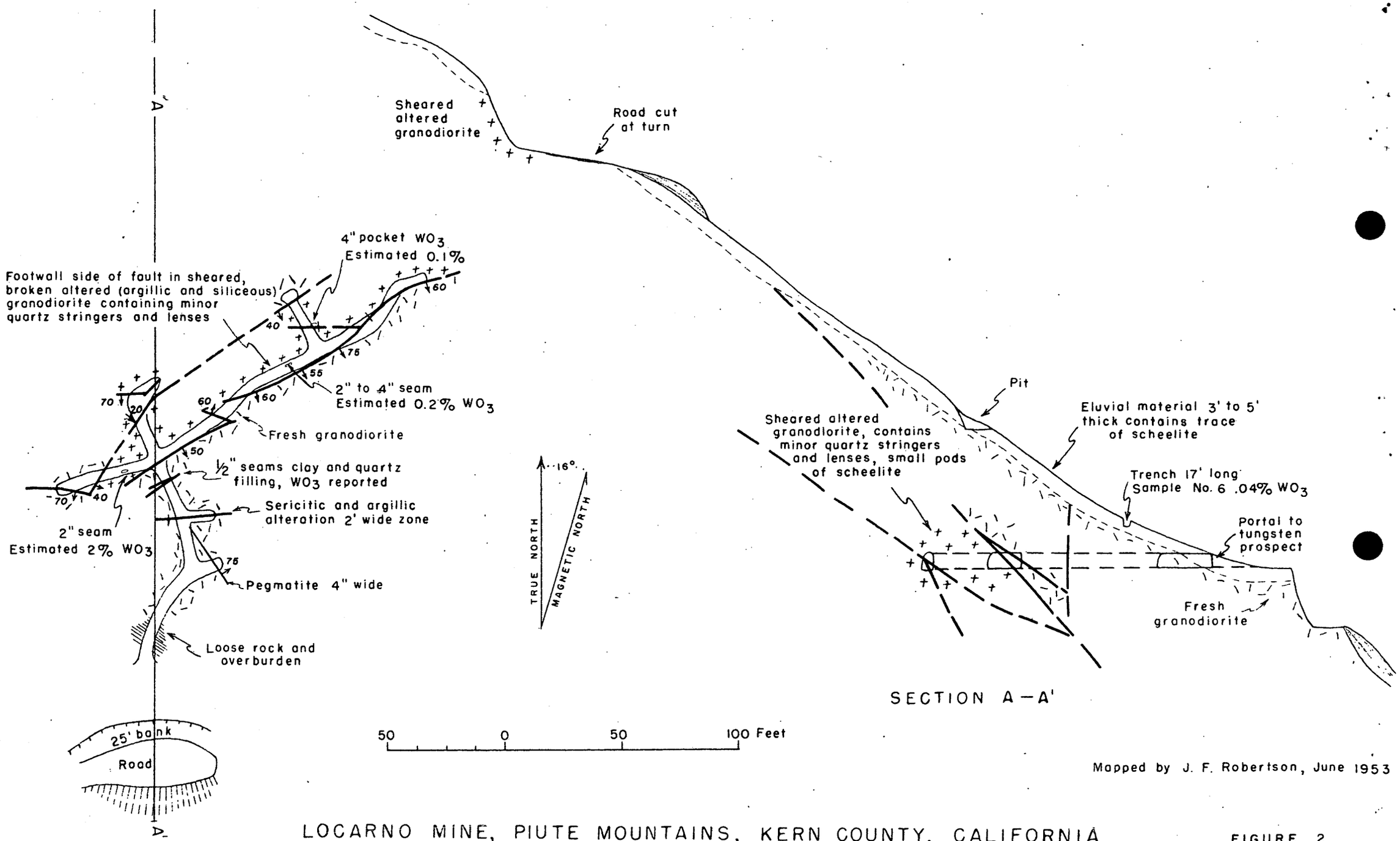
LOCARNO MINE, PIUTE MOUNTAINS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

200 0 200 400 Feet

FIGURE 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DMEA 3024
(TUNGSTEN)



Mapped by J. F. Robertson, June 1953

LOCARNO MINE, PIUTE MOUNTAINS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE 2

400

MAY 2 0 1953

Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region III
1012 Flood Building
870 Market Street
San Francisco 2, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
H. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Miller:

Reference is made to the subject application for exploration assistance which is being referred to your office for review and for a field examination if warranted.

As this property was examined by engineers of Region III in connection with an application for an access road which was approved and subsequently built, your office may already be in a position to appraise the merits of the exploratory work suggested by the applicant.

The following memorandum has been prepared and is enclosed for your information:

Memorandum by D. M. Lemmon, U.S.G.S. May 15, 1953.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin

ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

A. R. Kinkel, Jr.

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosure

FAHutledge:foc
5-19-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
FT, Reg. III
Adm. Reading File
Oper. Comm.
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

400

MAY 2 0 1953

Mr. Nello V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
N. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Franceschi:

Your application for exploration assistance at your Locarno Mine in Kern County, California, has been reviewed by the Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA, and has been referred to Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III, 1012 Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco, California for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

Should a field examination be made of the property, any assistance that you can render the examining engineers will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JHopkins:foc
5-15-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
FT. Reg. III
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

Area 3024

May 6, 1953

MEMORANDUM

To: R. L. Adams, Chief, Oper. Control and Statistics Division

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Subject: Application for Exploration Aid - Tungsten
Mr. N. V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California
Locarno Tungsten Mine, Kern County, California

Reference is made to a copy of cited application, geologic map of Locarno Mining property and letter dated April 27, 1953 from the applicant which were forwarded to this Division for review before being docketed.

The following information relative to the Locarno Mine has been developed through contact with the Mining Requirements Division, DMPA.

Under date of May 30, 1951, Mr. N. V. Franceschi, owner of the Locarno Tungsten Mine, filed an application for an Access Road with the Defense Minerals Administration, Department of the Interior. This application was assigned Docket No. AR-41, and resulted in an examination of the property by Russell R. Trengove and Benjamin H. Sheehan, Mining Engineers of Region III. Based on their report dated July 5, 1951, it was concluded that there is sufficient indication of tungsten ore to warrant the construction of an access road.

After an investigation of the proposed road by the Bureau of Public Roads and certified as being important to the national defense by DMPA, the project was approved to cost $12,000.00.

It was learned that the original program and specifications set up by the Bureau of Public Roads was materially changed by the Forest Service who requested and received an additional $8,000.00 bringing the total cost to $20,000.00.

In a letter to the Mining Requirements Division, DMEA, dated March 13, 1953, Mr. R. V. Franceschi states, "The Engineers sampled the property and O.K'd the road. The National Forest Service Department of Porterville, Calif. took the contract to build said road. After spending about $20,000.00, December 15, 1952, they moved the road crew out, the road is through alright but not quite passable for any of the smaller trucks to haul this tungsten ore 1½ miles to the mill. A small amount will finish this project".

Additional copies of the application(Form MR-103), geologic map and applicant's letter have been made and are attached herewith. The copies of geologic map are photostats of map prepared by Messrs. Trengove and Sheahan for their report.

R. . Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Attachments

JHopkins:foc
5-6-53

cc: Docket
Adm. Loading File
Code 400
Field Team, Reg. 3

COPY

400.

April 27, 1953

Omea 3024

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Geological Map, showing Tungsten Deposits, also Access Road, for which the Government appropriated $20,000.00 for the said project; also another 3/4th mile of road which I built at my own expense, to make easier access to my property. This property borders on the South side of the Gwynne Mine.

My property consists of four (4) veins: 2 gold veins Northeast and Southwesterly direction, and one in North and South direction, consisting of tungsten and gold; another parallel vein about 6 ft. wide in Northerly direction, which carries tungsten. All these veins seem to come together on my property.

I have been mining and milling gold ore up to the closing of the gold mines by Order 228. Several years in defense work put me behind in my mining operations.

My development work on the property consists of three (3) tunnels; two are 500 ft. each, with 120 ft. raise and 100 ft. shaft (which caved in during the shut-down. 150 ft. tunnel and cross cut on the North and South vein show for 28 ft. wide of mixed ore, which carries tungsten. A parallel vein about 100 ft. distant, 8 ft. wide carries tungsten. All these veins have been traced and proved by trenches up hill for about 2,000 feet.

My forty (40) years experience in mining and milling is considered excellent. I intend to do this work by myself, with another man as helper. The property is well equipped with machinery, good living quarters, good roads and water. Machinery consists of 18-ton mill, 3 gasoline motors, 2 concentrating tables, pipes, jack hammer, compressor, drills, truck and pick-up-etc. also rails, muck cars, forge, water pump, water tanks and miscellaneous items.

There is an alluvion deposit of tungsten (which you can see on the map) and in which I judge there must be about 6,000 to 10,000 tons, and seems to carry $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% in general. I have shipped some high grade picked ore from this deposit.

The object of this loan is to drive a tunnel ahead 250 to 300 feet and 100 feet cross cut on the parallel vein to develop and block ore to warrant installing a large mill.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Nello V. Franceschi

N. V. Franceschi
325 -- 5th Avenue
Venice, California

IN REPLY REFER TO:
G-MD-DML

400

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 15, 1953

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, D.M.E.A.

From: D. M. Lemmon

Subject: Exploration application
Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Mine
Sec. 21, T. 29 S., R. 34 E.
Kern County, California

D.M.E.A. 3024
Tungsten

Proposal:

The applicant requests funds (amount not stated) to drive 250 to 300 feet of drift and 100 feet of crosscut. The location of the proposed work is not shown on the map or adequately described.

The property was examined June 19, 1951 by Ben H. Sheahan and Russell R. Trengove in connection with an application for an access road, which was approved. This road was subsequently built at a cost of $20,000.

Recommendation:

Although the information in the files of the Geological Survey and that presented by the applicant are not very encouraging, I suggest that the application be referred to the Field Team for further appraisal.

D. M. Lemmon

Copy to: Director's file, 4212
~~Division~~
Branch
Reading file, 4212

Lemmon:bes
G: 5-15-53

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAY 7 1953

Form Approved.
Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.2.

400

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

Not to be filled in by applicant

Docket No. DMEA-3024
Metal or Mineral
Date Received 5/6/53
Estimated Cost
Participation (Government %)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Name of applicant.*—(*a*) State here your full legal name, in the form in which you will wish to contract, and your mailing address: Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Mine
325 5th Ave
Venice, Calif.

(*b*) If other than an individual, add to your name above whether a corporation, partnership, etc., and the name of the State in which incorporated or otherwise organized.

(*c*) If a corporation, add to above statement, titles, names and addresses of officers.

(*d*) If a partnership, add to the above statement the names and addresses of all partners.

2. *General.*—Read DMEA Order 1, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects," before completing this application. Submit this application and all accompanying papers in quadruplicate (four copies), with your name and address on each sheet of the application and on all accompanying papers. Where sufficient space is not provided on the form for all required information, state it on an accompanying paper, with a reference in each case to the instruction to which it refers by number. Comply with all applicable instructions; or, if not applicable, so state. File the application with Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest field executive officer thereof.

3. *Applicant's property rights.*—(*a*) State the legal description of the land upon which you wish to explore, including all land which you possess or control that may be benefited by the exploration, and excluding any land or interest in land which is not to be included in the exploration project contract Patented 97 Acres SE 1/4 Sec 21, T29, S.R. 34 M.B.M. Kern County, Calif.

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. Locarno Mine

(*c*) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise Owner

(*d*) If you are not the owner, submit with this application a copy of the lease, contract, or other document under which you control the property.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it Balance to partner $3,000.00 due Dec. 30, 1956

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice.

4. *Physical description.*—(*a*) Describe in detail any mining or exploration operations which have been or now are being conducted upon the land, including existing mine workings and production facilities. State your interest, if any, in such operations. Also describe accessibility of mine workings for examination purposes.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades.

(*c*) Describe the geologic features of the property, including mineralization, type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.), and your reasons for wishing to explore. Illustrate with maps or sketches. Send with your application (but not necessarily as a part of it) any geologic or engineering report, assay maps, or other technologic information you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points.

(*e*) State the availability of manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water, and power.

5. *The exploration project.*—(*a*) State the mineral or minerals for which you wish to explore Tungsten Sheelite

(*b*) Describe fully the proposed work, including a map or sketch of the property showing a plan (and cross sections if needed) of any present mine workings, and the location of the proposed exploration work as related to such features as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc.

(*c*) The work will start within 60 days and be completed within 12 months from the date of an exploration project contract.

(*d*) State the operating experience and background of the applicant with relation to the ability to carry out such exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of costs.*—Furnish a detailed estimate of the costs of the proposed work (you will have to use a separate sheet), under the following headings. Add the totals under all headings to give the estimated total cost of the project:

(*a*) *Independent contracts.*—(Note.—If the applicant does not intend to let any of the work to contractors, write "none" after this item. To the extent that the work is to be contracted, do not repeat the cost of the contract-work in subsequent items.) State the cost of any proposed independent contracts for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in terms of units of work (such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved, etc.).

(*b*) *Labor, supervision, consultants.*—Include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes and rates of wages, salaries or fees for necessary labor, supervision and engineering and geological consultants.

(*c*) *Operating materials and supplies.*—Furnish an itemized list, including items of equipment costing less than $50 each, and power, water and fuel.

(*d*) *Operating equipment.*—Furnish an itemized list of any operating equipment to be rented, purchased, or which is owned and will be furnished by the Operator, with the estimated rental, purchase price, or suggested use-allowance based on present value, as the case may be.

(*e*) *Rehabilitation and repairs.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary initial rehabilitation or repairs of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and movable operating equipment, now owned by the Operator and which will be devoted to the exploration project.

(*f*) *New buildings, improvements, installations.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary buildings, fixed improvements, or installations to be purchased, installed or constructed for the benefit of the exploration project.

(*g*) *Miscellaneous.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of repairs to and maintenance of operating equipment (not including initial rehabilitation or repairs of the Operator's equipment), analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employers' liability insurance, and payroll taxes.

(*h*) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above.

NOTE.—No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. (*a*) Are you prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 7, DMEA No. 1)?

(*b*) How do you propose to furnish your share of the costs?

☐ Money ☒ Use of equipment owned by you ☐ Other

Explain in detail on acompanying paper.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated April 27, 1953

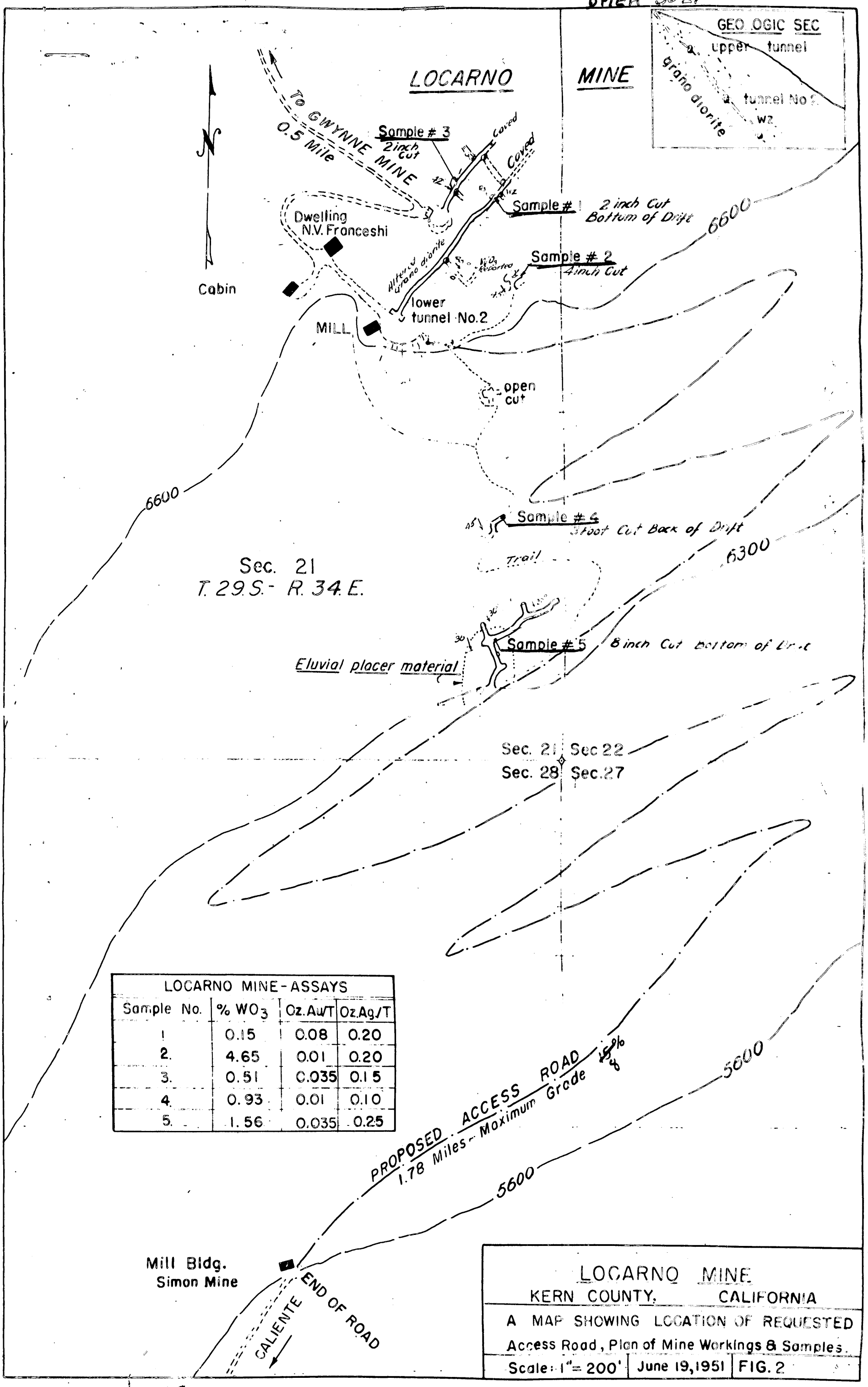
/s/ Nello V. Franceschi
(Applicant)

By

Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), Section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—66551-1

DMEA-3024



LOCARNO MINE - ASSAYS			
Sample No.	% WO_3	Oz. Au/T	Oz. Ag/T
1	0.15	0.08	0.20
2.	4.65	0.01	0.20
3.	0.51	0.035	0.15
4.	0.93	0.01	0.10
5.	1.56	0.035	0.25

LOCARNO MINE
KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
A MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF REQUESTED Access Road, Plan of Mine Workings & Samples.
Scale: 1" = 200' | June 19, 1951 | FIG. 2

FILE COPY
SURNAME: 918
400

Rutledge
Martin
Guhan
Lemmon
Kyshel
Hodges
Selfridge

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

AUG 12 1953

Mr. Mello V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Franceschi:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning the Locarno mine have been reviewed.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding materials of acceptable grade in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

Careful study of all our information, although noting the occurrence of tungsten mineralization at the Locarno mine, indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Program and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,
C. O. Mittendorf (for)
Administrator

FARutledge:foc
8-6-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. 3
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

R.C.G.
8-12-53

FILE COPY
SURNAME:

Rutledge
Matthias
Durham
Lemmon
Selfridge

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

August 6, 1953

Memorandum

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of exploration project in the amount of $4,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten mine
Kern County, California

The denial of the subject application by this Division is based on the following information:

(1) The applicant proposed to drive 250 to 300 feet of drift from the northeast face of the main workings on the tungsten prospect followed by crosscutting to the northwest for 100 feet at an estimated cost of $10.00 per foot.

(2) The field examination of subject property was made on June 12, 1951, by Benjamin H. Sheahan and Russell R. Trengove, Bureau of Mines, under Docket No. AR-41-Access Road. As a result of their examination, an access road costing $12,000.00 was approved but a change in the specifications by the Forest Service increased the expenditures for the same to $20,000.00.

(3) The property was re-examined June 9-10, 1953, by Jacques F. Robertson, Geological Survey, at the request of DMEA. Mr. Robertson recommended the subject application be denied.

(4) The exposed scheelite deposits are in a few, erratically distributed, tiny lenses, 2 to 4 inches wide by, at most, 3 feet long in sheared and altered granodiorite. Three of these lenses were exposed in the 370 feet of workings at the Locarno tungsten mine.

R.C.J. 8-12-53

FILE COPY
SURNAME:

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

(5) The Field Team recommends denial of the subject application.

(6) The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in the denial.

SIGNED

W. S. Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

FARutledge:foc
8-6-53

cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File

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

August 6, 1953

Memorandum

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of exploration project in the amount of $4,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten mine
Kern County, California

The denial of the subject application by this Division is based on the following information:

(1) The applicant proposed to drive 250 to 300 feet of drift from the northeast face of the main workings on the tungsten prospect followed by crosscutting to the northwest for 100 feet at an estimated cost of $10.00 per foot.

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Note:
Curious to know who certified Access Road & upon what justification! M

(5) The Field Team recommends denial of the subject application.

(6) The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in the denial.

W S Martin

W. S. Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

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

Docket
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
RECEIVED
JUL 27 1953

1012 Flood Bldg.
870 Market Street
San Francisco 2, Calif.

July 23, 1953

WSM

Memorandum

To: George C. Selfridge, Chairman, Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III

Subject: Docket DMEA-3024 - Tungsten
N. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine, Kern County, Calif.

Reference is to the request, dated May 20, 1953, by Mr. W. S. Martin, Acting Chairman, Operating Committee, for a field examination of the Locarno Tungsten Mine.

The mine has now been examined and four copies of a report entitled "DMEA-3024, Locarno Tungsten Prospect, Kern County, Calif.," by Jacques F. Robertson, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, dated July 16, 1953, are attached.

In line with the geologist's conclusions, Mr. Bailey and I agree that no DMEA loan should be granted to explore the Locarno prospect.

H. C. Miller
Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team
Region III

Attachment

Copy to: A. C. Johnson, Reno (With copy of report)
E. H. Bailey, USGS

Cleared OP
8-3-53

RECEIVED
JULY 1953

8/12/53

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, D. MCKAY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION III

DMEA-3024, Locarno tungsten prospect

Kern County, California

(Tungsten)

Jacques F. Robertson, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

July 16, 1953

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-3-53
(date)

Locarno Tungsten Prospect
Kern County, California

Jacques F. Robertson

Summary and Conclusions

Mr. N. V. Franceschi, owner of the Locarno tungsten prospect, DMEA 3024, Kern County, California has applied for a government loan under the DMEA program to assist in exploring for scheelite-bearing veins. The prospect lies in granodiorite that is transected by a set of northeast trending fault zones that carry minor scheelite. Locally, small concentrations of scheelite have been found in the eluvial mantle. The 370 feet of workings explore two parallel faults that strike N. 55° E. and bound a 25 foot wide zone of sheared and altered granodiorite. The proposed work consists of driving 250 to 300 feet of drift from the northeast face of the main workings and cross cut 100 feet to northwest, at a cost of $10 per foot or a total of about $4,000.

Not enough scheelite can reasonably be expected to be uncovered to warrant exploration of the Locarno tungsten prospect under the DMEA program. The exposed scheelite deposits are in a few, erratically distributed, tiny lenses, 2-4 inches wide by, at most, 3 feet long in sheared and altered granodiorite. In all probability the same type of spotty occurrence would be found by extending the workings, but not enough could be mined to justify the exploration cost. Traces of scheelite occur in the eluvial mantle, but not in sufficient concentrations to justify placer mining.

It is recommended that no DMEA loan be granted to explore the Locarno tungsten prospect.

Introduction

The Locarno mine tungsten prospect, DMEA 3024, Kern County, California, was examined at the request of H. C. Miller, Executive Officer for DMEA, Region III, by J. F. Robertson of the U. S. Geological Survey the evening of June 9 and during the day of June 10, 1953. N. V. Franceschi, the owner and applicant for government assistance, accompanied the geologist on the examination. Dr. A. L. Bennett, research physicist for the U. S. Navy at China Lake, California, was present part of the time. Outcrops, mainly in new road cuts and pits, were inspected with ultra-violet lamp at night, and the surface and underground were visited and mapped during the day. One sample was taken from the scheelite-bearing eluvial deposit, and assayed for tungsten by the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Reno, Nevada.

The Locarno property was previously examined by U. S. Bureau of Mines engineers R. R. Trengove and B. H. Sheahan on June 12, 1951 in regard to an application for a 2 mile access road. The road was approved, and was constructed by the U. S. Forest Service in the fall of 1952 at a cost of $20,000. Franceschi applied for a DMEA loan for some exploratory work on May 7, 1953.

Location, Access, and General Description

The Locarno mine is located on 97 acres of patented land in the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 21, T. 29 S., R. 34 E., MDB & M., Mojave 30 minute quadrangle, in Kern County, California. It is within but near the south boundary of the Sequoia National Forest, in the Piute Mountains. Most of the mine property is on the SE flank of a prominent spur between 6300 to 6800 feet elevation above sea level.

With the new access road, the property can be reached from Bakersfield by automobile via Caliente, a distance of 55.5 miles. The route from Bakersfield follows the Tehachapi Pass highway U. S. 466 for 22 miles to southeast. From this point a fair paved road to north and east is followed for 25.5 miles to the Piute ranch, by way of Caliente, Paris-Loraine, and the Sand Canyon Store. A one way, winding dirt road from the Piute ranch is followed for 8 miles to the Locarno mine. The last 2$\frac{1}{4}$ miles of newly constructed road has many sharp switchbacks that require backing and turning. The switchback turns should be enlarged, and large boulders and sluff from cut banks must be cleared before the road can be used extensively for hauling. According to Mr. Franceschi, the property is now accessible throughout most of the winter season, because the new road is on the south flank and in the lee of the main ridges of the Piute Mountains. The nearest railroad is the Southern Pacific line at Caliente, 29 miles from the property.

The camp and mill are supplied the year around with water from nearby springs. At present the property is not served by electricity, but it is equipped with a telephone. Timber may be cut on the property to satisfy the mine and fuel needs, but it is easier and no less expensive to haul in already cut lumber required for building or mining.

The Locarno is essentially a gold property consisting of adits and mine workings at several altitudes. Tungsten, in the mineral scheelite, occurs as a minor constituent in the gold veins. The greatest amount of scheelite uncovered on the property is at the southern-most and lowest workings, which are the subject of the operator's loan application. It is referred to, hereinafter, as the "Locarno tungsten prospect," to distinguish it from the upper workings of the Locarno gold mine.

Half a mile to the north of the Locarno property is the Gwynne mine, belonging to the Geringer Bros. It has produced considerable gold from northeast-trending quartz veins in granodiorite. To the south of the Locarno mine half a mile is the Simon mine owned by Mr. Franceschi. It has produced some scheelite that was hand sorted, then milled at Atolia. The Simon mine is not being operated at the present time.

Mine Workings

The upper workings of the Locarno mine have been extensively mined for gold and are partly accessible. Little gold mining has been done on the property since before World War II. Examination of the upper workings disclosed a number of very small pockets of scheelite that could hardly be considered more than traces. Some scheelite is reported to have been recovered from surface concentrations in the soil. Several shallow pits are scattered about near the upper workings, but only a few specks of scheelite were observed in these prospects. The mine camp is situated near the upper mine workings.

The tungsten prospect is 800 to 1000 feet south of, and over 300 feet lower in altitude than, the mine camp. It is reached via the newly constructed access road, which, except for one switchback, is not shown on the attached map. The surface at the tungsten prospect is steep, with a slope of 30° or more, and is covered by a 3 to 5 feet mantle of loose rock and soil. Road cuts expose the bedrock; except for that, granodiorite in place cannot be distinguished from huge rounded boulders that have slid from above.

The soil, which contains traces of scheelite, has been prospected by pits and a small trench. One or two minor concentrations of scheelite have been found in the eluvial material, and two adits have been driven to explore the underlying rock for scheelite veins. The main adit is driven on a northerly heading for 130 feet, with 180 feet of drifting along a NE-trending hanging wall fault of a wide shear zone. A 30 foot crosscut off the drift to north explores

the shear zone. There are no stopes. The other adit is 350 feet to north, at the switchback in the road. It explores a northeast-trending fault for about 40 feet.

Geology

The Locarno mine occurs within the Isabella granodiorite mass that is part of the Sierra Nevada batholithic complex. All the mine workings are developed along a set of major northeast trending fault zones. Along some of them gold quartz veins have been formed. The granodiorite country rock is very fresh except adjacent to and within the fault zones where it is considerably altered.

The main adit of the Locarno tungsten prospect passes through fresh granodiorite and penetrates a zone of sheared and broken granodiorite 90 feet from the portal. The zone is 25 feet wide, strikes N. 55° E., and is bounded on the hanging wall side by a well defined fault that dips 60° south. The footwall side is less well defined by a fault that dips about 40° south and appears, with flattening of dip, to converge with the hanging wall fault in the southwest end of the workings. The main drift follows the hanging wall fault for 180 feet along the strike.

Within the sheared and broken zone the granodiorite is extensively altered, with development of clay minerals and sericite. Locally, it is also silicified. The rock is limonite stained throughout from alteration of biotite and other mafic minerals. Stringers and lenses of quartz, from less than an inch to 3-4 inches thick, occur in the zone, but they are only a few feet long and are erratically distributed.

Only three tiny pods of disseminated scheelite were seen in the sheared and altered zone. One spot, exposed in the southwest drift at the back, is 2 to 3 inches wide and a foot long, and is estimated to contain about 2 per cent WO_3. The second and third spots are in the northeast drift and in the crosscut. Each is 2-4 inches wide and 1-2 feet long, and is estimated to contain 0.2 per cent or less WO_3. No samples from these occurrences were taken because the samples would have constituted the total amount of scheelite showing, and would not have represented any potential production. Mr. Franceschi pointed out the location where a similar pod of scheelite had been mined out. Sample No. 5, taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers during the examination for the access road, came from this pod.

In the small adit just north of the switchback on the tungsten prospect, the altered and broken granodiorite is exposed in a N. 55° E. trending fault. A very small lens of scheelite was exposed at the face of this adit when examined earlier by the Bureau of Mines engineers, but it has since been removed. Sample No. 4 came from this lens. The fault exposed in the upper adit may be the up dip continuation of the footwall fault noted in the lower adit. The road cut between the two adits exposes some shear planes in altered granodiorite, which suggests the outcropping of the broken zone exposed in the lower adit.

The eluvial mantle on the tungsten prospect contains traces of scheelite derived from erosion of veins. Locally, small concentrations of scheelite have been found in the soil and prospecting has been carried on for larger placer concentrations. The 17 foot long trench located above the main adit contains one or two small concentrations,

but composite sample No. 6 taken by the writer from along the length of the trench assayed only 0.04 per cent WO_3. Listed below are assays of samples 1 to 5 taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers and sample No. 6 taken by the writer. The locations are shown on the map (fig. 1):

Sample No.	% WO_3	Oz. Au/T	Oz. Ag/T
1	0.15	0.08	0.20
2	4.65	0.01	0.20
3	0.51	0.035	0.15
4	0.93	0.01	0.10
5	1.56	0.035	0.25
6	0.04		

The assays of samples 1 to 5 taken by the Bureau of Mines engineers give a false impression of the values that may be expected from the deposit. The samples are from the tiny lenses of disseminated scheelite, which in no way represent continuous mineralization in well defined patterns. Every sample is from a lens that would probably yield less than 30 pounds of scheelite-bearing rock. The Bureau of Mines engineers list 50 units WO_3 measured reserves in the workings of the tungsten prospect, but this figure is without substantiation. No measurable reserve of scheelite ore was observed by this writer.

Equipment

The mine camp has two cabins large enough to accommodate 10 to 15 men comfortably. The cabins are in excellent condition with stoves, kitchen and plumbing facilities, and furniture. Mr. Franceschi owns two pick-up trucks in fair to good condition.

There are two gold mills, one at the Locarno mine and the other at the Simon mine. As reported by the Bureau of Mines engineers, the

Locarno mill "contains a 15 ton gyratory mill, one 15 horsepower Fairbanks Z-type gasoline engine, 3 other small engines, and an 85 cu. ft. compressor."

The lower Simon mill "contains a 3½ foot diameter Huntington mill, an 8" x 12" jaw crusher, one 16 foot Wilfley table, one 20 horsepower Standard marine engine, and amalgam plates. Mr. Franceschi has the necessary equipment, rolls, and tables to convert the gold mills to tungsten mills."

Mr. Franceschi says that he has all the necessary pipe, rails, mine cars, jack hammers, and tools to undertake the proposed underground exploration. Powder, gas and oil, and possibly timber are the only items that would have to be bought.

Proposed Exploration

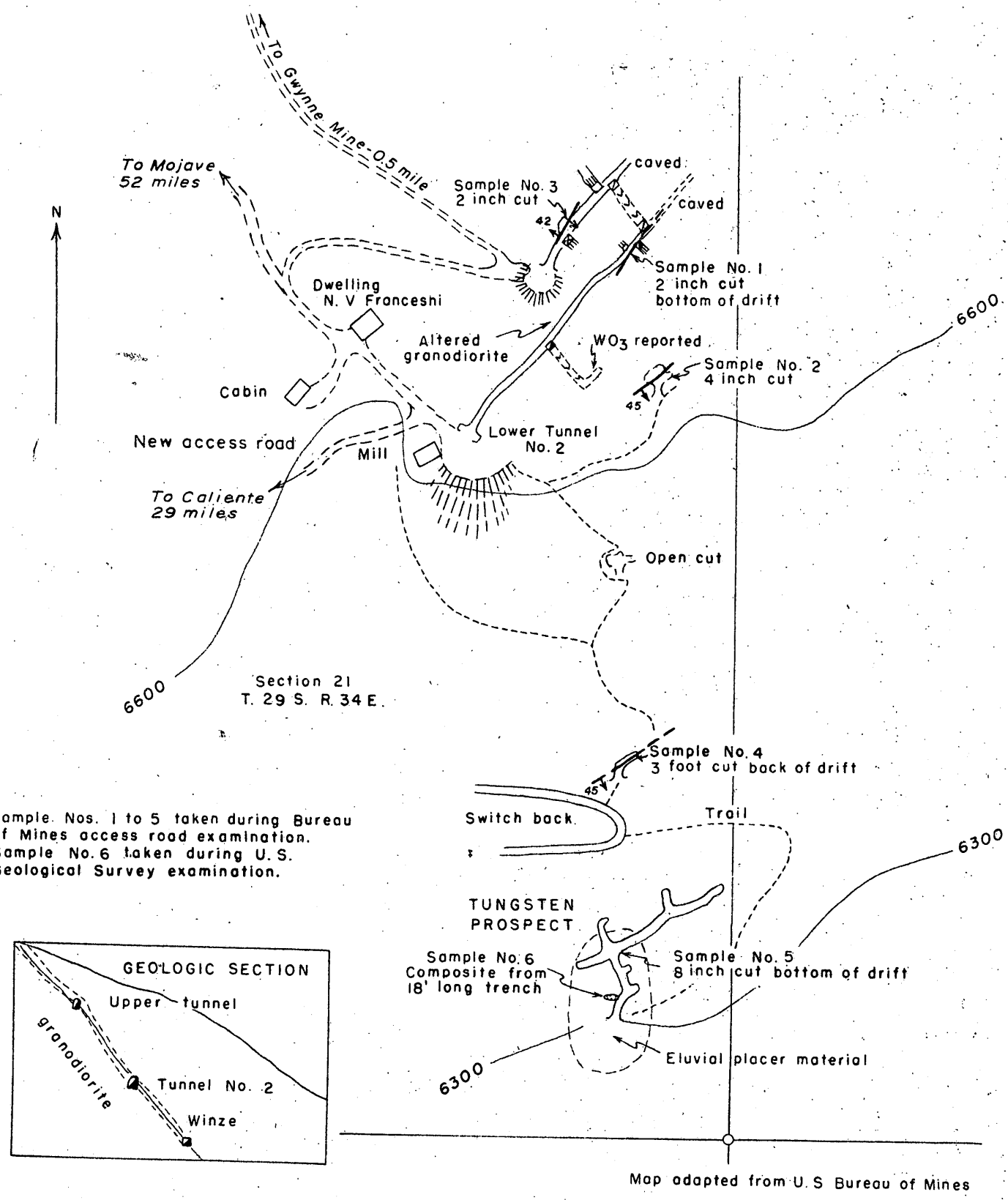
Applicant's proposal

The object of the DMEA loan application is to explore the extension of the broken and altered zone in the main adit of the tungsten prospect. Work proposed consists of extending the main drift for a distance of 250 to 300 feet along the strike of the hanging wall fault, toward the northeast from the present face of the drift, and then crosscut 100 feet northwest from the drift to explore the broken and altered zone and to find scheelite in possible parallel vein structures. Mr. Franceschi is amenable to alternate plans for underground exploration, but considers the total footage of about 400 feet a minimum requirement.

The mining would be undertaken by Mr. Franceschi with a helper at an estimated cost of $10 per foot including equipment, powder, timber, labor at $2 per hour, and contingencies. Work can progress at an average of 6 feet per day. Total cost, on the $10 per foot basis, amounts to about $4,000.

Conclusion

In view of the negligible amount of scheelite uncovered in the tungsten prospect, no exploration of the deposit is warranted. Only a few such tiny pods of scheelite as are already exposed in the workings can be expected by exploring the extension of the shear zone or crosscutting for parallel veins.



Sample Nos. 1 to 5 taken during Bureau of Mines access road examination. Sample No. 6 taken during U.S. Geological Survey examination.

Map adapted from U.S Bureau of Mines

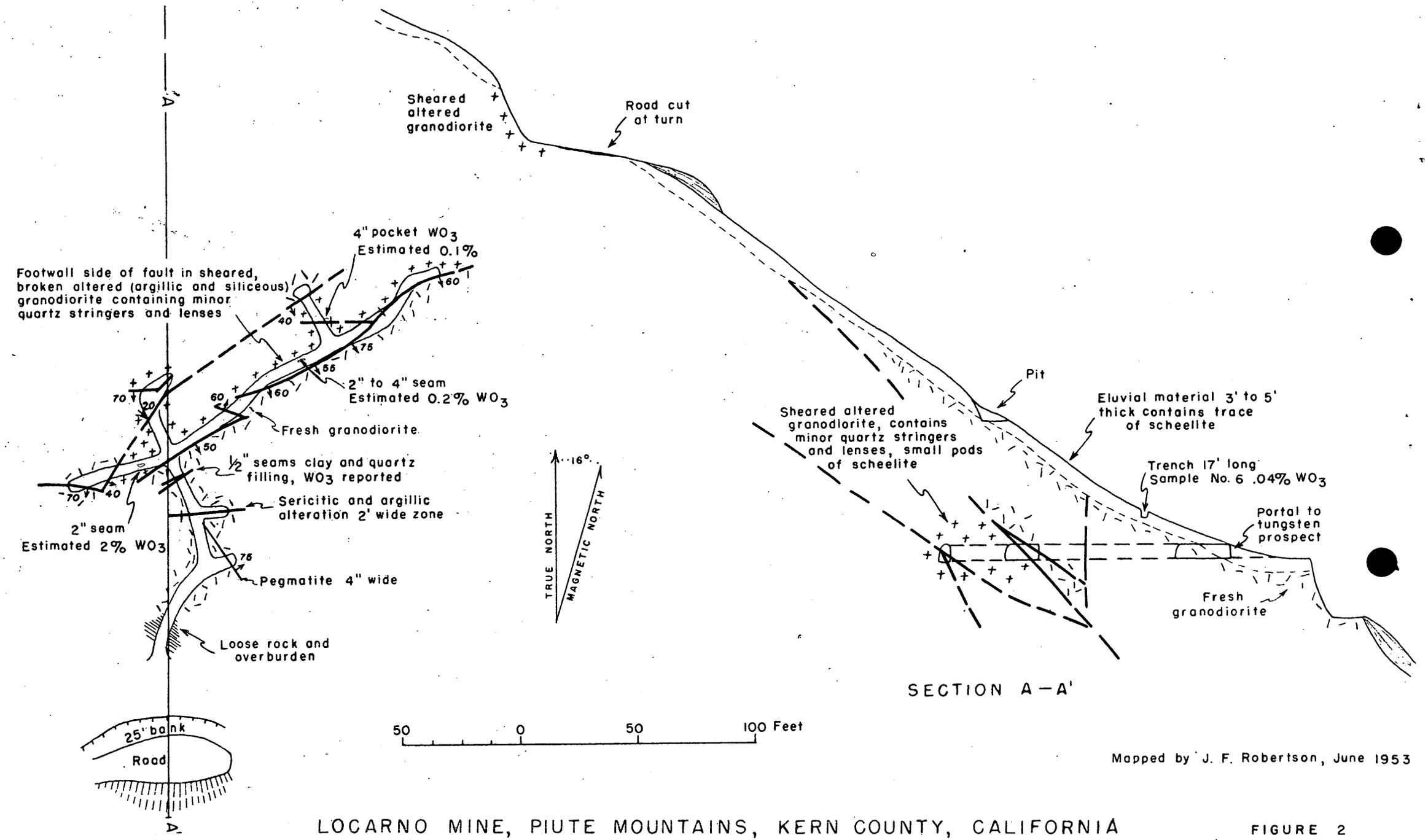
LOCARNO MINE, PIUTE MOUNTAINS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

200 0 200 400 Feet

FIGURE 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DMEA 3024
(TUNGSTEN)



Mapped by J. F. Robertson, June 1953

LOCARNO MINE, PIUTE MOUNTAINS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE 2

FILE COPY
SURNAME:

400

Hopkins
Rutledge
Geehan
Martin
Cutler
Hedges
R Johnson

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

MAY 2 0 1953

Mr. Nello V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
N. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Franceschi:

Your application for exploration assistance at your Locarno Mine in Kern County, California, has been reviewed by the Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA, and has been referred to Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III, 1012 Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco, California for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

Should a field examination be made of the property, any assistance that you can render the examining engineers will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf (for) J.H. 5-20-53

Administrator

JHopkins:foc
5-15-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
FT. Reg. III
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

FILE COPY
SURNAME:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 400
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Hopkins
Rutledge
Geehan
Martin
F. Johnson

MAY 2 0 1953

Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region III
1012 Flood Building
870 Market Street
San Francisco 2, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3024 - Tungsten
N. V. Franceschi
Locarno Tungsten Mine
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Miller:

Reference is made to the subject application for exploration assistance which is being referred to your office for review and for a field examination if warranted.

As this property was examined by engineers of Region III in connection with an application for an access road which was approved and subsequently built, your office may already be in a position to appraise the merits of the exploratory work suggested by the applicant.

The following memorandum has been prepared and is enclosed for your information:

Memorandum by D. M. Lemmon, U.S.G.S. May 15, 1953.

J.N. 5-20-53

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin
ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee (216)

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines (216)

A. R. Kinkel, Jr.
Member, Geological Survey (216)

Enclosure

FARutledge:foo
5-19-53
cc: Docket
Code 400
FT, Reg. III
Adm. Reading File
Oper. Comm.
R. W. Geehan, USBM
D. M. Lemmon, USGS

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:
G-MD-DML

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 15, 1953

Memorandum

WSM

To: W. S. Martin, D.M.E.A.

From: D. M. Lemmon

Subject: Exploration application
Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Mine
Sec. 21, T. 29 S., R. 34 E.
Kern County, California

D.M.E.A. 3024
Tungsten

Proposal:

The applicant requests funds (amount not stated) to drive 250 to 300 feet of drift and 100 feet of crosscut. The location of the proposed work is not shown on the map or adequately described.

The property was examined June 19, 1951 by Ben H. Sheahan and Russell R. Trengove in connection with an application for an access road, which was approved. This road was subsequently built at a cost of $20,000.

Recommendation:

Although the information in the files of the Geological Survey and that presented by the applicant are not very encouraging, I suggest that the application be referred to the Field Team for further appraisal.

D. M. Lemmon

D. M. Lemmon

Copy retained 400

May 7, 1953

Mr. Nello V. Franceschi
325 5th Avenue
Venice, California

DMEA-3024
Subject: Exploration Assistance
Re: Locarno Mine

My dear Mr. Franceschi:

The receipt of your application dated April 27, 1953 for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-3024 and referred to the Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division.

Kindly refer to DMEA-3024 in any future correspondence relating to your application.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. ADAMS
Robert E. Adams
Chief, Operation's Control
and Statistics Division

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

400

May 6, 1953

MEMORANDUM

To: R. E. Adams, Chief, Oper. Control and Statistics Division

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Subject: Application for Exploration Aid - Tungsten
Mr. N. V. Franceschi
325 - 5th Avenue
Venice, California
Locarno Tungsten Mine, Kern County, California

Reference is made to a copy of cited application, geologic map of Locarno Mining property and letter dated April 27, 1953, from the applicant which were forwarded to this Division for review before being docketed.

The following information relative to the Locarno Mine has been developed through contact with the Mining Requirements Division, DMPA.

Under date of May 30, 1951, Mr. N. V. Franceschi, owner of the Locarno Tungsten Mine, filed an application for an Access Road with the Defense Minerals Administration, Department of the Interior. This application was assigned Docket No. AR-41, and resulted in an examination of the property by Russell R. Trengove and Benjamin H. Sheahan, Mining Engineers of Region III. Based on their report dated July 5, 1951, it was concluded that there is sufficient indication of tungsten ore to warrant the construction of an access road.

After an investigation of the proposed road by the Bureau of Public Roads and certified as being important to the national defense by DMEA, the project was approved to cost $12,000.00.

It was learned that the original program and specifications set up by the Bureau of Public Roads was materially changed by the Forest Service who requested and received an additional $8,000.00 bringing the total cost to $20,000.00.

In a letter to the Mining Requirements Division, DMEA, dated March 13, 1953, Mr. N. V. Franceschi states, "The Engineers sampled the property and O.K'd the road. The National Forest Service Department of Porterville, Calif. took the contract to build said road. After spending about $20,000.00, December 15, 1952, they moved the road crew out, the road is through alright but not quite passable for any of the smaller trucks to haul this tungsten ore 1½ miles to the mill. A small amount will finish this project".

Additional copies of the application(Form MF-103), geologic map and applicant's letter have been made and are attached herewith. The copies of geologic map are photostats of map prepared by Messrs. Trengove and Sheahan for their report.

W S Martin

W. S. Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Attachments

FILE COPY
SURNAME:

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

400

Hopkins
Martin

May 6, 1953

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From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

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W. S. Martin, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Attachments

JHopkins:foc
5-6-53

cc: Docket
Adm. Reading File
Code 400
Field Team, Reg. 3

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

Form Approved.
Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.2.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAY 4 1953

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

Not to be filled in by applicant

Docket No. DMEA-3024
Metal or Mineral
Date Received 5/4/53
Estimated Cost
Participation (Government %)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Name of applicant.*—(*a*) State here your full legal name, in the form in which you will wish to contract, and your mailing address: Nello V. Franceschi
Locarno Mine
325 5th Ave
Venice Calif.

(*b*) If other than an individual, add to your name above whether a corporation, partnership, etc., and the name of the State in which incorporated or otherwise organized.

(*c*) If a corporation, add to above statement, titles, names and addresses of officers.

(*d*) If a partnership, add to the above statement the names and addresses of all partners.

2. *General.*—Read DMEA Order 1, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects," before completing this application. Submit this application and all accompanying papers in quadruplicate (four copies), with your name and address on each sheet of the application and on all accompanying papers. Where sufficient space is not provided on the form for all required information, state it on an accompanying paper, with a reference in each case to the instruction to which it refers by number. Comply with all applicable instructions; or, if not applicable, so state. File the application with Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest field executive officer thereof.

3. *Applicant's property rights.*—(*a*) State the legal description of the land upon which you wish to explore, including all land which you possess or control that may be benefited by the exploration, and excluding any land or interest in land which is not to be included in the exploration project contract Patented 97 Acres SE ¼ Sec 21, T29, S.R.34 M.D.M. Kern County Calif.

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. Locarno Mine

(*c*) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise Owner

(*d*) If you are not the owner, submit with this application a copy of the lease, contract, or other document under which you control the property.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it Balance to partner $3,000.00 Due Dec. 30 1956

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice.

4. *Physical description.*—(*a*) Describe in detail any mining or exploration operations which have been or now are being conducted upon the land, including existing mine workings and production facilities. State your interest, if any, in such operations. Also describe accessibility of mine workings for examination purposes.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades.

(*c*) Describe the geologic features of the property, including mineralization, type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.), and your reasons for wishing to explore. Illustrate with maps or sketches. Send with your application (but not necessarily as a part of it) any geologic or engineering report, assay maps, or other technologic information you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points.

(*e*) State the availability of manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water, and power.

5. *The exploration project.*—(*a*) [redacted]e the mineral or minerals for which you wi[redacted] explore Tungsten Sheelite

(*b*) Describe fully the proposed work, including a map or sketch of the property showing a plan (and cross sections if needed) of any present mine workings, and the location of the proposed exploration work as related to such features as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc.

(*c*) The work will start within 60 days and be completed within 12 months from the date of an exploration project contract.

(*d*) State the operating experience and background of the applicant with relation to the ability to carry out such exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of costs.*—Furnish a detailed estimate of the costs of the proposed work (you will have to use a separate sheet), under the following headings. Add the totals under all headings to give the estimated total cost of the project:

(*a*) *Independent contracts.*—(Note.—If the applicant does not intend to let any of the work to contractors, write "none" after this item. To the extent that the work is to be contracted, do not repeat the cost of the contract-work in subsequent items.) State the cost of any proposed independent contracts for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in terms of units of work (such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved, etc.).

(*b*) *Labor, supervision, consultants.*—Include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes and rates of wages, salaries or fees for necessary labor, supervision and engineering and geological consultants.

(*c*) *Operating materials and supplies.*—Furnish an itemized list, including items of equipment costing less than $50 each, and power, water and fuel.

(*d*) *Operating equipment.*—Furnish an itemized list of any operating equipment to be rented, purchased, or which is owned and will be furnished by the Operator, with the estimated rental, purchase price, or suggested use-allowance based on present value, as the case may be.

(*e*) *Rehabilitation and repairs.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary initial rehabilitation or repairs of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and movable operating equipment, now owned by the Operator and which will be devoted to the exploration project.

(*f*) *New buildings, improvements, installations.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary buildings, fixed improvements, or installations to be purchased, installed or constructed for the benefit of the exploration project.

(*g*) *Miscellaneous.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of repairs to and maintenance of operating equipment (not including initial rehabilitation or repairs of the Operator's equipment), analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employers' liability insurance, and payroll taxes.

(*h*) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above.

NOTE.—No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. (*a*) Are you prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 7, DMEA No. 1)?

(*b*) How do you propose to furnish your share of the costs?

☐ Money ☒ Use of equipment owned by you ☐ Other

Explain in detail on acompanying paper.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated April 27, 1953

Nello V Franceschi
(Applicant)

By

Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), Section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—66551-1

April 27, 1953

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Geological Map, showing Tungsten Deposits, also Access Road, for which the Government appropriated $20,000.00 for the said project; also another 3/4th mile of road which I built at my own expense, to make easier access to my property. This property borders on the South side of the Gwynne Mine.

My property consists of four (4) veins: 2 gold veins Northeast and Southwesterly direction, and one in North and South direction, consisting of tungsten and gold; another parallel vein about 6 ft. wide in Northerly direction, which carries tungsten. All these veins seem to come together on my property.

I have been mining and milling gold ore up to the closing of the gold mines by Order 228. Several years in defense work put me behind in my mining operations.

My development work on the property consists of three (3) tunnels; two are 500 ft. each, with 120 ft. raise and 100 ft. shaft (which caved in during the shut-down. 150 ft. tunnel and cross cut on the North and South vein show for 28 ft. wide of mixed ore, which carries tungsten. A parallel vein about 100 ft. distant, 8 ft. wide carr ies tungsten. All these veins have been traced and proved by trenches up hill for about 2,000 feet.

My forty (40) years experience in mining and milling is considered excellent. I intend to do this work by myself, with another man as helper. The property is well equipped with machinery, good living quarters, good roads and water. Machinery consists of 18-ton mill, 3 gasoline motors, 2 concentrating tables, pipes, jack hammer, compressor, drills, truck and pick-up,etc. also rails, muck cars, forge, water pump, water tanks and miscellaneous items.

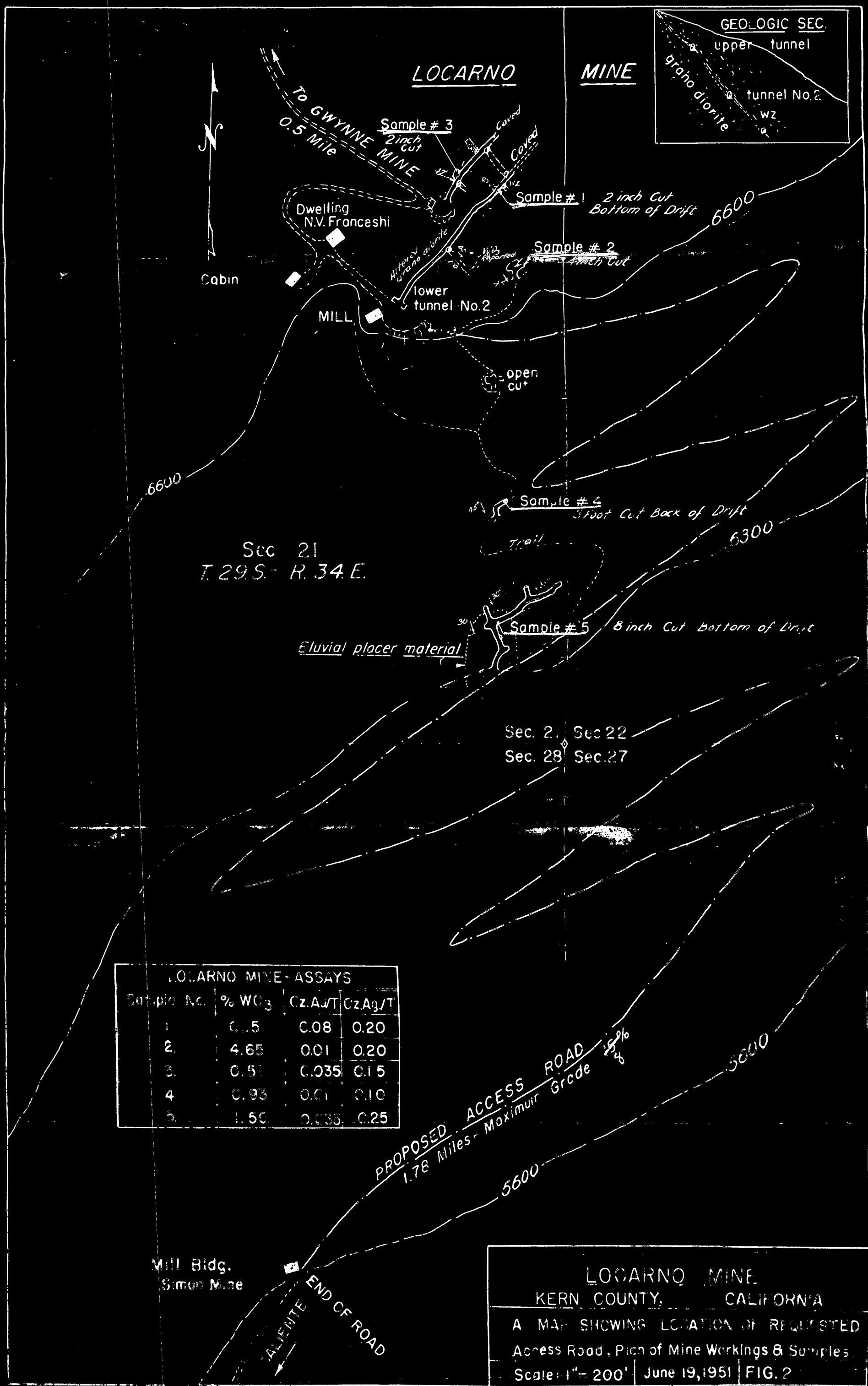
There is an alluvion deposit of tungsten (which you can see on the map) and in which I judge there must be about 6,000 to 10,000 tons, and seems to carry $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% in general. I have shipped some high grade picked ore from this deposit.

The object of this loan is to drive a tunnel ahead 250 to 300 feet and 100 feet cross cut on the parallel vein to develop and block ore to warrant installing a large mill.

Very truly yours,

Nello V. Franceschi

N. V. Franceschi
325 --5th Avenue
Venice, California



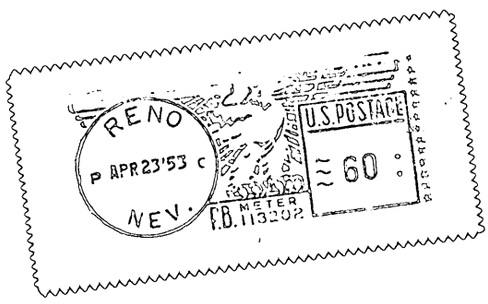
LOCARNO MINE - ASSAYS

Sample No.	% WO_3	Oz. Au/T	Oz. Ag/T
1	0.15	0.08	0.20
2	4.65	0.01	0.20
3	0.51	0.035	0.15
4	0.93	0.01	0.10
5	1.56	0.035	0.25

LOCARNO MINE
KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
A MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF REQUESTED
Access Road, Plan of Mine Workings & Samples
Scale: 1" = 200' | June 19, 1951 | FIG. 2

MR. C. C. MITTENDORF, ADMINISTRATOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

First Class



DMEA-302K

No. 98 Bull Dog CLASPS 10x15
Field-Ernst Envelope Co., Makers
San Francisco