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M. S. Velin, Member, DMEA Field Team, Region II August 8, 195x

J. K. Irving, Mining Engineer, Mining Division, Region II

Field Examination DMA Docket No. 1529 (Lead), Gilbert C. Holshue, 1065 N. Ewing St., Helena, Montana, and Douglas A. Dubois, Basin, Montana
Morning Mine, Jefferson County, Montana

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants did not realize there are two types of DMA loans. The mine is in the prospect stage and does not contain developed ore reserves. The application for DMEA loan should be denied.

A strong mineralized shear zone warrants further investigation to determine if an exploration project contract is justified. It is suggested that the applicants be advised to apply for assistance through DMEA.

LOCATION

The Morning Mine is located in Sec. 18 (7), T. 7 N., R. 5 W., Montana Meridian, approximately 10 miles north of Basin, in the Cataract Mining district.

Access is by county road up Cataract Creek to the Crystal mine, then two miles over new private road.

The property was visited August 1, 195x, with George Decraft, U.S.G.S. About four hours was spent on the property with the owners.

ACCESSIBILITY

The road from the Crystal Mine to the property is new, and contains a few steep pitches. Much of it traverses a swamp area and is subject to washouts during periods of heavy run-off. It is difficult to maintain under the extreme winter conditions which prevail at the 5000 feet altitude of the mine.

COMPETENCE OF THE APPLICANTS

Gilbert C. Holshue and Douglas A. Dubois are joint and equal share owners of the property. Mr. Holshue is a former salesmanager for Beatrice Foods Co., Helena, Montana; Mr. Dubois has worked as a contract miner and shift boss at Butte, Montana.

Both men approach their work with enthusiasm and appear competent to conduct routine mining operations. They lack technical knowledge to plan and evaluate their work.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Morning Star is owned by the applicants. It consists of two patented mining claims, as follows:

Morning Claim - Survey #8518
Midnight Claim - Survey #8519

Surface facilities consist of two cabins for living quarters, and a compressor house. Equipment includes a gasoline compressor, truck and necessary mining tools and supplies.

Mine workings consist of two crosscut adits, bulldozer cuts along the strike of the vein, an old caved prospect shaft, a recent prospect shaft, and numerous shallow pits and trenches.

GEOLOGY

The mineralization occurs in a silicified shear zone in granite (quartz monzonite), much of which is altered. The shear zone is at least 100 feet wide and has been exposed by a bulldozer cut along the strike for over 600 feet. The zone presumably extends beyond the limits exposed by stripping. It strikes roughly east-west, and in a recent prospect shaft the dip of the mineralized area is about 75 degrees. The minable width in the shaft ranges from 1 to 3 feet.

Other mineralized fractures in the granite have been intersected in trenches and an accessible adit. A second adit, about 100 feet lower than the surface workings is reported to have intersected the extension of one of the veins. The portal is partially blocked by a cave which has dammed the surface water draining into the adit. Mr. Helshue states it will be possible to enter the adit in September.

Predominant minerals in the oxidized zone which extends at least 40 feet below the surface are cerussite, secondary silver minerals, free gold, and silica. Predominant primary minerals are galena and pyrite.

ORE RESERVES

Minor ore reserves may exist in dump material, but no assay results are available. A recent shipment of about 40 tons from shallow workings exhausted the developed reserves. The ore was hand sorted and the operators estimate it will yield about $70 per ton in gold, silver, and lead.

PAST PRODUCTION

Past production, according to statistics furnished by the Statistical Division, U. S. Bureau of Mines, is 91 tons, containing: (in terms of recovered metals) 33 ounces gold, 766 ounces silver, 63 pounds copper, 6419 pounds lead, 378 pounds zinc.

During July, 1952, the operators state they shipped about 40 tons of oxidised and sulphide ore.

D. R. Irving

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