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OCT 14 1952

Mr. Ben L. Ray
Murphy Mining Company
Murphy, North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2642 - Mica
Ray & Hyde
Jim Riddle Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your application for exploration assistance on the Jim Riddle Mine in Yancey County, North Carolina.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding mica of strategic quality in significant quantities to be of importance in the National Defense Program. A review of available information fails to show the probability of making a significant discovery on your property, and hence Government participation in the proposed project is not justified.

The Defense Minerals Exploration Administration wishes to thank you for your interest in the defense program.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

LFHearne:gad 10/10/52

Copy to: Adm. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee (2)
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Norton, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

October 10, 1952

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: Resume - Docket No. DMEA-2642 - Mica
Ray and Hyde
Jim Riddle Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Aug. 5, 1952	Received application dated July 30, 1952, covering $10,000 for cleaning out an open-cut, benching and shaft sinking.
Aug. 6, 1952	U.S.G.S. recommends denial, citing Colonial Mica Corporation purchases of only green mica during World War II.
Aug. 25, 1952	U.S.B.M. recommends field examination based on tests reported in U.S.G.S. Professional Paper 225, page 35, applicant's claim to have sold 1,500 pounds of ruby mica during World War II, and location close to productive mines.
Aug. 29, 1952	Referred to field.
Sept. 9, 1952	Field report recommends denial due to classification of sample submitted to the Spruce Pine Mica Depot as containing 70% green mica.
Sept.30, 1952	U.S.G.S. recommends denial.
Oct. 8, 1952	U.S.B.M. recommends denial.

Laurance F. Hearne

Laurance F. Hearne

LFHearne:gad
Copy to: Adm. R. File
Docket File
Mr. Houk

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

Van Alstine

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

September 30, 1952

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
SEP 30 1952

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-2642 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: R. E. Van Alstine, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Murphy Mining Company, Murphy, North Carolina.
Name of property: Jim Riddle mine.
Location of property: W. side of S-flowing tributary of Cattail Creek, west of Grassy Ridge; 1.25 airline miles due E. of Pensacola, Yancey County, North Carolina.
Date of field team report: September 18, 1952.
Authorship of field team report: K. H. Teague, L. E. Shirley, A. L. Peyton.
Field team's recommendation: Deny application -- green mica, unacceptable for stockpiling, with much "A" structure and abundant black biotite spots. Most books are bent and cracked.
Comments: Prospects of finding a deposit of strategic mica here seem poor.
ACTION SUGGESTED: Follow field team's recommendation.

R. E. Van Alstine

Van Alstine:jeh
G-9/30/52
cc: Director's reading file 4212 GSA Bldg.
Branch " " " " "
DMEA
Van Alstine G-230 " "
Norton files G-228 " "

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

DMEA#2642, JIM RIDDLE MINE, (Mica)

Applicant: Murphy Mining Company
c/o Ben L. Ray, Townson Bldg.
Murphy, North Carolina

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
SEP 22 1952

By

Kefton H. Teague, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

A. L. Peyton, Mining Engineer
and
Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
9/26/52
(date)

September 18, 1952

Report of Field Examination on

IMEA-2642, JIM RIDDLE MINE (mica)

Applicant: Murphy Mining Company
c/o Ben L. Ray, Townson Bldg.
Murphy, North Carolina

The applicants submitted a sample of mica to the Spruce Pine Mica Depot for appraisal. They classed about 70 percent of the material as green in color, unacceptable for stockpiling. Most of the mica observed at the mine is green in color; therefore, on color alone the loan request should be denied.

The Field Team examined the deposit on September 9, 1952, accompanied by both Ray and Hyde. Two hours were spent on the examination.

The Jim Riddle mine is located along the west side of a south flowing tributary of Cattail Creek, west of Grassy Ridge, 1.25 airline miles due east of Pensacola, Yancey County, North Carolina. Access to the property is good.

Early history of this mine is unknown. Apparently it was first worked by Ray and Silvers. During World War II Pollard and Bell worked the mine and produced 2090.71 pounds of green mica which was sold to the Colonial Mica Corporation for $2,677.63.

The pegmatite has been mined to a shallow depth along the strike for a distance of 200 feet. It varies in thickness from 2 to 6 feet, with the thickness changing abruptly along both strike and dip. The pegmatite strikes in a general northwestern direction, dipping steeply to the southwest.

The pegmatite is poorly zoned, consisting of a medial core of glassy quartz surrounded by feldspathic pegmatite which is composed of plagioclase, small quartz and muscovite. Numerous inclusions of the biotite kyanite gneiss wall rock occur in the pegmatite.

The mica is colorless to green in color. The majority of it shows "A" structure and a lot of it contains black biotite spots. Most of the mica books are bent and cracked. Very little mica suitable for stockpiling could be obtained from this deposit; therefore, the loan should be denied.

Sept. 9, 1952

K. H. Teague, USGS
L.E. Shirley, USBM
A. L. Peyton, USBM

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AUG 29 1952

Mr. Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region VII
Room 13, Post Office Building
Knoxville, 2, Tennessee

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2642 - Mica
Ray & Hyde
Jim Riddle Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

The memoranda from the U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Bureau of Mines in regard to the above application are enclosed.

An examination by the Field Team is requested together with recommendations as to the proposed exploration program.

A sample of the mica should be submitted to the Spruce Pine buying depot for evaluation.

"Owner's Consent to Lien" must be secured from the lessor before a contract can be executed.

Sincerely yours,

ACTING W. F. Feller
Chairman, Operating Committee

Enclosures - 2
Approved:

C. W. Johnson
Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Lemmon
Member, Geological Survey

LFHearne:mp 8/28/52
cc: Docket File
Adm. Reading File
Operating Committee
Mr. Norton, G0232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Houk

600

AUG 29 1952

Mr. Ben L. Ray
Murphy Mining Company
Townson Building
Murphy, North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2642 - Mica
Jim Riddle Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Ray:

Your application is being referred to Mr. Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further information.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Acting Administrator

LFHearne:mp 8/28/52
cc: Docket File
Adm. Reading File
Operating Committee
Mr. Norton, G-232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Houk
Field Team, Region VII

MF-103 (Revised April 1952)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Defense Minerals Administration RECEIVED AUG 5 1952

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

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

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

Not to be filled in by applicant

Docket No. DMEA-2642
Metal or Mineral
Date Received 8-5-52
Estimated Cost
Participation (Government %)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Name of applicant.*—(*a*) State here your full legal name, in the form in which you will wish to contract, and your mailing address: Ben L. Ray and C. E. Hyde, partners d/b/a Murphy Mining Company
(b)partnership organized in North Carolina, Cherokee County
(d) Ben L. Ray and C. E. Hyde

(*b*) If other than an individual, add to your name above whether a corporation, partnership, etc., and the name of the State in which incorporated or otherwise organized.

(*c*) If a corporation, add to above statement, titles, names and addresses of officers.

(*d*) If a partnership, add to the above statement the names and addresses of all partners.

2. *General.*—Read DMEA Order 1, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects," before completing this application. Submit this application and all accompanying papers in quadruplicate (four copies), with your name and address on each sheet of the application and on all accompanying papers. Where sufficient space is not provided on the form for all required information, state it on an accompanying paper, with a reference in each case to the instruction to which it refers by number. Comply with all applicable instructions; or, if not applicable, so state. File the application with Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest field executive officer thereof.

3. *Applicant's property rights.*—(*a*) State the legal description of the land upon which you wish to explore, including all land which you possess or control that may be benefited by the exploration, and excluding any land or interest in land which is not to be included in the exploration project contract 25 acres surrounding what is known as the "Jim Riddle Mine" on Cattail Creek, Yancy County, N.C. (For particular description see copy of lease attached hereto.)

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known: Jim Riddle Mine

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

(*d*) If you are not the owner, submit with this application a copy of the lease, contract, or other document under which you control the property. Attached

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice.

4. *Physical description.*—(*a*) Describe in detail any mining or exploration operations which have been or now are being conducted upon the land, including existing mine workings and production facilities. State your interest, if any, in such operations. Also describe accessibility of mine workings for examination purposes.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades.

(*c*) Describe the geologic features of the property, including mineralization, type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.), and your reasons for wishing to explore. Illustrate with maps or sketches. Send with your application (but not necessarily as a part of it) any geologic or engineering report, assay maps, or other technologic information you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points.

(*e*) State the availability of manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water, and power.

5. *The exploration project.*—(a) [redacted]e the mineral or minerals for which you wis[redacted] explore Ruby Mica

(b) Describe fully the proposed work, including a map or sketch of the property showing a plan (and cross sections if needed) of any present mine workings, and the location of the proposed exploration work as related to such features as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc.

(c) The work will start within 10 days and be completed within six months from the date of an exploration project contract.

(d) State the operating experience and background of the applicant with relation to the ability to carry out such exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of costs.*—Furnish a detailed estimate of the costs of the proposed work (you will have to use a separate sheet), under the following headings. Add the totals under all headings to give the estimated total cost of the project:

(a) *Independent contracts.*—(Note.—If the applicant does not intend to let any of the work to contractors, write "none" after this item. To the extent that the work is to be contracted, do not repeat the cost of the contract-work in subsequent items.) State the cost of any proposed independent contracts for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in terms of units of work (such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved, etc.).

(b) *Labor, supervision, consultants.*—Include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes and rates of wages, salaries or fees for necessary labor, supervision and engineering and geological consultants.

(c) *Operating materials and supplies.*—Furnish an itemized list, including items of equipment costing less than $50 each, and power, water and fuel.

(d) *Operating equipment.*—Furnish an itemized list of any operating equipment to be rented, purchased, or which is owned and will be furnished by the Operator, with the estimated rental, purchase price, or suggested use-allowance based on present value, as the case may be.

(e) *Rehabilitation and repairs.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary initial rehabilitation or repairs of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and movable operating equipment, now owned by the Operator and which will be devoted to the exploration project.

(f) *New buildings, improvements, installations.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary buildings, fixed improvements, or installations to be purchased, installed or constructed for the benefit of the exploration project.

(g) *Miscellaneous.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of repairs to and maintenance of operating equipment (not including initial rehabilitation or repairs of the Operator's equipment), analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employers' liability insurance, and payroll taxes.

(h) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above.

NOTE.—No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. (a) Are you prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 7, DMEA No. 1)? yes

(b) How do you propose to furnish your share of the costs?

☐ Money ☒ Use of equipment owned by you ☒ Other

Explain in detail on acompanying paper.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated July 30th, 1952

Murphy Mining Company
(Applicant)

By Ben L. Ray, partner

C. E. Hyde, partner

Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), Section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—66551-1

SUPPLEMENT TO APPLICATION OF BEN L. RAY AND C. E. HYDE, d/b/a MURPHY MINING COMPANY FOR AID IN EXPLORATION PROJECT PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1.

4(a) Physical description. During the last war we are informed that exploration was conducted at this location by Bell & Pollard, of Memphis, Tennessee, with funds provided by the government at that time. Since the government price support was removed at the close of World War II no operations have been conducted. Bell and Pollard cut an open pit up and down the slope of the mountain and across a vein of pegmatite bearing mica. The cut extends up and down the mountain for approximately 80 feet and is from 10 to 30 feet deep, and 40 feet wide. The workings are within approximately 100 yards of a good graveled road and only about 3 miles from Pensacola, in Yancey County, N.C, Pensacola being on a paved highway, 10 or 12 miles south of Burnsville.

4(b) It is understood that Bell and Pollard took out approximately 1500 pounds of good grade, ruby mica, however, we do not have access to the records which we understand to be in the possession of Colonial Mica Company, who was the buying agency under the World War II government mica program, and to which records we understand DMEA has access.

4(c) What appears to be muscovite bearing pegmatite is exposed by the cut. The pegmatite is plentifully streaked with quartz. The country rock strikes slightly east of North and appears to dip very steeply. There appear to be two mica bearing veins which will probably run together at some depth. The location is within one mile of the Cattail Mine, now producing copiously. It is apparently on the strike of the old Ray Mine, very profitably operated for many years.

4(d) The project has a good graveled road within 100 years, paved highway within 3 miles. The buying agency which has been set up at Spruce Pine is within 25 miles over paved highway. The project is within about 40 miles of Asheville, N.C.

4(e) Manpower is available readily, materials and supplies can be obtained quickly at Burnsville, Spruce Pine, or Asheville. Water is within 100 yards, an electric line about the same distance. Applicants already have a compressor with drill and equipment therefor, ready to put on the project. This drill and compressor, with small equipment, readily available, is all that is needed for some time. It is anticipated that a hoist will be needed a little later. The hoist can be rigged on comparatively short notice from materials available to applicants.

5(b) The cut made by Bell & Pollard has two elevations. It is intended to first clean out the cut, then bench down the higher elevation to the lower, carrying out the muck from the lower bench by wheelbarrow. When the entire cut has been benched down to the lower level, we intend to open a shaft down to where we anticipate the two outcropping veins will come together, where we hope to find the true mica zone.

5(c) It is intended that Ben L. Ray, one of the partners, will supervise the work. Mr. Ray is familiar with mica mining, having been born and raised in Yancey County. He worked for his father, R. M. Ray, who found and successfully operated the Blue Rock Mine at Blue Rock in Mitchell County for three or four years. Mr. Ray has operated a rock quarry for the past six years and is thoroughly familiar with the shooting and drilling of rock. Both partners have also been engaged for approximately three years in the drilling and prospecting for talc in Cherokee County.

6. Estimate of costs is as follows; the figures quoted are costs over the expected period of six months required: Independent contractors - none.

Labor, three men at $1.00 per hour	$3120.00
Supervision (two hundred per month)	1200.00
Consultants	100.00
Electricity	120.00
Fuel	780.00
Drill bits, Steel, small tools, etc.	600.00
Explosives	500.00
Bookkeeping	150.00
Use allowance on compressor and drill with equipment (equipment valuation $2000.00).....	600.00
Cost of Hoist	1500.00
Workments Comp and Liability Insurance	300.00
Unforseen contingencies	1030.00
Total	$10,000.00

7. We are prepared to contribute our portion of costs in any manner required, but our present intent is to furnish the compressor, drill and equipment as a portion thereof at $600.00 use allowance, and also to furnish supervision at $200.00 per month, which can be credited upon our contribution. If preferred we can pay ~~the balance~~ our portion in cash.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

YANCEY COUNTY.

This indenture made this 11th day of June 1952, between R. L. Riddle and Sudie W. Riddle of Yancey County and State of North Carolina, as parties of the first part, and known as lessors, and Ben L. Ray and C. E. Hyde, of Cherokee County and State of North Carolina, of the Second part and known as lessees:

WITNESSETH, That the parties of the first part, in consideration of the agreements hereinafter contained, on the part of the parties of the second part to be performed, hereby bargains, leases and grants to the parties of the second part, and their heirs and assigns, for the period of five years from the date of this agreement, the following described real property, for mining purposes, in the County of Yancey, State of North Carolina, to wit:

BEGINNING ON a Chestnut, J. C. Wilsons corner and runs a Northwest course, a marked line to the top of Arthur Ridge, to a locust corner in R. R. Ray's line; thence down with the main height of said ridge to R. R. Ray's and E. J. McMahans corner; thence a South course with E. J. McMahan's line to a Chestnut marked as a corner and pointers; thence a South course with John G. McMahan's line to a Chestnut Oak stump, a corner of the Hiram Ray Old tract of land; thence an East course with the Hiram Ray Old line to the BEGINNING, containing 25 acres, more or less.

This mine is known as the "Jim Riddle " mine.

It is agreed that at the expiration of this lease lessees shall have the option to renew the same for an additional five (5) year period under the same terms and conditions.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands to them, for mining purposes, the said Ben L. Ray and C. E. Hyde, and their heirs and assigns for the aforesaid period of five years upon a full compliance with the conditions of this instrument, for the purpose and with the right to dig, quarry, search for and obtain any kind of minerals, metals or fossils, and particularly Mica and to conduct the same to any extent the said parties of the second part may desire. And it is hereby agreed between the parties to this agreement that the parties of the second part are to have the use of the unoccupied buildings on said lands for mining purposes, or have a right to erect such, if necessary, during the continuance of this lease, and keep the same in as good condition as when received, unavoidable accidents excepted. And it is also agreed by parties of the second part that no unnecessary damage is to be done to the lands herein leased during the continuance of said lease, but the said parties of the second part shall have right to take from said lands

of party of the first part any wood or timber to carry on said mining operations or to erect buildings on said lands. (Timber of high or special market value excepted.) And the parties of the second part are to have right-of-way of ingress and egress to said mines. The said parties of the second part hereby agree to pay to the said parties of the first part, or their heirs or assigns, a rental or royalty of a one-eighty, on all mica taken and sold from said mines for the use of the said lands for the aforesaid period of five years only; payable as follows: Payable on computation of selling bills on the tenth of each month covering sales during the previous month. Royalties on all other minerals mined and sold shall be determined on a percentage basis and be governed by the market value.

The lessors reserve the right to use the land, or convey the same not conflicting with this lease, but under any conveyance the terms of this lease must be recognized by the assigns thereof.

But it is expressly agreed that unless mineral or fossil material of practical value for mining purposes shall be found within sixty days from the date of this instrument, this lease may be terminated by the lessees at any time thereafter, on thirty days notice to the lessors. The lessees agree that during continuance of this lease work in said mines shall not cease longer than Ninety days at any one time, unavoidable accidents excepted.

Witness our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

R. L. Riddle (SEAL)

Sudie W. Riddle (SEAL)

Witness: Ben L. Ray (SEAL)

C. E. Hyde (SEAL)