DMA Form 1

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
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DMA Docket No. 4175

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Cys. BM, GS.

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CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

Messrs. Ray Fletcher
and Bryan Brunsell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning the above-referenced 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 our information indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable mercury ore reserves is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. Under these circumstances, we regret to advise you that your application is denied.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

ADMcMahon:foc 10/18/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NW District
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

400

October 19, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $20,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunnell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information.

(1) The applicants, Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunnell, Murphy, Idaho, requested exploration assistance in the amount $20,000.00 for 11,000 cubic yards of stripping and 6,000 feet of core drilling.

(2) The applicants contend by location ten unpatented lode mining claims in sec. 32, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., and secs. 4 and 5, T. 3 S., R. 2 W., B.M., Owyhee County, Idaho. The original application included the ten claims (as shown on the accompanying claim map) however, in reply to a request for additional information, the applicants referred to only five claims which they considered to have the best possibilities.

(3) The exploration program proposed by the applicants consist of 11,000 cubic yards of stripping at an estimated cost of $2,000.00 and 6,000 feet of core drilling at $3.00 per feet. The depths of the holes are estimated to range from 50 to 200 feet.

(4) The property is underlain by lake deposits interbedded with basalt flows. Mercury, if present, probably occurs in zones of kaolinized and sparsely opalized basalts in the vicinity of small, steep to vertical fractures. Ten samples taken from the five localities, considered by the applicants to be the most promising, were barren.

Traces of mercury minerals were discovered in the area during 1955. To date there has been no production; no ore has been blocked out and there is no material of ore grade known to exist on the property.

There is no equipment or facilities on the property. One or more bulldozer cuts to a depth of about five feet for lengths of 100 to 200 feet have been made on each claim.

5. The Field Team concludes that the applicants' claims offer no promise as mercury prospects and recommend that the application be denied. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

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

ADMcMahon/foc
10/18/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

400

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

RECEIVED
OCT 16 1956

October 15, 1956

Re: DMEA 4175
Fletcher and Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho
$20,000.00 - Mercury

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Team report.

The applicants requested assistance in exploring lake beds consisting of clays, tuffs, sandstones and pebble conglomerates interbedded with basalt flows.

The examiners cut several samples of material considered ore by the applicants. All samples were barren.

As no mercury-bearing material is known to exist on the property the examiners and the Field Team recommend denial of the application.

I concur with the recommendation.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:iml
G-10/15/56

cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
J. W. Pennington, 3623

October 15, 1956

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Commodity Specialist, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of Field Team Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA 4175 (mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Bruntsell, Owyhee Mercury Property, Owyhee County, Idaho. $20,000.00

The applicant proposed to explore for mercury mineralization by 11,000 cubic yards of stripping and 6,000 feet of core drilling at an estimated total cost of $20,000.00.

During the examination of the property by Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey personnel, 10 samples were taken from most promising areas. None of the samples contained mercury.

The Field Team concludes that the Owyhee mercury property offers no promise as a mercury prospect and recommends that the application for Government assistance to explore the property be denied.

I concur with this recommendation.

J. W. Pennington

J. W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals (2)
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F. D. Lamb
Files

400

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 1956

October 4, 1956

Mr. George C. Selfridge, Chairman
Operating Committee, DMEA
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

WSM

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4175 (Mercury)
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are four copies of a memorandum examination report by D. C. Alvord of the Geological Survey and E. W. Parsons of the Bureau of Mines, on the referenced property.

The Field Team concurs in the recommendation of Alvord and Parsons that the application be denied.

By Field Team, Region I, NW Dist.

Wing G. Agnew, Acting Exec. Officer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Donald R. Maclaren, Acting Member
U. S. Geological Survey

Enclosures

cc: USBM (2)
Alvord

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

(date)

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 1956

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

September 28, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I, Northwest District

From: E. W. Parsons, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and D. C. Alvord, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field examination report, Docket No. DMEA-4175 (Mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, Owyhee Mercury Property, Owyhee County, Idaho

INTRODUCTION

We examined the property on August 23 and 24, 1956, accompanied by R. D. Sample, Geologist, Geological Survey, and Cesar Ibanez, Point IV trainee. On August 24 Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, applicants, guided us to the best showings on their property.

SUMMARY

In 1955 traces of mercury were discovered about 2 miles southwest of Murphy, Idaho, and claims were staked over a wide area. In January 1956, Messrs. Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, residents of Murphy, submitted an application for DMEA aid to explore five claims by drilling and stripping.

The property is underlain by lake deposits interbedded with basalt flows. Mercury, if present, is believed to occur in zones of altered basalts in the vicinity of small vertical fractures filled with crushed country rock and veinlets of quartz, calcite, gypsum, and opalite.

Ten samples, taken from the five localities considered by the applicant to be the most promising, were barren.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the application be denied.

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

(date)

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Owyhee Mercury Mine property is about 2 miles southwest of Murphy, Idaho on Rabbit Creek, in sec. 32, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., and secs. 4 and 5, T. 3 S., R. 2 W., B.M., Owyhee County, 27 miles south of the town of Nampa, Idaho. A black top road connects Murphy with U. S. Hwy's 20 and 30 at Nampa, and graveled and unimproved county roads connect the property with Murphy.

COMPETENCE OF THE APPLICANT

Mr. Ray Fletcher and Mr. Bryan Brunzell, applicants, are mining and construction men who are capable of carrying out mining and development work and appear to be financially able to supply their share of costs of such work.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The original application included ten unpatented lode mining claims held by location (see claim map in application). However, in a letter dated July 23, 1956 to C. O. Mittendorf, the applicants reduced their application to include only five claims, those they considered to have the best possibilities. These are the Ruby, Red Hen, Fossil, Ridge, and Buck claims, the location and orientation of which are shown on the applicant's claim map. They are recorded in book 23, p. 199 and 205, and in book 24, p. 15, 263, and 265, at the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Owyhee County, Murphy, Idaho.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

There is no equipment or facilities on the property. One or more bulldozer cuts to a depth of about 5 feet have been made on each claim.

The land surface is comparatively flat though there are a few low hills and ridges. The outcropping rocks consist of interbedded lake beds and lava flows. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush and other desert growth.

GEOLOGY

Fletcher and Brunzell's claims are in the east central portion of the Silver City 30-minute quadrangle, the geology of which is described by Waldemar Lindgren and N. F. Drake in the Silver City Folio, Idaho, U. S. Geol. Survey Folio No. 104, 1904.

The claims are underlain by lake-deposited sediments of the Pliocene Idaho formation, locally interbedded with layers of basalt. The lake beds are chiefly composed of loosely consolidated clays, sandy clays, and tuffs, together with sandstones and pebble conglomerates that are generally well silicified and locally opalized. Locally, the basalt layers are strongly altered to friable limonitic clays. The bedding is essentially flat-lying.

Mercury, if present on the claims, probably occurs in zones of kaolinized and sparsely opalized basalts in the vicinity of small, steep to vertical fractures. These fractures are generally less than a foot wide but may be as much as 3 feet wide; their lengths are unknown. The fractures are filled with crushed and altered basalt and tuff fragments and veins of quartz, calcite, and gypsum. Kaolinitic basalt and opalite in the vicinity of the quartz-calcite veins are characteristically stained pink to brick-red, with iron oxide diffusion banding.

Fossil claim.--The Fossil claim is explored by a west-trending trench about 150 feet long located on center, about 100 feet south of the north end line. This trench exposes altered and brecciated basalt to a depth of 3 or 4 feet. The basalt is cut with several nearly vertical shears that strike N. 50° W.; these are filled with clay and altered basalt laced with veinlets of quartz and calcite. Vugs lined with fine quartz crystals are abundant. A few feet above the cut, the basalt is overlain by limy sandstone containing abundant gastropod shells.

The applicants believed that nearly all of the rock in the trench contains some mercury and that a zone on the south wall of the trench would assay several pounds per ton. Accordingly, sample 282B was cut from the sill at about 10-foot intervals along the entire length of the trench, and sample 283B was chipped from an 8 by 2-foot zone in the wall of the cut, which the applicants predicted would be high grade. Both samples were barren.

Ridge claim.--The Ridge claim is explored by two shallow northwest-trending cuts (cut area 1) located on center, about 200 feet east of the west end line, and a northeast-trending cut (cut area 2) located about 450 feet east of the west end line. Cut area 2 is about 25 feet higher than cut area 1 and appears to expose the same basalt as is found in the trench on the Fossil claim. The trenches in cut area 1 expose an altered volcanic breccia made up of fragments of pebble size and smaller, whereas the trench in area 2 exposes both brecciated and massive basalt, ranging from fresh black rock to completely kaolinized material. Small, vertical, quartz-calcite shears striking N. 50° W. are present in both areas.

Sample 284B was cut from four places over a 20-foot interval in the sill of a trench in area 1; the applicants indicated that the sill contained mercury. In cut area 2, sample 285B was selected in an attempt to obtain as high an assay as possible on a basis of appearance. Both samples were barren.

Ruby claim.--This claim is explored with irregular shallow trenching and a 3- or 4-foot deep pit located on center, about 250 feet south of the north end line. Massive and brecciated basalt and tuffs, for the most part strongly altered and cut by several steep-dipping quartz-calcite veins of variable strike, are exposed at this locality. The basalt is strongly kaolinized and dominantly a brick red color; amygdules filled with zeolites are conspicuous at several localities.

The shear zones range up to 3 feet or slightly more in width and are generally tightly filled with comb-structured crustifications of quartz and calcite. No enlargement or off-setting occurs where the shear zones intersect one another. Opalite rock resembling mercury ore similar to that found in the Opalite Mercury district, Humboldt County, Nevada, occurs spottily in the walls and sills of the pit.

As the applicants considered this to be their most promising locality, four samples were taken. Sample 286B was taken from a typical vein structure over a 15-foot interval. Sample 287B was a carefully cut channel sample (3.4 feet long) of a 2.7-foot wide vein exposed in the pit. Sample 288B was a composite grab sample of the best looking "ore" the applicants could select from the pit. Sample 289B was a grab sample of an altered gray tuff exposed in the pit--this was taken to prevent overlooking any bets, no matter how long the shot. All four samples were barren.

Red Hen claim.--The Red Hen claim is explored with about 200 feet of north-trending dozer cuts and trails located near the center of the claim. The cuts are located about half way up the slopes of a butte capped with beds of medium coarse-grained sandstone that locally grades into pebble conglomerate. This unit is for the most part strongly silicified, but locally it grades into masses of glassy opalite which breaks cleanly through both the matrix and the pebbles.

Discontinuous beds of white to purple or green bentonitic ash underlie the sandstone beds locally. Strongly altered basalt underlies the sandstone-ash unit. The basalt ranges gradationally from fresh dark-gray basalt to kaolinitic basalt to kaoline. Irregular-shaped masses and stringers of opalite are distributed throughout the basalt unit, particularly where the alteration is most intense. The alteration appears to be controlled in part by the primary jointing in the basalt.

What appears to be iron, colors the opalite and altered basalt pink to brick red. The result is material that bears a strong resemblance to the opalite cinnabar ores known in parts of eastern Oregon, northeastern Nevada, and western Idaho.

A 3-foot vertical channel sample was cut across the exposed width of the opalized basalt bed (sample 290B) and a grab sample of opalite (sample 291B), selected because of its visible "cinnabar," was taken. Both of these samples were barren.

Buck claim.--The Buck claim was not visited because the exposures on this claim were reported to be similar to those in the Fossil, Ridge, Ruby, and Red Hen claims, which had been adequately sampled.

PRODUCTION

Traces of mercury minerals were discovered in the area during 1955. To date there has been no production. There is no ore blocked out and there is no material of ore grade known to exist on the property.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Materials, supplies, and equipment are available in Boise, Idaho. A limited quantity of manpower may be obtained locally. Two small springs in the area can supply a limited amount of water but large quantities would have to come from the Snake River, about 7 miles to the north. Commercial power is not available in the area at present.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The exploration program proposed by the applicants consists of 11,000 cubic yards of stripping at a total cost of $2,000 and 6,000 feet of core drilling at $3 per foot. The depths of the core drill holes are estimated to range from 50 to 150 feet. The funds requested appear to be adequate to accomplish the proposed work.

CONCLUSIONS

The geologic setting of the Fletcher and Brunzell claims is not unlike the setting of several mercury deposits known in eastern Oregon, northeastern Nevada, and western Idaho. Examining and sampling the more promising localities of their claims, however, failed to detect any mercury. It is concluded that these claims offer no promise as mercury prospects.

Distribution:
DMEA (4) USGS(SRO)
USBM (5) Dockat Alvord 5

400

AUG - 3 1956

Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region I - NW District
South 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunnell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Weissenborn:

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

Copies of memoranda dated February 15 and 17, 1956, by N. E. Nelson, Geological Survey, and J. W. Pennington, Bureau of Mines, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed. Also enclosed are two copies of a letter dated July 23, 1956, received from the applicants, furnishing additional information as requested in the Administrator's letter of February 27, 1956.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin

ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

APPROVED:

/s/ Robert W. Fenton

Member, Bureau of Mines

N. E. Nelson

Member, Geological Survey

ADMcMahon/foc 8/1/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NWDist.
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

Enclosures

AUG - 4 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher
and Bryan Brumsell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Orphan Mercury Property
Orphan County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 23, 1956, and the attached additional information requested in my letter of February 27, 1956.

The above docketed application for exploration assistance for mercury ore and the supplementary information have been reviewed by the Washington office of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region I - Northwest District, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Washington, for a field examination of the property.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

AIMcMahon/foc
8/1/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NWDist.
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Murphy, Idaho.
July 23, 1956.

Re: Docket, No. D.M/E/A.4175
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Mr. C.O. Mittendorf
Administrator, D.M.E.A.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

We have been intending to furnish information requested in your letter of February 27, 1956, for some time, but had our annual labor to preform and waited until we had that done to see if it would change our former plans.

We notice in your letter that the work we planned, had you confused in several respects as to location and so forth. All the ground is staked in the area either by ourselves or other parties, in both townships. I think we showed only the area where we planned to work or test out.

We will try now to give the information you desire, by each claim, which you can compare with what we furnished before.

Sincerely,

By:DF.

Ray Fletcher & Bryan Brumzell

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Ruby Claim:

Item (1) About 500 yards of stripping--- 250 feet from north end line, center of claim. Three (3) drill holes in this area about 100 feet deep.

Item (2) Approximately 500 yards stripping 550 feet from north end line--- about 100 feet east from center line. One (1) or (2) two drill holes 100 feet deep, on this outcrop which lies close to basalt outcrop.

The structural features on this claim are: a high ridge along north west side, possibly 200 feet elevation above claim. Sandstone and gravel, many stringers of calcite and gypsum appear to be coming into this area from the south east.

The sample was taken 250 feet from north center end line.

A D7 Caterpillar tractor and dozer will be used and other equipment such as pickups and so forth, in this exploration. The drill will be a core type of about 7/8 inch, We do not know the make. Value of equipment approximately $25,000.00.

Fossil Claim:

Outcrop about 75 feet from north end line extends for about 100 feet east and west.

This outcrop is about 200 feet south west from what appears to be a basalt fault on the adjoining claim, the Ridge, which belongs in this group.

We would like to strip about 1000 yards to open drill sites possibly, four (4) drill holes 100 to 150 feet deep.

Samples taken at outcrop 75 feet from north end line center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Red Hen Claim:

Massive sandstone outcrops fractured with opalite stringers.

Would like to strip approximately 5,000 yards around base of sandstone to determine amount of drilling. Possibly three (3) holes 50 to 100 feet deep.

This work would be located 300 feet from north end line about center of claim and extends about 1,000 feet along sandstone outcrop toward south end line.

Samples were taken about 300 feet from north end line.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

Buck Claim:

This claim extends east and west along ridge which has much opalite float. We would like to remove about 2,000 yards of over burden to locate drill site. Possibly drill three (3) holes 100 to 150 feet deep about 100 feet apart. This work would be center of claim 250 feet from west center end stakes.

Samples were taken aggregate float east to west about center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

Ridge Claim:

This claim extends east and west on a ridge and has what appears to be a basalt fault through the claim from east to west. Opalite float is plentiful over the claim also many calcite and gypsum stringers indicating hot water formation beneath the surface.

This claim should be stripped of about 2,000 yards and about 6 holes drilled 100 feet apart and from 100 feet to 200 feet in depth. Thiswork would extend from west center line of claim and extend easterly about 600 feet.

Samples taken about 400 feet from west end line center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

JUL 11 1956

Messrs. Roy Fletcher
and Bryan Brunzell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4175, Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-docketed application for exploration assistance and our letter of February 27, 1956, suggesting that you furnish additional information to enable us to give proper consideration to your application. We have not received the additional information or any communication from you in connection therewith, and therefore assume you are no longer interested in proceeding with the application.

We wish to cooperate with you in the matter of allowing ample time, but if the suggested additional information has not been received by August 10, 1956, we will then consider your application withdrawn and will remove the docket from our active file.

Sincerely yours,

G. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
T. Kiilsgaard, USGS
J. W. Pennington, USBM
FT, Region I-NW Dist.

ADMcMahon/ls
7/10/56

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

400

Messrs. Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-docketed application for exploration assistance and our letter of February 27, 1956, suggesting that you furnish additional information to enable us to give proper consideration to your application. We have not received the additional information or any communication from you in connection therewith, and therefore assume you no longer desire to proceed with the application.

We wish to cooperate with you in the matter of allowing ample time, but if the suggested additional information has not been received by August 10, 1956, (we will then remove the application from the active file and consider the matter closed.)

Sincerely yours,

Administrator

we will then consider your application withdrawn and remove the docket from our active file.

FEB 27 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brownell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your application for Government assistance to explore for mercury in the above-cited property.

We note that you wish to explore for mercury on "unpatented claims" in three sections in two different townships, and your sketch of the property shows ten named claims, one isolated and the others in two groups, of two and seven claims, respectively, and from 300 to 1200 feet apart. Your application, however, describes your intended exploration program only by stating that you propose to strip and core drill in unspecified areas.

To be able to give proper consideration to your application, we shall appreciate your furnishing the following additional information:

1. A description of the proposed exploration work, giving details of:

(a) Location and amount of stripping intended to expose mineralized zones on the various claims.

(b) Location of stripping intended to give access to, or prepare drill-sites.

(c) Location and number of drill-holes planned.

(d) Structural features such as promising outcrops, shear-zones, faults, or other favorable indications of mercury mineralization.

2. Show locations on claims where samples were taken, and state whether individual samples taken from trenches, pits or float or if your assays represent composites of a number of samples taken on each claim, and

3. List your equipment that will be used in the exploration work indicating present value and size and/or capacity.

Under paragraph 7(b) your application states that you will furnish your share of the exploration costs by contributing labor, equipment and some money for assaying and other incidentals. As payment of the Government's share of the costs takes from three to four weeks after the operator submits a properly supported voucher, an applicant should have sufficient funds to finance at least two months exploration work.

Pending receipt of the supplementary information required, we shall hold your application in abeyance.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mitchell

Administrator

ADMcMAHON/foc
2-24-56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Coms.
FT. REG. I - NW DIST.
Messrs. J.W. Pennington, USBM
Thor H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

RECEIVED
FEB 17 1956

February 17, 1956

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: J. W. Pennington, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of application, Docket No. DMEA - 4175 (mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brannell, Owyhee Mercury, Owyhee County, Idaho, $20,000.00

It is proposed to explore this property by 6,000 feet of core drilling and by an unstated quantity of stripping at an estimated cost of $20,000.00. Although it is stated that assaying will be done at the time, the number of analyses and costs are not given.

Information supplied with the application on the property and the progress is insufficient and indefinite. The Bureau has no data on the mercury mineralization in this area.

Referral of the application to the Field Team is recommended to obtain the necessary information on the property and a definite exploration program.

J. W. Pennington

J. W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals (2)
R. W. Seehan
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F i l e s

400 IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Copy [illegible] 400

RECEIVED
FEB 16 1956

February 15, 1956

Re: DMEA 4175
Ray Fletcher & Bryan Brunsell
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho
$20,000.00 - Mercury

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application.

The applicants request assistance in exploring a sedimentary deposit of opalite, limestone, gypsum and calcite in which " . . . mercury is detected in most samples taken." The proposed work consists of:—

Bulldozing	$ 2,000.00
Core drilling, 6,000 ft.	18,000.00
Total	$20,000.00

Probably no center of mineralization has been spotted since no systematic sampling is mentioned and no assays are reported.

Unless the applicants supply more definite information and set up a less general target the project may well be classed as prospecting.

Referral to the Field Team for appropriate action is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:iml
G-2/15/56

cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
H. M. Meyer, 3623

DOCKET
SURNAME
400 McMahon
Martin
Kilsgaard
Lamb
Selfridge

OCT 23 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher
and Bryan Brumsell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning the above-referenced 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 our information indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable mercury ore reserves is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. Under these circumstances, we regret to advise you that your application is denied.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

ADMcMahon:foc / 10/18/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NW District
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

R.G.S.

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

October 19, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $20,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information.

(1) The applicants, Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, Murphy, Idaho, requested exploration assistance in the amount $20,000.00 for 11,000 cubic yards of stripping and 6,000 feet of core drilling.

(2) The applicants control by location ten unpatented lode mining claims in sec. 32, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., and secs. 4 and 5, T. 3 S., R. 2 W., B.M., Owyhee County, Idaho. The original application included the ten claims (as shown on the accompanying claim map) however, in reply to a request for additional information, the applicants referred to only five claims which they considered to have the best possibilities.

(3) The exploration program proposed by the applicants consist of 11,000 cubic yards of stripping at an estimated cost of $2,000.00 and 6,000 feet of core drilling at $3.00 per foot. The depths of the holes are estimated to range from 50 to 200 feet.

(4) The property is underlain by lake deposits interbedded with basalt flows. Mercury, if present, probably occurs in zones of kaolinized and sparsely opalized basalts in the vicinity of small, steep to vertical fractures. Ten samples taken from ~~the~~ five localities, considered by the applicants to be the most promising, were barren.

Traces of mercury minerals were discovered in the area during 1955. To date there has been no production; no ore has been blocked out and there is no material of ore grade known to exist on the property.

There is no equipment or facilities on the property. One or more bulldozer cuts to a depth of about five feet for lengths of 100 to 200 feet have been made on each claim.

5. The Field Team concludes that the applicants' claims offer no promise as mercury prospects and recommend that the application be denied. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

W S Martin

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

DOCKET
SURNAME
McMahon
Martin

October 19, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $20,000.00
Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

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(3) The exploration program proposed by the applicants consist of 11,000 cubic yards of stripping at an estimated cost of $2,000.00 and 6,000 feet of core drilling at $3.00 per foot. The depths of the holes are estimated to range from 50 to 200 feet.

(4) The property is underlain by lake deposits interbedded with basalt flows. Mercury, if present, probably occurs in zones of kaolinized and sparsely opalized basalts in the vicinity of small, steep to vertical fractures. Ten samples taken from the five localities, considered by the applicants to be the most promising, were barren.

Traces of mercury minerals were discovered in the area during 1955. To date there has been no production; no ore has been blocked out and there is no material of ore grade known to exist on the property.

There is no equipment or facilities on the property. One or more bulldozer cuts to a depth of about five feet for lengths of 100 to 200 feet have been made on each claim.

5. The Field Team concludes that the applicants' claims offer no promise as mercury prospects and recommend that the application be denied. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

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

ADMcMahon/foc
10/18/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Docket

RECEIVED

OCT 16 1956

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

October 15, 1956

Re: DMEA 4175
Fletcher and Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho
$20,000.00 - Mercury

WSM

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Team report.

The applicants requested assistance in exploring lake beds consisting of clays, tuffs, sandstones and pebble conglomerates interbedded with basalt flows.

The examiners cut several samples of material considered ore by the applicants. All samples were barren.

As no mercury-bearing material is known to exist on the property the examiners and the Field Team recommend denial of the application.

I concur with the recommendation.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

Copy retained

Docket

RECEIVED
OCT 15 1956

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 15, 1956

WSM

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Commodity Specialist, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of Field Team Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA 4175 (mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Bruntzell, Owyhee Mercury Property, Owyhee County, Idaho. $20,000.00

The applicant proposed to explore for mercury mineralization by 11,000 cubic yards of stripping and 6,000 feet of core drilling at an estimated total cost of $20,000.00.

During the examination of the property by Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey personnel, 10 samples were taken from most promising areas. None of the samples contained mercury.

The Field Team concludes that the Owyhee mercury property offers no promise as a mercury prospect and recommends that the application for Government assistance to explore the property be denied.

I concur with this recommendation.

J. W. Pennington

J. W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals (2)
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F. D. Lamb
Files

Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
~~WASHINGTON 25, D. C.~~
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 1956

October 4, 1956

Mr. George C. Selfridge, Chairman
Operating Committee, DMEA
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

WSM

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4175 (Mercury)
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are four copies of a memorandum examination report by D. C. Alvord of the Geological Survey and E. W. Parsons of the Bureau of Mines, on the referenced property.

The Field Team concurs in the recommendation of Alvord and Parsons that the application be denied.

By Field Team, Region I, NW Dist.

Wing G. Agnew, Acting Exec. Officer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Donald R. MacLaren, Acting Member
U. S. Geological Survey

Enclosures

cc: USBM (2)
Alvord

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
10-12-56
(date)

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 1956

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

September 28, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I, Northwest District

From: E. W. Parsons, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and D. C. Alvord, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field examination report, Docket No. DMEA-4175 (Mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, Owyhee Mercury Property, Owyhee County, Idaho

INTRODUCTION

We examined the property on August 23 and 24, 1956, accompanied by R. D. Sample, Geologist, Geological Survey, and Cesar Ibanez, Point IV trainee. On August 24 Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, applicants, guided us to the best showings on their property.

SUMMARY

In 1955 traces of mercury were discovered about 2 miles southwest of Murphy, Idaho, and claims were staked over a wide area. In January 1956, Messrs. Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, residents of Murphy, submitted an application for DMEA aid to explore five claims by drilling and stripping.

The property is underlain by lake deposits interbedded with basalt flows. Mercury, if present, is believed to occur in zones of altered basalts in the vicinity of small vertical fractures filled with crushed country rock and veinlets of quartz, calcite, gypsum, and opalite.

Ten samples, taken from the five localities considered by the applicant to be the most promising, were barren.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the application be denied.

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
10-12-56
(date)

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 1956

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Owyhee Mercury Mine property is about 2 miles southwest of Murphy, Idaho on Rabbit Creek, in sec. 32, T. 2 S., R. 2 W., and secs. 4 and 5, T. 3 S., R. 2 W., B.M., Owyhee County, 27 miles south of the town of Nampa, Idaho. A black top road connects Murphy with U. S. Hwy's 20 and 30 at Nampa, and graveled and unimproved county roads connect the property with Murphy.

COMPETENCE OF THE APPLICANT

Mr. Ray Fletcher and Mr. Bryan Brunzell, applicants, are mining and construction men who are capable of carrying out mining and development work and appear to be financially able to supply their share of costs of such work.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The original application included ten unpatented lode mining claims held by location (see claim map in application). However, in a letter dated July 23, 1956 to C. O. Mittendorf, the applicants reduced their application to include only five claims, those they considered to have the best possibilities. These are the Ruby, Red Hen, Fossil, Ridge, and Buck claims, the location and orientation of which are shown on the applicant's claim map. They are recorded in book 23, p. 199 and 205, and in book 24, p. 15, 263, and 265, at the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Owyhee County, Murphy, Idaho.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

There is no equipment or facilities on the property. One or more bulldozer cuts to a depth of about 5 feet have been made on each claim.

The land surface is comparatively flat though there are a few low hills and ridges. The outcropping rocks consist of interbedded lake beds and lava flows. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush and other desert growth.

GEOLOGY

Fletcher and Brunzell's claims are in the east central portion of the Silver City 30-minute quadrangle, the geology of which is described by Waldemar Lindgren and N. F. Drake in the Silver City Folio, Idaho, U. S. Geol. Survey Folio No. 104, 1904.

The claims are underlain by lake-deposited sediments of the Pliocene Idaho formation, locally interbedded with layers of basalt. The lake beds are chiefly composed of loosely consolidated clays, sandy clays, and tuffs, together with sandstones and pebble conglomerates that are generally well silicified and locally opalized. Locally, the basalt layers are strongly altered to friable limonitic clays. The bedding is essentially flat-lying.

Mercury, if present on the claims, probably occurs in zones of kaolinized and sparsely opalized basalts in the vicinity of small, steep to vertical fractures. These fractures are generally less than a foot wide but may be as much as 3 feet wide; their lengths are unknown. The fractures are filled with crushed and altered basalt and tuff fragments and veins of quartz, calcite, and gypsum. Kaolinitic basalt and opalite in the vicinity of the quartz-calcite veins are characteristically stained pink to brick-red, with iron oxide diffusion banding.

Fossil claim.--The Fossil claim is explored by a west-trending trench about 150 feet long located on center, about 100 feet south of the north end line. This trench exposes altered and brecciated basalt to a depth of 3 or 4 feet. The basalt is cut with several nearly vertical shears that strike N. 50° W.; these are filled with clay and altered basalt laced with veinlets of quartz and calcite. Vugs lined with fine quartz crystals are abundant. A few feet above the cut, the basalt is overlain by limy sandstone containing abundant gastropod shells.

The applicants believed that nearly all of the rock in the trench contains some mercury and that a zone on the south wall of the trench would assay several pounds per ton. Accordingly, sample 282B was cut from the sill at about 10-foot intervals along the entire length of the trench, and sample 283B was chipped from an 8 by 2-foot zone in the wall of the cut, which the applicants predicted would be high grade. Both samples were barren.

Ridge claim--The Ridge claim is explored by two shallow northwest-trending cuts (cut area 1) located on center, about 200 feet east of the west end line, and a northeast-trending cut (cut area 2) located about 450 feet east of the west end line. Cut area 2 is about 25 feet higher than cut area 1 and appears to expose the same basalt as is found in the trench on the Fossil claim. The trenches in cut area 1 expose an altered volcanic breccia made up of fragments of pebble size and smaller, whereas the trench in area 2 exposes both brecciated and massive basalt, ranging from fresh black rock to completely kaolinized material. Small, vertical, quartz-calcite shears striking N. 50° W. are present in both areas.

Sample 284B was cut from four places over a 20-foot interval in the sill of a trench in area 1; the applicants indicated that the sill contained mercury. In cut area 2, sample 285B was selected in an attempt to obtain as high an assay as possible on a basis of appearance. Both samples were barren.

Ruby claim.--This claim is explored with irregular shallow trenching and a 3- or 4-foot deep pit located on center, about 250 feet south of the north end line. Massive and brecciated basalt and tuffs, for the most part strongly altered and cut by several steep-dipping quartz-calcite veins of variable strike, are exposed at this locality. The basalt is strongly kaolinized and dominantly a brick red color; amygdules filled with zeolites are conspicuous at several localities.

The shear zones range up to 3 feet or slightly more in width and are generally tightly filled with comb-structured crustifications of quartz and calcite. No enlargement or off-setting occurs where the shear zones intersect one another. Opalite rock resembling mercury ore similar to that found in the Opalite Mercury district, Humboldt County, Nevada, occurs spottily in the walls and sills of the pit.

As the applicants considered this to be their most promising locality, four samples were taken. Sample 286B was taken from a typical vein structure over a 15-foot interval. Sample 287B was a carefully cut channel sample (3.4 feet long) of a 2.7-foot wide vein exposed in the pit. Sample 288B was a composite grab sample of the best looking "ore" the applicants could select from the pit. Sample 289B was a grab sample of an altered gray tuff exposed in the pit--this was taken to prevent overlooking any bets, no matter how long the shot. All four samples were barren.

Red Hen claim.--The Red Hen claim is explored with about 200 feet of north-trending dozer cuts and trails located near the center of the claim. The cuts are located about half way up the slopes of a butte capped with beds of medium coarse-grained sandstone that locally grades into pebble conglomerate. This unit is for the most part strongly silicified, but locally it grades into masses of glassy opalite which breaks cleanly through both the matrix and the pebbles.

Discontinuous beds of white to purple or green bentonitic ash underlie the sandstone beds locally. Strongly altered basalt underlies the sandstone-ash unit. The basalt ranges gradationally from fresh dark-gray basalt to kaolinitic basalt to kaoline. Irregular-shaped masses and stringers of opalite are distributed throughout the basalt unit, particularly where the alteration is most intense. The alteration appears to be controlled in part by the primary jointing in the basalt.

What appears to be iron, colors the opalite and altered basalt pink to brick red. The result is material that bears a strong resemblance to the opalite cinnabar ores known in parts of eastern Oregon, northeastern Nevada, and western Idaho.

A 3-foot vertical channel sample was cut across the exposed width of the opalized basalt bed (sample 290B) and a grab sample of opalite (sample 291B), selected because of its visible "cinnabar," was taken. Both of these samples were barren.

Buck claim.--The Buck claim was not visited because the exposures on this claim were reported to be similar to those in the Fossil, Ridge, Ruby, and Red Hen claims, which had been adequately sampled.

PRODUCTION

Traces of mercury minerals were discovered in the area during 1955. To date there has been no production. There is no ore blocked out and there is no material of ore grade known to exist on the property.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Materials, supplies, and equipment are available in Boise, Idaho. A limited quantity of manpower may be obtained locally. Two small springs in the area can supply a limited amount of water but large quantities would have to come from the Snake River, about 7 miles to the north. Commercial power is not available in the area at present.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The exploration program proposed by the applicants consists of 11,000 cubic yards of stripping at a total cost of $2,000 and 6,000 feet of core drilling at $3 per foot. The depths of the core drill holes are estimated to range from 50 to 150 feet. The funds requested appear to be adequate to accomplish the proposed work.

CONCLUSIONS

The geologic setting of the Fletcher and Brunzell claims is not unlike the setting of several mercury deposits known in eastern Oregon, northeastern Nevada, and western Idaho. Examining and sampling the more promising localities of their claims, however, failed to detect any mercury. It is concluded that these claims offer no promise as mercury prospects.

Distribution:
DMEA (4) USGS(SRO)
USBM (5) Docket Alvord 5

DOCKET
SURNAME

400 McMahon
Martin
Fletcher
Lebow
Gulkan

AUG - 3 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher
and Bryan Brenwall
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 23, 1956, and the attached additional information requested in my letter of February 27, 1956.

The above docketed application for exploration assistance for mercury ore and the supplementary information have been reviewed by the Washington office of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region I - Northwest District, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Washington, for a field examination of the property.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

ADMcMahon/foc
8/1/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NWDist.
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

A.G.S.

DOCKET
SURNAME
400 McMahon
Martin
Hoffman

AUG - 3 1956

Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region I - NW District
South 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4175 - Mercury
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunsell
Owyhee Mercury Property
Owyhee County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Weissenborn:

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

Copies of memoranda dated February 15 and 17, 1956, by N. E. Nelson, Geological Survey, and J. W. Pennington, Bureau of Mines, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed. Also enclosed are two copies of a letter dated July 23, 1956, received from the applicants, furnishing additional information as requested in the Administrator's letter of February 27, 1956.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin (by ES)
ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

APPROVED:

/s/ Robert W. Geehan (by ES)
Member, Bureau of Mines

N. E. Nelson (by ES)
Member, Geological Survey

ADMcMahon/foc 8/1/56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I - NWDist.
Messrs. J. W. Pennington, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

Enclosures

R.C.S.

(144)

Murphy, Idaho.
July 23, 1956.

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Re: Docket, No. D.M/E/A.4175
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho.

Mr. C.O. Mittendorf,
Administrator, D.M.E.A.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

WSM

We have been intending to furnish information requested in your lettor of February 27, 1956.for some time, but had our annual labor to preform and waited until we had that done to see if it would change our former plans.

We notice in yor letter that the work we planned, had you confused in several respects as to location and so forth. All the ground is staked in the area either by ourselves or other parties, in both townships. I think we showed in only the area where we planned to work or test out.

We will try now to give the information you desire, by each claim, which you can compare with what we furnished before.

Sincerely,

By:DF. Ray Fletcher & Bryan Brungell

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Ruby Claim:

Item (1) About 500 yards of stripping---250 feet from north end line, center of claim. Three (3) drill holes in this area about 100 feet deep.

Item (2) Approximately 500 yards stripping 550 feet from north end line--- about 100 feet east from center line. One (1) or(2) two drill holes 100 feet deep, on this outcrop which lies close to basalt outcrop.

The structural features on this claim are: a high ridge along north west side, possibly 200 feet elevation above claim. Sandstone and gravel, many stringers of calcite and gypsum appear to be coming into this area from the south east.

The sample was taken 250 feet from north center end line.

A D7 Caterpillar tractor and dozer will be used and other equipment such as pickups and so forth, in this exploration. The drill will be a core type of about 7/8 inch, We do not know the make. Value of equipment approximately $25,000.00.

RECEIVED
JUL 2 6 1956

Fossil Claim:

Outcrop about 75 feet from north end line extends for about 100 feet east and west.

This outcrop is about 200 feet south westfrom what appears to be a basalt fault on the adjoining claim, the Ridge, which belongs in this group.

We would like to strip about 1000 yards to open drill sites possibly, four (4) drill holes 100 to 150 feet deep.

Samples taken at outcrop 75 feetfrom north end line center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

RECEIVED
JUL 2 6 1956

Red Hen Claim:

Massive sandstone outcrops fractured with opalite stringers.

Would like to strip approximately 5,000 yards around base of sandstone to determine amount of drilling. ~~Possibly.~~ Possibly three (3) holes 50 to 100 feet deep.

This work would be located 300 feet from north end line about center of claim and extends about 1,000 feet along sandstone outcrop toward south end line.

Samples were taken abot 300 feetfrom north end line.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

Buck Claim:

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

This claim extends east and west along ridge which has much opalite float. We would like to remove about 2,000 yards of over burden to locate drill site. Possibly drill three (3) holes 100 to 150 feet deep about 100 feet apart. This work would be center of claim 250 feet from west center end stakes.

Samples were taken aggregate float east to west about center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1956

Ridge Claim:

This claim extends east and west ona ridge and has what appears to be a basalt fault through the claim from east to west. Opalite float is plentiful over the claim also many calcite and gypsum stringers indicating hot waterformation beneath the surface.

This claim should be stripped of about 2,000 yards and about 6 holes drilled 100 feet apart and from 100 feet to 200 feet in depth. This work would extend from west center line of claim and extend easterly about 600 feet.

Samples taken about 400 feetffrom west end line center of claim.

Information regarding equipment same as stated on Ruby Claim.

DOCKET

McMahon
Chapman
Selfridge
Johnson

JUL 5 1 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher
and Bryan Brunzell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4175, Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-docketed application for exploration assistance and our letter of February 27, 1956, suggesting that you furnish additional information to enable us to give proper consideration to your application. We have not received the additional information or any communication from you in connection therewith, and therefore assume you are no longer interested in proceeding with the application.

We wish to cooperate with you in the matter of allowing ample time, but if the suggested additional information has not been received by August 10, 1956, we will then consider your application withdrawn and will remove the docket from our active file.

Sincerely yours,

G. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
T. Kiilsgaard, USGS
J. W. Pennington, USBM
FT, Region I-NW Dist.

ADMcMahon/ls
7/10/56

R.C.S.

DOCKET
SURNAME
McMahon
Martin

400

FEB 27 1956

Messrs. Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brumsell
Murphy, Idaho

Re: Docket No. DMRA 4175 - Mercury
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your application for Government assistance to explore for mercury in the above-cited property.

We note that you wish to explore for mercury on "unpatented claims" in three sections in two different townships, and your sketch of the property shows ten named claims, one isolated and the others in two groups, of two and seven claims, respectively, and from 700 to 1200 feet apart. Your application, however, describes your intended exploration program only by stating that you propose to strip and core drill in unspecified areas.

To be able to give proper consideration to your application, we shall appreciate your furnishing the following additional information:

1. A description of the proposed exploration work, giving details of:

(a) Location and amount of stripping intended to expose mineralized zones on the various claims.

(b) Location of stripping intended to give access to, or prepare drill-sites.

(c) Location and number of drill-holes planned.

(d) Structural features such as promising outcrops, shear-zones, faults, or other favorable indications of mercury mineralization.

R.C.L.

2. Show locations on claims where samples were taken, and state whether individual samples taken from trenches, pits or float or if your assays represent composites of a number of samples taken on each claim, and

3. List your equipment that will be used in the exploration work indicating present value and size and/or capacity.

Under paragraph 7(b) your application states that you will furnish your share of the exploration costs by contributing labor, equipment and some money for assaying and other incidentals. As payment of the Government's share of the costs takes from three to four weeks after the operator submits a properly supported voucher, an applicant should have sufficient funds to finance at least two months exploration work.

Pending receipt of the supplementary information required, we shall hold your application in abeyance.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

ADMcMAHON/foc
2-24-56
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. I - NW DIST.
Messrs. J.W. Pennington, USBM
Thor H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
FEB 17 1956

February 17, 1956

Copy retained 400

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: J. W. Pennington, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of application, Docket No. DMEA - 4175 (mercury), Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell, Owyhee Mercury, Owyhee County, Idaho, $20,000.00

It is proposed to explore this property by 6,000 feet of core drilling and by an unstated quantity of stripping at an estimated cost of $20,000.00. Although it is stated that assaying will be done at the time, the number of analyses and costs are not given.

Information supplied with the application on the property and the program is insufficient and indefinite. The Bureau has no data on the mercury mineralization in this area.

Referral of the application to the Field Team is recommended to obtain the necessary information on the property and a definite exploration program.

J. W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals (2)
R. W. Geehan
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F i l e s

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

RECEIVED
FEB 16 1956

February 15, 1956

Copy [illegible]

Re: DMEA 4175
Ray Fletcher & Bryan Brunzell
Owyhee Mercury Mine
Owyhee County, Idaho
$20,000.00 - Mercury

WSM

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application.

The applicants request assistance in exploring a sedimentary deposit of opalite, limestone, gypsum and calcite in which " . . . mercury is detected in most samples taken." The proposed work consists of:--

Bulldozing	$ 2,000.00
Core drilling, 6,000 ft.	18,000.00
Total	$20,000.00

Probably no center of mineralization has been spotted since no systematic sampling is mentioned and no assays are reported.

Unless the applicants supply more definite information and set up a less general target the project may well be classed as prospecting.

Referral to the Field Team for appropriate action is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

February 15, 1956
Subject: DMEA-4175
Re: Exploration Assistance
Owyhee Mercury

Messrs. Ray Fletcher & Bryan Brunzell
Murphy, Idaho

Dear Sirs:

The receipt of your application dated January 30, 1956, for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-4175 and referred to the Iron & Ferro-Alloys Division.

Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this docket number.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Adams, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

60932

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

RECEIVED
FEB 13 1956

February 8, 1956

Mr. George C. Selfridge, Chairman
Operating Committee, DMEA
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: New application (mercury)
Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell,
a partnership
Owyhee Mercury
Owyhee County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are three copies of an application submitted by Ray Fletcher and Bryan Brunzell of Murphy, Idaho.

We have retained one copy for our files.

Sincerely yours,

Verne C. Fryklund Jr.

Verne C. Fryklund, Jr.
For: A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region I
Northwest District

Enclosures
cc: USBM(2)

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

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

RECEIVED
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FEB 2 1956
U. S. G. S.
SPOKANE, WASH.

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-4175
Metal or Mineral Mercury
Date Received 2-13-56
Estimated Cost $20,000.00
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: Ray Fletcher - Murphy, Idaho
Bryan Brunzell - Murphy, Idaho
a Partnership

(*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 Unpatented claims in Sec. 32, T.2S - R.2W Sec. 4&5, T.3S - R.2W Boise Meridian. Recorded in book 23 - Page 199&205, Book 24, page 15, 263, & 265 at Owyhee County, Idaho

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. Owyhee Mercury

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

(*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 None

(*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 Mercury

(*b*) Describe fully the proposed work, including 4 copies 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 10 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?

[X] Money [X] Use of equipment owned by you [X] 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 January 30, 1956

Bryan Brungell
Ray Fletcher
(Applicant)

By Murphy Bela

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

Ray Fletcher
Bryan Brunzell -Murphy, Idaho

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4. (a). We done some stripping with Bulldozer's, and location work, The mine is accessible at any time of the year, for examination purpuses.

(b).
None

(c).- The property is in bedded sedimentary deposits of Opalite, limestone, gypsum, and calcite. Also has considerable amount of iron pyrites. The ore is Mercury, and is detected in most sample's taken.
We wish to strip and Core-drill to see if the mercury will be in a more extensive deposit.

(d).- The project is about 3 miles south of Murphy, Idaho. We have access roads to the claims. The nearest Railroad is 15 miles, and 3 miles to State highway 45.

(e). - The manpower situation would be good, and the Idaho Power Co. has a power line running through the property. Water is within 1 mile of the property.

5. (b). - We propose to Strip and Core-drill also assay at the time.
(d). - Have worked and operated mines most of life, but expect to contract the stripping and core-drilling.

6. (a). Independant contracts.

We propose to Core-drill approx. 6000' feet. at a cost of $ 3.00 per foot. ----------	$18,000.00
Bulldozing and stripping, approx. ----------	$ 2,000.00
Total	$20,000.00

7. (a). Yes
(b). We propose to furnish some money for assaying and other incidentals, also to furnish equipment owned by us.
And we expect to work on the project ourself's.

Ray Fletcher - Murphy, Idaho
Bryan Brunzell - Murphy, Idaho

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CORDERO MINING COMPANY

ASSAY SHEET

Head: Shift No. 1 _____
No. 2 _____
No. 3 _____

Tail: Shift No. 1 _____
No. 2 _____
No. 3 _____

Red Horse #1	2.4
Fossil	.7
Red Horse #2	.9
Ruby	.9
Red Horse #3	.8
Ridge	.7

DATE OF ASSAY: 1-28-56 BY: [illegible]

N 1

Ray Fletcher - Murphy, Idaho
Bryan Brunzell - Murphy, Idaho

Docket 4175

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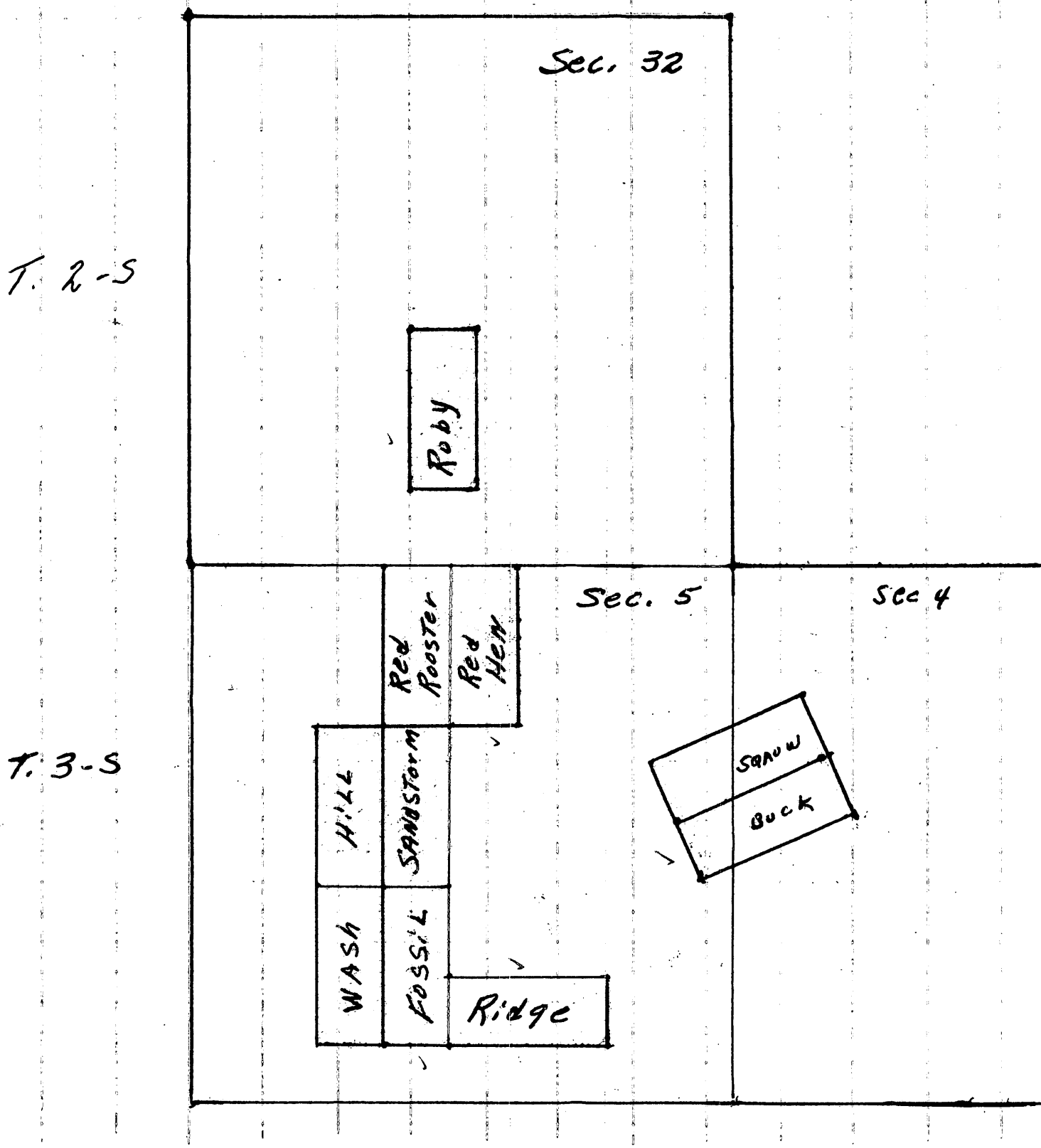
R- 2 W



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~~Administrative Manager~~	RUN STOP	[illegible]	RUN STOP
Mr. E. A. Hurd Administrative Management ~~Div~~ Room 3061	RUN STOP	~~V. E. Springfield~~ Rm. 2211 65A	RUN STOP
[illegible]	RUN STOP	~~Mrs. F. Thomas~~ ~~Rm 4242 G.S.A.~~	RUN STOP
Mr. Wm. E. Davis U. S. Geol Survey Room G-35	RUN 16 STOP 29A	~~[illegible]~~	RUN STOP
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~~Mrs. Adams~~ G ~~35~~ Cen Bldg	RUN STOP	~~[illegible]~~	RUN STOP
[illegible] ~~Rm. 4225~~	RUN STOP	~~MR. DON ROCK~~ ~~MINERAL DEPOSITS BR.~~ ~~RM 4206~~ ~~G.S.A.~~	RUN STOP
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