July 6, 1973

Frank Taft came in and retrieved his application and report by Tailleur & Patton

W.P.P.

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
April 2, 1965

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Exploration Operations

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Transmittal of Application for Assistance (Silver)
R. M. Barrett and F. A. Taft
Rob Roy and Red Top Claims
Custer County, Idaho

Enclosed is a copy of an OME application which Frank Taft left at the Spokane office March 21, 1965. It was not forwarded sooner as a signature was missing from one of the leases and Taft promised to get it to us within a few days.

According to section 2(b) the Red Top group consists of 25 unpatented claims, but only 21 are included in the Ed Hile lease. Missing from the lease but shown on Plate V are Red Top #19, #20, #21, and #22; of these, #19 and #20 are affected by the proposed exploration. Red Top #23 is included in the lease but is not shown on Plate V. Of the seven unpatented claims in the Rob Roy group, Headlight, 97 No. 1, 97, Good Enough Extension #1, and Good Enough Extension #2 each have a portion overlapped by patented claims owned by Clayton Silver, however, none of them will be affected by the proposed work. Moreover, Good Enough Extension #1 and #2 are not named in the Rob Roy lease but appear on the map; listed in the lease but not shown on the map are Good Enough #1 and Good Enough #2. I have not written to the applicants for clarification of these points as there is some doubt that the property can qualify as a silver project, or even if the proposed first stage is exploration rather than prospecting, most of the justification being based on geologic inference.

The zone to be explored is believed to be the northern extension of the Kila dolomite, a member within the Kennikinic quartzite, in which the ore bodies at the Clayton mine are found. However, at Clayton it was not until the 800 level was opened that the silver values exceeded those of lead and zinc. From 1936-1956, Clayton produced 641,963 tons of ore averaging about 4 ounces silver per ton, 3.4 percent lead and 1.1 percent zinc (Application Docket No. BMBA-4639), all from above the 500 level. The Red Bird mine has produced from a slate bed ore containing 40-60 ounces silver per ton and 30-40 percent lead, but shipments in 1926 contained only 5 ounces silver

per ton and 7 percent lead. South Butte mine on the west limb of the same anticline has produced from shallow workings in the Kila dolomite 512 tons of ore containing 58 ounces silver per ton and 50 percent lead.

The only evidence that the Kila dolomite may contain mineral bodies similar to Clayton is the iron oxide-stained outcrop. Whether this is due to oxidation of pyrite only, or of other sulfides is not known. It can be inferred that other sulfides are probably present. At Clayton, a fault is at or near the hanging wall of the dolomite, but farther north, it crosses over and follows the footwall. What effect, if any, this might have on the mineralization within the applicants' claims I do not know. If the ore forming solutions at Clayton were related to the gabbro intrusion to the east, would the fact that the gabbro is quite a bit further east of the Kila dolomite at Rob Roy indicate the probability of less mineralization in that area? The answer could only come from some sort of underground exploration. I believe that the first stage drilling, in view of the steep slopes, is a good proposal and, if successful, the proposed crosscut and drift would be warranted.

That brings me back to the basic questions: Can this be considered as a legitimate silver project and is the geologic inference sufficient to consider the drilling as exploration? The potential discovery in this environment is fairly large.

D. R. MacLaren

Enclosure
DRMacLaren:mls

Director's Reading File
Resources Research Branch Chief