DMEA Form 9
Rev. 6/57

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
~~Defense Minerals Exploration Administration~~
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICIAL DOCKET FILE

Idm-E NO._____

OME ~~DMEA~~ NO. 6525

Application
- [x] Denied
- [ ] Withdrawn

Contract
- [ ] Terminated - Not Certified
- [ ] Terminated - Certified
- [ ] Cancelled
- [ ] Royalty Agreement

The records contained in this file are marked (x) and arranged in this order:

Folder No. 1:

Left Side

- [ ] Royalty Audits
- [ ] Certification of Discovery
- [ ] Closing Letter
- [ ] Cost Audits
- [ ] Termination Notice or Agreement
- [ ] Recision Notice
- [ ] Assignment of Contract
- [ ] Contract Amendments
- [ ] Contract with all exhibits and annexes
- [ ] Owner's Consent to Lien and Subordination Agreement
- [x] Application and attachments

Right Side

- [ ] Project summary (final)
- [ ] Work Completed analysis (final)

All other material filed in chronological order including the following reports if checked:

- [ ] Field Team Semi-Annual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Final Field Team Report (Tab)
- [ ] Operator's Final Report (Tab)
- [ ] Interim Field Team Reports
- [ ] Operator's monthly reports and all attachments
- [ ] On-site Exam Report (Tab)
- [ ] Settlement Sheets
- [ ] Drill Logs

Additional Folders:

Left Side

Folders No._____: Reports
- [ ] Analysis of Semi-Annual Inspection Reports
- [ ] Project Summary (Interim) by DMEA Engineers

Right Side

- [ ] Field Team Semi-Annual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Field Team Interim Reports
- [ ] Operator's Monthly Reports with transmittal, narrative and maps.

Folders No._____: Maps (Use pocket folder or envelope)

Folders No._____: Settlement Sheets

Folders No._____: Drill Logs

Folders No._____: Royalty material

17963

MME Form 40
July 1962

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1368
Approval expires Dec. 31, 1963

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS EXPLORATION

Pursuant to Public Law 85-701 (72 Stat. 700; 30 U.S.C. 641)

NAME OF APPLICANT *(Full legal name and mailing address as they should appear on contract if one is executed.)*

MOUNTAINEER MINING and EXPLORATION CO, INC.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, W. Va.

APPLICANT DO NOT USE THIS BLOCK

DOCKET NUMBER: 6525

DATE RECEIVED: 12-3-65

REGION: IV

DIVISION CODE:

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION *(Check one)*

- INDIVIDUAL [ ]
- CORPORATION [x]
- PARTNERSHIP [ ]
- OTHER *(Specify)* [ ]

STATE IN WHICH FIRM IS ORGANIZED:

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

NAME	ADDRESS	TITLE
Ralph W. Griffith	137 Hall St., Clarksburg, W.Va.	President
Kenneth L. Aspy	117 Thompson St. "	Vice Pres.
Virginia L. Griffith	137 Hall St. "	Sec.-Treas.

MINERAL(S) FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO EXPLORE: Platinum - Silver - Lead

ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT: $ 25,000.00

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION COUNTY	STATE
Individual Leases (Enclosed)	Wolfe Co.	Kentucky

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read the *OME Regulations for Obtaining Federal Assistance in Financing Explorations for Mineral Reserves* (30 CFR Chap. III). To assure prompt action, your application must provide all applicable material and information specified on the back of this application form. Avoid unnecessary correspondence and delays by submitting complete and accurate information. *Please submit two copies of this application and all accompanying papers* except as otherwise noted. Place your name and address on each sheet. Each item of information, maps, and reports required as a part of this application is described on the back of this form. Identify each attached statement by the item number to which it applies. If an item does not apply to your application, show the item number on your statement and after it write "not applicable." Maps or sketches should be used to supplement narrative descriptions of the property location and boundaries in item 2, existing mine workings and geology in item 3, and the proposed exploration work in item 5. When this information is not too complex, all of it may be shown on one map or sketch. All documents and other attachments submitted as a part of this application, except those in item 3(g) which you mark to be returned, become the property of the Government and will not be returned to the applicant. Send true copies, *not originals*, of leases, contracts, and other documents which are an essential part of your business records. *File this application with the Office of Minerals Exploration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest OME Field Office.*

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, and that he would not ordinarily undertake the proposed exploration under current conditions and circumstances at his sole expense.

MOUNTAINEER MINING AND EXPLORATION CO.
BY _____
Its President

DATED: 12-1-65

Ralph W. Griffith BY *(Signature)*
President
TITLE

A wilfully false statement or certification to any Department or Agency of the United States Government is a criminal offense. U. S. Code, Title 18, Sec. 1001.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THIS APPLICATION

1. Financial Eligibility:

(a) Submit evidence of efforts made within 90 days preceding the filing of this application to obtain credit from your bank of account and at least one other banking institution or other private source of credit. Such evidence shall include true copies of correspondence which show: (1) date of loan request, (2) amount and terms requested, (3) proposed use of loan funds, and (4) the replies from credit sources. If the loan was offered under terms which you consider unreasonable, state why you consider them so.

(b) List names and addresses of affiliated, parent, or controlling companies or organizations and state extent and nature of their interest.

(c) State how you propose to furnish your share of the cost of the exploration work.

2. Applicant's Rights in Land:

(a) State your interest in the land and mineral rights, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or other. If you are not the owner, submit one true copy of the lease, contract, or other document (with address of owner) under which you control the property. Describe all liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances on the land and state book and page number and official place where recorded.

(b) State the legal description (section, township, and range; metes and bounds; patent number of claims) of the land upon which you wish to explore and all adjacent land which you own or control. Describe any part of the land or workings which should not be subject to Government royalty and liens. If the land consists of unpatented claims, state book and page number for each recorded location notice, including amended locations, and official place where recorded. State all the names by which you know the property.

(c) For all land or mineral rights encumbered or not owned, submit five copies of Lien and Subordination Agreements on MME Form 52. If the agreements cannot be obtained, state reasons and provide copies of letters of refusal.

3. Physical Description:

(a) Describe in detail and illustrate with maps or sketches all mining or exploration operations which you know have been or are being conducted upon the land. Include existing mine workings and all production facilities.

(b) State your interest, if any, in operations described in (a).

(c) State, if you know, the past and current production, supporting your statement with copies of settlement sheets, mine records, or published data if available.

(d) Describe known ore reserves, giving quantities and grades and sampling methods used. Support your statement with copies of assay certificates and assay maps if available.

(e) Describe by narrative and maps or sketches the geologic features of the property, including ore minerals, geologic formations if known, and type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.).

(f) State your reasons for expecting to find ore, and if you have sampled the area you propose to explore, show where the samples were taken, describe sampling methods used, and provide copies of assay certificates.

(g) Send with your application at least *two* copies of all geologic or engineering reports, assay maps, or technologic information which you have, indicating whether you require their return.

4. Accessibility of Property:

(a) To aid the OME representative who may examine the property, state name and address of person who will meet him; give directions for reaching the property; and describe accessibility of property and of any mine workings.

(b) Name the shipping and supply points and state the distances to the property.

5. Exploration Work:

(a) Describe fully the proposed exploration work giving individual footages and sizes of openings *for each item of work.* Use narrative, maps, plans, and sections as necessary. Show location of the proposed work as related to geologic features such as veins, ore-bearing beds, contacts of rock formations, etc. Show also the relation of the proposed work to any existing mine workings and to *land boundaries* or to the closest identifiable corner.

(b) If an access road must be built, show the proposed location on the property map and state the length, type and construction methods proposed.

(c) If an OME contract is executed, state how soon thereafter work would be started and finished. State your anticipated average daily or monthly rate of progress for each type of work.

6. Experience:

State your operating experience and background to conduct this exploration work and also that of the person who will supervise the work.

7. Estimate of Costs:

Furnish detailed estimates of the necessary costs *for each item of the work proposed in 5(a)* under the headings listed below with a total for each heading and the estimated total cost of the work. Costs for any work to be performed by an independent contractor should be listed separately under category (a) below. Costs for any work that is not to be performed by an independent contractor should be listed under categories (b) through (g).

(a) Independent contracts. State the total cost of any proposed independent contract for all or any part of the work, and the number of units and the unit cost for each type of work, such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, or per cubic yard of material moved. Cost estimates should be supported by bids from three contractors if possible. (*Note*—If none of the work is to be contracted, write "none" after this item.)

(b) Personal services. The cost of supervision, engineering and geological services, outside consultants, and labor should be itemized by numbers and classes of employees; rates of wages, salaries or fees; and periods of employment. State whether these services are available.

(c) Operating materials and supplies. List items of material and supplies giving quantity and cost of each. Include under this heading power, water, and fuel, and units of equipment and tools costing less than $50 each.

(d) Operating equipment. List items of equipment and tools costing $50 or more per unit. Give specifications and indicate how each item is to be acquired—i.e., rented, purchased or provided by the applicant. If rented or purchased, state the estimated rental or purchase price. If furnished by the applicant, state condition and present fair market value.

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs. Describe the type and the cost of *initial* rehabilitation or repair of existing buildings, fixtures, installations (exclusive of mine workings), and movable operating equipment now owned by the applicant which will be used in the exploration work.

(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations. Describe each building, fixed improvement, and installation to be purchased, constructed, or installed for the exploration work, stating specifications and cost including labor, materials, and supervision.

(g) Miscellaneous. Describe the type and estimate the cost of repairs and maintenance of the operating equipment listed in 7(d). Do not repeat initial repairs listed in 7(e). Show also the costs of analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employees' liability insurance, payroll taxes, and other required costs that do not fall within the previous categories. [*Note*—The Government will not contribute to costs incurred before the date of the contract, or to costs of or incident to: (1) acquiring, using, or possessing land and any existing improvements, facilities, buildings, installations, and appurtenances, or the depreciation and depletion thereof; (2) general overhead, corporate management, interest and taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes); (3) insurance (other than employees' liability insurance); and (4) damages to persons or property (other than authorized repair to or replacement of equipment or other property used in the work).]

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C. 11879

Mountaineer

MINING & EXPLORING COMPANY

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS

November 30, 1965

Section #1

Paragraph A Request of banking institution was made and answer is enclosed. Funds to be used to further exploration operations.

Paragraph B None

Paragraph C Sale of stock and personal financing by company officials.

Section #2

Paragraph A Leases enclosed. Recorded in Wolfe County, Kentucky. In excess of 2,000 acres. All minerals included.

Section #3

Paragraph A No mining or drilling is known except hidden mine that we are attempting to open, explore and test drill. No coal evident thus far in Wolfe County. Oil wells of good production have been drilled in the area as near as two miles but none are known on our leased properties.

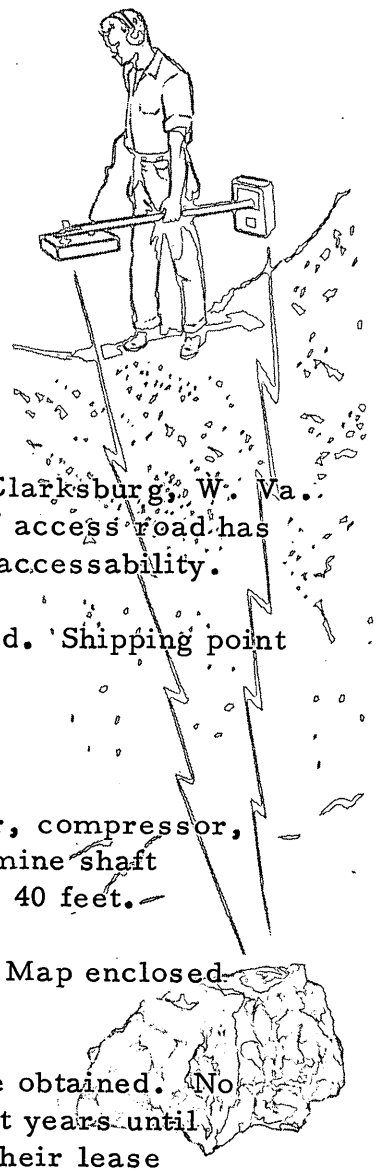
Paragraph D & E

Not financially able to drill or pursue excavation further. At present, the geologist claims evidence of galena and lead. Rock layers of sandstone to blue clay, shale and stone of fine composition as rare earth pumice or talk (Talc) available in large quantity have been encountered. The extent of excavation thus far is to a depth of 40 feet. Formation of this particular area is unique and is by fault or volcanic structure.

Paragraph F Many have searched for this particular opening and believe there to be an outcropping of ore. In this particular instance, we need to confer with OME'S department consultants.

Mountaineer
MINING & EXPLORING COMPANY
P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS



Section #3

Paragraph A We will be glad to meet an examiner either in Clarksburg, W. Va. or a point designated in Kentucky. One mile of access road has been cut to the area of mine working for dozer accessability.

Paragraph B Main improved road at head of mine access road. Shipping point by rail is three miles from head of road.

Section #5

Paragraph A In excess of $3,000.00 has been spent for dozer, compressor, hammer drill, powder, etc. to excavate along mine shaft toward cliff face. Present depth approximately 40 feet.

Paragraph B Not immediately available. Can be furnished. Map enclosed is of close proximity.

Paragraph C Have all land needed and bounded. More can be obtained. No refusals. There were refusals to others in past years until we contacted Mr. & Mrs. Adams and obtained their lease through friendly relations. All others have followed their lead.

Paragraph b One mile of access road has been cut.
Paragraph c Depending upon weather conditions, sandstone slippage, etc. Core drilling could be carried on at once. Excavation, if needed, should begin by May, 1966.

Section #6

We, as a partnership, before incorporating, have been exploring in W. Va. for the past 15 years and feel that with the help and consultation of the OME's office and employment of Mr. Bashum, owner of The West Virginia Tractor Co. of Clarksburg, W. Va., we will be able to determine the most feasible approach to this venture. Mr. Bashum also has interest in this company.

Section #7

? At this time we are unable to answer this section without first some additional advice and consultation with OME's office.

McFARLIN'S PHARMACY
216 MILFORD ST.
CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

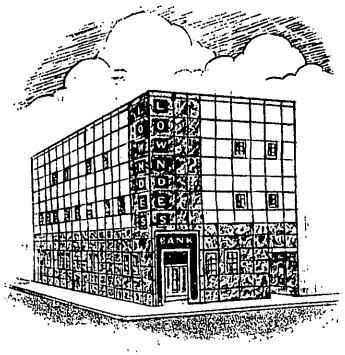
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co.
P.O. Box 902
Clarksburg, W.Va.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your request for a loan of 25,000 dollars, we regret to inform you at this time, it would be quite impossible for us to participate in such a loan.

Very truly yours,

J. A. McFarlin



The Lowndes Bank

Clarksburg, West Virginia

November 22, 1965

Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Company
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Gentlemen:

With reference to your application for a $25,000.00 loan, we regret to advise you that, at this time, we are unable to grant or participate in same.

Very truly yours,

Leslie Holdsworth

Leslie Holdsworth
Treasurer

LH:pw

UNITED STATES 1:250,000

Land that is Leased

RN UNITED STATES 1:250,[illegible]0

(Land that is Leased

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
6/24/69	Kirkemo	120
6/25/69	Kilgore	
6/25	Wagner	220

Mr. R. W. Griffith
President
Mountaineer Mining &
Exploration Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302

JUN 25 1969

Dear Mr. Griffith:

This is in reply to your letter of June 9, 1969, to President Nixon requesting financial assistance to reopen an abandoned mine shaft in Kentucky which you believe is an entry to a silver mine or hidden treasure left by Captain John Smith about 1769.

As you already have applied for and been denied assistance by the three Federal agencies offering programs of assistance for various enterprises concerned with mineral exploration and development, we cannot suggest to you other possibilities for assistance within the Government.

If you are unable to obtain assistance from private, state, or institutional interests for your venture, we can suggest only that you rely on your own resources to rehabilitate the shaft. Should the endeavor disclose the wealth you expect is present, future financing should be no problem.

Thank you for again bringing this proposal to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur A. Baker

Acting Director

cc: General Files
Director's Chron
Division File
Economic Geology File
OME docket 6525
OME Reading File
R. A. Laurence, Knoxville, Tenn. w/cy incoming letter
Mr. Kirkemo

HKirkemo/gla 6-24-69

Mountaineer
MINING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.
P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

JUN 24 AM '69

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH

June 9, 1969

JUN 23 1969

INITIALS	CODE
HR	130

6525

Mr. Richard M. Nixon
United States President
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

In the North Central section of Kentucky Legend and some documented material refer to a silver mine or a hidden treasure belonging to Captain John Swift. He was an English Adventurer, having been in this area around 1769.

At present I hold 17 leases comprising about 3,000 acres in this area. I have found a mine shaft which from all indications and stone markings may very well be the Swift mine. My problem is now financial. The shaft has either fallen in or has been blown in, necessitating the need of equipment to open the shaft. Already I have spent in the neighborhood of $15,000 for leases, some escavating, geological reports, lawyers fees, etc. I would like aid in obtaining either a grant or a government loan to carry on this work.

I applied for a $25,000 loan but have been turned down by the Small Business Administration, Area Redevelopment, and Department of Interior.

Should the endeavor prove to be fruitless, my company would be capable of paying back the loan in a reasonable time period.

Any assistance that you might give would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

R. W. Griffith

R. W. Griffith
President

RWG/1

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
6/3/68	RWSmith	120
6/3/68	Kirkemo	120
		110
		220

Mr. Ralph W. Griffith
President, Mountaineer Mining and
Exploration Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302

Dear Mr. Griffith:

Your letters of April 2 and May 8, 1968, to President Johnson have been referred to us by the Small Business Administration for our consideration and further reply.

Your letters indicate that you wish to explore the same property that was the subject of your application (OME-6525) dated December 1, 1965, which was denied for lack of favorable geological evidence to support the probability of a significant discovery. If you now have additional geological information that would materially improve the probability, we shall be pleased to consider a new application.

If you have not reopened and sampled the old workings or otherwise exposed favorable geologic conditions, the property would still be in the prospecting stage. There is no program of Federal financial assistance for prospecting. It might be possible, however, to interest private institutions, such as Historical Socities, in your investigations of the Red River Legend.

We regret that the Government cannot participate in your interesting search for John Swift's Silver Mine, and we wish you every success in locating it.

Sincerely yours,

~~GEOLOGICAL SURVEY~~ ~~FRANK E. JOHNSON~~ Cac

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

cc: Robert C. Moot
Administrator
Small Business Administration

Director's Reading File
Economic Geology File
OME Docket
OME Reading File
Mr. Smith

RMSmith/bsl 6/3/68

U.S. GOVERNMENT
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAY 27 1968

6525
cal

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
MAY 29 1968

INITIALS	CODE
	110
	120

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Frank E. Johnson, Chief
Office of Mineral Exploration
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

The attached copies of correspondence are forwarded for
for your consideration

If we can be of further service, please let us know.

R. C. Moot
Robert C. Moot
Administrator

Enclosures

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAY 27 1968

Mr. Ralph W. Griffith
President, Mountaineer Mining &
Exploration Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302

Dear Mr. Griffith:

President Johnson has asked us to reply to your letter of May 8, 1968, concerning your efforts to obtain a loan from the Department of Interior, Office of Mineral Exploration.

Your earlier letter of April 2, 1968, was also referred to the Small Business Administration and, in our reply dated April 15, copy attached, we advised you to contact our Clarksburg Regional Office. Inasmuch as your recent letter indicates that you wish to obtain a loan from another Government agency, we have forwarded copies of your letters to the Office of Mineral Exploration, Department of Interior, for their consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. C. Moot

Robert C. Moot
Administrator

Enclosure

(b. SBA)

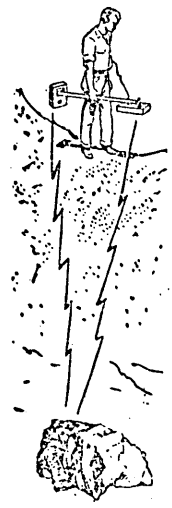
Mountaineer

MINING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH



Respectfully referred
for attention and
appropriate handling.
Whitney Ghormley
Assistant to the President

May 8, 1968.

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

On April 2, 1968, I wrote you concerning help in obtaining a loan from the United States Department of the Interior Office of Mineral Exploration. To date I have not heard from you. I have tried every way possible to get help in order that I may continue my operations in Kentucky. I know at this time that Washington has more important matters to attend to and I am truly sorry to have to ask for help from the President of the United States, but I have no other choice because when my leases run out, I will not be able to renew them.

Your assistance in this matter will certainly be most appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Ralph W. Griffith

Ralph W. Griffith

Mountaineer

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH

ING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

April 2, 1968

President Lyndon B. Johnson
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Johnson:

I realize that you are a very busy man, but wondered if you would be kind enough to advise me about the following matter.

I have spent thousands of dollars in Kentucky trying to open an old mine which, according to all the information our Company has obtained, is supposed to be a rich silver mine or hidden treasure found by an English Adventurer, Captain John Swift, in the year 1769. I have leased approximately 3,000 acres of land in Kentucky and 17 individual leases. In order to carry on with the exploration of this mine, I have been trying to obtain a loan in the amount of $25,000.00 from the Small Business Administration in Clarksburg, West Virginia, the Area Redevelopment and have filled out application forms from the United States Department of Interior, but have been refused by all three.

My Company is very capable of paying any loan from any of the Government Agencies within a reasonable length of time whether or not we may or may not find the mine.

I am now forty-three years of age, have a high credit rating, served five years in the second World War, belong to the Masonic Temple, am a member of the Stealey Heights Methodist Church, am married and have two children. I have worked at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company of Nutter Fort, West Virginia, for fifteen years.

It would be very much appreciated if you could assist me in obtaining a loan in order that I may continue my work.

Respectfully yours,

Ralph W. Griffith

Ralph W. Griffith

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
11/4	RM Smith	120
11/4/66	Kirkemo	120
"	Johnson	140
11/8	Kielsgaard	
11/8	Hawes	
		220

NOV 10 1966

Hon. Arch A. Moore, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: OME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Moore:

In reply to your request of November 2, 1966, for information on the disposition of the referenced application from Mr. Ralph W. Griffith and Mr. Ken L. Aspy, we regret to inform you that the application was denied.

This decision resulted from the report of a geologic examination submitted by Mr. Griffith which indicated that there is no evidence of a workable deposit in the area.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Director

cc: General Files
Division File
Director's Chron
Economic Geology File
OME File
OME Reading File
OME Region IV
R. M. Smith

RMSmith/gls 11-4-66

175059 23263

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

November 2, 1966

Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Attn: Mr. Baker

Gentlemen:

I should very much appreciate your advising me of the final decision rendered on an application filed with your agency by Mr. Ralph W. Griffith and Mr. Ken L. Aspy last January, 1966, for a loan for mine exploration.

Thank you kindly for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Arch A. Moore, Jr.

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
Congressman, First District
West Virginia

AAM/cdm

c
o
p
y

175059

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
5/16	R. M. Smith	120
5/16/66	Kirkham	120
"	Johnson	110
5/17	Kilgaard	220
5/18	Lewis	
5/19	[illegible]	
		110
		220

Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302

Re: OME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 1966, and the accompanying geologic report of the Mill Creek-Tight Hollow area which was investigated in April 1966 for the purpose of determining the possibilities for oil and gas and also for evidence of silver or associated minerals in the area.

Careful study of the geologic report and of other information in your application for financial assistance in exploring the referenced property indicates that the probability of disclosing significant reserves of silver or platinum is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation in the proposed exploration. Accordingly, we regret to inform you that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

The geologic report, 12 Lease Agreements, newspaper articles, and the account of "John Swift's Silver" copied from The Kentucky and The Calk Papers are returned herewith in accordance with your request.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK E. JOHNSON

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

Enclosures

cc: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology File
Mr. Smith
OME File
OME Region IV
OME Reading File
130
120M

RMSmith/gla 5-16-66

23263

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
5/16	Smith	
	RJ	

May 16, 1966

Memorandum

To: The File

From: R. M. Smith

Subject: OME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Justification for Denial of Application

The purpose of the project proposed by the Applicant was to hunt for John Swift's legendary lost silver mine. The first stage of the work was to be a field examination by Government geologists to determine the most feasible approach to the venture.

In response to our request for additional information to justify a field examination, the Applicant engaged Kenneth W. Shafor, B.A., M.S., Miami University, to investigate and report on the economic potential of the subject Lease area. The geologic report, dated April 15, 1966, suggests that coal for local consumption might be produced, and that a well in the area would be expected to penetrate a number of potential hydrocarbon-bearing formations. The report also states that "No deposits of silver are known to exist in or around the area of investigation." Evidently no lead, silver, or platinum minerals were observed during the investigation since it was reported that "The facts seem adequate to arrive at the conclusion that evidence was not found to suggest the presence of a workable ore deposit in the area of study."

No indications of the occurrence of silver or platinum on the Applicant's property is contained in the application or in the geologic report. I recommend, therefore, that the application be denied.

R. M. Smith

R. M. Smith

cc: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology File
OME File
OME Reading File
Mr. Smith

RMSmith/gla 5-16-66

23263

Mountaineer

MINING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

OFFICIAL
COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
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INITIALS	CODE
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LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH

May 11, 1966.

Re: OME 6525

Frank E. Johnson
Chief Office of
Minerals Exploration

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a Geologist report of Wolfe County, Ky., with the information that I have already sent to your office, this is all that I can possibly send. If I do not meet the requirements under Mineral Exploration, please send back all information that I have sent to your office. Thanking you for your time, and trouble.

Yours truly,
Ralph W. Griffith

OME-6525

Hold
pending geologic
report by consultant
of exam to be made
Apr. 9, 1965.

STATES
' THE INTERIOR
RATION ADMINISTRATION
ON 25, D. C.

Mountaineer

MINING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH

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Feb. 23, 1966

Frank E. Johnson
Chief Office of Mineral Exploration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 21, 1966. Am sending you a copy of a letter that I received from Kenneth W. Shafer he will not be able to give me a geologist survey report until the week-end of April 9th. When I received this report will forward it to your office. This is all the information that I can possible give, if this is not sufficient please return all leases and information that I have sent. Thank you.

Yours very truly

Ralph W. Griffith, Pres.

OME
6525

December 29, 1965
Amity Lane, R.R. #3
Middletown, Ohio 45042

Mountaineer Mining & Exploring Company
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Attention: Mr. Ralph W. Griffith, Presient

Subject: Swift's Silver Mine, Geological Considerations

Dear Mr. Griffith:

Attached for your reference is a Xerox copy of a newspaper article which you may find interesting. I have for some years studied the geology in association with various formations in Wolfe County, Kentucky in an effort to determine if mineralization of economic importance existed there.

I conducted a geological survey for Mr. Edward Albertson and Mr. E. A. McGowan of Norfolk, Virginia in 1963. While the results of that survey are confidential, I can say that it is not unreasonable to believe that there may exist an area of worthwhile mineralization near the area that I surveyed for these gentlemen.

I would welcome communication in the event that you or the officers of your firm would be interested in having a geological survey made to determine if it is geologically possible for a deposit of silver to exist in an area of exploration. My home phone number is area code 513, 539-7984, during working hour I can be reached at 425-2843 (same area code number.)

I hold bachelor and master degrees in geology from the University of Miami, Oxford, Ohio and have done consultant geological work for many firms. A sample of my work would be sent to you upon request.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth W. Shafor

Kenneth W. Shafor

KWS/cam
cc: file
enclosure

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
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	Selfridge	120
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Inc.		

F.U.

Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia

2 1 1966

Re: GME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co.,
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

This is in reply to your letter of February 17, 1965, inquiring whether a survey of the referenced property by a geologist would provide sufficient additional information to complete your application. We cannot predict that such a survey is warranted or whether it would result in a favorable or an unfavorable report. Both geologic and engineering data are required to determine the eligibility of a proposed exploration project, and the report of a qualified mining geologist or engineer is helpful in processing an application, but it is not a requirement if the data requested in the application form can be submitted by the Applicant.

As none of the information requested in our letter of January 10, 1966, is submitted and as no indication that the workings are being made accessible or that sufficient information to justify a field examination is being obtained, we are unable to continue the processing of your application.

Under these circumstances, we shall appreciate information on your wishes and plans concerning the application. If you consider that the proposed project may meet our criteria and wish more time to obtain the additional information, will you please so inform us.

If we do not receive a reply from you within thirty days from the date of this letter, we shall assume that you are no longer interested in proceeding with your application; and we shall consider it as having been withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

cc: Director's Reading
Division File
Econ. Geol. File
OME Docket
OME Reading
R. A. Laurence w/cy of inc. ltr.
R. M. Smith

RMSmith/mm (2/21/66)

23263

Mountaineer

MINING & EXPLORATION COMPANY INC.

P. O. BOX 902
CLARKSBURG, W. VA. 26302

LOCATING BURIED TREASURES
OR VALUABLE MINERALS ANYWHERE
IS OUR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: R. W. GRIFFITH
VICE PRES.: K. L. ASPY
TREASURER: V. L. GRIFFITH

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
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Mr. Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration
Washington 25, D.C.
Feb. 17, 1966.

Dear Mr. Johnson;

Sorry, I have not answered your letter of Jan. 10, 66. was waiting for information, the only other information that I can give you in regards to my application. Is a Geologist survey of property leased in Wolfe County Ky., if this will be sufficient will hire a Geologist to run a survey on the land.

Yours truly,
Ralph W. Griffith, Pres.

Re: O. M. E.-6525 (Silver Platinum)

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
2/9	RM Smith	120
	Selfridge	120
		110
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FEB 9 1966

Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Re: OME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

We have not received a reply to our letter of January 10, 1966, requesting additional information necessary to continue the processing of your application.

Will you please inform us whether we may expect the necessary data.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON
Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

RMSmith/mm (2/9/66)
cc: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology File
OME Docket
R. A. Laurence, Knoxville, Tenn.
OME Reading File
Mr. Smith

23263

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
1/14	Smith	1215
	Selfridge	
1/18	Johnson	
1/19	Kilgard	
1/20	Lewis	
"	Vinson	

JAN 25 1966

Hon. Arch A. Moore, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: OMM-0815 (Silver-Platinum)
Hecatechsner Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Moore:

We have your letter of January 11, 1966, requesting the current status of the referenced application from Mr. Ralph W. Griffith of Charleston, West Virginia.

On January 18, 1966, we wrote to the Applicant requesting additional information necessary to complete our review of the application. Mr. Griffith's letter to you doubtless would have crossed ours in the mails.

This application was received early in December and was acknowledged the same day. Normally our review requires from a week to a month to complete, depending upon its complexity. In this instance, we were delayed more than usual owing partly to shortage of personnel and partly to a heavy backlog of applications. Please be assured that final action on the application will be taken promptly upon receipt of the additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur A. Baker

Acting Director

cc: General Files
Division Files
Director's Chron.
Economic Geology File
OMM Reading File
✓OMM Docket
R. A. Lawrence, Knoxville, Tenn. w/cy of incoming ltr
Mr. Smith

RHSmith/mm (1/18/66)

169806

23263

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
[illegible]

WASHINGTON OFFICE
[illegible]

DISTRICT OFFICES
[illegible]

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON SMALL BUSINESS

JOINT HOUSE-SENATE
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
AND NATIONALITY POLICY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January [illegible], 1966

120 S

Mr. George C. Selfridge
Chief, Office of Mineral Exploration
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

I am writing you on behalf of Mr. Ralph [illegible] of the Mining & Exploring Company, Inc., [illegible] Box 502 [illegible]ersburg, West Virginia, who submitted an application early last December for assistance in developing his mining property through your office.

I should indeed appreciate your furnishing me with an up-to-date report on this request, with a [illegible] when it may be finally acted upon.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
Congressman, First District
West Virginia

AAM/[illegible]

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

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	Johnson	110
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		120M

JAN 1 0 1966

Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Re: OME-6525 (Silver-Platinum)
Mountaineer Mining and Exploration Co., Inc.
Adams Lease (Swift Silver Mine)
Wolfe County, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

After a careful review of all the documents in your application, we find that considerably more information is necessary to indicate the geologic probability of making a significant discovery of an eligible mineral. Without this additional information, we would have no choice but to deny your application.

From the very interesting account of the "Red River Legend" about John Swift's Silver it is evident that the principal metal sought is silver, although platinum, lead (galena), and talc are mentioned in your application.

The Red River Legend appears to be the main reason for expecting to find silver ore on the farms you have leased. However, the search for ore based on historical accounts and in the absence of direct geologic evidence is considered to be prospecting rather than exploration. The OME is authorized to assist only in exploration which is defined as the search for new or unexplored mineral deposits within a specified parcel of land where geologic conditions favor their occurrence. A definite target must be available. While silver is commonly associated with lead, no assays are submitted to indicate that the galena at your property is accompanied by silver, and lead is not an eligible commodity under the OME program.

Platinum is an eligible commodity but no evidence of its occurrence or of favorable geologic conditions is contained in the application.

Talc of the "block steatite" or massive soapstone variety is also an eligible mineral. To qualify as block or lump steatite, the talc must be suitable for processing into insulators and graded by size into lumps 1/2 pound or larger or sawed into blocks not less than 2 by 3 inches.

23263

With respect to your implied request for a field examination prior to sampling and assaying in order to determine the most feasible approach to the venture, we cannot justify a field examination on the basis of the information submitted, and we are not permitted to provide consulting services to individuals or companies in competition with private consultants.

If you can reopen the old workings, sample, assay, and describe any deposits or indications of deposits of eligible minerals, and submit the information in Items 3, 5a, 6, and 7 of the application form, we will be pleased to further consider your application.

Should you submit the additional information, please include copies of your letters to the two banks as required under Item 1 of the application form. In accordance with your request, we are returning your copy of the AMS topographic map MJ17-7, Jenkins quadrangle (scale 1:250,000).

Sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

Enclosure

RMSmith/gla (1-10-66)
cc to: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology Division
OME File
OME Region IV, R. A. Laurence
OME Reading File
Mr. Smith

December 3, 1965

Mountaineer Mining and
Exploration Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Subject: OME - 6525

Gentlemen:

Your application for exploration assistance, dated December 1, 1965, submitted to our office at Washington, D. C., has been assigned Docket No. OME - 6525.

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

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

Copy to Region IV with
copy of application