DMEA Form 9
Rev. 6/57

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

OFFICIAL DOCKET FILE Idm-E NO._____ DMEA NO. 4948

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- [ ] Withdrawn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
- [x] 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

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

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DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 3 1958
DATE | INITIALS | CODE

February 28, 1958

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

Re: New Application (Manganese, Zinc, Lead)
William R. McLure
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are the original and two copies of an application for DMEA assistance to explore for lead-zinc-manganese ore in the Needle Gun mine, Granite County, Montana. The applicant proposes to sink an inclined shaft to a depth of 100 feet at a total estimated cost of $14,000.

Two former applications, Docket No. DMEA-1958 and Docket No. DMEA-2747, for aid to explore on this property were denied. At the time of the last examination, February 19, 1953, the drift had been driven easterly for a total of 650 feet, the final 210 feet being on a vein. Assays of two samples taken along the vein were:

Width (ft.)	Au (oz./T)	Ag (oz./T)	Pb (%)	Zn (%)
1.2	0.02	0.74	0.045	1.44
1.0	0.07	2.36	0.79	0.00

Since the last examination, the drift has been extended easterly 850 feet along the vein. The applicant submits assays of five samples of this part of the vein which show about the same lead content and an increase in the gold, silver, and zinc values. He also states that he has drilled a hole near the adit portal that cut a vein at a depth of 100 feet and that samples of sludge and core contain very good values in silver, zinc and lead.

In view of the work reportedly completed since 1953, another field examination should probably be made and check samples should be taken. We will not make an examination of this property until we receive a referral.

We note that the "lease and option" accompanying the application is not signed.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Weissenborn

A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region I

Enclosures

cc: USBM (2)
Prinz

Form MF-103
Revised Feb. 1957

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.3
Approval expires June 30, 1958

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT

PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER I, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

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

WILLIAM R. McLURE.
Box-5-
Philipsburg Montana.

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1958
U. S. G. S.
SPOKANE, WASH.

APPLICANT NOT TO USE THIS BLOCK

Docket Number	4948
Date Received	3/3/58
Government Participation %	75%
Region	I
Division Code	400

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION (Check one)

- Individual [X]
- Corporation [ ]
- Partnership [ ]
- Other (Specify) [ ]

State in which firm is organized :

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

Name	Address	Title

Mineral(s) for which you wish to explore
Manganese, Zinc and Lead.

Estimated Cost of Project
$14,000.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Name	County	State
Needle Gun Mine.	Granite.	Montana.

Sec.28-T.7-N-R-13-W.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read DMEA Order-I, Amended, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects." 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 four 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 1, existing mine workings and geology in item 2, and the proposed exploration project in item 4. 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 2(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 Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest DMEA 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.

Feb. 21-1958.
Dated

William R. McLure
BY (Signature)

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. *Applicant's Property Rights:*

(a) 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 land adjacent to the proposed project area which you own or control. Describe any part of the project land or workings which should not be subject to Government lien for royalty payments. If the land consists of unpatented claims, state the book and page number for each recorded location notice, including amended locations, and the place where recorded (courthouse, recorder's office, county, and state).

(b) State all the names by which you know the property.

(c) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise. If you are not the owner, submit with this application one exact copy of the lease, contract, or other document (with address of owner) under which you control the property.

(d) Describe all liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances on the property.

2. *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 lands, including existing mine workings. Describe all production facilities.

(b) State your interest, if any, in operations stated in 2*(a)*.

(c) State, as far as 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 on the property giving quantities and grades and sampling methods used, supporting 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 may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

3. *Accessibility of Project:*

(a) To aid DMEA representatives who may be required to examine the property, state the name and address of the person who will meet the DMEA representative; give directions for reaching the property; and describe accessibility of the property including the mine workings.

(b) Name the shipping and supply points and places where employees reside and state the distances between them and the property.

4. *The Exploration Project:*

(a) Describe fully the proposed exploration project giving individual footages and sizes of openings *for each item of work.* Use narrative, maps, plans, and longitudinal and cross sections as necessary. Show the 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 *property boundaries* or to the closest identifiable corner.

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

(c) In the event that an exploration contract with DMEA is executed, how soon will the work start and how many months will be required to complete it? State your anticipated average daily or monthly rate of progress for each type of work.

5. *Experience:*

State your operating experience and background with relation to your ability to carry out this exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of Costs:*

Furnish detailed estimates of the costs *for each item of the work proposed in 4(a)* under the headings listed below with a total for each heading and the estimated total cost of the project. Costs for any work to be performed by an independent contractor should be shown separately under category *(a)* below. Costs for any work that is not to be performed by an independent contractor should be given in detail under categories *(b)* through *(g)*.

(a) Independent contracts. State the cost of any proposed independent contract for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in units of work, such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, 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. For necessary supervision, engineering and geological services, and labor, include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes, rates of wages, salaries or fees, and periods of employment. State whether these technicians and employees are available.

(c) Operating materials and supplies. List items of material and supplies with their cost. 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 operating equipment to be used giving specifications and indicating how each item is to be acquired — i.e., rented, purchased, or provided by the applicant. If it is rented or purchased, state the estimated rental or purchase price. If it is to be furnished by the applicant, give its present fair market value.

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs. Describe the type and the cost of necessary *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 on the exploration project.

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

(g) Miscellaneous. For the operating equipment listed in 6*(d)*, describe the type and estimate the cost of repairs and maintenance expected during project operations. Do not repeat initial repairs listed in 6*(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 — 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)* State whether you are prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation stated in Sec. 7 of DMEA Order—I, Amended.

(b) Explain to what extent you propose to furnish your share of the costs by providing money, by use of equipment owned by you, or otherwise.

* * * * *

APPLICATION FOR LOAN.

This loan is requested for the purpose of sinking 100 foot incline (78 or 80 degrees) shaft, just west of the Needle Gun tunnel on the Needle Gun claim. The shaft should be single compartment and manway with a four foot, four inch (in the clear) hoisting compartment.

The total cost of the project should not exceed $14000.oo or $140. per foot.

There is on the property all the necessary equipment for starting the project including the following.

Compressor House.
Compressor Diesel Worthington-315-
Sinking Buckets.
Gass Hoist.
Pumps.
Pipe, Cars and Track.
Jack-hammer, hoses and etz.

At the point where the shaft is to be sunk the vein is twenty two feet in width, composed of decomposed quartz stained with Iron oxide and Manganese dioxide. Om the hanging wall there is 18" to 24" of Black Manganese which assays 15% to 17% Mn. It is onthis ore that the shaft would be sunk.

The Applicant has had thirty five years actual mining experience.

There is attached to this application a copy of the lease. You will note that the lease calls for 78/80 of the property. This came about because two of the origional partners did not come into the Corporation. Since the lease has been made one partner has deeded his interest to the Corporation and the other partners' interest will be cleared up with in the next sixty days, making a 100% lease.

Neither the lease or the property are encumbered with any indebtedness.

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Signed. William R. McLure

William R. McLure.
Box-5-
Philipsburg Mont.

Since this has been written the second Partner has deeded to the corporation making a 100% lease.

William R. McLure

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A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NEEDLE GUN MINE.

The Needle Gun Mine consists of eight patented and two unpatented mining claims lying in the heart of the Philipsburg Montana Mining District and forms a 200 acre area along a structure composed of several intersecting fissures which have been traced on the surface for more than 4500 feet.

The Philipsburg Mining District has had a total production of around One Hundred Million dollars. In the early days, mainly silver, in later years silver, zinc and manganese. Since 1920 it has been the largest producer of battery grade manganese in the United States.

The Needle Gun Mine lyes at an elevation of 7000 feet, 1800 above the town of Philipsburg and is reached by a good (10% grade) macadam road four miles long.

The Needle Gun vein is composed of two or more fissures lying in the Granite, three quartes of a mile east of the lime contact.

The vein showes strong evidence of having been crushed and reopened after the primary ore had been deposited and is very similar to the Granite vein in this respect.

According to Mr. W.H.Emmons, who wrote a report on this district for the United States Geological Survey (Professional Paper No.780) this crushing and reopening of the Granite vein was responsible for the high grade secondary sulphides which are found at depth. Development in the Granite vein had reached a depth of 400 feet before the high grade secondary sulphides were encountered, although later they were found within 200 feet of the surface.

The Needle Gun vein has been exposed by a great many shallow shafts and open cuts begining at the west end of the Gold Coin claim and continuing east to the middle of the Reemi claim, making a total distance of 4500 feet.

In the fall of 1951, a tunnel was started to develop the Needle Gun ground and has reached a distance of about 1500 feet at present.

At 750 feet a fault cuts the vein displacing it about six feet to the north. On the east side of this fault an ore shute was found which averaged from 3 to 5 feet in width. This ore rakes to the east and goes under the drift at a point 50 feet east of the fault.

The following assays were taken from this ore.

No.	Oz. Silver.	Oz. Gold.	% Lead.	% Manganese.	% Zinc.
1	5.64	.140	0.51		5.33
2	7.30	.180	0.82		6.66
3	9.04	.160	0.61	9.22	8.20
4	6.26	.450	0.62	12.52	5.82
5	7.28	.065	1.02	7.90	7.59

This ore does not show any of the high grade secondary sulphides which prevail at depth in this district, indicating that Needle Gun has not reached sufficient depth, to have the true secondary sulphides of this area.

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A BRIEF DISCRIPTION OF THE NEEDLE GUN MINE

At the mouth of the tunnel there is an intersection of two veins one dips south striking nearly due east and the other dips north striking south 65 degrees east.

In the summer of 1956 a hole was drilled on the small vein, and enconntered the vein at about 100 feet of depth. Only a few pieces of core were recovered along with one studge sample which assayed.

	Oz. Silver.	% Lead.	% Zinc.
Core	46.40	3.10	27.60
Sludge	18.10	2.90	19.00

Any future development of the property should include sinking a shaft at or near this intersection.

There is added to this report quotations from Emmons report (Professional Paper No. 78).

Signed.

William R. McLure.

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Quotations From Emmons and Calkins Report on the Philipsburg Ore Deposits. Proffessional Papor No.-78-

Page-170.

In some of the deposits notably the Granite vein, the processes of fissuring and vein filling were to a certain extent synchronous. the vein was filled reopened and refiled probably several times.

Page-170.

Postmineral fissuring of veins is a process of great importance for it favors secondary enrichment by descending waters. Some of this fissuring was accomplished during the period of mineralization and some of it afterwards.

Page-178.

If a vein has not been crushed and disturbed by movements since deposition it will not be deeply leached and on the other hand it will not be so much enriched below. In the Granite vein, where conditions for leaching and enrichment were exceptionally favorable, the leached zone had an average depth of about 200 feet. The greater part of the richer ore is at 200 feet to 800 feet below the surface.

Page-178.

In the Granite lode the richest ore occured above the approximately horizontal junction of two veins below which the veins dipped away from each other in such a manner as to inclose a wedge-shaped mass of rock pointing upwards.

Page-~~177~~. 187

In the Granite vein the richest ore shoot appears to be related to a junction of two fissures, and presumably the mingling of solutions was a favorable factor.

Page-187.

During the period of deposition some of the veins were fracture and brecciated, and ore gantically simlar to the first was interduced into the open spaces thus formed. At a still later period the contry rock was at many places disturbed by small normal faults, which cut across the ore bodies and displaced them. These faults are not them selves mineralized. Other fissures following the veins or parallel to them were formed presumably at the same time, and this fissuring provided a condition for secondary enrichment of some of the deposits by descending sulphate waters.

Page-204.

This zone of secondary enrichment extends nearly to the surface in one place, but by far the greater portion accures from 300 feet to 800 feet below the surface.

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[illegible] the terms of the said lease [illegible]

[illegible] royalty of eight percent (8%) of the net smelter returns or [illegible] gross returns on all ores shipped from the said premises [illegible] and the said payments shall apply on the purchase price hereinafter set forth and in reduction thereof. All payments of royalty shall be made at the Flint Creek Valley Bank in Philipsburg, Montana, for the use and benifit of the LESSOR.

IT IS AGREED that the said LESSOR does hereby grant permission to the LESSEE to acquire a government RFC Loan and all papers and instruments in connection therewith will be executed by the LESSOR on demand.

The LESSEE shall insure all workmen on the premises by some plan legal in Montana against industrial accident.

The LESSEE agrees to work 180 man shifts of 8-hours each, during every six months period after the first year of this lease.

The LESSEE agrees to pay all taxes with the exception of tax, state or federal, on such royalties as paid by the LESSEE to the LESSOR.

This Lease shall be assignable, but if any assignment be made, and when any assignment be made, the LESSOR shall be notified by the LESSEE of the name and postoffice address of the assignee coincidentally with the assignment and such assignee may make subsequent assignments under the same conditions, provided that all covenants herein shall be binding upon an assignee or subsequent assignee.

The LESSEE shall have the right and permission to remove all additional equipment and machinery placed on the property within four (4) months after forfeiture or termination of the lease.

The LESSEE shall have the right to use the equipment on the property at the present time.

The LESSEE shall carry fire insurance in an equal sum as is now being carried on the buildings and machinery on the property, to-wit: in the sum of SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($6,500.00) DOLLARS. The LESSEE does agree to carry liability and property damage insurance and breakage and collision insurance on the truck now owned by the LESSOR.

And provided this lease be kept in effect and only as long as this lease be kept in effect, but for a period of ten (10) years, if kept in effect, the LESSEE or his assigns shall have the exclusive right and option to purchase the said lands for the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100ths ($400,000.00) DOLLARS, without interest, and all sums paid as royalty on ores shipped from the said lands to smelter or stockpile, as aforesaid, shall be applied in reduction of the said amount.

Time is the essence of this contract, and this contract is binding upon the LESSOR, and its assigns, and is binding upon and inured to the benefit of the LESSEE, his heirs, representatives or assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, pursuant to the resolution of its Board of Directors regularly and duly passed at a meeting of which all of the directors had notice, and a majority were present, the said Corporation has executed and placed its seal upon this lease.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

ATTEST:

Sylvester J. Sullivan.
Secretary.

BANDIT RUN MINE a Corporation.
By J.L.Maury
Its Vice President.

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LEASE AND OPTION.

THIS LEASE AND AGREEMENT made and entered into at Butte, Montana, this 6th day of August, A.D., 1957, wherein NEEDLE GUN MINE, a corporation, organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Montana, is LESSOR and Party of the First Part, and WILLIAM R. McLURE of philipsburg, Montana, is LESSEE and Party of the Second Part.

WITNESSETH :

THAT, WHEREAS, Section 3 of Artical IV of the By-Laws of said Corpora tion heretofore duly adopted, is as follows:

"Section 3. The Board of Directors of this Company shall have authority to sell, lease, option, lease and option, mortgage, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, the whole,or any part of the property and assets of every kind and description of this corporation, for property, or for the whole or part of the capital stock of any other corporation, whether domestic or foreign, or otherwise; with full power and authority in case of lease or option, or lease and option, to define and fix the term thereof, the price thereof, the royalties thereon, the manner of payment of royalties, the working conditions thereunder, and such other matters incidental to the giving and working of the properties of this company under said lease or option, or lease and option, as is usually had and enjoyed by lessees or optionees in this state."

AND,WH EREAS, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of date may 1,1957 a motion was carried that a lease be given to William R. McLure for a period of ten (10) years with a royalty of eight percent (8%) on the net smelter returns and stockpile returns and at an option price of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND ($400,000) DOLLARS and that H.L.Maury should work out the terms of said lease with William R.McLure and execute such a lease on the part of the Corporation with term suitable to him and, WHEREAS, the following terms are suitable and deemed reasonable and fair by the said H.L.Maury; now, therefore,

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the sums of the royalty hereinafter set forth and the covenants to be kept and performed by the Leese, the Lessor does to the Lessee, his heirs and assigns, lease for the period of ten (10) years from the 6th day of August, A.D.,1957, and to mine let for such period all of the following described property, to-wit;

An undivided 78/80ths interest in and to the following;
Gold Coin Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 2878.
Addison Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 3307.
Needle Gun Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 2960.
Ettie Quartz Lode Mining Claim Survey No 3359.
Leopard Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 3358.
Remi Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 3303.
Crown Point Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 3290.
Belcher Quartz Lode Mining Claim, Survey No. 3302.
And all of the right, title and interest in and to the following;
Black Eagle, unpatented, Quartz Lode Mining Claim;
Silver Eagle, unpatented, Quartz Lode Mining Claim;

Togather with all mining machinery thereon.

STATE OF MONTANA)
: ss.
County of Silver bow)

On this 6th day of August in the year 1957 before me, MARY C. PLUTT, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared H. L. Maury, known to me to be a Director and Vice-President of the Needle Gun Mine.and Sylvester J. Sullivan, Known to me to be the Secretary and Treasurer of the Needle Gun Mine that executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and the corporate seal of said corporation the day and year in this certificate above writen.

MARY C. PLUTT.
Notary Public for the State of Montana.
Residing at Butte Montana.
My Commission Expires August 23, 1958.

(NOTARIAL SEAL)

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Government Messenger Envelope

rm No. 65 (Rev. 1/46)

1. Use blocks consecutively, one at a time.
2. Void previous block.
3. Write clearly.

NAME OR TITLE OF PERSON, DEPARTMENT, ADDRESS, AND ROOM		NAME OR TITLE OF PERSON, DEPARTMENT, ADDRESS, AND ROOM	
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plus envelopes to
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DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

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Date	Surname	Code
6/25	Chapman	400
6/25	Martin	400
		110
		100

June 25, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Division of Iron and Ferro-Alloys, DMEA

Subject: Denial of the subject application for exploration assistance in the amount of $14,000.00
William R. McLure (Docket No. DMEA 4948 - Manganese, Zinc and Lead)
Granite County, Montana

A denial of the subject application for exploration assistance is recommended by this Division based on the following information:

This property was the subject of two previous applications for exploration assistance and both were denied. The first application dated July 26, 1951, Docket No. DMEA 1958, contemplated driving a 1,000 foot adit eastward on the vein, and was later revised to add 600 feet of eastward drifting on the vein, plus two 50 foot crosscuts north and south, sinking a 100 foot winze and drifting easterly 200 feet on the vein from the bottom of the winze. This application was denied mainly on the basis that any ore that might be discovered would probably be silver ore.

The second application, Docket No. DMEA 2747, was dated October 23, 1952, at which time the adit had been advanced 400 feet. This application proposed to continue the adit 750 feet. The new work revealed nothing that would change the original appraisal of the property and the application was again denied.

After the above denial work on the adit level was continued until it now amounts to about 1,700 feet of drifting and crosscutting. On the basis of this new work a new application for exploration assistance was made on February 21, 1958. The applicant proposes to sink a 100 foot inclined shaft from the small cut west of the Needle Gun adit at an estimated cost of $14,000.00.

The property was examined by William C. Prinz, Geological Survey, on April 29, 1958, accompanied by William R. McLure, the applicant. The ground was covered with snow and little of the surface could be seen. The adit was open and the examiner found no evidence to change the opinions of the former examiners. The property was examined by Elden C. Pattee, Bureau of Mines in October 1957. Pattee mapped and sampled the

property and parts of this work is submitted in this report.

Applicant: William R. McLure
Box 5
Philipsburg, Montana

Property Ownership: The property is owned by the Needle Gun Corporation and consists of 8 patented lode mining claims and 2 unpatented lode mining claims, situated in the Philipsburg Mining District, section 28, T. 7 N., R. 13 W., Granite County, Montana, and identified as follows:

Claim Name	Patented Claims	Survey No.
Gold Coin		2878
Addison		3307
Needle Gun		2960
Ettie		3359
Leopard		3358
Remi		3303
Crown Point		3298
Belcher		3302

The unpatented claims are the Black Eagle and Silver Eagle.(*)

Geology: The rocks of the Philipsburg District consist of a sequence of Precambrian and Paleozoic sediments, mainly limestone, with some shale and quartzite, intruded by a Tertiary granodiorite batholith. The district contains a series of faults and fissures of various ages. The most important structures in the formation of ore deposits are the series of silver-bearing vein fissures which cut both the sediments and granodiorite batholith. Movements along the fissures have been small, sometimes forming en echelon groups. The veins contain silver, zinc, lead and some copper sulfides in a quartz gangue and many contain a little rhodochrosite. The manganese ore in the district is found as replacement bodies in favorable sedimentary beds adjacent to the fissure veins. As a group the veins (including the main vein) on the Needle Gun property are small and weak and offer little evidence of containing any significant ore bodies.

Past History and Production: During the boom days of the Philipsburg area around the turn of the century, the Needle Gun property was prospected by open cuts and pits with little result. From 1951

(*) The property has been leased to the Applicant by a lease and option dated August 6, 1957.

the property has been prospected with open cuts and 1,700 feet of adit and crosscuts. No ore has been produced from the property.

Ore Values and Tonnage: No ore of an economic grade has been opened up on the property. Samples taken show the following values:

Sample No.	Width Inches	Manganese %	Gold ozs.	Silver ozs.	Lead %	Zinc %
2	?	—	0.07	2.36	0.79	0.0
3	?	—	0.02	0.74	0.043	1.44
833	48	0.54	0.017	Tr.	0.06	0.0
834	4	8.33	0.02	1.10	0.11	0.0
835	30	2.17	0.055	0.20	0.08	0.0
836	30	1.81	0.085	0.20	0.06	0.20
837	8	7.61	0.014	0.80	0.08	0.25
838	4	5.79	0.095	3.60	0.15	6.40
839	18	Tr.	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0
840	Grab	4.71	0.060	0.30	0.06	0.0

Samples 833, 834 and 835 are from trench just west of adit. Sample No. 840 is a grab of northwest striking vein. Sample No. 839 was taken to determine if pinkish rock contained manganese. Samples 2 and 3 and 836, 837 and 838 were taken in the adit during the prior examination and present examination.

Comments and Conclusions: The examining Geologist concludes that, while the vein has been explored by over a quarter mile of workings in the adit and by surface cuts, no ore of a commercial grade has been found. The vein is weak and poorly mineralized. He concludes that the recent work only proves the previous denials were justified and that there is little chance of finding any significant ore bodies. The Field Team concurs in the conclusions of the examining Geologist and recommends that the application be denied.

The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey, and the Bureau of Mines, concur in the recommendations of the Field Team.

W S Martin
W. S. Martin, Director,
Division of Iron and Ferro-Alloys

TLCHAPMAN/dl,foc
6-25-58
cc to: Code 400
Admr. R. File
Oper. Comm.

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
6/26	Chapman	400
6/26	Martin	400
6/30	Selfridge	130
6/30	McMahon	130
6/30	Kilsgaard	130
"	Grayson	110
"	Mittendorf	100
		220

JUN 30 1958

Mr. William R. McLure
Box 5
Philipsburg, Montana

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4948, Manganese,
Zinc and Lead
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. McLure:

Your application of February 21, 1958, for exploration assistance and other data available to us in Washington concerning the above-referenced property have been reviewed.

Since your two previous applications, Dockets Nos. DMEA-1958, and DMEA-2747, were denied you have completed approximately 1,700 feet of drifting and crosscutting. All our information, however, indicates that the new work has not exposed any new features that would justify Government participation in an exploration program on your claims. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application is denied.

We wish to thank you for your continued interest in the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration program and for bringing the proposed new type of work on the above property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf (for)

Administrator

TLCHAPMAN/dl 6-26-58
cc to: Code 400
Admr. R. File
Oper. Comm.
Field Team, Region I
Messrs: Gilbert DeHuff, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

8623

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED JUN 16 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
6/16	C	220
	WSM	400

Memorandum

June 13, 1958

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

From: T. H. Kiilsgaard, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Examination Report, Docket DMEA 4948 (Manganese-Lead-Zinc) Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana.

The cited property has been the subject of two previous DMEA applications, both of which were denied. Since the second application, several hundred feet of drift have been driven on the Needle Gun vein eastward from previously existing workings. This work has followed a persistent but weak and only partially mineralized structure. Samples of the vein are poor and there is nothing to indicate the ore would improve either in size of deposit or in grade by further exploration.

Field examiners recommend denial and these recommendations appear as valid today as did the first recommendations in 1951. In fact, recent work by the applicant simply bears out the opinions of previous examiners; namely, that the vein does not warrant exploration. I concur with the field examiners. There is nothing to indicate that a significant discovery will be made in the Needle Gun property, and denial of the application is therefore recommended.

T. H. Kiilsgaard

T. H. Kiilsgaard

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED JUN 16 1958

DATE	INITIALS	
6/16	C	220
	WSM	400

Memorandum

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

Date June 13, 1958

DMEA Docket No. 4948
DMEA Contract No.
Commodity Mn-Zn-Pb
Name of applicant William R. McLure
Name of property Needle Gun Mine
Location of property Granite Co., Mont.
Estimated cost of project $14,000

To: W. S. Martin, DMEA

From: G. L. DeHuff, Jr., Commodity Specialist
Branch of Ferrous Metals and Ferroalloys

Subject: Review of Field Team Report
(Application, Field Team Report, etc.)

1. Date of subject document: 6/5/58. 2. Date received by reviewer: 6/10/58.

3. Prior reports on this property known to reviewer: Yes [XX] No [ ]

4. Prior reports on nearby properties known to reviewer: Yes [ ] No [XX]

5. Information available on past production: Yes [ ] No [XX]

6. Other pertinent factors known to reviewer: Yes [XX] No [ ]

7. Explain items marked yes above: Please see my 3/10/58 memo. Also, DMEA - 2747 & 1958 (Pb-Zn) dockets. Property was examined 10/2/57 by Bureau engineer, E. C. Pattee, who concluded that the veins were too narrow and too low grade. Examination was made in connection with the Manganese Atlas of Philipsburg District.

8. Factors needing special consideration:
   a. Location [ ]
   b. Ownership [ ]
   c. Evidence of mineralization [ ]
   d. Geology [ ]
   e. Proposed exploration method [ ]
   f. Alternate exploration method [ ]
   g. Costs [ ]
   h. [ ]

9. Action advised:
   a. Obtain information from applicant [ ]
   b. Refer to Field Team [ ]
   c. Denial [XX]
   d. Agree with Field Team [ ]
   e. Disagree with Field Team [ ]
   f. Suggest alternate plan [ ]
   g. Request another examination [ ]
   h. Approval [ ]
   i. Consult with Mr. _____ at _____ AEC office.

10. Remarks: (Use back of page if necessary)
From the standpoint of manganese, it is recommended that subject application be denied.

G L DeHuff Jr

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington
June 5, 1958

6/9	C	220
6/11	HB	130
6/11	C	220
	WSM	400

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Zinc-Lead)
William R. McLure
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are three copies of a field examination report by William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, on this application.

Two previous applications for aid to explore this property were denied. Since the last denial the applicant has intermittently done additional trenching, drifting, and crosscutting further exposing the vein. He has also developed a concept that the veins have been reopened and that therefore minable ore bodies should be found by deeper exploration. He also argues that the intersection of two veins near the portal of the adit is a favorable target for deeper exploration.

Prinz points out the fallacies in the applicant's concepts and shows how the applicant has misunderstood or misinterpreted statements by W. H. Emmons and F. C. Calkins in U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78 and concludes that the chance of making a significant discovery is poor. He therefore recommends that the application be denied.

We concur with Prinz's conclusions and recommendations.

By Field Team, Region I

A. E. Weissenborn
A. E. Weissenborn, Exec. Officer
U. S. Geological Survey

Wing G. Agnew
Wing G. Agnew, Member
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-11-58
(date)

Enclosures
cc: USBM(2)
USGS(SRO)
Prinz

DMEA

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED JUN 9 1958
DATE | INIT. | CODE
6/11 | JB | 130
220

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

June 2, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I

From: William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Lead-Zinc), William R. McLure, Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana

ON SITE EXAM

INTRODUCTION

An application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun group of claims for manganese, lead, and zinc was received February 27, 1958, from William R. McLure. The property is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg District, Granite County, Montana. Mr. McLure wishes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot incline shaft on the Needle Gun vein. He estimates that this project would cost $14,000; Government participation at 50 percent would be $7,000.

This is Mr. McLure's third application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun property. The first application, Docket No. DMA-1958, was for assistance to drive an adit 1,000 feet eastward on the vein. The application was later revised to include 600 feet of eastward drifting on the vein, plus two 50-foot crosscuts north and south, to be followed by sinking a 100-foot winze from the adit level and drifting 200 feet easterly on the vein from the bottom of the winze. This application was denied on September 14, 1951, because it appeared that if an ore body were developed by the proposed program, it would probably be primarily a silver ore rather than one of lead or zinc. Mr. McLure's second application, Docket No. DMEA-2747, was submitted on October 27, 1952. This application was submitted after the adit had been advanced about 400 feet and proposed to continue the adit for an additional 750 feet. He estimated that this program would cost about $30,000. The examining engineers concluded that the new work revealed nothing that would change the original appraisal of the property and this application was denied on November 10, 1952. Since this denial, work has been carried on intermittently at the property and the crosscutting and drifting on the main Needle Gun adit level now amounts to about 1,700 feet (pl. 1).

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-11-58
(date).

The property was examined by the author on April 29, 1958, accompanied by William R. McLure, the applicant. At the time of the examination the ground was covered with 3-4 feet of snow. However, it was possible to examine the Needle Gun adit and the small dozer cut just west of the Needle Gun adit portal. Mr. McLure stated that these were the most critical exposures insofar as evaluation of his property was concerned. He further stated that the trenches to the west were not as good as the one I examined near the portal. The property had been examined in October 1957 by Elden C. Pattee, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, in connection with the Bureau's study of the Philipsburg District. Pattee mapped and sampled the main adit and kindly furnished copies of his data which were of considerable help during the examination of the property. The map submitted with this report (pl. 1) was reduced from Pattee's map with only the addition of the claim boundaries from the application and of some notes by myself.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Needle Gun mine lies in an early Tertiary granodiorite batholith about 1¼ miles east of its western border. The Needle Gun vein, the most important structure on the property, has been exposed in an extensive adit. The vein here is small and subcommercial. Near the portal of the adit the vein is exposed in a small trench. The vein here is also small but is bordered to the north by a wide, altered or weathered zone. The applicant believes that this weathered or altered zone indicates that the vein has been reopened and concludes that a large deposit lies a short distance below the surface. Evidence for this reopening, such as broken and brecciated vein material, inclusions of wall rock within the vein, and large amounts of vein quartz are all lacking. It is concluded that the chances of making a significant discovery are poor and therefore it is recommended that the application be denied.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Needle Gun mine is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg Mining District in sec. 28, T. 7 N., R. 13 W., Granite County, Montana. By road it is about 4½ miles east of the town of Philipsburg, at an altitude of about 7,000 feet. The property can be reached by passenger car by going southeasterly from Philipsburg to the old ghost town of Granite, a distance of about 3 miles; turn left or northerly in Granite and continue for 1½ miles to the property. The property would be easily accessible by passenger car except during the winter months. Although winter in the area is severe and snowfall is heavy, the mine road could be kept plowed out and the mine worked all winter long.

THE APPLICANT

The applicant, William R. McLure, is the lessee of the property considered in this application. Mr. McLure claims to have had 35 years experience in mining and his work in driving the main Needle Gun adit appears adequate. He owns some mining equipment, which, plus his own labor, he expects to use to furnish the major part of his share of the costs of the proposed exploration program.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The applicant has a lease and option to purchase on two unpatented quartz lode mining claims, the Black Eagle and the Silver Eagle, and on eight patented claims as shown on the claim map submitted with the application and as listed below:

Claim	Survey No.
Gold Coin	2878
Addison	3307
Needle Gun	2960
Ettie	3359
Leopard	3358
Remi	3303
Crown Point	3298
Belcher	3302

The property is owned by the Needle Gun Mine Corporation and the applicant's lease and option is for 10 years beginning August 6, 1957. The copy of the lease and option submitted with the application is for an undivided 78/80ths interest in the subject claims, but the applicant stated during the examination that he now has a new lease for the entire property. He stated the same thing in a postscript to his letter submitting the application.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Needle Gun mine lies along the west side of the Flint Creek Range at an altitude of about 7,000-7,500 feet. The topography of the area is steep and rugged.

The Needle Gun adit is the only major accessible mine working at the property. This adit consists of 1,500 feet of drift and crosscut, most of which are along the main Needle Gun vein. The vein is also exposed in a 20-foot trench just west of the adit portal. It is reported that the property also contains numerous other trenches, shallow shafts, short adits and open cuts, but they were all inaccessible at the time of the field examination because of either snow or caving. One large building housing a compressor and blacksmith shop and one smaller building are near the adit portal.

GEOLOGY

The geology of the Philipsburg District has been described in numerous memoranda relating to currently active DMEA contracts in Dockets No. DMEA-42, DMEA-3626, DMEA-4334, and in several U. S. Geological Survey publications. The most important published report insofar as the evaluation of the Needle Gun mine is concerned, is: Emmons, W. H., and Calkins, F. C., Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 78, 1913. The other references pertain mainly to the manganiferous portions of the Philipsburg District, which are to the west of the Needle Gun mine. The rocks in the Philipsburg District consist of a sequence of Precambrian and Paleozoic sediments, mainly limestone with some shale and quartzite, intruded by a Tertiary granodiorite batholith. The sediments have been folded into a broad anticline which plunges 17°-35° north. The rocks on the west limb of the anticline dip 40°-70° west, those on the east limb, 30°-55° east. The granodiorite is found in both the eastern and southern parts of the district. Its east contact is parallel with the trend of the anticline; its south contact truncates the anticline. Contact metamorphic effects are visible in the sediments up to 1 mile from the contact; however, intense changes are confined to the immediate contact. A series of faults and vein fissures of various ages are found in the district. The oldest are a series of pre-granodiorite faults which strike northwest and dip northeast. These structures are not common and are of only minor importance insofar as the ore deposits are concerned. The most important structures in the formation of the ore deposits are a series of silver-bearing vein fissures which cut both the granodiorite batholith and the sediments. These fissures strike east-west or northwest and generally have a steep southerly or nearly vertical dip. The northwest-striking ones are generally weaker than the east-west ones. Movement along these fissures has been small and in some places they break up into an

echelon groups. These veins contain silver, zinc, lead and some copper sulfides in a quartz gangue and many contain a little rhodochrosite. The manganese ore in the district is found as replacement bodies in favorable sedimentary beds adjacent to these fissure veins; no manganese deposits of note have been found in the granodiorite. Silver and silver-zinc ores have been mined from the veins themselves in both the sediments and the granodiorite and are seldom found as replacement deposits. The Granite Bimetallic mine, the largest silver producer in the district, is about 1 mile south of the Needle Gun mine in a similar geological setting.

The Needle Gun property is underlain primarily by medium-grained gray granodiorite and is about 1½ miles east of the western edge of the batholith. The main structural feature on the property is the Needle Gun vein with strikes essentially east-west and which dips steeply to the south. This vein varies from a thin seam a fraction of an inch wide to 8 inches wide. The vein consists of quartz and gouge with some manganese oxide and iron oxide stain, and a few scattered sulfides, including sphalerite and galena. A zone of altered granodiorite is found along the vein at a few places. This zone has a maximum width of about 3 feet and may contain some values. Along the main drift about 850 feet west of the breast, shear zones containing a pink clay or altered feldspar go out the south wall of the adit. At first glance this pink mineral looks like fine-grained rhodochrosite; however, assays show that it is not a manganese-bearing mineral. Traces of rhodochrosite are found, however, in several places along the vein. In the small trench just west of the portal of the Needle Gun adit the main vein is 4 inches wide and consists of quartz and manganese oxides. The vein is exposed near the southern end of this trench and is bordered on the north by about 20 feet of manganese- and iron-oxide-stained granodiorite which is crumbly, apparently either due to hydrothermal alteration or to weathering. The applicant reported that the Needle Gun vein was also exposed in several dozer cuts to the west, but because of snow conditions these cuts could not be examined. Mr. McLure stated, however, that the vein in the cut just west of the portal is stronger than it is anywhere else on the property.

The second vein, which the applicant feels is important insofar as the evaluation of his property is concerned, is exposed in a small cut extending northeasterly from the portal of the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and consists of 10 inches of quartz and manganese oxide. In the adit proper the applicant removed some lagging in order to expose the supposed extension of this vein. Here altered granodiorite stained by oxides of iron and manganese are visible, but there is no definite vein material. The map submitted with the application depicts this "vein" or at least part of it as being exposed in the southern end of the first crosscut south from the Needle Gun adit. Diversely oriented manganese-stained gouge zones are found in this crosscut but nothing that could be definitely called vein material.

Assays of samples collected by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and by DMEA representatives are posted on plate 1 and the DMEA assays are tabulated below.

Sample No.	Width	Manganese (%)	Gold (oz./t.)	Silver (oz./t.)	Lead (%)	Zinc (%)
2	?	--	0.07	2.36	0.79	0.0
3	?	--	0.02	0.74	0.045	1.44
833	4.0'	0.54	0.017	Tr	0.06	0.0
834	4.0"	8.33	0.020	1.10	0.11	0.0
835	2.5'	2.17	0.035	0.20	0.08	0.0
836	2.5"	1.81	0.085	0.20	0.06	0.20
837	8.0"	7.61	0.014	0.80	0.08	0.25
838	4.0"	5.79	0.095	3.60	0.15	6.40
839	18.0"	Tr	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0
840	Grab	4.71	0.060	0.30	0.06	0.0

Samples No. 833, 834, and 835 are from the trench just west of the main Needle Gun adit. Samples No. 833 and 835 are of the altered wall rock north of the main vein, whereas 834 is a sample of the vein itself. Sample No. 840 is a grab sample of the supposed extension of the northwest-striking vein into the Needle Gun adit. Sample No. 839 was collected in the Needle Gun adit to determine whether or not the pink mineral exposed in this area was rhodochrosite. The rest of the samples were collected along the main Needle Gun vein in the adit. Samples No. 2 and 3 are from a previous DMEA examination and application; 836, 837 and 838 were collected during the recent examination. Assay results, coupled with vein widths show that the property contains nothing even approaching commercial-grade material. The high-grade assays claimed by the applicant appear to be hand-sorted samples and are not typical. Those from the drill hole a short distance northwest of the Needle Gun adit portal (see map submitted with the application) are exceptionally high grade but could not be verified. The core was stored in the compressor house, but it had been spilled and moved around and was pretty much mixed up.

Mr. McLure readily admits that the showings thus far are not too good. He is basing his arguments for continuing work on his concept that the veins in the district have been reopened. In support of this concept he quotes quite extensively from Emmons and Calkins Professional Paper No. 78. These statements are taken out of context and in many cases do not apply to the Needle Gun mine. As evidence for vein reopening, Mr. McLure cites the exposure in the trench just west of the Needle Gun adit. Mr. McLure believes that the loose, crumbly granite exposed north of the vein in this cut indicates extensive fissuring and reopening. I believe, on the other hand, that this crumbly and oxide-stained granite is the result of normal wall rock alteration or of weathering. It is difficult for me to visualize, as does Mr. McLure, how the vein could be extensively fissured and reopened here near the portal and not be reopened a short distance to the east. As further argument against Mr. McLure's ideas, I would also like to present one quotation out of context. Referring to the Granite vein, Emmons and Calkins (Professional Paper No. 78) state on page 170, "The vein was filled, reopened, and refilled, probably several times. Evidence of such reopening is afforded by the presence of many small, angular fragments and parallel slabs of country rock near the center of the vein, where they are completely surrounded by ore. In many places the ore itself is brecciated and completely recemented by ore of somewhat different character." I saw no such evidence at the Needle Gun mine.

Another argument advanced by Mr. McLure in support of his proposed work near the portal of the Needle Gun adit is the fact that two veins intersect near here. He quotes out of context from pages 178 and 187 of Professional Paper No. 78 in support of this idea. Mr. McLure has missed the point here, as Emmons and Calkins are talking about the nearly horizontal intersection of two veins with nearly parallel strikes but divergent dips, whereas on the Needle Gun property the vein intersection is nearly vertical. Emmons and Calkins (Prof. Paper No. 78 , p. 178, fig. 25) state that the ore near these vertical intersections is not richer than it is elsewhere.

There has been no production from the property and there are no known ore reserves existing on the property today. It appears that the property could not possibly develop any manganese ore of consequence and that the possibility of developing any base-metal ore is remote.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot inclined shaft from the small cut just west of the Needle Gun adit. This shaft would follow the Needle Gun vein downward. Mr. McLure estimates that the project would cost $14,000 or $140 per foot, but he does not present any detailed cost analyses.

The Needle Gun vein has already been explored extensively through the Needle Gun adit, the eastern end of which is probably at least 200 feet below the surface. Work in this adit has been extremely discouraging and it is highly doubtful that the proposed shaft work will reveal anything better.

CONCLUSIONS

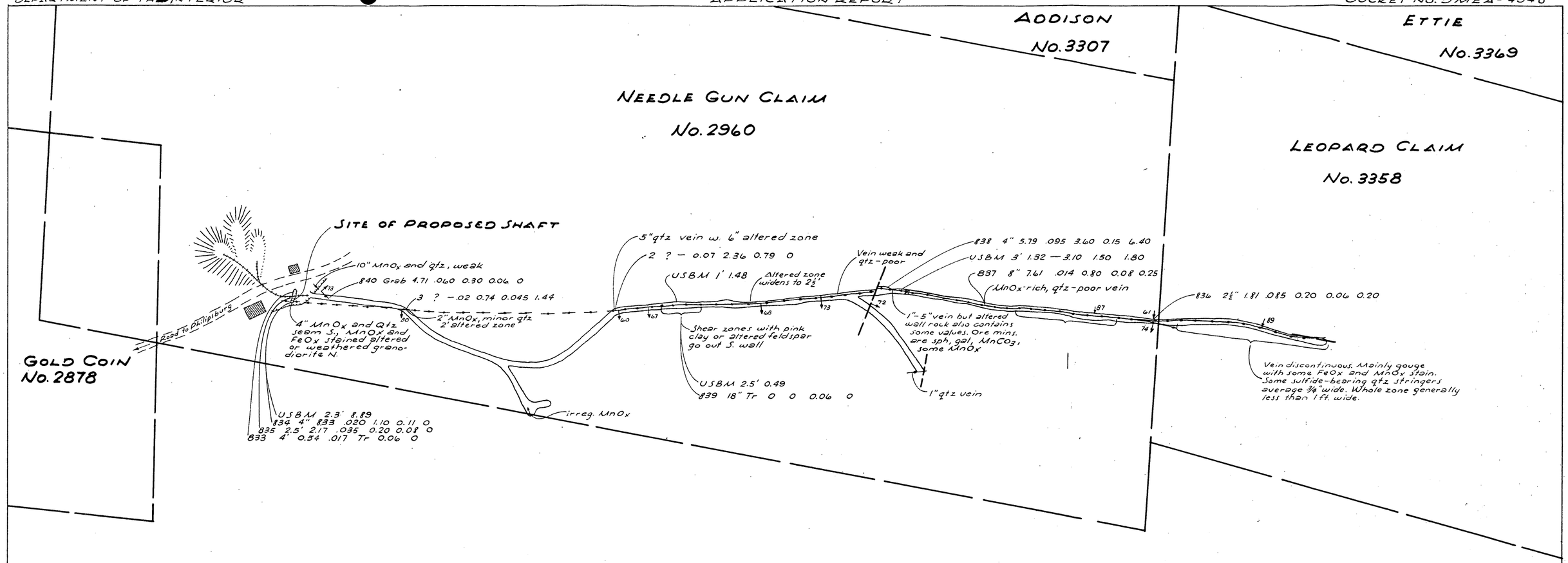
The Needle Gun vein has been explored over a strike length of about a quarter of a mile through the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and subcommercial. Based on an exposure of weathered and altered granite near the surface, the applicant believes that portions of the vein have been reopened and that wide ore-grade material would be expected below the zone of oxidation. It is concluded that his ideas are not sound and are not supported by evidence visible in the field. Therefore, it must be concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery at the Needle Gun property are poor and it is recommended that the application be denied.

Enclosure
Distribution:
DMEA(3)
USEM(2)
USGS(SRO)
Docket
Prinz

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

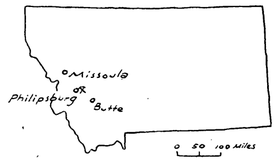
PREPARED FOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION REPORT

DOCKET NO. DMEA-4948



ASSAY PLAN

Sample No.	Width	% Mn	Ozs. Au/ton	Ozs. Ag/ton	% Pb	% Zn



MAIN ADIT
NEEDLE GUN MINE
GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

100 0 100 200 Feet

Reduced from 40 - scale map by E.C. Pattee, U.S.B.M.
Claim boundaries from map submitted by applicant

MAY, 1958

PLATE 1

CENTRAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED JUL 9 1958

CENTRAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED JUL 9 1958

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
5-1	Martin	400
Mr. Hoffland says		140
no legal [illegible]		140
5/1	Selbrede	120
"	[illegible]	110
"	[illegible]	100
5/2	C	220
		460

MAY 2 1958

Hon. Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

Mr. William R. McLure's letter to you of April 3, 1958, which you sent on April 14, 1958, to Mr. Gordon Gray, Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, concerns the same application for DMEA exploration assistance at the Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana, (our Docket No. DMEA 4948) that I discussed in my letter to you of March 26, 1958.

Mr. McLure's letter suggests that his application will meet with prejudicial treatment because two former applications covering the same property were denied. On the contrary, inasmuch as he had reported considerable development work completed since our last examination, a field examination had been scheduled for his property before the date of his last letter to you.

Our files show that the examination was discussed with Mr. McLure on April 1, 1958. At that time he stated the ground at the mine was covered with about 3 feet of snow and suggested that the examination be postponed until the snow had melted. He was then told our geologist could probably make the examination the first week in May when the snow would probably be gone. He was asked to notify our geologist in case it might be possible to make the examination sooner.

On April 8, 1958, a confirmatory letter was sent to Mr. McLure by our Field Team, Region I, from which we quote the entire text, as follows:

"We are sorry that our field examiners were unable to see the new surface workings because of the heavy snow. As you recall, Mr. Prins told you he expects to be back in Philipsburg the first week in May. However, he asked you to let him know if an earlier examination would be possible.

8623

"The Defense Minerals Act of 1950 under which DMEA operates will expire at midnight June 30 of this year, after which no new DMEA contracts can be undertaken. To be acted upon before the dead line, field team reports must be in Washington early in May. Therefore, it is most important that you notify us as soon as a satisfactory examination can be made. Mr. Prins will come over as soon as possible after we hear from you."

Processing of the application must now, of course, await the results of our review of the report of the field examination if one can be made in time to allow any further action.

Attached for your files, as you requested, is Mr. McLure's letter.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

Enclosure

WSMartin/foc
5-1-58
cc to: Code 400
Admr. R. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I
Messrs. Gilbert DeHuff, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

Russell H. Hughes
ODM

Secretary's Read. File
MR
DL
DCCO

PRS 9447

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Production

APR 24 1958

PRS
APR 28 1958 9447

TO: MDM	
REPLY TO BE PREPARED BY:	MDM
FOR SIGNATURE OF:	MDM
COPY OF LETTER FURNISHED	
MR DL	
SEND REPLY COPY TO ABOVE	

Cross reference
PRS 7822

Mr. C. O. Mittendorf
Administrator
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Department of the Interior
Room 4459 Interior Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

I am forwarding herewith a copy of a letter and attachments which we have received from Senator Mike Mansfield, together with my reply, all of which are self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,

Russell H. Hughes
Assistant Director

Enclosures

Control 4948

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED APR 29 1958

DATE		
	D	220
	W304	$00

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

APR 24 1958

Production

Honorable Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

Mr. Gray has asked me to reply to your letter of April 14, 1958 enclosing a letter from Mr. William R. McLure of Philipsburg, Montana, relative to the Needle Gun mining property.

It appears from Mr. McLure's letter that he is concerned with matters which are the responsibility of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration. We are accordingly referring your letter and enclosure to that agency for reply.

Sincerely yours,

Russell M. Hughes
Assistant Director

C
O
P
Y

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Rules and Administration

April 14, 1958

Honorable Gordon Gray
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

RE: Needle Gun Mining Property

Dear Mr. Gray:

Enclosed herewith is a letter which I have received from one of my constituents, William R. McLure, Philipsburg, Montana. I would appreciate very much your looking into this matter and advising me on same.

Please return the enclosed communication when it has served its purpose.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

(signed) MIKE MANSFIELD

Encl:

COPY

WILLIAM R. McLURE
MINING

April 3-1953

PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA

Senator Mike Mansfield.
United States Senate.
Washington 25-D.C.

Dear Senator;

I received your letter of March 28th, with enclosed letter from Mr. Mittendorf.

I would like to call Mr. Mittendorfs attention to the fact that since Nov.10th. 1952 there has been considerable development work done on the Needle Gun property and further more that at the time of the former applications no consideration was given to the intersection of fissures and the reopening of fissures, which are the two most important factors in considering the Philipsburg ore deposits. I have never seen an intersection of fissures, in this area, that has not developed into an important ore deposit, and I started mining in Philipsburg in 1912.

It seems to me, that for the last four years, the policy of the D.M.E.A. has been, not to develop new mines, but to further develop mines that are all ready developed. You can not develop a new mine with out taking into consideration the element of chance. There would be no Butte today if some one had not taken a chance in the begining. Nobody can see beyond the point of the pick.

I have been mining all of my life and I am confident that my theory on Needle Gun is right.

I hope that Mr. Mittendorf will not be prejudice against me because of the two former rejections.

Sincerely Y ours.

William R. McLure.

RECEIVED APR 14		
DATE	INITIALS	CODE
	WSM	420

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

Air Mail

April 11, 1958

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

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

This is to advise you of an unfortunate situation that is developing in regard to new applications and the present June deadline. Our monthly progress report shows two examinations scheduled for the week of March 31 and three scheduled for the week of April 7. Of these, only Moneta Porcupine Mines, Ltd., Docket No. DMEA-4953, was accessible.

We sent you copies of a memorandum to the files dated April 7, 1958, by W. C. Prinz describing the situation at William R. McLure's property, Docket No. DMEA-4948, when he attempted to make an examination. On April 7, Alvord and Parsons went to Salmon, Idaho, expecting to examine the following properties: Tidal Wave Mining Company, Docket No. DMEA-4927; Carroll W. Wells, Docket No. DMEA-4932; and Agency Creek Thorium and Rare Metals Corp., Docket No. DMEA-4971. The last application was received April 4. A series of snow storms that started late last week made these examinations impossible.

Carroll W. Wells has three areas he wishes to explore. The examiners were able to look at only one which does not show much promise. The two other areas, at higher altitudes, were completely snowed in and inaccessible. The Tidal Wave Mining Company property was covered by at least 3 feet of new snow and the Agency Creek Thorium and Rare Metals Corp. property by 5 feet.

Under the most favorable weather conditions it will be after May 1 before any of these properties will be ready for examination, and it may be that some or all of them will not be ready before the middle of May. The applicants have all been informed of the urgency of an early examination and have promised to let us know the moment they feel an examination can be made.

In addition to the above, four new applications from Idaho and one from Montana have been received this month. An attempt will be made to examine one of these, Alonza Linderman near Hailey, April 11 (to D. C. 4/11/58). We do not yet know what the snow conditions may be in that area. Walter Campbell's uranium property (Lucky Win in Idaho County) near Grangeville, Idaho, will be scheduled the week of April 21. Alberta K. Romerio, Montana, and Erwin McPheters, Idaho, will probably not be examined for reasons stated in our letters transmitting their applications. Day Mines, Inc. (to D. C. 4/10/58) can probably be evaluated without an examination but in any case weather will not present any problem.

While our field men were in Idaho, they learned that the Capital-Seaboard property (DMEA-4906) near Calera is under 3 feet of snow. However, we have some data on the property in the Survey files. Also, Mr. K. E. Hamblen, the company's engineer, will be in Spokane the week of April 14 and we hope to get sufficient information at that time to complete an evaluation without a field examination.

We are preparing a report on Western Fluorite (DMEA-4763) without a re-examination. The purpose of the re-examination was to tie in the proposed and recommended drill holes with the claim boundaries. We believe we can avoid this necessity by stipulating that the locations of all drill sites have prior Government approval.

The Daybreak Uranium, Inc. (DMEA-4958) examination will be made the week of April 14.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region I

cc: USBM (2)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED APR 14 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
4/15	H.J.	225
	WSM	400

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

April 8, 1958

Mr. William R. McLure
Box 5
Philipsburg, Montana

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Zinc-Lead)
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. McLure:

We are sorry that our field examiners were unable to see the new surface workings because of the heavy snow. As you recall, Mr. Prinz told you he expects to be back in Philipsburg the first week in May. However, he asked you to let him know if an earlier examination would be possible.

The Defense Minerals Act of 1950 under which DMEA operates will expire at midnight June 30 of this year, after which no new DMEA contracts can be undertaken. To be acted upon before the dead line, field team reports must be in Washington early in May. Therefore, it is most important that you notify us as soon as a satisfactory examination can be made. Mr. Prinz will come over as soon as possible after we hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region I

cc: DMEA (2)
USBM (2)
Prinz

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED APR 14 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
4/15	J.H.	225
	WSM	0400

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

April 7, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: The Files

From: William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Zinc-Lead), William R. McLure, Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana

I contacted Mr. McLure, the applicant, in Philipsburg, Montana, on April 1, 1958, to discuss his application and to arrange for a possible examination of his property. Mr. McLure stated that in order to adequately evaluate his property, an examination of some of the surface cuts and trenches would be necessary. He further stated that the ground at the mine was covered with about 3 feet of snow and suggested that the examination be postponed until the snow had melted.

I told Mr. McLure that I would probably return to the Philipsburg area the first week in May. He stated that he thought the snow would probably be gone by then so that an examination could be made. Should the snow break up sooner, I asked Mr. McLure to let me know because it might be possible to make the examination at an earlier date.

William C. Prinz

cc: DMEA (2)
USBM (2)
Prinz

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3/25	Martin	400
3/26	[illegible]	920
"	Johnson	110
"	Mittendorf	100
3/26	[illegible]	220
		400

MAR 26 1958

Hon. Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

I have your letter of March 19, 1958, enclosing letter to you of March 11, 1958, from Mr. William R. McLure, Philipsburg, Montana, concerning the status of his application of February 21, 1958, for exploration assistance for manganese as well as lead and zinc at the Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana, our Docket No. DMEA 4948.

Mr. McLure was informed on March 18, that his application had been referred to Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region I, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Washington, for review and a field examination of the property if considered necessary. Two former applications, our Dockets No. DMA-1958 and No. DMEA 2747, for aid to explore the same property for lead and zinc were denied on September 14, 1951, and November 10, 1952, respectively, because of the improbability of making a significant discovery.

Your letter mentions some previous correspondence on whether Government diamond drilling was contemplated in the vicinity of Philipsburg. This reference was apparently made because, with his letter to you of March 11, 1958, Mr. McLure enclosed a copy of his letter to you of June 6, 1957. We find that on June 13, 1957, you sent a copy of that letter to Mr. Marling J. Ankeny, Director, Bureau of Mines, with a request for information on the subject. On June 19, 1957, Mr. Ankeny advised you that the Government's drilling program had been redirected to the DMEA program. He enclosed a copy of our questions and answers pamphlet and suggested that Mr. McLure consult the DMEA office at the above-mentioned address in Spokane.

Mr. McLure's letter to you and its enclosure are returned herewith as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

(for)

Administrator

Enclosure

PRS 7822

WSMARTIN/foc 3-25-58
cc to: Docket
Code 400
MDM
MR

cc to: DL
DCCO
Secretary's Read. File
FT. REG. I
Messrs. F. B. Lamb, USBM
T. H. Kilsgaard, USGS

8623

THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN, R. I., CHAIRMAN
J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK.
JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN.
MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.
WAYNE MORSE, OREG.
RUSSELL B. LONG, LA.
JOHN F. KENNEDY, MASS.
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.
H. ALEXANDER SMITH, N. J.
BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, IOWA
WILLIAM LANGER, N. DAK.
WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.
GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
HOMER E. CAPEHART, IND.

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

March 19, 1958

PRS
MAR 21 1958 7822

TO: MDM	
REPLY TO BE PREPARED BY:	MDM
FOR SIGNATURE OF:	MDM
COPY OF LETTER FURNISHED	
MR DL	
SEND REPLY COPY TO ABOVE	

Mr. C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

With reference to our previous correspondence concerning diamond drilling in the vicinity of Philipsburg, Montana, will say I am enclosing herewith further communications I have received from Mr. William R. McClure of Philipsburg, Montana.

I would appreciate your again looking into his application for a loan with your Agency and let me know what action has been taken on the same. Please return the enclosures with your reply.

Thanking you and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mike Mansfield

ORIGINAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 21 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
3/21	C	220
	WSM	400

WILLIAM R. McLURE
MINING

PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA

March 11th. 1958.

Senator Mike Mansfield.
United States Senate.
Washington 25 D.C.

Dear Senator;

Some time ago my former wife, Mrs Blanche McLure, requested my help in a matter of a birth certificate for a passport. In turn I notified her to request your help in the matter. I wish to thank you at this time for your help and I am satisfied that every thing has turned out all right.

On June 6th. of last year I wrote you a letter, a copy of which I enclose. In answer you enclosed a letter from some official in Washington (this letter I have lost) suggesting that I place an application for a loan with the D.M.E.A. At that time I was unable to request a loan. But on Feb. 21th. 1958 I filed an application with the Spokane office. This application has been referred to the Iron and Ferro Alloy Division in the Washington office, and assigned Docket Number D.M.E.A.-4948. I would appreciate it very much if you would keep your eye on this application, just to see if the statement in regard to the small individual mine operator, in my letter of June 6th. 1957 is correct.

Thanking you again in the matter of the passport I remain.

Sincerely Yours.

William R. McLure.

June 6th. 1957

Senator Mike Mansfield.
United States Senate.
Washington 25 D.C.

Dear Senator;

I understand that the Government is contemplating some more diamond drilling in this area.

Do you think that it would be possable to convince the heads of the departments who are going to this drilling that there are some small individuals who own mining claims in this area which justify diamond drilling and examination.

In the past four years the Government programs have ignored the small individual in every way that was possable. If he has accomplished anything at all it has certainly been done the hard way.

Anything you can do to help the small mining individual in this district will be appreciated by him.

I am writing a similar letter to Senator Murray.

Sincerely Yours.

William R. Moore.

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3-17	Chapman	400
3-17	Martin	400
3/17	Selfridge	130
3/17	Yoyd	130
3/17	Kiilsgaard	130
"	Johnson	110
"	Hutchinson	100
3/18	C	220
		400

MAR 18 1958

Mr. William R. McLure
Box 5
Philipsburg, Montana

Re: Docket No. DMEA 4948 - Manganese,
Zinc and Lead
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. McLure:

The above referenced application for exploration assistance for manganese, zinc and lead ores has been referred to Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region I, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Washington, for review and a field examination of the property if considered necessary.

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

Sincerely yours,

T. L. Chapman (signature)

Administrator

TLCHAPMAN/dlm 3-17-58
cc to: Code 400
Admr. R. File
Oper. Comm.
FT. REG. I
Messrs. G. L. DeHuff, jr. USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

8623

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3-17	Chapman	400
3-17	Martin	400
3/17	[illegible]	130
"	Johnson	110
"	Hartenstein	100
		220

MAR 18 1958

Mr. A. F. Weissenborn, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region I
South 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

Re: Do[redacted] Manganese,
Wil[redacted]
Ne[redacted]
Gr[redacted]

Dear Mr. Weissenborn:

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

Copies of memoranda dated March 6 and 10, 1958, by N. E. Nelson, Geological Survey, and G. L. DeHuff, Jr. (concurred in by O. M. Bishop), Bureau of Mines, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed. Also enclosed is an extra copy of the application for the use of the Field Team.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures

George C. Selfridge

APPROVED:

Chairman, Operating Committee (HB)

P. F. Yopes (HB)
Member, Bureau of Mines

TLCHAPMAN/dlm 3-17-58
cc to: Code 400
Admr. R.
Oper. Comm.
Messrs. G. L. DeHuff, Jr. USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS
FT. REG. I

Thor H. Kiilsgaard (HB)
Member, Geological Survey

8623

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 12 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
3/12	C	220
	WSM	400

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

Date March 10, 1958

DMEA Docket No. 4948
DMEA Contract No.
Commodity Mn - Zn - Pb
Name of applicant William R. McLure
Name of property Needle Gun Mine
Location of property Granite Co., Mont.
Estimated cost of project $14,000

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, DMEA

From: G. L. DeHuff, Jr., Commodity Specialist

Subject: Review of Application
(Application, Field Team Report, etc.)

1. Date of subject document: 2/21/58 2. Date received by reviewer: 3/5/58

3. Other reports on this property known to reviewer: Yes [ ] No [X]

4. Other reports on nearby properties known to reviewer: Yes [ ] No [X]

5. Information available on past production: Yes [ ] No [X]

6. Other pertinent factors known to reviewer: Yes [X] No [ ]

7. Explain items marked yes above: Although applicant proposes work where he claims a 15% - 17% manganese assay, it appears that his chief interest is probably Zn - Pb - Ag. The fact that the Butte-Philipsburg manganese purchase program is just about finished supports this view.

8. Factors meeting special consideration:
a. Location [ ]
b. Ownership [X]
c. Evidence of mineralization X
d. Geology [ ]
e. Proposed exploration method [X]
f. Alternate exploration method [ ]
g. Costs [ ]
h. [ ]

9. Action advised:
a. Obtain information from applicant [ ]
b. Refer to Field Team [X]
c. Denial [ ]
d. Agree with Field Team [ ]
e. Disagree with Field Team [ ]
f. Suggest alternate plan [ ]
g. Request another examination [ ]
h. Approval [ ]
i. Consult with Mr. _____ at _____ AEC office.

10. Remarks: (Use back of page if necessary) Speaking from the viewpoint of manganese, it is recommended that subject application be referred to the Field Team for its consideration. It is possible that recent Bureau examination work for manganese in the Philipsburg district may make another examination unnecessary.

G L DeHuff Jr

I concur: O. M. Bishop 3/11/58

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 7 1958

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
3/7	C	220
	WSM	400

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

March 6, 1958
Re: DMEA 4948
William R. McLure
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana
$14,000 - Manganese, Zinc, Lead

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of application

The applicant requests assistance in exploring, by shaft sinking, a reputed silver, zinc, manganese-bearing shear zone in granite. Considerable work has been done in and near the zone including about 1,500 feet of drifting.

Two applications, DMEA 1958 and 2747, concerning the same zone were denied. Perhaps the present applicant has found something new or neglected. That it merits the proposed work is not too apparent.

Referral of the application to the Field Team is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

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

March 5, 1958

Mr. William R. McLure
Box - 5 -
Philipsburg, Montana

Subject: DMEA-4948

Dear Mr. McLure

Your application for exploration assistance, dated February 21, 1958 submitted to our office at Spokane, Washington has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-4948 and referred to the Iron & Ferro Alloy Division in the Washington office. Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this Docket Number.

Sincerely yours,

Allen S. Dakan, Director
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

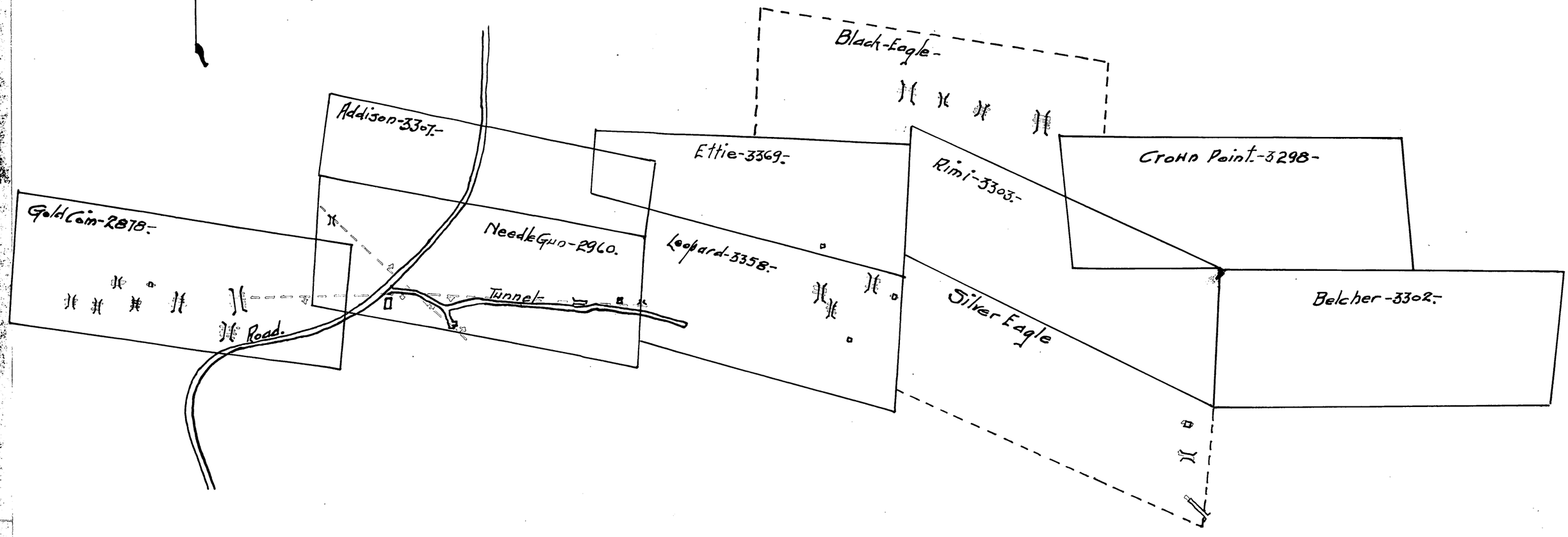
Copy to: Region I

N

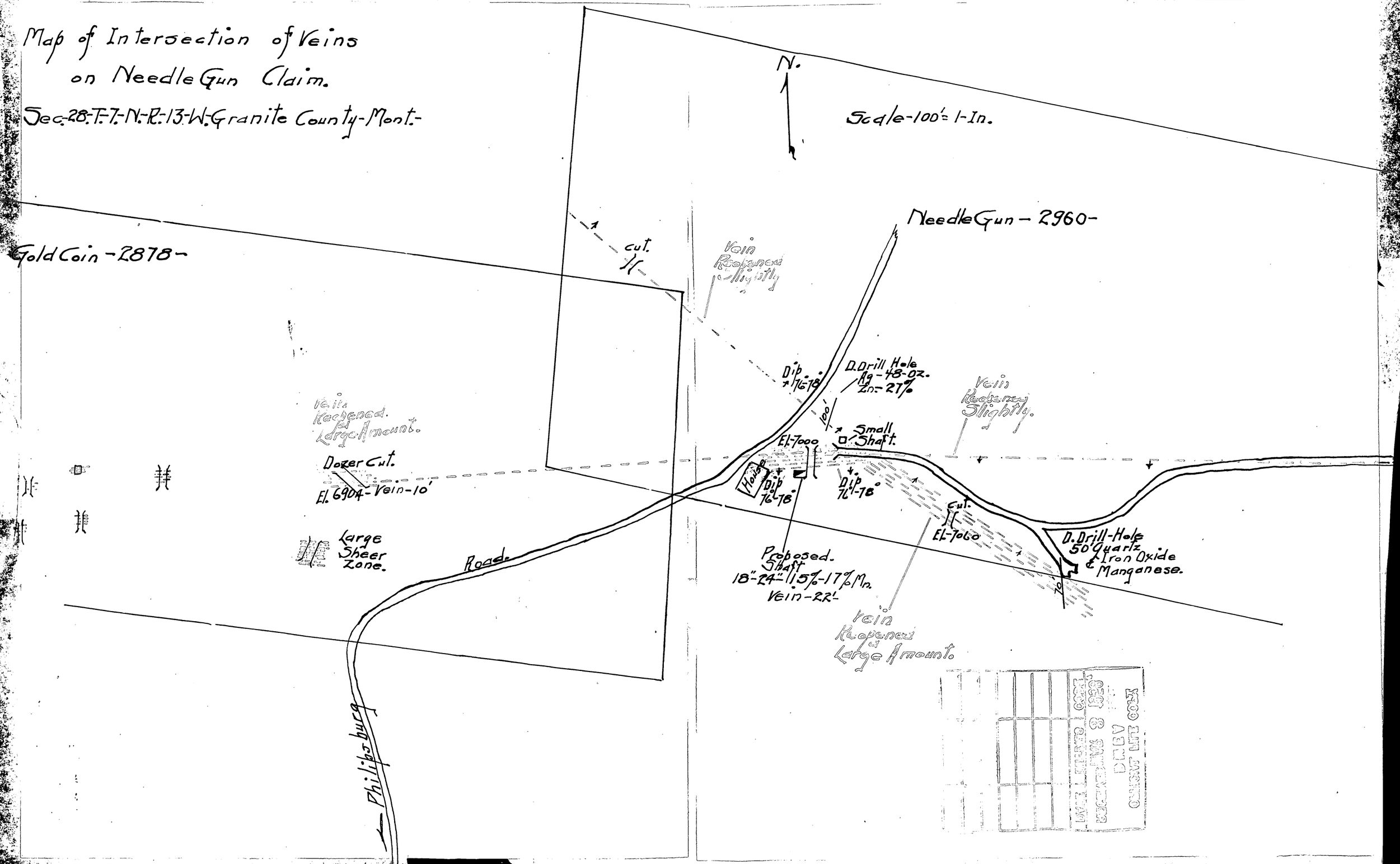
Needle Gun Group.

Sec. 28-T.-7.-N.-R.-13.-W. Granite County Mont.

Scale-400 ft.=1-In.



Map of Intersection of Veins
on Needle Gun Claim.
Sec-28-T-7-N-R-13-W-Granite County-Mont.-



No. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington
June 5, 1958

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Zinc-Lead)
William R. McLure
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are three copies of a field examination report by William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, on this application.

Two previous applications for aid to explore this property were denied. Since the last denial the applicant has intermittently done additional trenching, drifting, and crosscutting further exposing the vein. He has also developed a concept that the veins have been reopened and that therefore minable ore-bodies should be found by deeper exploration. He also argues that the intersection of two veins near the portal of the adit is a favorable target for deeper exploration.

Prinz points out the fallacies in the applicant's concepts and shows how the applicant has misunderstood or misinterpreted statements by W. H. Emmons and F. C. Calkins in U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78 and concludes that the chance of making a significant discovery is poor. He therefore recommends that the application be denied.

We concur with Prinz's conclusions and recommendations.

By Field Team, Region I

A. M. Weissenborn, Exec. Officer
U. S. Geological Survey

Ving G. Agnew, Member
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Enclosures
cc: USGS(2)
USGS(SRO)
Prinz

Prinz

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

June 2, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I

From: William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Lead-Zinc), William R. McLure, Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana

INTRODUCTION

An application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun group of claims for manganese, lead, and zinc was received February 27, 1958, from William R. McLure. The property is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg District, Granite County, Montana. Mr. McLure wishes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot incline shaft on the Needle Gun vein. He estimates that this project would cost $14,000; Government participation at 50 percent would be $7,000.

This is Mr. McLure's third application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun property. The first application, Docket No. DMA-1958, was for assistance to drive an adit 1,000 feet eastward on the vein. The application was later revised to include 600 feet of eastward drifting on the vein, plus two 50-foot crosscuts north and south, to be followed by sinking a 100-foot winze from the adit level and drifting 200 feet easterly on the vein from the bottom of the winze. This application was denied on September 14, 1951, because it appeared that if an ore body were developed by the proposed program, it would probably be primarily a silver ore rather than one of lead or zinc. Mr. McLure's second application, Docket No. DMEA-2747, was submitted on October 27, 1952. This application was submitted after the adit had been advanced about 400 feet and proposed to continue the adit for an additional 750 feet. He estimated that this program would cost about $30,000. The examining engineers concluded that the new work revealed nothing that would change the original appraisal of the property and this application was denied on November 10, 1952. Since this denial, work has been carried on intermittently at the property and the crosscutting and drifting on the main Needle Gun adit level now amounts to about 1,700 feet (pl. 1).

The property was examined by the author on April 29, 1958, accompanied by William R. McLure, the applicant. At the time of the examination the ground was covered with 3-4 feet of snow. However, it was possible to examine the Needle Gun adit and the small dozer cut just west of the Needle Gun adit portal. Mr. McLure stated that these were the most critical exposures insofar as evaluation of his property was concerned. He further stated that the trenches to the west were not as good as the one I examined near the portal. The property had been examined in October 1957 by Elden C. Pattee, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, in connection with the Bureau's study of the Philipsburg District. Pattee mapped and sampled the main adit and kindly furnished copies of his data which were of considerable help during the examination of the property. The map submitted with this report (pl. 1) was reduced from Pattee's map with only the addition of the claim boundaries from the application and of some notes by myself.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Needle Gun mine lies in an early Tertiary granodiorite batholith about 1¼ miles east of its western border. The Needle Gun vein, the most important structure on the property, has been exposed in an extensive adit. The vein here is small and subcommercial. Near the portal of the adit the vein is exposed in a small trench. The vein here is also small but is bordered to the north by a wide, altered or weathered zone. The applicant believes that this weathered or altered zone indicates that the vein has been reopened and concludes that a large deposit lies a short distance below the surface. Evidence for this reopening, such as broken and brecciated vein material, inclusions of wall rock within the vein, and large amounts of vein quartz are all lacking. It is concluded that the chances of making a significant discovery are poor and therefore it is recommended that the application be denied.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Needle Gun mine is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg Mining District in sec. 28, T. 7 N., R. 13 W., Granite County, Montana. By road it is about 4½ miles east of the town of Philipsburg, at an altitude of about 7,000 feet. The property can be reached by passenger car by going southeasterly from Philipsburg to the old ghost town of Granite, a distance of about 3 miles; turn left or northerly in Granite and continue for 1½ miles to the property. The property would be easily accessible by passenger car except during the winter months. Although winter in the area is severe and snowfall is heavy, the mine road could be kept plowed out and the mine worked all winter long.

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The applicant, William R. McLure, is the lessee of the property considered in this application. Mr. McLure claims to have had 35 years experience in mining and his work in driving the main Needle Gun adit appears adequate. He owns some mining equipment, which, plus his own labor, he expects to use to furnish the major part of his share of the costs of the proposed exploration program.

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The applicant has a lease and option to purchase on two unpatented quartz lode mining claims, the Black Eagle and the Silver Eagle, and on eight patented claims as shown on the claim map submitted with the application and as listed below:

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Crown Point	3298
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The property is owned by the Needle Gun Mine Corporation and the applicant's lease and option is for 10 years beginning August 6, 1957. The copy of the lease and option submitted with the application is for an undivided 78/80ths interest in the subject claims, but the applicant stated during the examination that he now has a new lease for the entire property. He stated the same thing in a postscript to his letter submitting the application.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Needle Gun mine lies along the west side of the Flint Creek Range at an altitude of about 7,000-7,500 feet. The topography of the area is steep and rugged.

The Needle Gun adit is the only major accessible mine working at the property. This adit consists of 1,500 feet of drift and crosscut, most of which are along the main Needle Gun vein. The vein is also exposed in a 20-foot trench just west of the adit portal. It is reported that the property also contains numerous other trenches, shallow shafts, short adits and open cuts, but they were all inaccessible at the time of the field examination because of either snow or caving. One large building housing a compressor and blacksmith shop and one smaller building are near the adit portal.

GEOLOGY

The geology of the Philipsburg District has been described in numerous memoranda relating to currently active DMEA contracts in Dockets No. DMEA-42, DMEA-3626, DMEA-4334, and in several U. S. Geological Survey publications. The most important published report insofar as the evaluation of the Needle Gun mine is concerned, is: Emmons, W. H., and Calkins, F. C., Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 78, 1913. The other references pertain mainly to the manganiferous portions of the Philipsburg District, which are to the west of the Needle Gun mine. The rocks in the Philipsburg District consist of a sequence of Precambrian and Paleozoic sediments, mainly limestone with some shale and quartzite, intruded by a Tertiary granodiorite batholith. The sediments have been folded into a broad anticline which plunges 17°-35° north. The rocks on the west limb of the anticline dip 40°-70° west, those on the east limb, 30°-55° east. The granodiorite is found in both the eastern and southern parts of the district. Its east contact is parallel with the trend of the anticline; its south contact truncates the anticline. Contact metamorphic effects are visible in the sediments up to 1 mile from the contact; however, intense changes are confined to the immediate contact. A series of faults and vein fissures of various ages are found in the district. The oldest are a series of pre-granodiorite faults which strike northwest and dip northeast. These structures are not common and are of only minor importance insofar as the ore deposits are concerned. The most important structures in the formation of the ore deposits are a series of silver-bearing vein fissures which cut both the granodiorite batholith and the sediments. These fissures strike east-west or northwest and generally have a steep southerly or nearly vertical dip. The northwest-striking ones are generally weaker than the east-west ones. Movement along these fissures has been small and in some places they break up into en

echelon groups. These veins contain silver, zinc, lead and some copper sulfides in a quartz gangue and many contain a little rhodochrosite. The manganese ore in the district is found as replacement bodies in favorable sedimentary beds adjacent to these fissure veins; no manganese deposits of note have been found in the granodiorite. Silver and silver-zinc ores have been mined from the veins themselves in both the sediments and the granodiorite and are seldom found as replacement deposits. The Granite Bimetallic mine, the largest silver producer in the district, is about 1 mile south of the Needle Gun mine in a similar geological setting.

The Needle Gun property is underlain primarily by medium-grained gray granodiorite and is about 1½ miles east of the western edge of the batholith. The main structural feature on the property is the Needle Gun vein with strikes essentially east-west and which dips steeply to the south. This vein varies from a thin seam a fraction of an inch wide to 8 inches wide. The vein consists of quartz and gouge with some manganese oxide and iron oxide stain, and a few scattered sulfides, including sphalerite and galena. A zone of altered granodiorite is found along the vein at a few places. This zone has a maximum width of about 3 feet and may contain some values. Along the main drift about 850 feet west of the breast, shear zones containing a pink clay or altered feldspar go out the south wall of the adit. At first glance this pink mineral looks like fine-grained rhodochrosite; however, assays show that it is not a manganese-bearing mineral. Traces of rhodochrosite are found, however, in several places along the vein. In the small trench just west of the portal of the Needle Gun adit the main vein is 4 inches wide and consists of quartz and manganese oxides. The vein is exposed near the southern end of this trench and is bordered on the north by about 20 feet of manganese- and iron-oxide-stained granodiorite which is crumbly, apparently either due to hydrothermal alteration or to weathering. The applicant reported that the Needle Gun vein was also exposed in several dozer cuts to the west, but because of snow conditions these cuts could not be examined. Mr. McLure stated, however, that the vein in the cut just west of the portal is stronger than it is anywhere else on the property.

The second vein, which the applicant feels is important insofar as the evaluation of his property is concerned, is exposed in a small cut extending northeasterly from the portal of the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and consists of 10 inches of quartz and manganese oxide. In the adit proper the applicant removed some lagging in order to expose the supposed extension of this vein. Here altered granodiorite stained by oxides of iron and manganese are visible, but there is no definite vein material. The map submitted with the application depicts this "vein" or at least part of it as being exposed in the southern end of the first crosscut south from the Needle Gun adit. Diversely oriented manganese-stained gouge zones are found in this crosscut but nothing that could be definitely called vein material.

Assays of samples collected by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and by DMEA representatives are posted on plate 1 and the DMEA assays are tabulated below.

Sample No.	Width	Manganese (%)	Gold (oz./t.)	Silver (oz./t.)	Lead (%)	Zinc (%)
2	?	--	0.07	2.36	0.79	0.0
3	?	--	0.02	0.74	0.045	1.44
833	4.0'	0.54	0.017	Tr	0.06	0.0
834	4.0"	8.33	0.020	1.10	0.11	0.0
835	2.5'	2.17	0.035	0.20	0.08	0.0
836	2.5"	1.81	0.085	0.20	0.06	0.20
837	8.0"	7.61	0.014	0.80	0.08	0.25
838	4.0"	5.79	0.095	3.60	0.15	6.40
839	18.0"	Tr	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0
840	Grab	4.71	0.060	0.30	0.06	0.0

Samples No. 833, 834, and 835 are from the trench just west of the main Needle Gun adit. Samples No. 833 and 835 are of the altered wall rock north of the main vein, whereas 834 is a sample of the vein itself. Sample No. 840 is a grab sample of the supposed extension of the northwest-striking vein into the Needle Gun adit. Sample No. 839 was collected in the Needle Gun adit to determine whether or not the pink mineral exposed in this area was rhodochrosite. The rest of the samples were collected along the main Needle Gun vein in the adit. Samples No. 2 and 3 are from a previous DMEA examination and application; 836, 837 and 838 were collected during the recent examination. Assay results, coupled with vein widths show that the property contains nothing even approaching commercial-grade material. The high-grade assays claimed by the applicant appear to be hand-sorted samples and are not typical. Those from the drill hole a short distance northwest of the Needle Gun adit portal (see map submitted with the application) are exceptionally high grade but could not be verified. The core was stored in the compressor house, but it had been spilled and moved around and was pretty much mixed up.

Mr. McLure readily admits that the showings thus far are not too good. He is basing his arguments for continuing work on his concept that the veins in the district have been reopened. In support of this concept he quotes quite extensively from Emmons and Calkins Professional Paper No. 78. These statements are taken out of context and in many cases do not apply to the Needle Gun mine. As evidence for vein reopening, Mr. McLure cites the exposure in the trench just west of the Needle Gun adit. Mr. McLure believes that the loose, crumbly granite exposed north of the vein in this cut indicates extensive fissuring and reopening. I believe, on the other hand, that this crumbly and oxide-stained granite is the result of normal wall rock alteration or of weathering. It is difficult for me to visualize, as does Mr. McLure, how the vein could be extensively fissured and reopened here near the portal and not be reopened a short distance to the east. As further argument against Mr. McLure's ideas, I would also like to present one quotation out of context. Referring to the Granite vein, Emmons and Calkins (Professional Paper No. 78) state on page 170, "The vein was filled, reopened, and refilled, probably several times. Evidence of such reopening is afforded by the presence of many small, angular fragments and parallel slabs of country rock near the center of the vein, where they are completely surrounded by ore. In many places the ore itself is brecciated and completely recemented by ore of somewhat different character." I saw no such evidence at the Needle Gun mine.

Another argument advanced by Mr. McLure in support of his proposed work near the portal of the Needle Gun adit is the fact that two veins intersect near here. He quotes out of context from pages 178 and 187 of Professional Paper No. 78 in support of this idea. Mr. McLure has missed the point here, as Emmons and Calkins are talking about the nearly horizontal intersection of two veins with nearly parallel strikes but divergent dips, whereas on the Needle Gun property the vein intersection is nearly vertical. Emmons and Calkins (Prof. Paper No. 78 , p. 178, fig. 25) state that the ore near these vertical intersections is not richer than it is elsewhere.

There has been no production from the property and there are no known ore reserves existing on the property today. It appears that the property could not possibly develop any manganese ore of consequence and that the possibility of developing any base-metal ore is remote.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot inclined shaft from the small cut just west of the Needle Gun adit. This shaft would follow the Needle Gun vein downward. Mr. McLure estimates that the project would cost $14,000 or $140 per foot, but he does not present any detailed cost analyses.

The Needle Gun vein has already been explored extensively through the Needle Gun adit, the eastern end of which is probably at least 200 feet below the surface. Work in this adit has been extremely discouraging and it is highly doubtful that the proposed shaft work will reveal anything better.

CONCLUSIONS

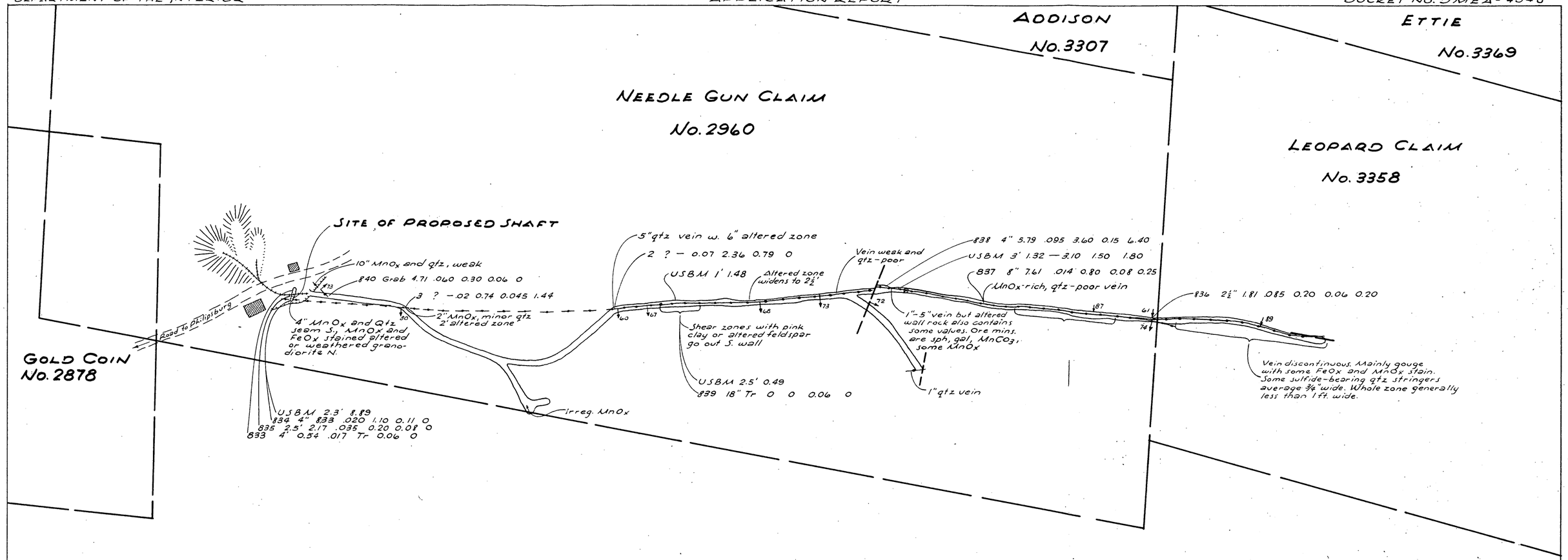
The Needle Gun vein has been explored over a strike length of about a quarter of a mile through the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and subcommercial. Based on an exposure of weathered and altered granite near the surface, the applicant believes that portions of the vein have been reopened and that wide ore-grade material would be expected below the zone of oxidation. It is concluded that his ideas are not sound and are not supported by evidence visible in the field. Therefore, it must be concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery at the Needle Gun property are poor and it is recommended that the application be denied.

Enclosure
Distribution:
DMEA(3)
USFM(2)
USGS(SRO)
Docket
Prinz ✓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

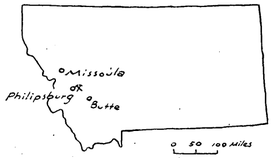
PREPARED FOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION REPORT

DOCKET No. DMEA-4948



ASSAY PLAN

Sample No.	Width	% Mn	Ozs. Au/ton	Ozs. Ag/ton	% Pb	% Zn



MAIN ADIT
NEEDLE GUN MINE
GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

100 0 100 200 Feet

MAY, 1958

PLATE 1

Reduced from 40-scale map by E. C. Pattee, U.S.B.M.
Claim boundaries from map submitted by applicant

No. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington
June 5, 1958

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Zinc-Lead)
William R. McLure
Needle Gun Mine
Granite County, Montana

Dear Mr. Selfridge:

Enclosed are three copies of a field examination report by William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, on this application.

Two previous applications for aid to explore this property were denied. Since the last denial the applicant has intermittently done additional trenching, drifting, and crosscutting further exposing the vein. He has also developed a concept that the veins have been reopened and that therefore minable ore bodies should be found by deeper exploration. He also argues that the intersection of two veins near the portal of the adit is a favorable target for deeper exploration.

Prinz points out the fallacies in the applicant's concepts and shows how the applicant has misunderstood or misinterpreted statements by W. H. Emmons and F. C. Calkins in U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78 and concludes that the chance of making a significant discovery is poor. He therefore recommends that the application be denied.

We concur with Prinz's conclusions and recommendations.

By Field Team, Region 1

A. F. Weissenborn, Exec. Officer
U. S. Geological Survey

King G. Armew, Member
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Enclosures
cc: USBM(2)
USGS(CRO)
Prinz

USGS (SRO)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

June 2, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I

From: William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Lead-Zinc), William R. McLure, Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana

INTRODUCTION

An application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun group of claims for manganese, lead, and zinc was received February 27, 1958, from William R. McLure. The property is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg District, Granite County, Montana. Mr. McLure wishes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot incline shaft on the Needle Gun vein. He estimates that this project would cost $14,000; Government participation at 50 percent would be $7,000.

This is Mr. McLure's third application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun property. The first application, Docket No. DMA-1958, was for assistance to drive an adit 1,000 feet eastward on the vein. The application was later revised to include 600 feet of eastward drifting on the vein, plus two 50-foot crosscuts north and south, to be followed by sinking a 100-foot winze from the adit level and drifting 200 feet easterly on the vein from the bottom of the winze. This application was denied on September 14, 1951, because it appeared that if an ore body were developed by the proposed program, it would probably be primarily a silver ore rather than one of lead or zinc. Mr. McLure's second application, Docket No. DMEA-2747, was submitted on October 27, 1952. This application was submitted after the adit had been advanced about 400 feet and proposed to continue the adit for an additional 750 feet. He estimated that this program would cost about $30,000. The examining engineers concluded that the new work revealed nothing that would change the original appraisal of the property and this application was denied on November 10, 1952. Since this denial, work has been carried on intermittently at the property and the crosscutting and drifting on the main Needle Gun adit level now amounts to about 1,700 feet (pl. 1).

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839	18.0"	Tr	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0
840	Grab	4.71	0.060	0.30	0.06	0.0

Samples No. 833, 834, and 835 are from the trench just west of the main Needle Gun adit. Samples No. 833 and 835 are of the altered wall rock north of the main vein, whereas 834 is a sample of the vein itself. Sample No. 840 is a grab sample of the supposed extension of the northwest-striking vein into the Needle Gun adit. Sample No. 839 was collected in the Needle Gun adit to determine whether or not the pink mineral exposed in this area was rhodochrosite. The rest of the samples were collected along the main Needle Gun vein in the adit. Samples No. 2 and 3 are from a previous DMEA examination and application; 836, 837 and 838 were collected during the recent examination. Assay results, coupled with vein widths show that the property contains nothing even approaching commercial-grade material. The high-grade assays claimed by the applicant appear to be hand-sorted samples and are not typical. Those from the drill hole a short distance northwest of the Needle Gun adit portal (see map submitted with the application) are exceptionally high grade but could not be verified. The core was stored in the compressor house, but it had been spilled and moved around and was pretty much mixed up.

Mr. McLure readily admits that the showings thus far are not too good. He is basing his arguments for continuing work on his concept that the veins in the district have been reopened. In support of this concept he quotes quite extensively from Emmons and Calkins Professional Paper No. 78. These statements are taken out of context and in many cases do not apply to the Needle Gun mine. As evidence for vein reopening, Mr. McLure cites the exposure in the trench just west of the Needle Gun adit. Mr. McLure believes that the loose, crumbly granite exposed north of the vein in this cut indicates extensive fissuring and reopening. I believe, on the other hand, that this crumbly and oxide-stained granite is the result of normal wall rock alteration or of weathering. It is difficult for me to visualize, as does Mr. McLure, how the vein could be extensively fissured and reopened here near the portal and not be reopened a short distance to the east. As further argument against Mr. McLure's ideas, I would also like to present one quotation out of context. Referring to the Granite vein, Emmons and Calkins (Professional Paper No. 78) state on page 170, "The vein was filled, reopened, and refilled, probably several times. Evidence of such reopening is afforded by the presence of many small, angular fragments and parallel slabs of country rock near the center of the vein, where they are completely surrounded by ore. In many places the ore itself is brecciated and completely recemented by ore of somewhat different character." I saw no such evidence at the Needle Gun mine.

Another argument advanced by Mr. McLure in support of his proposed work near the portal of the Needle Gun adit is the fact that two veins intersect near here. He quotes out of context from pages 178 and 187 of Professional Paper No. 78 in support of this idea. Mr. McLure has missed the point here, as Emmons and Calkins are talking about the nearly horizontal intersection of two veins with nearly parallel strikes but divergent dips, whereas on the Needle Gun property the vein intersection is nearly vertical. Emmons and Calkins (Prof. Paper No. 78 , p. 178, fig. 25) state that the ore near these vertical intersections is not richer than it is elsewhere.

There has been no production from the property and there are no known ore reserves existing on the property today. It appears that the property could not possibly develop any manganese ore of consequence and that the possibility of developing any base-metal ore is remote.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot inclined shaft from the small cut just west of the Needle Gun adit. This shaft would follow the Needle Gun vein downward. Mr. McLure estimates that the project would cost $14,000 or $140 per foot, but he does not present any detailed cost analyses.

The Needle Gun vein has already been explored extensively through the Needle Gun adit, the eastern end of which is probably at least 200 feet below the surface. Work in this adit has been extremely discouraging and it is highly doubtful that the proposed shaft work will reveal anything better.

CONCLUSIONS

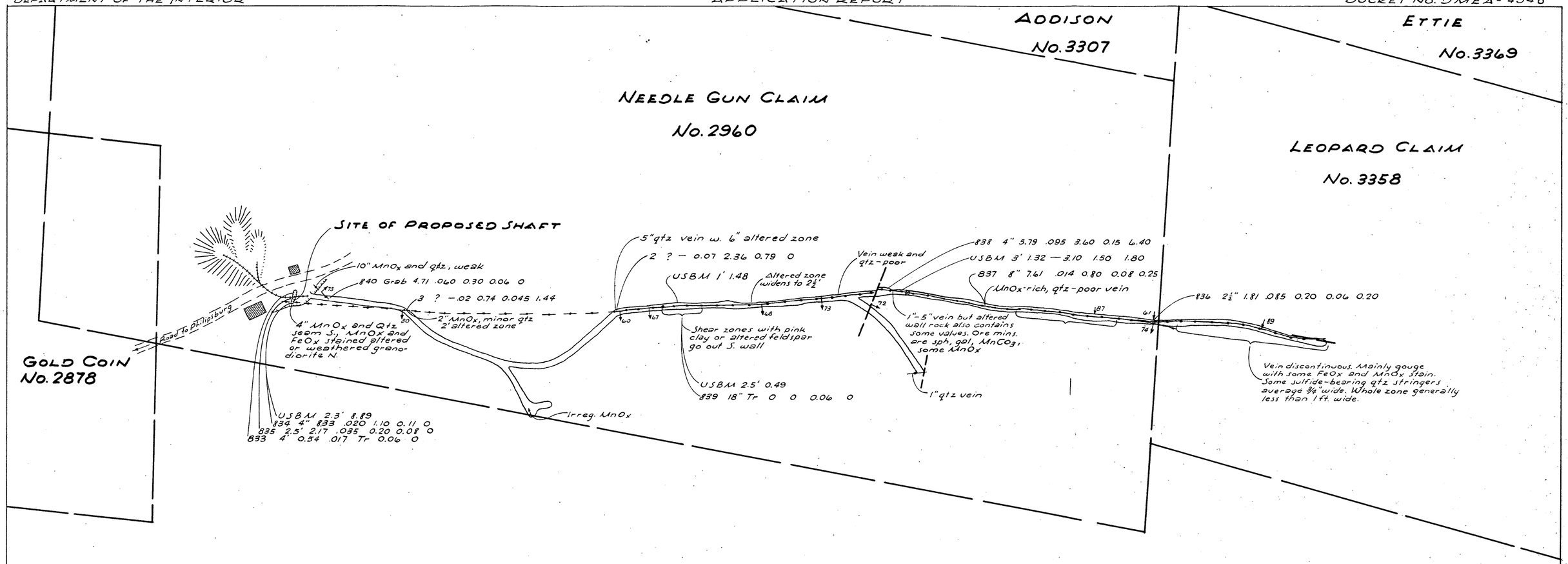
The Needle Gun vein has been explored over a strike length of about a quarter of a mile through the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and subcommercial. Based on an exposure of weathered and altered granite near the surface, the applicant believes that portions of the vein have been reopened and that wide ore-grade material would be expected below the zone of oxidation. It is concluded that his ideas are not sound and are not supported by evidence visible in the field. Therefore, it must be concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery at the Needle Gun property are poor and it is recommended that the application be denied.

Enclosure
Distribution:
DMEA(3)
USFM(2)
USGS(SRO)
Docket
Prinz

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PREPARED FOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION REPORT

DOCKET No. DMEA-4948



ASSAY PLAN

Sample No.	Width	% Mn	Ozs. Au/ton	Ozs. Ag/ton	% Pb	% Zn

MAIN ADIT
NEEDLE GUN MINE
GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

100 0 100 200 Feet

MAY, 1958

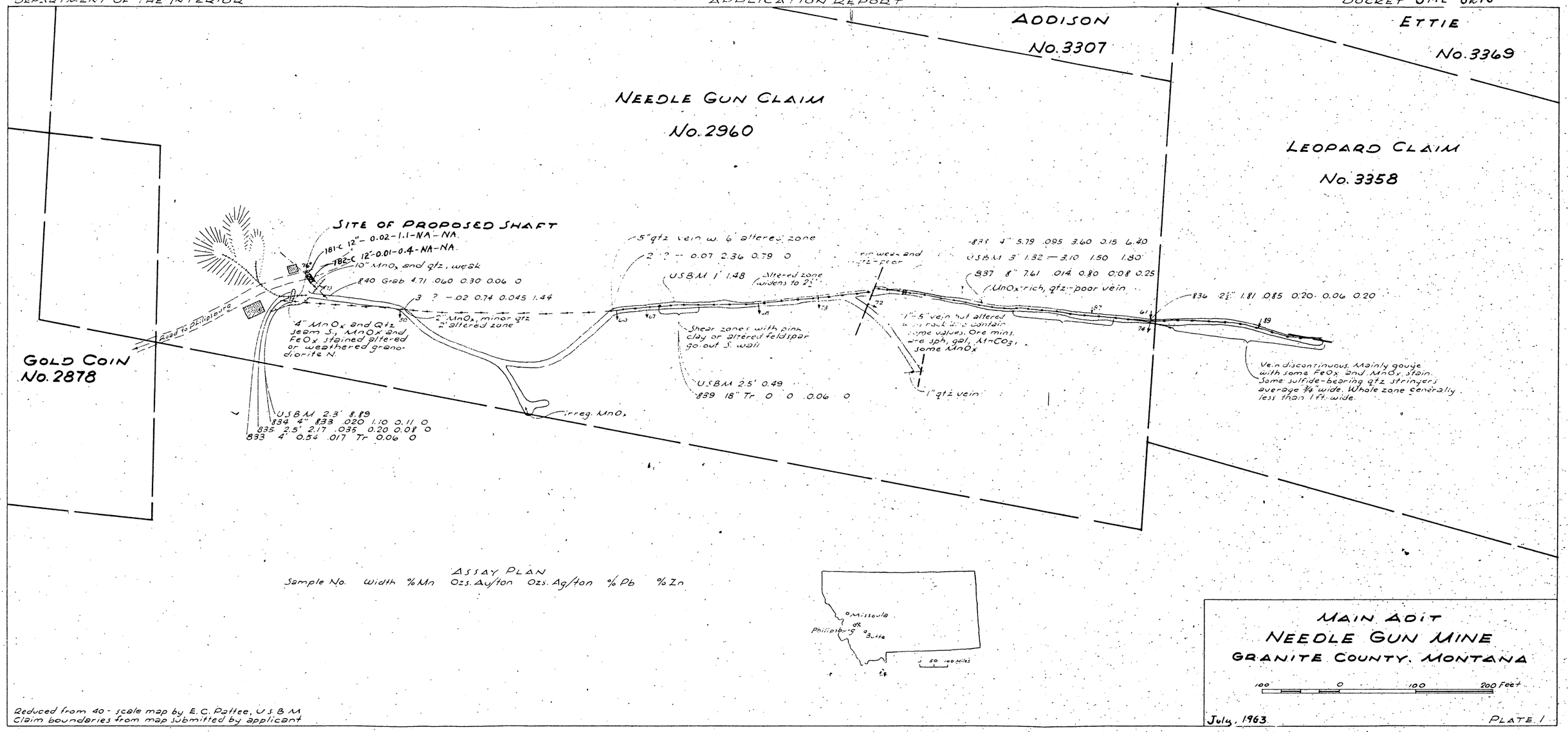
PLATE 1

Reduced from 40-scale map by E.C. Pattee, U.S.B.M.
Claim boundaries from map submitted by applicant

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

APPLICATION REPORT

DOCKET OME-6276



ASSAY PLAN

Sample No.	Width	% Mn	Ozs. Au/ton	Ozs. Ag/ton	% Pb	% Zn

MAIN ADIT
NEEDLE GUN MINE
GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

100 0 100 200 Feet

Reduced from 40' scale map by E. C. Pattee, U.S.B.M.
Claim boundaries from map submitted by applicant

July, 1963

PLATE 1

DMEA 494B

SRO

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
August 6, 1963

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Field Operations

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Application examination
OMR-6276 (Silver)
William R. McLure
Needle Gun, et al. Claims
Granite County, Montana

INTRODUCTION

Three prior applications for assistance to explore the Needle Gun, et al. Claims under the DMEA program were considered and denied. In two applications under Docket No. DMEA-1958 and Docket No. DMEA-2747 the applicant proposed to explore the Needle Gun vein by driving and/or extending an adit drift easterly. In a third application under Docket No. DMEA-4948 he proposed to explore near the intersection of the Needle Gun vein and a cross vein by sinking a shaft. These dockets contain four examination reports, one by John S. McNabb, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and James Quinlan, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey (DMEA-1958), one by the same authors and one by Howard B. Nicholson, Geologist, U.S.G.S. (DMEA-2747), and one by William C. Prinz, Geologist, U.S.G.S. (DMEA-4948). In this application Mr. McLure proposes to deepen a shaft now 35-40 feet deep to explore the same intersection which is the subject of the report by Prinz (DMEA-4948).

The shaft it is proposed to deepen was started after Prinz examined the property; it was therefore deemed advisable to make another inspection which was done July 19, 1963, in the company of Mr. McLure. As the road from the old townsite of Granite to the Needle Gun property was in bad condition with high rock centers, McLure kindly offered to take me to the property in his jeep. About 6 hours was spent on the property, inspecting the new shaft, visiting several of the old trenches along an intersecting vein, called by McLure the "C" vein, as well as old trenches and pits along the Needle Gun vein west of the portal, and inspecting the dump at the portal of the Josephine tunnel on a claim adjacent to and north of McLure's Gold Coin claim.

The old pits along the "C" and the Needle Gun veins were so covered by soil and bush growth that all vein exposures were deeply buried and could not be seen. Fragments of vein material in the debris indicated only that the pits contained probable vein material - some quartz and some fragments of iron oxide - and that they were probably located along veins.

The character of the vein and mineral occurrence in the Needle Gun adit has been described and mapped by the various examiners above mentioned and was not entered.

The property, location and accessibility, and geology have all been described in the reports mentioned above and in the literature cited therein. This report will be limited to what was actually seen, a discussion of McLaren's theory on which he basis his expectation of finding ore, conclusions and recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery of silver-bearing ore is poor. It is recommended that the application be denied.

FACTUAL OBSERVATIONS

About 20 feet north of the portal of the Needle Gun adit (pl. 1) is a timbered shaft 4½ feet by 9 feet in section said to be about 35 feet deep. It is timbered by locally cut round timbers about 8 inches in diameter to a depth of 27 feet. The bottom of the shaft is filled with muck so that the measured depth is 30 feet. Dividers are about 10 feet apart and no wall* plates are installed.

In the 3 feet or so between the bottom of the timber and the top of the muck is a vein composed of quartz and silicified wall rock up to 1-foot wide between walls of weathered granite. The vein appears to strike about N. 60° W. and dip about 76° NE, but due to the limited exposure in the shaft, these recorded elements of vein attitude may not be representative of the strike and dip of the vein as a whole. If this is the same as the vein shown near the portal of the adit, the strike would be more nearly N. 45° W. The trench north of the portal mentioned by Prinz as showing this structure has been covered by muck from the shaft. I believe the veins are the same. Two samples were taken at the bottom of the shaft and assayed:

*Divider

Sample No.	Location	Ounces/Ton Au	Ag
181-C	1 ft wide, NW corner	0.02	1.1
182-C	1 ft wide, SE corner	0.01	0.4

About 350 feet northwest of the shaft is a trench that from all appearances was put in by the old timers. McLure dates it about 1900. The bottom and sides are covered by deeply weathered soil, a foot or 2 thick on the sides, in which bushy growth several feet in height flourishes. The remains of the dump at the trench side is nearly level and similarly overgrown, but by scrapping around a few pieces of quartz and silicified rock heavily stained by iron oxide and some manganese oxide were found. No similar material in place could be found. On the sketch accompanying the application this trench is shown as being about N. 45° W. of the new shaft, but very heavy evergreen and shrub growth prevented a positive compass check however it is probably close. That it is on the "C" vein is pure speculation - it may be. At best it only indicates that the "C" vein extends northwesterly toward the easterly extension of the Josephine vein.

Returning to the Needle Gun portal the trench a few feet to the west was inspected. Prinz's description is accurate; a 4- to 5-inch vein near the southern end bordered on the north by a zone of crumbly, sheared, altered granite, stained by iron and manganese oxides. Tight iron-stained shear planes 2 to 4 inches apart in the granite are numerous for about 20 feet north of the vein.

We then started westerly and passed 3 or 4 trenches and pits said to be on the Needle Gun. While not as old as the one on the "C" vein, these trenches were in nearly as bad shape although at one there was more quartz and silicified rock, stained by iron oxide on the dump.

Although the applicant has not been able to lease the Josephine claim, adjacent on the north to the Gold Coin, he was most anxious for me to see the vein material on the dump. The portal of the Josephine tunnel is some 1,800 to 2,000 feet northwesterly of the Needle Gun portal and between 350 and 450 feet lower in altitude. The tunnel is caved and has been for some 50 years or more. According to McLure, the Josephine tunnel was formerly known as the Three Metals tunnel. The only known literature relative to this working is a brief description by Emmons and Calkins in Professional Paper No. 78, p. 208, as follows:

"The Three Metals tunnel, as shown by mine maps, cuts a vein 2¾ feet from the portal and follows it for 1,200 feet along the strike. The vein dips 80° S. According to Mr. Hector McDonald the ore is composed of quartz, pyrite, galena, and a little ruby silver. A few hundred dollars of ore has been shipped from this vein."

A grab sample of dump material, picked for high grade assayed 0.05 ounce gold and 70.4 ounces silver per ton, 16.1 percent lead and 18.0 percent zinc.

McLURE'S THEORY

As pointed out by Prinz (DMRA-4948), McLure has taken out of the context certain statements made by Emmons and Calkins relative to the ore bodies found along the Granite-Bimetallic vein and has tried to make them apply to the Needle Gun, "C", and Josephine veins. Because at the Granite-Bimettalic vein ore shoots were formed by vein reopening accompanied by redeposition of primary minerals in an environment favorable for secondary enrichment, McLure assumes that similar vein reopening and redeposition took place on the Needle Gun and Josephine veins. Also, because another favorable environment at the Granite-Bimetallic mine has been at intersections of the main east-west vein with southeast-striking veins, he assumes that a similar deposit will be found along the intersection of the "C" and Needle Gun veins. Based on hearsay from an old timer, now deceased, who worked at the Josephine, he also assumes that the ore taken from that mine came at the intersection of the Josephine and the "C" vein.

Regarding the deposition of ore shoots at vein intersections in the Granite-Bimetallic mine, Emmons and Calkins say in the cited paper on p.p. 178-179: "The richest ore in this vein occurred above a junction of two veins forming a nearly horizontal line of intersection (fig. 24). Vertical junctions as illustrated by figure 25 were not enriched in this manner."

As described by Prinz and others, the Needle Gun vein is a weakly mineralized fissure showing no evidence of being reopened as has the Granite-Bimetallic vein. Of 6 channel samples taken by DMRA examiners in the Needle Gun tunnel the best contained 0.095 ounce gold, 3.6 ounces silver per ton, 0.15 percent lead and 6.4 percent zinc over a width of only 4 inches. This sample was taken about 760 feet from the portal, measured along the vein, at a point 100 to 200 feet below the surface. A grab sample of the "C" vein about 20 feet in from the tunnel portal assayed 0.06 ounce gold and 0.5 ounce silver per ton, 0.06 percent lead and nil zinc. Two

samples of the "C" vein taken by this examiner from the bottom of the winze assayed, respectively, 0.02 ounce gold and 1.1 ounces silver per ton over a width of 12 inches and 0.01 ounce gold and 0.4 ounce silver per ton over a 18-inch width. There is no evidence that the Needle Gun, the "C" vein, or their intersection offer much promise as a target for exploration.

Although the applicant has so far been unsuccessful in securing a lease on the Josephine claim, he says he still has hopes of doing so. The material on the dump was of small enough sized pieces to make a guess as to the nature of the ore source difficult. Suggestions of vugs and some banding of sulfides with granodiorite in between were observed indicating that the vein may have been reopened or that the ore could have come from a vein intersection. The tunnel has been caved since early in the century -- about 1906 -- and of the men who worked there none are known to be alive in the district. Thus, McLure's theory with respect to this vein might conceivably be correct, but it is difficult to postulate reopening of the Needle Gun at depth with no evidence of such in the 1,700 feet or so of tunnel in which it is exposed, as Prins points out.

The idea of 2 or 3 deep diamond drill holes to explore the 3 veins at depth, if McLure had control of the Josephine, is somewhat intriguing, but he is not interested in any diamond drilling, having withdrawn from his application the single hole he originally planned.

It was pointed out that to deepen the shaft 150 feet as he proposed in his application would only reach a total depth of 180-190 feet, whereas by his own statement the top of the high-grade ore could be 200 to 300 feet deep. He immediately said he would be willing to deepen it 250 feet for a total depth of 280-290 feet. He also agreed that 100 to 150 feet of drifting should be done from the bottom of the shaft.

Although an attempt was made to explain the lack of criteria indicating vein reopening, it was soon discovered that it was completely futile. The applicant has become convinced that the Needle Gun is just like the Granite-Bimetallic, that at depth it will be found to have been reopened and filled with high-grade shoots and that other shoots will be found at vein intersections.

I advised the applicant that I had not had time to study Professional Paper 78 and that after doing so, I might still not be able to agree with his views, but on the chance that I might, I discussed elements of costs with him. He assured me that he understood the discussion was in no sense an implication that a contract would be forthcoming.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After considering all the available data, it is concluded that the chance of a significant discovery resulting from deepening the shaft 250 feet and drifting 100 feet to explore the "C" vein and its junction with the Needle Eye vein is such a long shot as to be poor and it is therefore recommended that the application be denied.

D. N. MacLaren

Enclosure
Distribution:
CME(Orig.A2)
SRO ✓
MacLaren
Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~
No. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 1, Washington

SRO

March 25, 1953

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region II

From: Howard B. Nicholson, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Supplemental Examination Report, Headlegun Mine, Granite County, Montana, Docket No. DMEA-2747.

The application for exploration assistance for development of this mine was previously denied, but the Field Team, Region II, stated in a memorandum dated November 21, 1952, that the docket might be held for further consideration in case of encouraging developments in the work being done since the last examination in November 1952.

The Headlegun mine was re-examined by Howard B. Nicholson and Raymond Robinson, Geologists, U. S. Geological Survey, on February 19, 1953. The U.S.G.S. representatives were accompanied by Mr. [illegible] K. Malure, mine operator.

The vein encountered in the face on November 5, 1952, has been followed in an easterly direction for 210 feet. The east-west vein consists of the following, measured from where the adit intersected the vein (see attached map).

Distance from Vein Intersection by the Drift	Description of Vein
0'	12" shear, ½" white gouge on H.W., highly altered limonite and minor MnO_2, vein quartz. Sample #2. 1', 2.3% Cu. Ag; 0.07 Oz. Au; 0.79% Pb; No Zn.
7'	2" of gouge, 6" altered granite stained by limonite.
22'	4" gouge. 1½' altered granite stained by limonite and MnO_2. 3" gouge & breccia stained by limonite and MnO_2; 6" of stained quartz.

Distance from Vein Intersection by the Drift	Description of Vein
38'	2" gouge; 6" of altered granite stained with limonite.
58' to 98'	Vein goes thru a set of faults from the northwest and the vein widens up to 1½' for a distance of 5' east of each fault then narrows and consists of minor quartz and gouge stained with MnO_2 and limonite. The almost vertical shear zones south of vein contain MnO_2 blebs up to 6" across, but the zone is not Mn ore.
116'	1" to 2" of gouge and 4" of altered stained granite.
128'	3" of stained quartz and 2" of gouge.
193'	4" quartz vein stained with MnO_2 and limonite.
Face 210	8" stained quartz in 2½' of altered granite.

The above description shows the quartz mineralization on the vein to be very narrow (2" to 4") and not continuous along the vein. Some portions of the vein should be called a fault with the gouge stained by manganese dioxide and limonite. The quartz will probably assay a few ounces in silver, but lead and zinc assays would be very low. The rhodochrosite on the cross structures consists of blebs less than 6" across sparsely scattered through the altered granite in the fault zone. The mineralization is obviously so sparse that the vein is not worth extensive sampling; however, two samples were taken, as shown on the attached map. They assayed as follows:

Sample #3 - 1.2', 0.74 oz. Ag, 0.02 oz. Au, 0.045% Pb, 1.44% Zn.
Sample #2 - 1.0', 2.36 oz. Ag, 0.07 oz. Au, 0.79% Pb, 0.00% Zn.

The weak vein structure with irregular quartz mineralization on the vein certainly does not warrant any change in the original appraisal of the Bacclagan application. Mr. Malure failed to show us any evidence which would indicate favorable appraisal of the property.

Two miners, one tapman and compressor man, were employed on the day of the inspection. Mr. Malure supervises the mining operations. The mine has been operating all winter.

Distribution:
INSA(Orig.A3) Michelson
USGM(2) USGS(EGS)
Dasher

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

Spokane, Washington
November 21, 1952

US NS (SRB)

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman, DMEA Operating Committee, Washington, D. C.

From: DMEA Field Team, Region II

Subject: Docket No. DMEA 2727 (lead-zinc)
Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana
McClure, Maury, and Shone

Attached are 4 copies of a joint report by John S. McNabb, Bureau of Mines, and James J. Quinlan, Geological Survey, describing the results of an examination of the subject property.

An application for exploration assistance made last year was denied, and this examination was made at the request of the owners, who claimed that work done during the past year has demonstrated the property to have ore potentialities not apparent before.

Since writing the report, Messrs. McNabb and Quinlan made another examination of the property on November 5, 1952, to observe and map a structure newly found in the face of the adit. The attached geologic map of the Needle Gun adit gives the geologic data resulting from this latest examination and includes the assays of samples Nos. 2 and 3 taken during the examination.

Today a conference was held at the Spokane office attended by Messrs. McClure, Shone and McDonald, representing the applicants under the subject docket, and Quinlan and Volin, representing the Field Team. Mr. McClure gave his arguments for the application based on the similarity of the surface outcrop to that of the productive Granite-Bimetallic vein which lies about 3000 feet north of the Needle Gun in the same body of granodiorite. The Field Team representatives pointed out that the structure exposed in two places in the Needle Gun adit and inferred to be continuous on the basis of surface indications farther to the east is much smaller and relatively insignificant as compared with the Granite-Bimetallic structure described in U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 78. Volin stated that the Field Team could not recommend a DMEA project on the basis of the information available to date.

The applicants stated their determination to continue driving the adit on the vein eastward to an intersection with another vein lying just north of the Needle Gem vein. This intersection is expected at about 100 feet from the present face. Volin stated that the Field Team representatives would follow the progress of the adit and note any new indications having a bearing on the application.

While it is true that the examining team has found nothing to indicate any change in the original appraisal of the Needle Gem application, the Field Team suggests that the reopened docket might be held for further consideration in the case of encouraging developments in the adit.

By Field Team, Region II

M. L. Volin, Acting Exec. Officer
U. S. Bureau of Mines
1201 N. Division St.

For: A. E. Weissenborn
U. S. Geological Survey
177 S. Howard St.

Enclosure

cc: DMEA, Wash. (3)
USGS (2)
DMEA
M/D
DF
JSMcN

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SPOKANE

Marie –
I pulled the chromo copy.
I. M. L.

11/25

Margaret —

Substitute this report for the same subject one dated Oct. 9. It was revised by the Bureau.

Ernie

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
1201 N. Division St.
~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~
Spokane 2, Washington

October 30, 1952

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region II

From: John S. McNabb, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and James J. Quinlan, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Report of Investigation - Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana. Docket No. DMEA 2747 (lead-zinc)

INTRODUCTION

The Needle Gun property, owned by William McLure, L. Maury, and A. G. Shone was examined on September 8, 1952 in company with William McLure. The examination was made at the request of the owners through M. E. Volin, Member, DMEA Field Team, Region II to see if work completed during the past year enhanced the outlook for discovering commercial ore.

An exploration loan application presented by the owners in 1951 to explore the Needle Gun property (Docket No. DMA-1958), was denied by the Operating Committee because the exploration project, if successful, would develop essentially a silver mine. The present examination found nothing of interest that would tend to alter the original decision of the Operating Committee.

LOCATION

The Needle Gun claim group, consisting of eight patented and two unpatented quartz lode mining claims, are in Sec. 28 and 29, T. 7 N., R. 13 W., M.P.M., in the Flint Creek Mining district (unsurveyed), Granite County, Montana. (See accompanying claim map). A graded road 4½ miles long connects the claims to the town of Philipsburg, Montana.

HISTORY

The Needle Gun property is 3,000 feet north of the Granite-Bimetallic vein, a famous producer of silver-zinc-copper ores, with a reported production of $32,000,000. The Granite-Bimetallic mine

was primarily a silver producer and has been virtually inactive since the turn of the century. Concurrently with the development of the Granite-Bimetallic vein the Needle Gun claims were explored by numerous old pits, trenches, adits, and shallow shafts, but none are accessible today.

The present owners began exploration work during the last half of 1951. Work has consisted of driving an adit to the east on the Needle Gun claim for a distance of approximately 400 feet. To date, Mr. McLure reports exploration costs of $20,000 on the property.

GEOLOGY

The Needle Gun group of claims are within and near the west margin of the Philipsburg granodiorite batholith. The position of pits, trenches, and shallow workings on the Gold Coin, Needle Gun, and Leopard claims suggest that these workings explore a vein striking S. 80° E., dipping steeply south. The indicated strike length of this vein structure may be about 3,000 feet.

It is difficult to evaluate the vein structure because of poor surface exposures, age of the pits, and the inaccessibility of the older workings. Occasional pieces of vein quartz with minor specks of pyrite were noted on several dumps. A few specimens of galena-sphalerite ore were observed on the dump of the caved adit near the east end line of the Needle Gun claim.

The vein exposed in the new adit on the Needle Gun claim apparently is the same vein that has been prospected by the pits, trenches, and shallow workings. This vein is best exposed 150 feet from the adit portal. From the portal to this point the vein is obscured by timber and east of this point the adit was turned to prospect the footwall of the vein. Where exposed, the vein consists of a shear zone 1½ feet wide containing some quartz. Sulfide minerals were not evident in the vein structure. Little or no leaching or wall rock alteration was noted. No other vein structures of consequence are exposed underground or in the short diamond drill holes drilled near the present face of the adit.

CONCLUSIONS

Work completed at the Needle Gun property during the past year has revealed nothing that would tend to enhance the outlook of discovering commercial ore. Nor has this work revealed any evidence that would change the original appraisal that if the project was successful, it would develop essentially a silver mine.

The vein exposed in the new adit is narrow, barren of sulfide minerals, and little, if any, evidence of leaching. If exploration is to continue, it should be confined to drifting along

the vein, or exploring the vein by diamond drilling. It is conceivable that commercial silver, lead-zinc ore might be discovered by advancing the new working an additional 600 to 700 feet east to a point below the adit having sulfide minerals on the dump. However, any exploration of the property by the Government at this time is not warranted due to the limited information available and the lack of definite surface exposures that might substantiate the premise of commercial ore in the vein.

John S. McNabb, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

James J. Quinlan, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

CC: 3-Wash. USGS
2-Wash. USBM
1- USGS (SPO) ✓
M/D (Spo)
Quinlan
JSMcNabb

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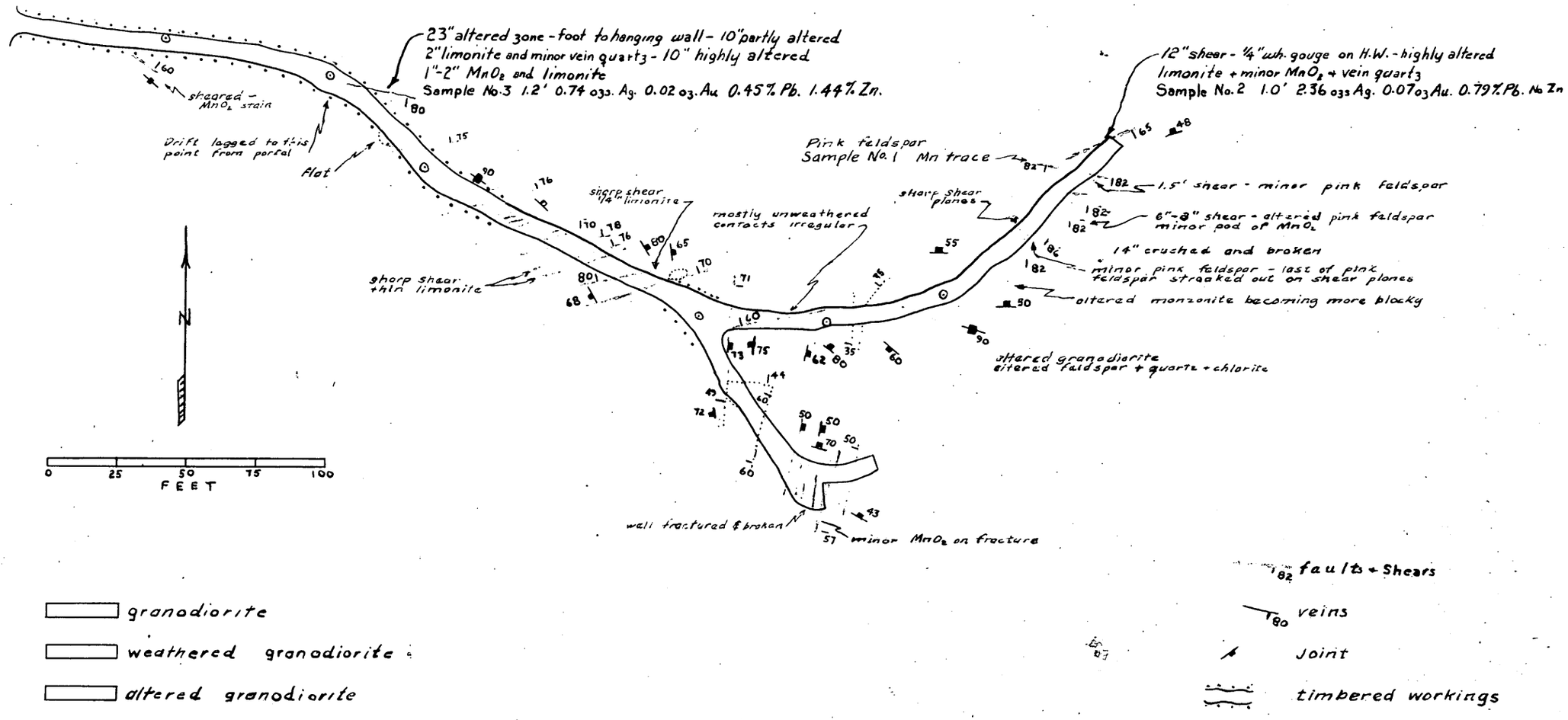
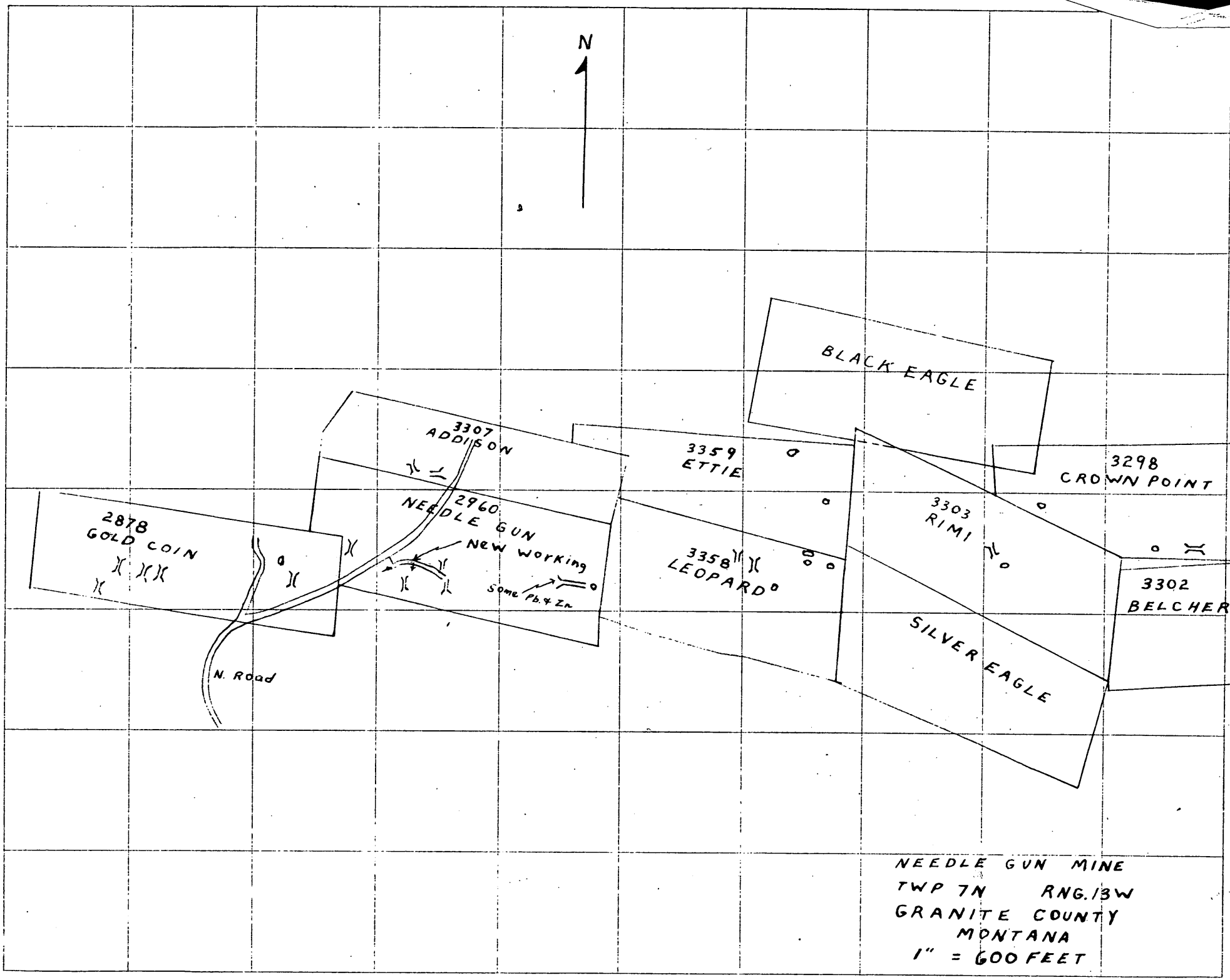
U.S. G.S.
SPOKANE, WASH.



GEOLOGIC MAP NEEDLE GUN ADIT
GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

Nov. 1952, J.Q., J. McN


N
BLACK EAGLE
3307
ADDISON
3359
ETTIE
3298
CROWN POINT
2878
GOLD COIN
2960
NEEDLE GUN
New working
3303
RIMI
3358
LEOPARD
Some Pb. & Zn.
3302
BELCHER
SILVER EAGLE
N. Road
NEEDLE GUN MINE
TWP 7N RNG. 13W
GRANITE COUNTY
MONTANA
1" = 600 FEET

Needle Gun Assays

MONTANA LABORATORY COMPANY

CHEMISTS AND ASSAYERS

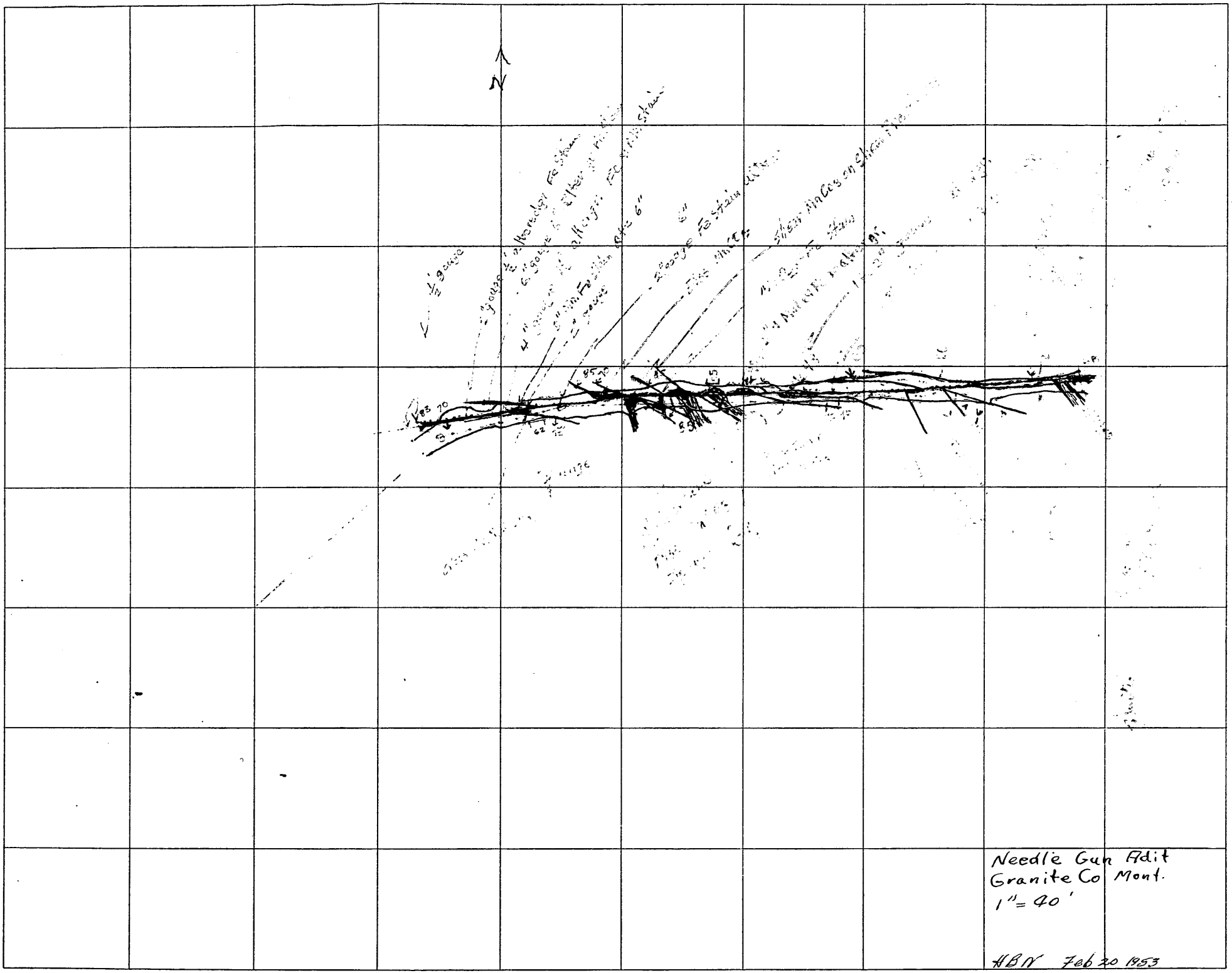
Philipsburg, Montana, November 6, 1952

The Following Analyses Were Made For U. S. Geological Survey

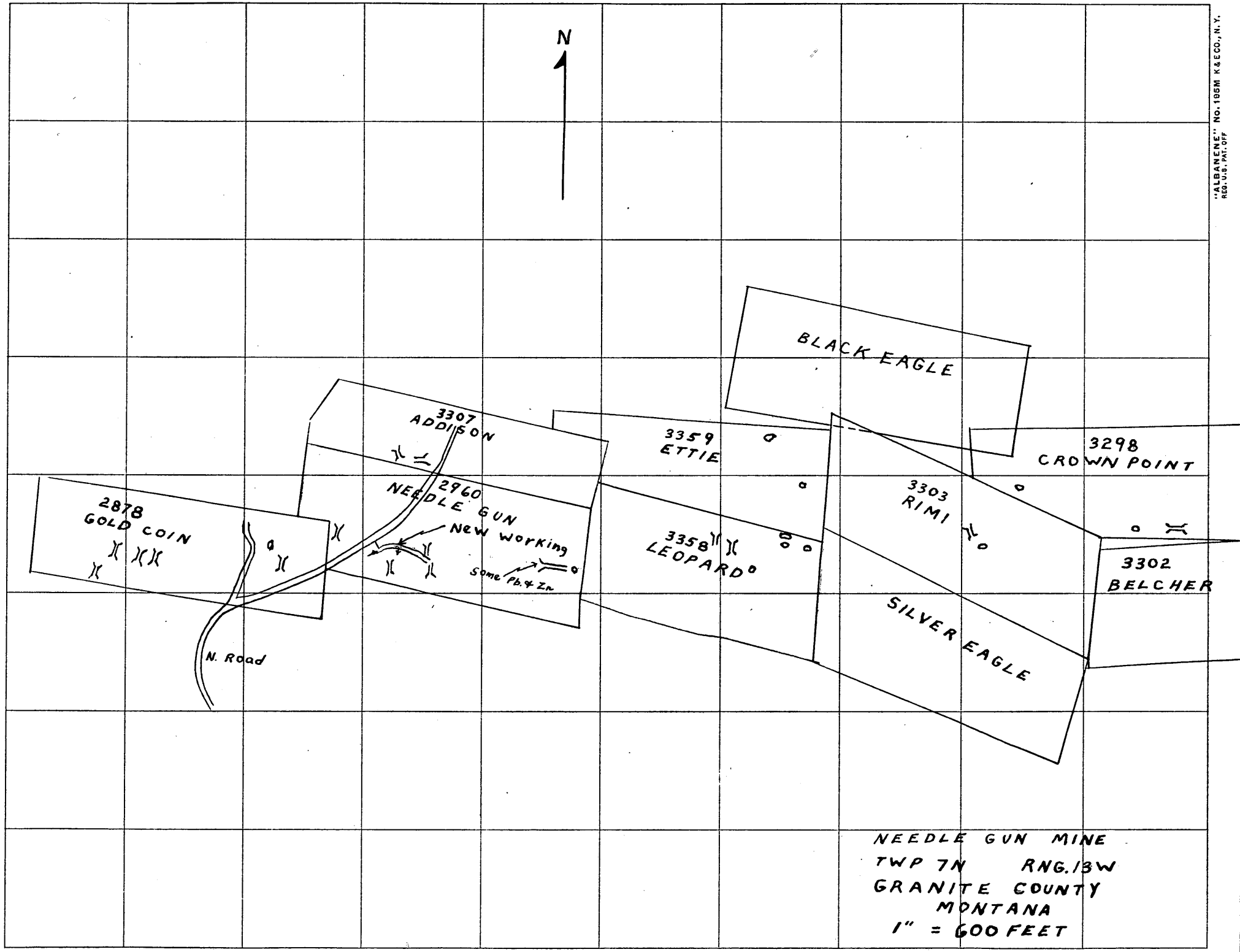
	Per Cent H_2O	Ozs. Silver Per Ton	Ozs. Gold Per Ton	$ Gold Per Ton	Per Cent Copper	Per Cent Mn. Dioxide	Per Cent Iron	Per Cent Lead	Per Cent Manganese	Per Cent Silica	Per Cent Zinc
#1									Trace		
#2		2.36	.074					0.79			None
#3		0.74	.020					0.45			1.44

MONTANA LABORATORY COMPANY

By W. L. Riepenhoff

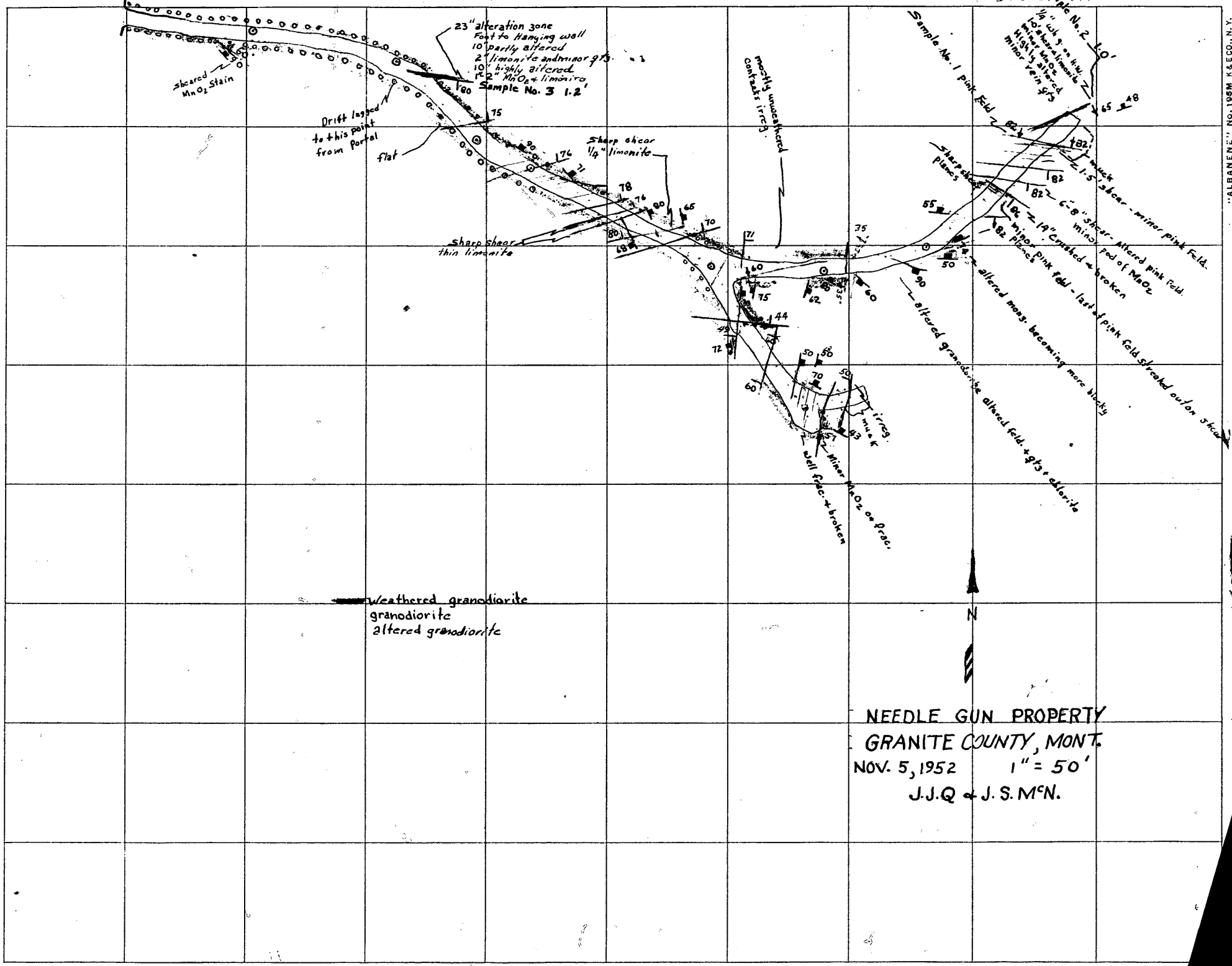


"ALBANENE" No. 186M K&E CO., N.Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



"ALBANENE" No. 195M K&E CO., N.Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

DMEA Docket No.



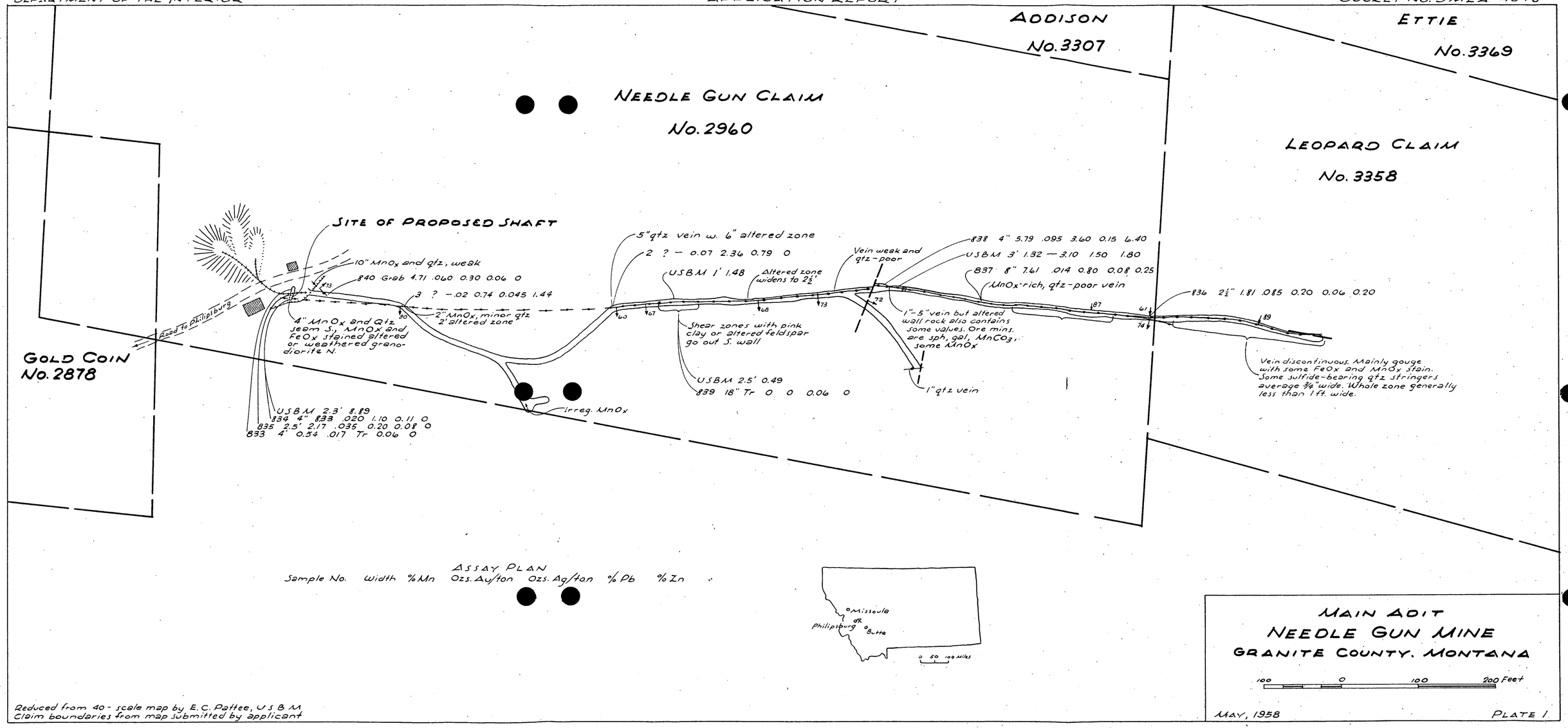
NEEDLE GUN PROPERTY
GRANITE COUNTY, MONT.
NOV. 5, 1952 1" = 50'
J.J.Q & J.S. McN.

"ALBANENE" NO. 195M K&E CO., N.Y. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PREPARED FOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION REPORT

DOCKET No. DMEA-4948



Reduced from 40-scale map by E.C. Pattee, U.S.B.M.
Claim boundaries from map submitted by applicant

Map A

Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington

June 2, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: DMEA Field Team, Region I

From: William C. Prinz, Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Field Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA-4948 (Manganese-Lead-Zinc), William R. McLure, Needle Gun Mine, Granite County, Montana

INTRODUCTION

An application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun group of claims for manganese, lead, and zinc was received February 27, 1958, from William R. McLure. The property is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg District, Granite County, Montana. Mr. McLure wishes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot incline shaft on the Needle Gun vein. He estimates that this project would cost $14,000; Government participation at 50 percent would be $7,000.

This is Mr. McLure's third application for DMEA assistance to explore the Needle Gun property. The first application, Docket No. DMA-1958, was for assistance to drive an adit 1,000 feet eastward on the vein. The application was later revised to include 600 feet of eastward drifting on the vein, plus two 50-foot crosscuts north and south, to be followed by sinking a 100-foot winze from the adit level and drifting 200 feet easterly on the vein from the bottom of the winze. This application was denied on September 14, 1951, because it appeared that if an ore body were developed by the proposed program, it would probably be primarily a silver ore rather than one of lead or zinc. Mr. McLure's second application, Docket No. DMEA-2747, was submitted on October 27, 1952. This application was submitted after the adit had been advanced about 400 feet and proposed to continue the adit for an additional 750 feet. He estimated that this program would cost about $30,000. The examining engineers concluded that the new work revealed nothing that would change the original appraisal of the property and this application was denied on November 10, 1952. Since this denial, work has been carried on intermittently at the property and the crosscutting and drifting on the main Needle Gun adit level now amounts to about 1,700 feet (pl. 1).

Map A

The property was examined by the author on April 29, 1958, accompanied by William R. McLure, the applicant. At the time of the examination the ground was covered with 3-4 feet of snow. However, it was possible to examine the Needle Gun adit and the small dozer cut just west of the Needle Gun adit portal. Mr. McLure stated that these were the most critical exposures insofar as evaluation of his property was concerned. He further stated that the trenches to the west were not as good as the one I examined near the portal. The property had been examined in October 1957 by Elden C. Pattee, Mining Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, in connection with the Bureau's study of the Philipsburg District. Pattee mapped and sampled the main adit and kindly furnished copies of his data which were of considerable help during the examination of the property. The map submitted with this report (pl. 1) was reduced from Pattee's map with only the addition of the claim boundaries from the application and of some notes by myself.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Needle Gun mine lies in an early Tertiary granodiorite batholith about 1¼ miles east of its western border. The Needle Gun vein, the most important structure on the property, has been exposed in an extensive adit. The vein here is small and subcommercial. Near the portal of the adit the vein is exposed in a small trench. The vein here is also small but is bordered to the north by a wide, altered or weathered zone. The applicant believes that this weathered or altered zone indicates that the vein has been reopened and concludes that a large deposit lies a short distance below the surface. Evidence for this reopening, such as broken and brecciated vein material, inclusions of wall rock within the vein, and large amounts of vein quartz are all lacking. It is concluded that the chances of making a significant discovery are poor and therefore it is recommended that the application be denied.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Needle Gun mine is in the eastern part of the Philipsburg Mining District in sec. 28, T. 7 N., R. 13 W., Granite County, Montana. By road it is about 4½ miles east of the town of Philipsburg, at an altitude of about 7,000 feet. The property can be reached by passenger car by going southeasterly from Philipsburg to the old ghost town of Granite, a distance of about 3 miles; turn left or northerly in Granite and continue for 1½ miles to the property. The property would be easily accessible by passenger car except during the winter months. Although winter in the area is severe and snowfall is heavy, the mine road could be kept plowed out and the mine worked all winter long.

THE APPLICANT

The applicant, William R. McLure, is the lessee of the property considered in this application. Mr. McLure claims to have had 35 years experience in mining and his work in driving the main Needle Gun adit appears adequate. He owns some mining equipment, which, plus his own labor, he expects to use to furnish the major part of his share of the costs of the proposed exploration program.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The applicant has a lease and option to purchase on two unpatented quartz lode mining claims, the Black Eagle and the Silver Eagle, and on eight patented claims as shown on the claim map submitted with the application and as listed below:

Claim	Survey No.
Gold Coin	2878
Addison	3307
Needle Gun	2960
Ettie	3359
Leopard	3358
Remi	3303
Crown Point	3298
Belcher	3302

The property is owned by the Needle Gun Mine Corporation and the applicant's lease and option is for 10 years beginning August 6, 1957. The copy of the lease and option submitted with the application is for an undivided 78/80ths interest in the subject claims, but the applicant stated during the examination that he now has a new lease for the entire property. He stated the same thing in a postscript to his letter submitting the application.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Needle Gun mine lies along the west side of the Flint Creek Range at an altitude of about 7,000-7,500 feet. The topography of the area is steep and rugged.

The Needle Gun adit is the only major accessible mine working at the property. This adit consists of 1,500 feet of drift and crosscut, most of which are along the main Needle Gun vein. The vein is also exposed in a 20-foot trench just west of the adit portal. It is reported that the property also contains numerous other trenches, shallow shafts, short adits and open cuts, but they were all inaccessible at the time of the field examination because of either snow or caving. One large building housing a compressor and blacksmith shop and one smaller building are near the adit portal.

GEOLOGY

The geology of the Philipsburg District has been described in numerous memoranda relating to currently active DMEA contracts in Dockets No. DMEA-42, DMEA-3626, DMEA-4334, and in several U. S. Geological Survey publications. The most important published report insofar as the evaluation of the Needle Gun mine is concerned, is: Emmons, W. H., and Calkins, F. C., Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 78, 1913. The other references pertain mainly to the manganiferous portions of the Philipsburg District, which are to the west of the Needle Gun mine. The rocks in the Philipsburg District consist of a sequence of Precambrian and Paleozoic sediments, mainly limestone with some shale and quartzite, intruded by a Tertiary granodiorite batholith. The sediments have been folded into a broad anticline which plunges 17°-35° north. The rocks on the west limb of the anticline dip 40°-70° west, those on the east limb, 30°-55° east. The granodiorite is found in both the eastern and southern parts of the district. Its east contact is parallel with the trend of the anticline; its south contact truncates the anticline. Contact metamorphic effects are visible in the sediments up to 1 mile from the contact; however, intense changes are confined to the immediate contact. A series of faults and vein fissures of various ages are found in the district. The oldest are a series of pre-granodiorite faults which strike northwest and dip northeast. These structures are not common and are of only minor importance insofar as the ore deposits are concerned. The most important structures in the formation of the ore deposits are a series of silver-bearing vein fissures which cut both the granodiorite batholith and the sediments. These fissures strike east-west or northwest and generally have a steep southerly or nearly vertical dip. The northwest-striking ones are generally weaker than the east-west ones. Movement along these fissures has been small and in some places they break up into en

echelon groups. These veins contain silver, zinc, lead and some copper sulfides in a quartz gangue and many contain a little rhodochrosite. The manganese ore in the district is found as replacement bodies in favorable sedimentary beds adjacent to these fissure veins; no manganese deposits of note have been found in the granodiorite. Silver and silver-zinc ores have been mined from the veins themselves in both the sediments and the granodiorite and are seldom found as replacement deposits. The Granite Bimetallic mine, the largest silver producer in the district, is about 1 mile south of the Needle Gun mine in a similar geological setting.

The Needle Gun property is underlain primarily by medium-grained gray granodiorite and is about 1½ miles east of the western edge of the batholith. The main structural feature on the property is the Needle Gun vein with strikes essentially east-west and which dips steeply to the south. This vein varies from a thin seam a fraction of an inch wide to 8 inches wide. The vein consists of quartz and gouge with some manganese oxide and iron oxide stain, and a few scattered sulfides, including sphalerite and galena. A zone of altered granodiorite is found along the vein at a few places. This zone has a maximum width of about 3 feet and may contain some values. Along the main drift about 850 feet west of the breast, shear zones containing a pink clay or altered feldspar go out the south wall of the adit. At first glance this pink mineral looks like fine-grained rhodochrosite; however, assays show that it is not a manganese-bearing mineral. Traces of rhodochrosite are found, however, in several places along the vein. In the small trench just west of the portal of the Needle Gun adit the main vein is 4 inches wide and consists of quartz and manganese oxides. The vein is exposed near the southern end of this trench and is bordered on the north by about 20 feet of manganese- and iron-oxide-stained granodiorite which is crumbly, apparently either due to hydrothermal alteration or to weathering. The applicant reported that the Needle Gun vein was also exposed in several dozer cuts to the west, but because of snow conditions these cuts could not be examined. Mr. McLure stated, however, that the vein in the cut just west of the portal is stronger than it is anywhere else on the property.

The second vein, which the applicant feels is important insofar as the evaluation of his property is concerned, is exposed in a small cut extending northeasterly from the portal of the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and consists of 10 inches of quartz and manganese oxide. In the adit proper the applicant removed some lagging in order to expose the supposed extension of this vein. Here altered granodiorite stained by oxides of iron and manganese are visible, but there is no definite vein material. The map submitted with the application depicts this "vein" or at least part of it as being exposed in the southern end of the first crosscut south from the Needle Gun adit. Diversely oriented manganese-stained gouge zones are found in this crosscut but nothing that could be definitely called vein material.

Assays of samples collected by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and by DMEA representatives are posted on plate 1 and the DMEA assays are tabulated below.

Sample No.	Width	Manganese (%)	Gold (oz./t.)	Silver (oz./t.)	Lead (%)	Zinc (%)
2	?	--	0.07	2.36	0.79	0.0
3	?	--	0.02	0.74	0.045	1.44
833	4.0'	0.54	0.017	Tr	0.06	0.0
834	4.0"	8.33	0.020	1.10	0.11	0.0
835	2.5'	2.17	0.035	0.20	0.08	0.0
836	2.5"	1.81	0.085	0.20	0.06	0.20
837	8.0"	7.61	0.014	0.80	0.08	0.25
838	4.0"	5.79	0.095	3.60	0.15	6.40
839	18.0"	Tr	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0
840	Grab	4.71	0.060	0.30	0.06	0.0

Samples No. 833, 834, and 835 are from the trench just west of the main Needle Gun adit. Samples No. 833 and 835 are of the altered wall rock north of the main vein, whereas 834 is a sample of the vein itself. Sample No. 840 is a grab sample of the supposed extension of the northwest-striking vein into the Needle Gun adit. Sample No. 839 was collected in the Needle Gun adit to determine whether or not the pink mineral exposed in this area was rhodochrosite. The rest of the samples were collected along the main Needle Gun vein in the adit. Samples No. 2 and 3 are from a previous DMEA examination and application; 836, 837 and 838 were collected during the recent examination. Assay results, coupled with vein widths show that the property contains nothing even approaching commercial-grade material. The high-grade assays claimed by the applicant appear to be hand-sorted samples and are not typical. Those from the drill hole a short distance northwest of the Needle Gun adit portal (see map submitted with the application) are exceptionally high grade but could not be verified. The core was stored in the compressor house, but it had been spilled and moved around and was pretty much mixed up.

Mr. McLure readily admits that the showings thus far are not too good. He is basing his arguments for continuing work on his concept that the veins in the district have been reopened. In support of this concept he quotes quite extensively from Emmons and Calkins Professional Paper No. 78. These statements are taken out of context and in many cases do not apply to the Needle Gun mine. As evidence for vein reopening, Mr. McLure cites the exposure in the trench just west of the Needle Gun adit. Mr. McLure believes that the loose, crumbly granite exposed north of the vein in this cut indicates extensive fissuring and reopening. I believe, on the other hand, that this crumbly and oxide-stained granite is the result of normal wall rock alteration or of weathering. It is difficult for me to visualize, as does Mr. McLure, how the vein could be extensively fissured and reopened here near the portal and not be reopened a short distance to the east. As further argument against Mr. McLure's ideas, I would also like to present one quotation out of context. Referring to the Granite vein, Emmons and Calkins (Professional Paper No. 78) state on page 170, "The vein was filled, reopened, and refilled, probably several times. Evidence of such reopening is afforded by the presence of many small, angular fragments and parallel slabs of country rock near the center of the vein, where they are completely surrounded by ore. In many places the ore itself is brecciated and completely recemented by ore of somewhat different character." I saw no such evidence at the Needle Gun mine.

Another argument advanced by Mr. McLure in support of his proposed work near the portal of the Needle Gun adit is the fact that two veins intersect near here. He quotes out of context from pages 178 and 187 of Professional Paper No. 78 in support of this idea. Mr. McLure has missed the point here, as Emmons and Calkins are talking about the nearly horizontal intersection of two veins with nearly parallel strikes but divergent dips, whereas on the Needle Gun property the vein intersection is nearly vertical. Emmons and Calkins (Prof. Paper No. 78 , p. 178, fig. 25) state that the ore near these vertical intersections is not richer than it is elsewhere.

There has been no production from the property and there are no known ore reserves existing on the property today. It appears that the property could not possibly develop any manganese ore of consequence and that the possibility of developing any base-metal ore is remote.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to explore the property by sinking a 100-foot inclined shaft from the small cut just west of the Needle Gun adit. This shaft would follow the Needle Gun vein downward. Mr. McLure estimates that the project would cost $14,000 or $140 per foot, but he does not present any detailed cost analyses.

The Needle Gun vein has already been explored extensively through the Needle Gun adit, the eastern end of which is probably at least 200 feet below the surface. Work in this adit has been extremely discouraging and it is highly doubtful that the proposed shaft work will reveal anything better.

CONCLUSIONS

The Needle Gun vein has been explored over a strike length of about a quarter of a mile through the Needle Gun adit. The vein here is weak and subcommercial. Based on an exposure of weathered and altered granite near the surface, the applicant believes that portions of the vein have been reopened and that wide ore-grade material would be expected below the zone of oxidation. It is concluded that his ideas are not sound and are not supported by evidence visible in the field. Therefore, it must be concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery at the Needle Gun property are poor and it is recommended that the application be denied.

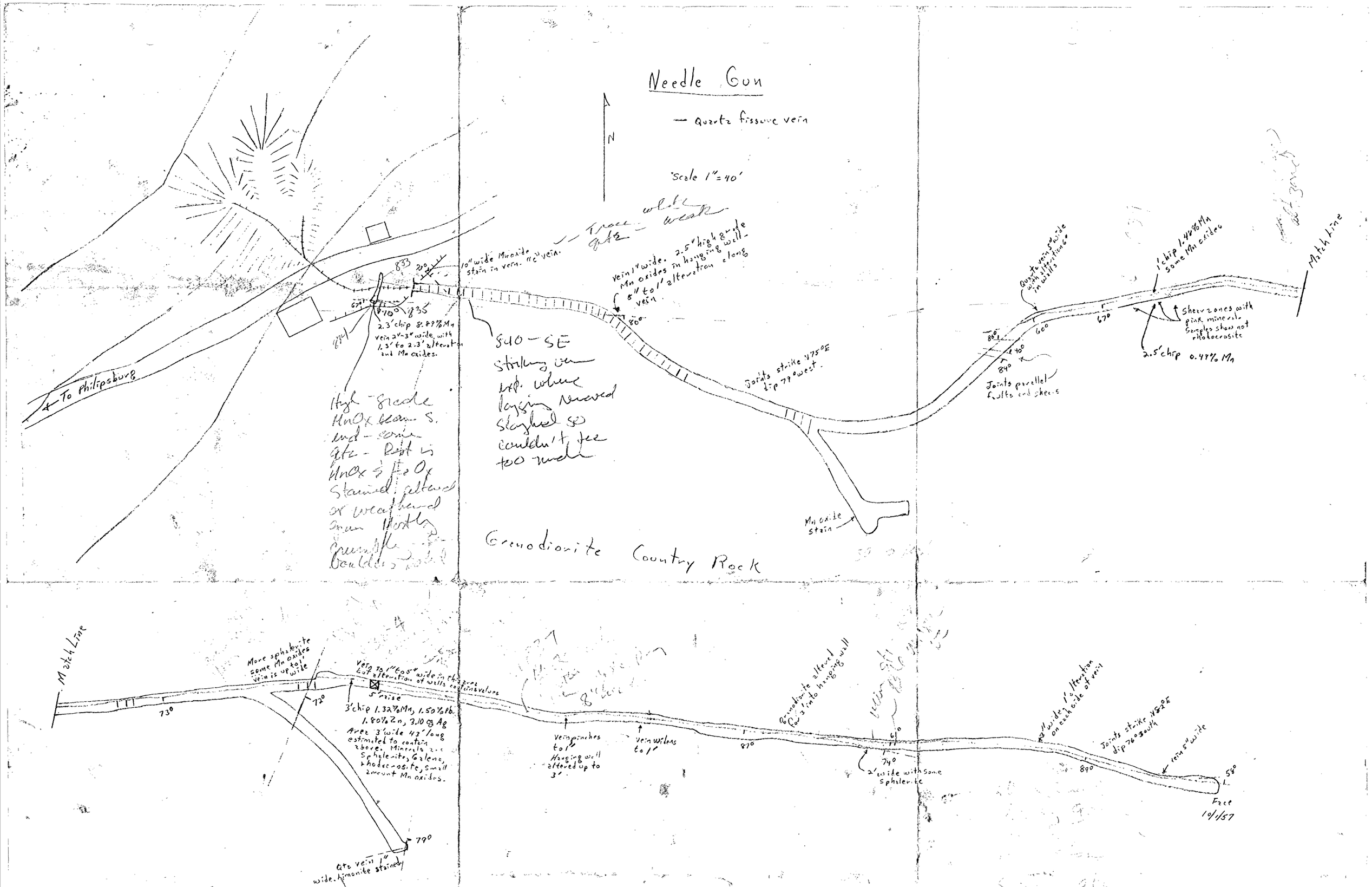
Enclosure
Distribution:
DMEA(3)
USEM(2)
USGS(SRO)
Docket
Prinz

Needle Gun

— Quartz fissure vein

N

Scale 1" = 40'



Map furnished by E.C. Pattee USBM. Additions by WCP 4/29/58.