DMA Form 1

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
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DMA Docket No. 3298

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Exploration Assistance

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1 ea. to USBM, USGS, & Reg.

Routing Slip

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CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

3298

JUL 12 1954

Mr. Carroll Skaggs
Century Mining Company
Box 214
Plymouth, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3298 - Manganese
Inbenko Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington relating to the above named property 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 small amounts of manganese mineralization on your property, 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, under the circumstances, that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf
Administrator

JHopkins:foc
7-6-54
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. Reg. 3
Gilbert DeHuff, USBM
Louis Pavlides, USGS

MEMORANDUM

July 7, 1954

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Subject: Denial of application for exploration assistance
Docket No. DMEA 3298 - Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

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

The Lubenko mine area is underlain by mica schist probably of the Calaveras formation of Carboniferous age, containing three interbedded layers of quartzite (meta chert?). The metamorphic rocks are cut by quartz veinlets as much as 6 inches wide and by fractures with all attitudes.

The primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite. They are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite. Lenses range from a few inches to as much as 18 inches in width and several feet in length.

Development work on the property consists of three pits: (1) The East pit, (2) the Middle pit, and (3) the West pit.

The East pit consists of two open cuts in quartzite. No ore-in-place is revealed in the Main cut. An irregular lens of Oxide ore 18 inches thick and 5 feet long is revealed in the other cut. Fragments left in the pit assayed 24 percent Mn.

The Middle pit contains a bed of quartzite 10 to 15 feet thick. It is estimated that this pit may have yielded a few hundred pounds of manganese oxide ore.

In the West pit a quartzite bed 10 feet wide has been revealed along the strike for 50 feet and about 15 feet down the dip. Samples across two quartzite layers in the west end of the pit averaged 17 percent Mn.

Total production from the property is reported to have been 15 tons averaging 53 percent manganese, most of which came from the East pit.

A few hundred pounds of measured ore can be obtained from the West pit and Upper east pit. A few tons of indicated ore may be found along the strike of these ore bodies as extensions of the measured ore.

The examining engineer and geologist conclude that the secondary ores derived from incomplete oxidation of a primary rhodonite ore occurring in small lenses near the surface are too small and contain too much silica to be mined profitably. They, therefore, recommend that the application be denied. The Field Team concurs.

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

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron & Ferro-Alloys Division

JHopkins:foc
7-6-54
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.

400

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

420 Custom House
555 Battery Street
San Francisco 11, Calif.

June 24, 1954

WSM

Memorandum

To: George C. Selfridge, Chairman, Operating Committee, DMEA
Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3298 - Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Reference is made to your letter dated April 21, 1954, requesting a field examination of the above-docketed property.

The property was examined in May 1954, and there are attached four copies of an examination report entitled "DMEA-3298, Lubenko Mine, Amador County, California, (Manganese)," by R. R. Trengove, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and R. M. Smith, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, dated June 10, 1954.

According to the examining engineer and geologist, the primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite; they are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite. However, there is not sufficient showing of psilomelane and pyrolusite that would make the property commercial. They have recommended that no further work is warranted by use of Government funds.

I concur with their recommendations.

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

Attachment

Copy to: Roscoe Smith, USGS
A. C. Johnson, Reno

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION III

DMEA-3298, Lubenko Mine

Amador County, California

(Manganese)

R. R. Trengove, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

R. M. Smith, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

June 10, 1954

EXAMINATION REPORT

Docket No.: DMEA-1296 (Manganese)

Name and address of applicant: Century Mining Co.,
Carroll Skaggs
P. O. Box 214
Plymouth, Calif.

Name and location of property: Lubenko Mine, 4 miles southeast of Fiddletown, Amador County, Calif.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An engineer of the Bureau of Mines and a geologist of the Geological Survey made a joint examination of the Lubenko Mine in May 1954. The property is situated about four miles southeast of Fiddletown, California (fig. 1). The purpose of the examination was to determine if the geological conditions and the grade of mineralization were favorable to justify approval of an application for a Government loan. The total estimated cost of the proposed exploration is $4,395.00 per month or $26,370 for a 6-month period.

The application was dated April 1, 1954. The work proposed was the stripping of an area 100 by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet on a steep mountain side.

As primary rhodonite occurs consistently within a few feet of the surface, it is evident that oxidation of the primary ore has been neither uniform nor complete and, therefore, secondary ores can be expected either to contain much silica (rhodonite) or to occur in dis-

continuous lenses. These are too small to mine profitably because of the small size of the primary deposit.

It is recommended that the application be denied.

INTRODUCTION

An application for a Government loan under sec. 202 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 was made by Carroll Skaggs for the Century Mining Co. on April 1, 1954. An engineer of the Bureau of Mines and a geologist of the Geological Survey made a joint examination of the property in May 1954. They were accompanied by the applicant, Carroll Skaggs, Plymouth, Calif.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The manganese occurs on deeded land (160 acres) owned by Louis Lubenko, Fiddletown, Calif. He will furnish a lease to the Century Mining Co. providing the application for the Government loan is approved. The partnership in the Century Mining Co. consists of Carroll Skaggs, Box 214, Plymouth, Calif., Don S. Skaggs and W. R. Nilberger both of Plymouth, Calif. and Frank E. Costa, Tracy, Calif.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The Lubanko Prospect (misspelled) is described in Bull. 152, p. 31, State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mines, "Geologic Description of the Manganese Deposits of California". However, this description does not agree with conditions found upon the property. The location in section 10, the geology and the mine workings

differ.

The property was prospected during World War II. A few truck loads of ore were said to have been hauled from the property by J. T. Stacy and sold as part of a shipment of 30 tons from Stirmanman prospect. They are reported to average 52 percent manganese, 3.0 percent iron, and 4.5 percent silica.

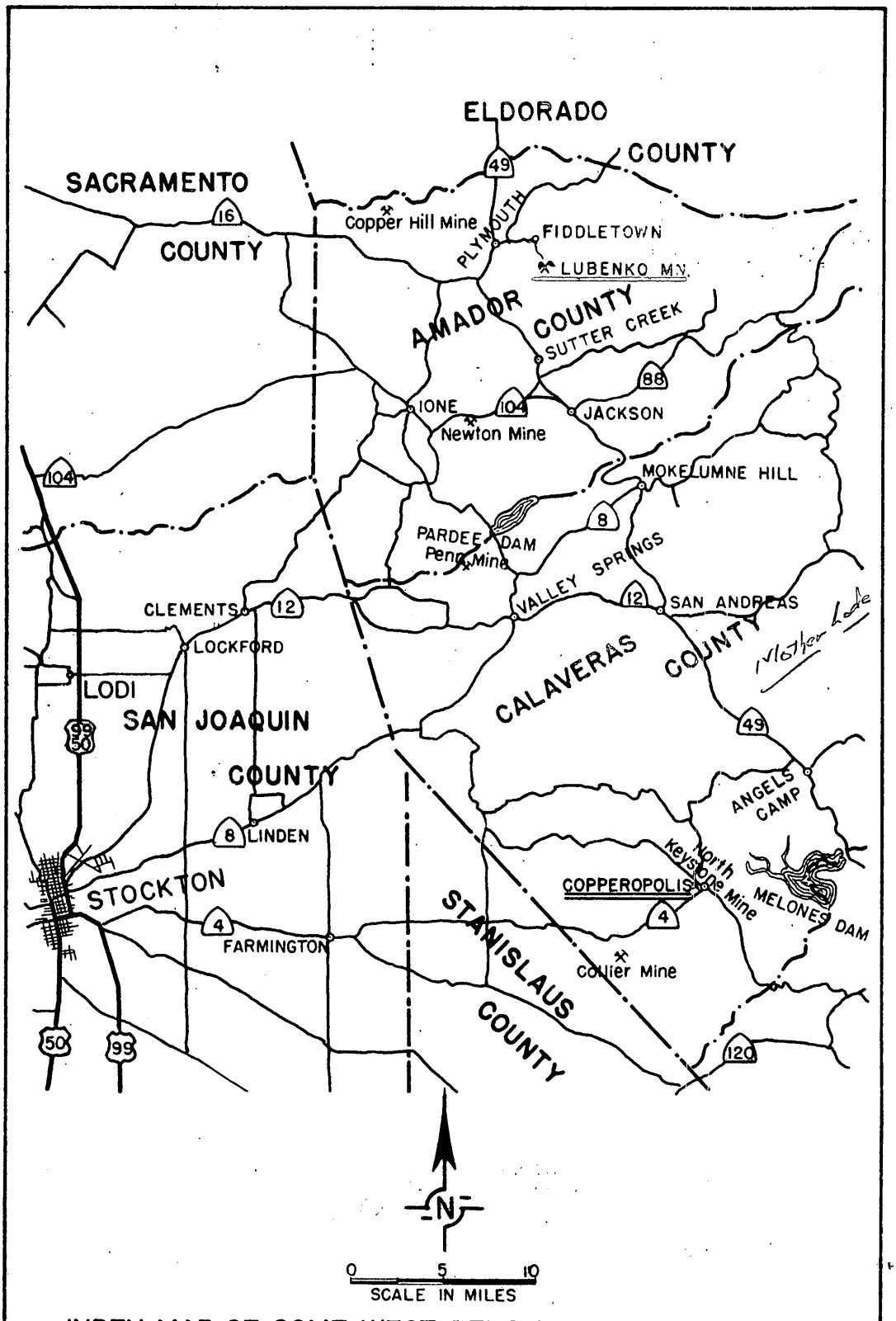
The applicant stated in his application that three weight certificates of ore shipped were enclosed with the application. These were not made available to the engineer and geologist. However, the owner, Mr. Lubenko, stated that three truck loads of 5 tons each of hand-sorted ore were shipped, most of which came from the East pit. The total of 15 tons is said to have assayed 53 percent manganese.

No work has been done on the property since World War II.

LOCATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

The property is in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 of sec. 10, T. 7 N., R. 11 E., M.D.B.&M. (fig. 1). To reach the property, turn south from Fiddletown, California and follow Lymans Alder Grove Ranch dirt road, past the ranch to Lubenko's ranch, a distance of about 4 miles. The nearest source of water is Deadman's creek which traverses the property. The manganese deposit is on the south slope of the mountain at an altitude of 1400 feet and about 1/4 mile walk from Deadman's creek.

Vegetation consists of grasses, live oak and a few pine trees.



INDEX MAP OF SOME WEST-BELT COPPER-ZINC MINES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIG. 1 LOCATION MAP

GEOLOGY

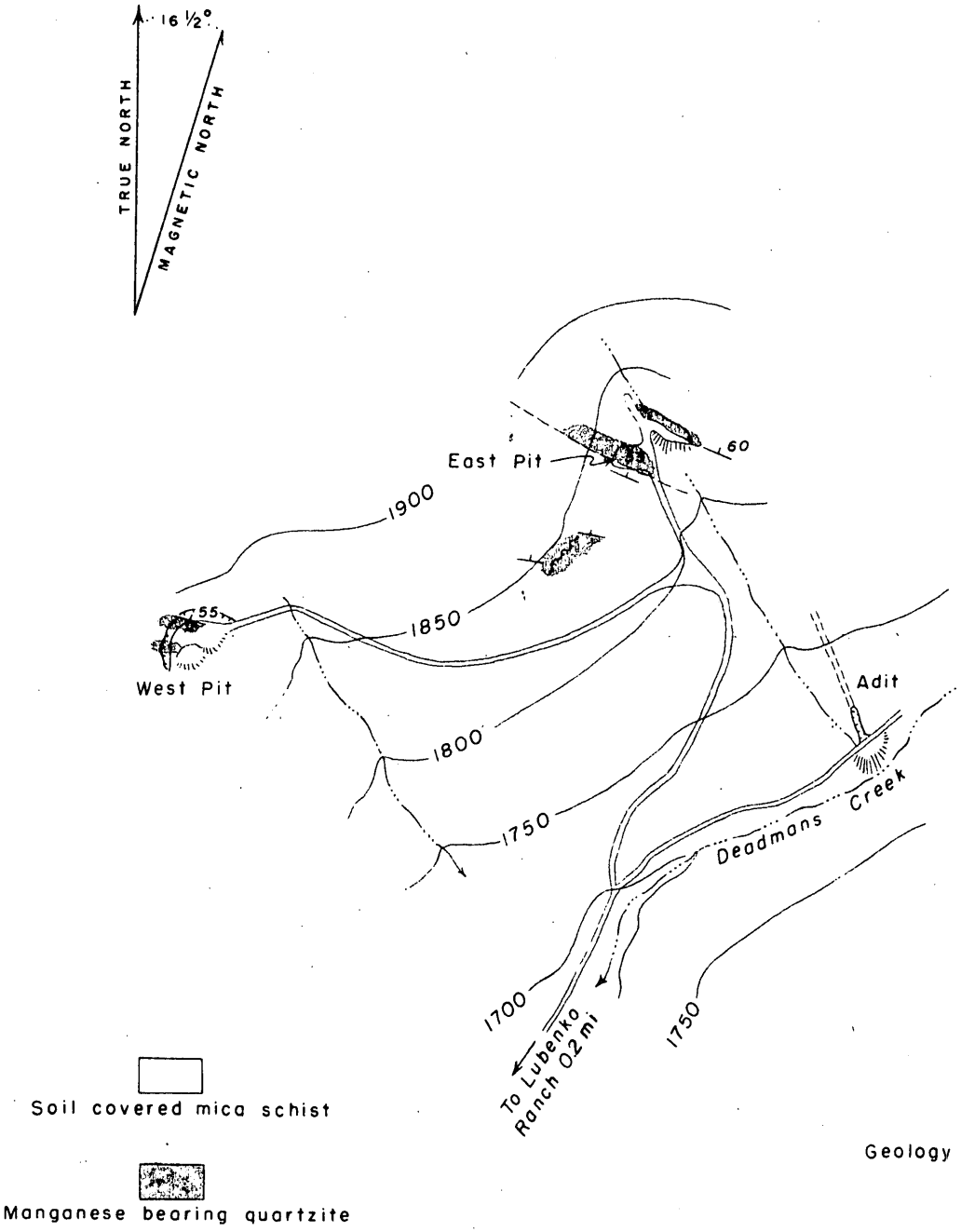
The mine area is underlain by mica schist, probably of the Calaveras formation of Carboniferous age, containing three interbedded layers of quartzite (meta chert?) that strike N. 70-80 W. and dip 50-60° northeast. The metamorphic rocks are cut by quartz veinlets as much as 6 inches wide and by fractures with all attitudes.

ORE DEPOSITS

The primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite; they are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite which occur in pods around unoxidized remnants of rhodonite and also occur as lenses in fractures cutting the quartzite. Lenses range from a few inches to as much as 18 inches in width and several feet in length.

Development consists of three pits: (1) The East pit, (2) the Middle pit, and (3) the West pit (fig. 2).

The East pit consists of two open cuts in quartzite, the Main cut and the Upper east cut. No ore-in-place is revealed in the Main cut but a selected sample of ore fragments remaining in the pit assayed 24 percent Mn. Mixed rhodonite and rhodochrosite surrounded by black oxides were found in the fragments on the dump. Up the slope 35 feet, N. 35° E. from the Main cut is the Upper east cut, where one irregular lens of oxide ore 18 inches thick and 5 feet long is revealed. The Upper



Geology by R. M. Smith, 1954

LUBENKO MINE, AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

200 0 200 400 FEET

FIGURE 2

east cut may be in the same quartzite bed as the Main cut; if so, the total thickness of the bed is about 50 feet. This cut is probably the same as the Lubanko prospect described by Ivan F. Wilson[1] altho the reported location and attitudes differ.

In the Middle pit a bed of quartzite 10 to 15 feet thick is poorly exposed in three cuts, each about 4 by 5 by 3 feet deep which may have yielded a few hundred pounds of manganese oxide ore.

In the West pit a quartzite bed 10 feet wide has been revealed for 50 feet along the strike and about 15 feet down the dip. On the dump boulders 4 feet in diameter contain as much as 50 percent rhodonite partly oxidized to manganese oxide. Fragments of psilomelane as much as 16 inches in diameter were observed at this exposure. In the west end of the pit two quartzite layers are exposed that probably are fault blocks of the same bed. Samples across the bed averaged 17 percent Mn.

The applicant reported that the total production from the property amounts to 15 tons of hand picked ore averaging 53 percent, most of which came from the East pit.

ORE RESERVES

A few hundred pounds of measured ore can be obtained from the West pit and Upper east pit. A few tons of indicated ore may be found along the strike of these ore bodies as extensions of the measured ore.

1/ Trask, Parker D., 1950, Manganese deposits of California: California State Div. of Mines, Bull, 152, p. 31.

A few tons of ore may also be inferred, assuming that other pods and lenses will occur along the strike and down the dip from the ore bodies which are exposed. As the primary mineral is principally rhodonite having no sale value, only hand picked black oxides are considered ore.

PROPOSED EXPLORATION

The work proposed was the stripping of an area 100 by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet on a steep mountain side. Most of the excavation would be in solid rock requiring drilling and blasting. The total estimated cost of the proposed exploration is $4,395.00 per month or $26,370 for a six-month period.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As primary rhodonite occurs consistently within a few feet of the surface, it is evident that oxidation of the primary ore has been neither uniform nor complete and, therefore, secondary ores can be expected either to contain much silica (rhodonite) or to occur in discontinuous lenses. These are too small to mine profitably because of the small size of the primary deposit.

It is recommended, therefore, that the application be denied.

APR 21 1954

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 3298-Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Miller:

The above docketed application for exploration assistance is being referred to your office for a field examination of the property.

The applicants have apparently outlined a program for development and production instead of exploration; i.e., open pit stripping of an area 100 feet by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet. During the examination, the examining engineer should explain to the applicants that no costs of work prosecuted primarily for mining or preparation for mining are allowed in Defense Minerals Exploration Administration contracts.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge
Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Larrabee
Member, Geological Survey

cc: DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REG. III
~~XXXXXXXX~~ CODE 400
OPERATING COMMITTEE
ADM. READING FILE
GILBERT DE HUFF, USBM
LOUIS PAVLIDES, USGS
FARutledge/ls 4/20/54

APR 21 1954

Mr. Carrol Skaggs
Century Mining Company
Box 214
Plymouth, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3298-Manganese
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance has been reviewed by the Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III, 1012 Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco 2, California, for a field examination of the property.

Any assistance that you can render the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

CC: DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REG. III
CODE 400
OPER. COMM.
ADM. READ. FILE
GILBERT DE HUFF, USBM
LOUIS PAVLIDES, USGS

FARutledge/ls 4/20/54

400

DOCKET
SURNAME

Ruthly
Martin
Deffy
Newcomb
Guild
Hedges
Selfridge
Yeager

JUL 2 1954

Mr. Carroll Skaggs
Century Mining Company
Box 214
Plymouth, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3298 - Manganese
Lubecke Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington relating to the above named property 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 small amounts of manganese mineralization on your property, 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, under the circumstances, that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JHopkins:foc
7-6-54
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. Reg. 3
Gilbert DeHuff, USBM
Louis Pavlides, USGS

R.C.S.

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

July 7, 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Subject: Denial of application for exploration assistance
Docket No. DMEA 3298 - Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

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

The Lubenko mine area is underlain by mica schist probably of the Calaveras formation of Carboniferous age, containing three interbedded layers of quartzite (meta chert?). The metamorphic rocks are cut by quartz veinlets as much as 6 inches wide and by fractures with all attitudes.

The primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite. They are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite. Lenses range from a few inches to as much as 18 inches in width and several feet in length.

Development work on the property consists of three pits: (1) The East pit, (2) the Middle pit, and (3) the West pit.

The East pit consists of two open cuts in quartzite. No ore-in-place is revealed in the Main cut. An irregular lens of Oxide ore 18 inches thick and 5 feet long is revealed in the other cut. Fragments left in the pit assayed 24 percent Mn.

The Middle pit contains a bed of quartzite 10 to 15 feet thick. It is estimated that this pit may have yielded a few hundred pounds of manganese oxide ore.

In the West pit a quartzite bed 10 feet wide has been revealed along the strike for 50 feet and about 15 feet down the dip. Samples across two quartzite layers in the west end of the pit averaged 17 percent Mn.

Total production from the property is reported to have been 15 tons averaging 53 percent manganese, most of which came from the East pit.

A few hundred pounds of measured ore can be obtained from the West pit and Upper east pit. A few tons of indicated ore may be found along the strike of these ore bodies as extensions of the measured ore.

The examining engineer and geologist conclude that the secondary ores derived from incomplete oxidation of a primary rhodonite ore occurring in small lenses near the surface are too small and contain too much silica to be mined profitably. They, therefore, recommend that the application be denied. The Field Team concurs.

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

W S Martin

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron & Ferro-Alloys Division

400

Docket
Code 400

Rutledge
Martin
Dietz
Newcomb

July 7, 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Subject: Denial of application for exploration assistance
Docket No. DMEA 3298 - Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

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

The Lubenko mine area is underlain by mica schist probably of the Calaveras formation of Carboniferous age, containing three interbedded layers of quartzite (meta chert?). The metamorphic rocks are cut by quartz veinlets as much as 6 inches wide and by fractures with all attitudes.

The primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite. They are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite. Lenses range from a few inches to as much as 18 inches in width and several feet in length.

Development work on the property consists of three pits: (1) The East pit, (2) the Middle pit, and (3) the West pit.

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The Middle pit contains a bed of quartzite 10 to 15 feet thick. It is estimated that this pit may have yielded a few hundred pounds of manganese oxide ore.

In the West pit a quartzite bed 10 feet wide has been revealed along the strike for 50 feet and about 15 feet down the dip. Samples across two quartzite layers in the west end of the pit averaged 17 percent Mn.

R.C.H.

Total production from the property is reported to have been 15 tons averaging 53 percent manganese, most of which came from the East pit.

A few hundred pounds of measured ore can be obtained from the West pit and Upper east pit. A few tons of indicated ore may be found along the strike of these ore bodies as extensions of the measured ore.

The examining engineer and geologist conclude that the secondary ores derived from incomplete oxidation of a primary rhodonite ore occurring in small lenses near the surface are too small and contain too much silica to be mined profitably. They, therefore, recommend that the application be denied. The Field Team concurs.

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

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron & Ferro-Alloys Division

JHopkins:foc
7-6-54
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.

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

420 Custom House
555 Battery Street
San Francisco 11, Calif.

June 24, 1954

Memorandum

WSM

To: George C. Selfridge, Chairman, Operating Committee, DMEA
Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3298 - Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Reference is made to your letter dated April 21, 1954, requesting a field examination of the above-docketed property.

The property was examined in May 1954, and there are attached four copies of an examination report entitled "DMEA-3298, Lubenko Mine, Amador County, California, (Manganese)," by R. R. Trengove, Mining Engineer, U. S. Burea of Mines, and R. M. Smith, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, dated June 10, 1954.

According to the examining engineer and geologist, the primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite; they are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite. However, there is not sufficient showing of psilomelane and pyrolusite that would make the property commercial. They have recommended that no further work is warranted by use of Government funds.

I concur with their recommendations.

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
7-2-54
(date)

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

Attachment

Copy to: Roscoe Smith, USGS
A. C. Johnson, Reno

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION III

DMEA-3298, Lubenko Mine

Amador County, California

(Manganese)

R. R. Trengove, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

R. M. Smith, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

June 10, 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

7-2-54
(date)

EXAMINATION REPORT

Docket No.: DMEA-3298 (Manganese)

Name and address of applicant: Century Mining Co.,
Carroll Skaggs
P. O. Box 214
Plymouth, Calif.

Name and location of property: Lubenko Mine, 4 miles southeast of Fiddletown, Amador County, Calif.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An engineer of the Bureau of Mines and a geologist of the Geological Survey made a joint examination of the Lubenko Mine in May 1954. The property is situated about four miles southeast of Fiddletown, California (fig. 1). The purpose of the examination was to determine if the geological conditions and the grade of mineralization were favorable to justify approval of an application for a Government loan. The total estimated cost of the proposed exploration is $4,395.00 per month or $26,370 for a 6-month period.

The application was dated April 1, 1954. The work proposed was the stripping of an area 100 by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet on a steep mountain side.

As primary rhodonite occurs consistently within a few feet of the surface, it is evident that oxidation of the primary ore has been neither uniform nor complete and, therefore, secondary ores can be expected either to contain much silica (rhodonite) or to occur in dis-

continuous lenses. These are too small to mine profitably because of the small size of the primary deposit.

It is recommended that the application be denied.

INTRODUCTION

An application for a Government loan under sec. 202 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 was made by Carroll Skaggs for the Century Mining Co. on April 1, 1954. An engineer of the Bureau of Mines and a geologist of the Geological Survey made a joint examination of the property in May 1954. They were accompanied by the applicant, Carroll Skaggs, Plymouth, Calif.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The manganese occurs on deeded land (160 acres) owned by Louis Lubenko, Fiddletown, Calif. He will furnish a lease to the Century Mining Co. providing the application for the Government loan is approved. The partnership in the Century Mining Co. consists of Carroll Skaggs, Box 214, Plymouth, Calif., Don S. Skaggs and W. R. Nilberger both of Plymouth, Calif. and Frank E. Costa, Tracy, Calif.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The Lubanko Prospect (misspelled) is described in Bull. 152, p. 31, State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mines, "Geologic Description of the Manganese Deposits of California". However, this description does not agree with conditions found upon the property. The location in section 10, the geology and the mine workings

differ.

The property was prospected during World War II. A few truck loads of ore were said to have been hauled from the property by J. T. Stacy and sold as part of a shipment of 30 tons from Stirnaman prospect. They are reported to average 52 percent manganese, 3.0 percent iron, and 4.5 percent silica.

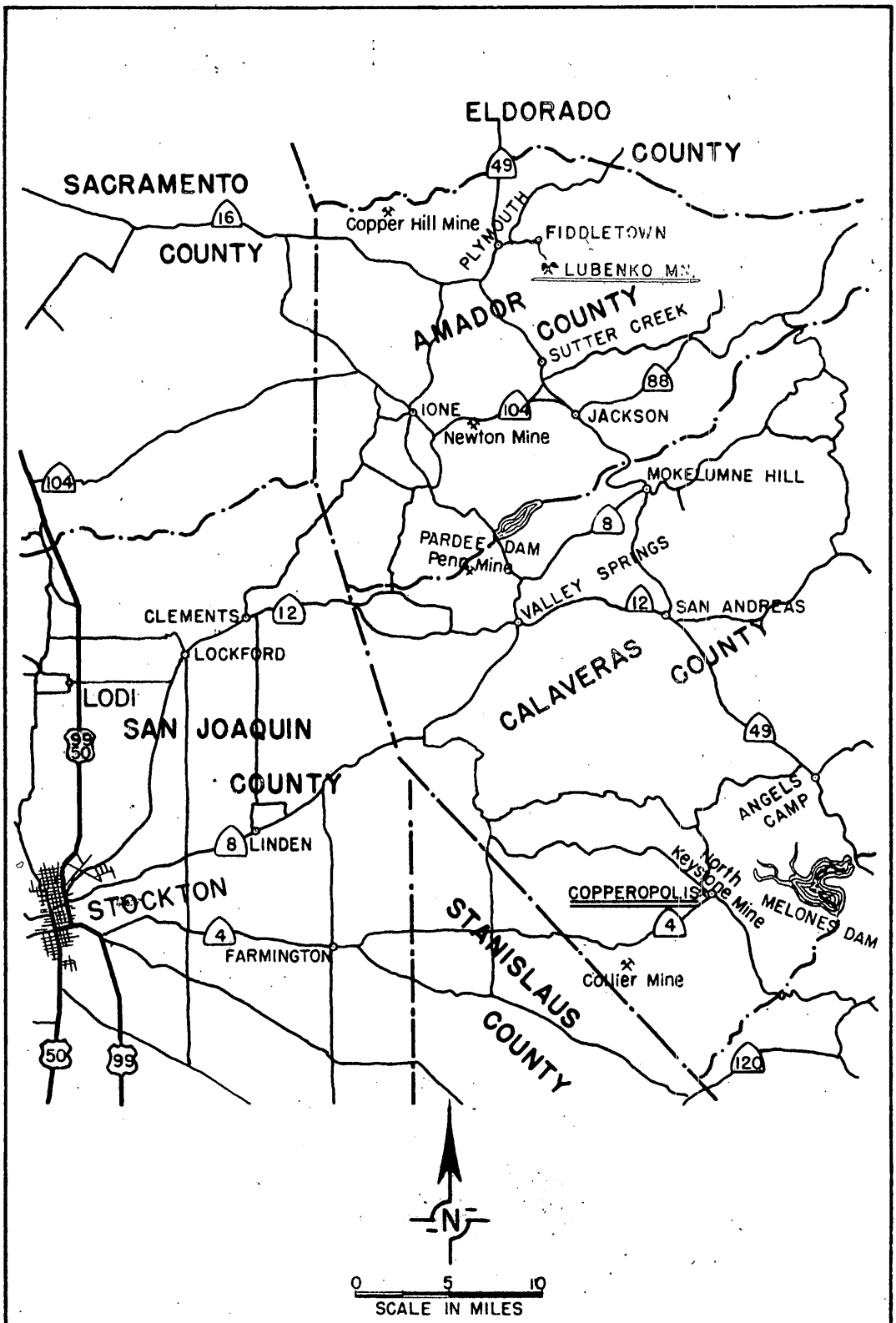
The applicant stated in his application that three weight certificates of ore shipped were enclosed with the application. These were not made available to the engineer and geologist. However, the owner, Mr. Lubenko, stated that three truck loads of 5 tons each of hand-sorted ore were shipped, most of which came from the East pit. The total of 15 tons is said to have assayed 53 percent manganese.

No work has been done on the property since World War II.

LOCATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

The property is in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 of sec. 10, T. 7 N., R. 11 E., M.D.B.&M. (fig. 1). To reach the property, turn south from Fiddletown, California and follow Lymans Alder Grove Ranch dirt road, past the ranch to Lubenko's ranch, a distance of about 4 miles. The nearest source of water is Deadman's creek which traverses the property. The manganese deposit is on the south slope of the mountain at an altitude of 1400 feet and about 1/4 mile walk from Deadman's creek.

Vegetation consists of grasses, live oak and a few pine trees.



INDEX MAP OF SOME WEST-BELT COPPER-ZINC MINES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIG. 1.- LOCATION MAP

GEOLOGY

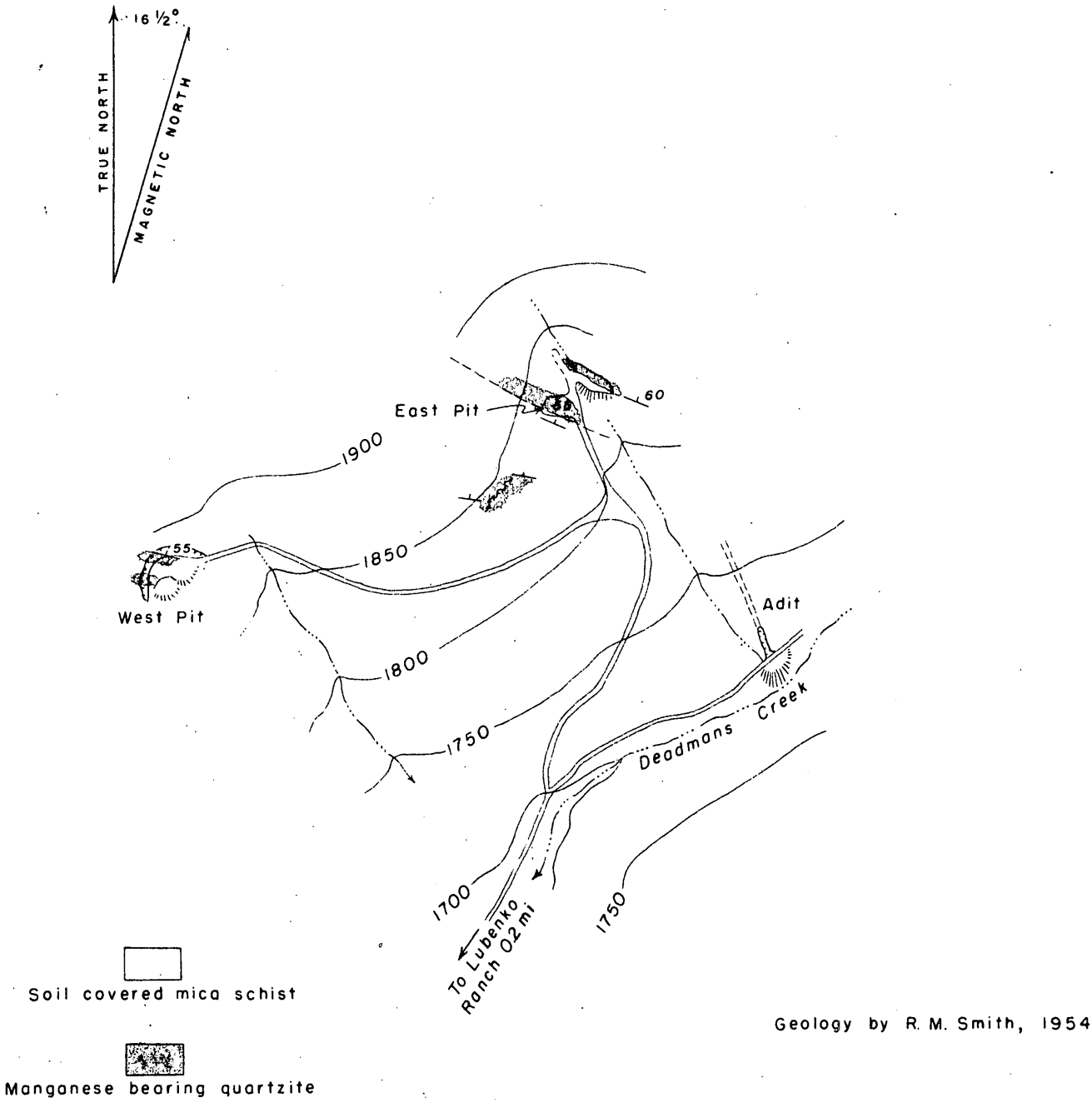
The mine area is underlain by mica schist, probably of the Calaveras formation of Carboniferous age, containing three interbedded layers of quartzite (meta chert?) that strike N. 70-80 W. and dip 50-60° northeast. The metamorphic rocks are cut by quartz veinlets as much as 6 inches wide and by fractures with all attitudes.

ORE DEPOSITS

The primary ore minerals are rhodonite and a small percentage of rhodochrosite occurring as lenses and pods irregularly distributed within the quartzite; they are partly oxidized to psilomelane and pyrolusite which occur in pods around unoxidized remnants of rhodonite and also occur as lenses in fractures cutting the quartzite. Lenses range from a few inches to as much as 18 inches in width and several feet in length.

Development consists of three pits: (1) The East pit, (2) the Middle pit, and (3) the West pit (fig. 2).

The East pit consists of two open cuts in quartzite, the Main cut and the Upper east cut. No ore-in-place is revealed in the Main cut but a selected sample of ore fragments remaining in the pit assayed 24 percent Mn. Mixed rhodonite and rhodochrosite surrounded by black oxides were found in the fragments on the dump. Up the slope 35 feet, N. 35° E. from the Main cut is the Upper east cut, where one irregular lens of oxide ore 18 inches thick and 5 feet long is revealed. The Upper



LUBENKO MINE, AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

200 0 200 400 FEET

FIGURE 2

east cut may be in the same quartzite bed as the Main cut; if so, the total thickness of the bed is about 50 feet. This cut is probably the same as the Lubanko prospect described by Ivan F. Wilson[1] altho the reported location and attitudes differ.

In the Middle pit a bed of quartzite 10 to 15 feet thick is poorly exposed in three cuts, each about 4 by 5 by 3 feet deep which may have yielded a few hundred pounds of manganese oxide ore.

In the West pit a quartzite bed 10 feet wide has been revealed for 50 feet along the strike and about 15 feet down the dip. On the dump boulders 4 feet in diameter contain as much as 50 percent rhodonite partly oxidized to manganese oxide. Fragments of psilomelane as much as 16 inches in diameter were observed at this exposure. In the west end of the pit two quartzite layers are exposed that probably are fault blocks of the same bed. Samples across the bed averaged 17 percent Mn.

The applicant reported that the total production from the property amounts to 15 tons of hand picked ore averaging 53 percent, most of which came from the East pit.

ORE RESERVES

A few hundred pounds of measured ore can be obtained from the West pit and Upper east pit. A few tons of indicated ore may be found along the strike of these ore bodies as extensions of the measured ore.

1/ Trask, Parker D., 1950, Manganese deposits of California: California State Div. of Mines, Bull, 152, p. 31.

A few tons of ore may also be inferred, assuming that other pods and lenses will occur along the strike and down the dip from the ore bodies which are exposed. As the primary mineral is principally rhodonite having no sale value, only hand picked black oxides are considered ore.

PROPOSED EXPLORATION

The work proposed was the stripping of an area 100 by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet on a steep mountain side. Most of the excavation would be in solid rock requiring drilling and blasting. The total estimated cost of the proposed exploration is $4,395.00 per month or $26,370 for a six-month period.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As primary rhodonite occurs consistently within a few feet of the surface, it is evident that oxidation of the primary ore has been neither uniform nor complete and, therefore, secondary ores can be expected either to contain much silica (rhodonite) or to occur in discontinuous lenses. These are too small to mine profitably because of the small size of the primary deposit.

It is recommended, therefore, that the application be denied.

400

file copy

Rutledge
Martin
Deckuff
Miller
Selfridge
Fishman

APR 21 1954

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 3298-Manganese
Century Mining Company
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Miller:

The above docketed application for exploration assistance is being referred to your office for a field examination of the property.

The applicants have apparently outlined a program for development and production instead of exploration; i.e., open pit stripping of an area 100 feet by 600 feet to a depth of 20 feet. During the examination, the examining engineer should explain to the applicants that no costs of work prosecuted primarily for mining or preparation for mining are allowed in Defense Minerals Exploration Administration contracts.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge (GCS)
Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

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

D. M. Larrabee (DML)
Member, Geological Survey

cc: DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REG. III
[illegible] CODE 400
OPERATING COMMITTEE
ADM. READING FILE
GILBERT DE HUFF, USBM
LOUIS PAVLIDES, USGS
FARutledge/ls 4/20/54

R.C.S.

FILE
COPY

Rutledge
Martin
Miller
Selfridge
Kleinman

APR 21 1954

Mr. Carrol Skaggs
Century Mining Company
Box 214
Plymouth, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3298-Manganese
Lubenko Mine
Amador County, California

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance has been reviewed by the Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. H. C. Miller, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region III, 1012 Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco 2, California, for a field examination of the property.

Any assistance that you can render the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf (for)

Administrator

CC: DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REG. III
CODE 400
OPER. COMM.
ADM. READ. FILE
GILBERT DE HUFF, USBM
LOUIS PAVLIDES, USGS

FARutledge/ls 4/20/54

P.C.G.

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

April 6, 1954
Subject: DMEA-3298
Re: Exploration Assistance
Louis Lubenko

Century Minning Co.
P. O. Box 214
Plymouth, California

Gentlemen:

The receipt of your application dated April 1, 1954 for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-3298 and referred to the Iron and Ferro Alloys Division.

Kindly refer to DMEA-3298 in any future correspondence relating to your application.

Sincerely yours,

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

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

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

RECEIVED

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. 3298
Metal or Mineral Manganese
Date Received
Estimated Cost Not given
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: JENNY LINNING COMPANY BOX 214, PLYMOUTH, CALIFORNIA
PARTNERSHIP: Carroll Skaggs, Box 214, Plymouth, Calif. - Don S. Skaggs, Plymouth, Calif. - W. R. Milberger, Plymouth, Calif, - Frank E. Costa, Tracy, 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 (See Attached Sheet)

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. Louis Lubenko

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

(*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. Agreement with owner for lease providing approval of this exploration contract.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it Non-applicable

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

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. (See attached Sheet.)

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

(*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. (Please refer to 5B answer)

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points. Access roads available. Shipping point 22 miles.

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

16—66551-1

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

(*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. (See attached sheet.)

(*c*) The work will start within 15 days and be completed within 6 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. 2 yrs. experience with manganese. Carroll Skaggs

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. (See attached Sheet for answers 6 A thru H.)

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)? Yes.

(*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 1, 1954.

CENTURY MINING COMPANY
(Applicant)

By Carroll Skaggs
CARROLL SKAGGS

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

CENTURY MINNING COMPANY
(Anser Sheet)

Answered by: WSM

3. (a) The land is listed under the name of Louis Lubenko, Fiddletown, California. This property is located approximately 2 1/2 miles south of Fiddletown, California.

4. (a) This property was mined by J. Stacey in 1943-1944. Roads are built to the mine; however, some repairs will be necessary.

(b) Approximately 50 tons of ore was mined and shipped to Auburn, California stockpile in 1943-1944; making an average of 53% manganese of handpicked ore. At the present time there is no ore reserve in sight.

5. (b) In answer to questions 4c and 5b; the proposed work will be open pit stripping which will consist of a pit approximately 100 feet wide and about 600 feet in length with a depth of approximately 20 feet. The old workings consists of 2 glory holes which are about 600 feet apart. These holes were made too small to make prospecting a success. Although they did take out some good ore which made an average test of 53% manganese which was shipped to stockpile in Auburn, California. Enclosed are 3 weight certificates or ore that was shipped. You will also find in the book of California Manganese a description of this property and also the tests of the ore.

State of Cal. Dept of Natural Resources
Bul 125 - P. 75
" 152 - P. 31
WSM

6. (a) Independent Contractors: None.

(b)
(c)
(d)
(e) -----Average 1 month's expenses
(f) (Based on a 40 hour week)
(g)
(h)

Labor (4 men - $2.00 per hr. - 8 hr day)----------	$1,280.00
Dozer Work ($12.00 per hr. - 8 hr day) (D-8 Catipillar with ripper)----------	$1,920.00
Compressor (Rental at $130.00 per month)---------	$ 130.00
Scoop-Loader (1/3 yd -Rental at $250.00 per mo.)--	$ 250.00
Fuel (For compressor and scoop-loader) (Gas and Oil) ----------	$ 225.00
Misc Supplies (Jack Hammer Steel Bits-$65.00) (Explosives $300.00)-----	$ 365.00
Misc (Approximate Insurance and Payroll taxes)---- (Partime Bookkeepper)	$ 225.00
Total per month--------	$4,395.00

M. R. Form No. 12

METALS RESERVE COMPANY

Auburn, California Purchase Depot

Weighmaster's Certificate

№ 5273

Weighed for Crabtree, Sullivan

Address Jackson, California Date Dec. 22, 1943

Gross Weight 22580 lbs. Truck License No. X 4310 Time 2:30-3:00 ~~A.M.~~ P.M.

Tare 7590 lbs. Driver H. L. Blais Weather Cloudy

Net Weight 15000 lbs. I certify the above to be the true weights on the date and at the time shown above.

Albert R. McMahon,
Weighmaster

Received under and pursuant to terms, provisions, and conditions of Circular entitled "Information concerning Purchase of Small Lots of Chrome and Manganese Ores."

Date 12-22-43 METALS RESERVE COMPANY,

By Albert R. McMahon,
Purchasing Agent

M. R. Form No. 12

METALS RESERVE COMPANY

291

Lot No. A-231-Mn-4 Purchase Depot Auburn, California

Weighmaster's Certificate

No. 43243

Weighed for Crabtree & Sullivan

Address Jackson, California Date June 19, 1944

Gross Weight 21340 lbs. Truck License No. X 9542 Time 1:30 ~~A.M.~~ P.M.

Tare 9445 lbs. Driver J. Dunn Weather Cloudy

Net Weight 11895 lbs. I certify the above to be the true weights on the date and at the time shown above.

Auburn Fruit Exchange
Weighmaster

Received under and pursuant to terms, provisions, and conditions of Circular concerning purchase of Chrome Ore
(Material)

Date 6-9-44 METALS RESERVE COMPANY,

By Albert D. McMahon,
Purchasing Agent

M. R. Form No. 12

METALS RESERVE COMPANY

A-14-[illegible]

(3 6 8)

Auburn, California Purchase Depot

Weighmaster's Certificate

No 5253

Weighed for Crabtree, Sullivan

Address Jackson, California Date Dec. 1, 1943

Gross Weight 20780 lbs. Truck License No. X4310 Time 2:00-2:30 A.M. P.M.

Tare 7550 lbs. Driver H. L. Blair Weather Clear

Net Weight 13230 lbs. I certify the above to be the true weights on the date and at the time shown above.

Albert D. McMahon
Weighmaster

Received under and pursuant to terms, provisions, and conditions of Circular entitled "Information concerning Purchase of Small Lots of Chrome and Manganese Ores."

Date 12-1-43 METALS RESERVE COMPANY,

By Albert D. McMahon
Purchasing Agent