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OCT 1 0 1952

Mr. L. S. Covin
Black Mountain
North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2648 - Mica
L. S. Covin and James Wright
Mott Mine
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Covin:

Your application for aid for an exploration project on the Mott Mine in Buncombe County, North Carolina, has been reviewed by this office.

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 making this application, and regrets that we cannot approve the expenditure of United States Government funds for exploration on your property.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

LFHearne:gad 10/1/52

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
G-MD-CNM
Mrs Hearne

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-2648 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: R. E. Van Alstine, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: L. S. Covin and James Wright, Black Mountain, North Carolina.
Name of property: Mott mine.
Location of property: 1.4 miles due S. of Black Mountain, Buncombe County, North Carolina; along county road between Lakey Gap Chapel and Laurel Lake.
Date of field team report: September 18, 1952.
Authorship of field team report: A. L. Peyton, L. E. Shirley, K. H. Teague.
Field team's recommendation: Denial -- many mica books are bent and cracked, and some contain small black spots. All mica is less than 3 inches in diameter.
Comments: Prospects of finding a deposit of strategic mica here seem poor.
ACTION SUGGESTED: Follow field team's recommendation.

R. E. Van Alstine

R. E. Van Alstine

(C)

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Mr. L. S. Covin
Black Mountain
North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. [illegible]-2648 - Miss L. [illegible] Covin and James Wright
Mott Mica Mine
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Covin:

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

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Acting Administrator

LFHearne:gad 3/22/52

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

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2648 - Mica
L. H. Covin and James Wright
Matt Mica Mine
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

An examination and recommendation by the Field Team concerning the above application is requested.

Memorandum from the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the U. S. Geological Survey relating thereto are enclosed and, also, a supplementary sketch and additional information.

Sincerely yours,

N. F. Keller
ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

C. N. Johnson
Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Lemmon
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

LFHearne:gad 3/22/52

Copy to: Operating Committee (2)
Admin. Reading File
Docket File
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Norton, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

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

AUG 11 1952

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-2648
Metal or Mineral
Date Received 8-11-52
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: L. S. Covin, Black Mountain, N. C. (Partner)
James Wright, Black Mountain, N. C. (Partner)

(*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. Same as above.

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. Being the Homeplace of Mrs. Marshall Mott, lying South of the old Lakey Gap Road and being part of the original Guastavino property property, Saving & Excepting, the driveway leading Southwardly from the old Lakey Gap Rd. and that portion of the property on which the residence of Mrs. Marshall Mott is located.

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known.

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

(*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.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it Not applicable

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice. None

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.*—State the mineral or minerals for which you wish to explore Red 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. To sink shaft 6 ft. by 8 ft. and 50 feet deep.

(*c*) The work will start within 30 days and be completed within 3 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.). None.

(*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. We will rent a compressor, hoist and pump.

(*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?

[x] 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 August 7th, 1952

(Applicant)

By James Wright

L. S. Crum

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

4. Physical description.

Sub-section A: The above described land has been leased for mining purposes as per lease attached, and is easily accessible for examination.

Sub-section B: The mine is known to produce Red Ruby Mica.

Sub-section C: This mine was operated about 1866 and was known to have produced large quantities of a very fine grade of Red Ruby Mica.

Sub-section D: The mine is located South of the old Lakey Gap Road about one mile from Black Mountain, N. C. just off N. C. Highway 9 leading from Black Mountain, N. C. to Bat Cave, N. C.

Sub-section E: Manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water and power are all available.

5. The exploration project.

Sub-section D: Mr. James Wright is an experienced miner with 30 years of mining experience.

6. Estimate of costs. Approximately $2000.00.

3. Applicant's property rights: Sub-section (c). Copy of Lease.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE.

THIS LEASE, made and entered into this the 28th day of July, 1952, by and between MRS. MARSHALL MOTT, a widow, of Buncombe County, North Carolina, party of the first part, and L. S. COVIN and JAMES WRIGHT, of the aforesaid County and State, parties of the second part,

W I T N E S S E T H:

THAT the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the agreements and covenants hereinafter contained, to be kept and performed by the parties of the second part, does hereby rent, lease and demise to the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, on the terms and conditions hereinafter setforth, the following described real estate, for mining purposes as hereinafter defined, located in Black Mountain Township, Buncombe County, North Carolina, and described as follows:

BEING the Homeplace of the party of the first part and lying South of the old Lakey Gap Road, and being a part of the original Guastavino property. SAVING AND EXCEPTING the Driveway leading Southwardly from the old Lakey Gap Road to the residence of the party of the first part, and SAVING AND EXCEPTING that portion of the property above described where the residence building of the party of the first part is located.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described lands, for mining purposes for mica only, unto the parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, for a period of One (1) year, commencing on the 1st day of August, 1952, and ending on July 30th, 1953, unless sooner terminated, and upon the following terms and conditions:

a. That the party of the first part gives to the parties of the second part the right to dig, quarry, search for, and obtain mica from the property above described, reserving, however, the right of the party of the first part to designate that portion of the property above described that they may search for and obtain mica therefrom, and reserving the right to use the roadway leading Southwardly from the old Lakey Gap Road to the residence of the party of the first part, which said roadway shall be kept open at all times.

b. That the parties of the second part in their search for mica shall not damage the premises, and shall haul away such dirt and rocks that may accumulate in the mining and quarrying of said premises, at their own expense, so that no unsightly piles of dirt and rocks shall be accumulated on the property; that they further covenant and agree that no unnecessary damages shall be done during the term of this lease and that they shall have the right to cut such timber as may be necessary in their search for and quarrying for mica, and the party of the first part shall permit the parties of the second part to erect and construct such right-of-ways necessary to and from the property in order that said mica may be removed therefrom.

c. The parties of the second part agree to pay to the party of the first part, her heirs and assigns, a royalty of 12½ percent. gross of all funds received from the sale of mica that may be found and sold on the premises above described, and that settlement shall be made on the 10th of each month covering sales during the previous month, and said settlement shall be computed by the invoices of sales so made by the parties of the

second part, and which the party of the first part reserves the right to examine and inspect such invoices from time to time should she desire to do so.

d. The parties of the second part covenant and agree to use every care and precaution in the mining, digging and quarrying for mica on the premises above described, and that they agree not to dig, mine or quarry on any part of the property above described that would be objectionable to the party of the first part.

e. The terms of this lease shall not be extended except with the option of the party of the first part, and in case of renewal this instrument may stand if proper amendments are duly witnessed and attached in writing hereto.

f. The party of the first part reserves the right to use the land, or convey the same, not conflicting with this lease, and that this lease shall not be assigned to any other person, firm or corporation without the written consent of the party of the first part. That the party of the first part shall not be responsible or liable for any injury to any of their employees for mining or prospecting for mica.

g. It is further understood and agreed that unless mica of practical value for mining purposes shall be found within 30 days from the date of this instrument, this lease may be terminated by the parties of the second part at any time thereafter upon a 10 day notice to the party of the first part, and that the parties of the second part agree that during the continuance of this lease work in said mines for mica on the property shall not cease for more than a period of 30 days at any one time; unavoidable accidents excepted.

h. Failure to comply with all the covenants and agreements herein contained on the part of the parties of the second part will immediately terminate this lease.

i. That at the end of the term of this lease, or when otherwise terminated, the parties of the second part further covenant and agree that the property shall be cleaned of any and all debris, dirt and rocks that may be on the surface of said premises, and remove all machinery of every kind, nature and description, fill in all shafts and holes, and leave the property generally in as good condition, as it relates to the surface thereof, as the same is now in.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF each of the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals, in duplicate, this the day and year first above written.

/s/ Mrs. Marshall Mott (SEAL)
Party of the First Part.

/s/ James Wright (SEAL)

/s/ L. S. Covin (SEAL)
Parties of the Second Part.

WITNESS:

/s/ Belle P. Hamilton
/s/ Rex Gragg

4. (a) See sketch.
Old workings inaccessible.

(b) Before World War #2 unknown.
Colonial Mica Corporation bought $4500.00 worth.
Present; no production.

(c) The wall rock is a mica schist. The pegmatite where exposed is rather well weathered; the mica seems to be evenly distributed. Pegmatite about 10 feet wide nearly vertical.

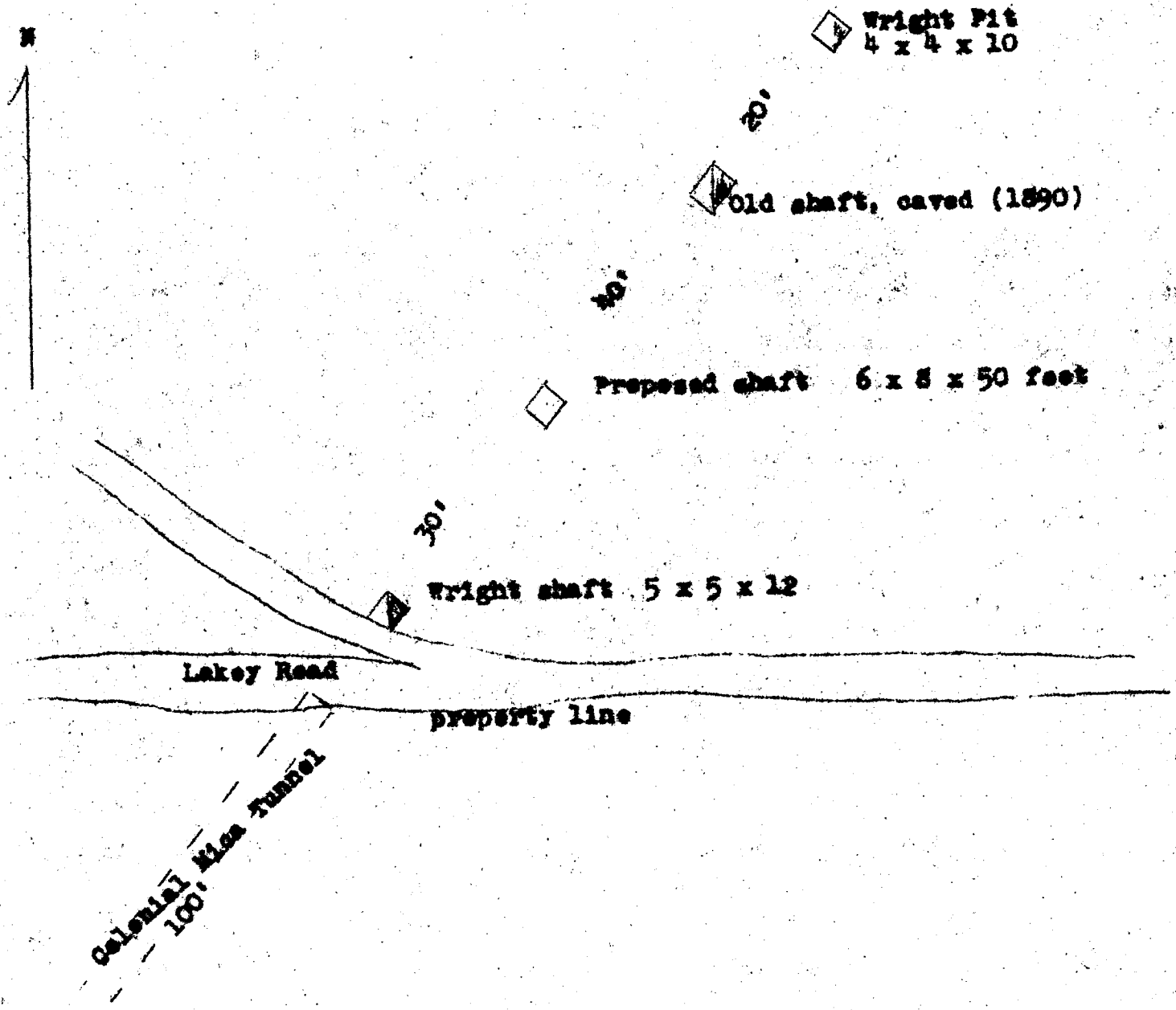
(d) Wright shaft is in bank of all weather road.
Black Mountain Railway Station one mile.

(e) Power line crosses lease.
Manpower available. ($1.00 per hour.)

6. Propose to sink a 50 foot shaft and crosscut from bottom of shaft full width of vein. Shaft expected to cost $40.00 per foot; Crosscut, 30 feet @ $25.00 per foot.

D M E A # 2646 MICA
COVIN & WRIGHT LEASE

Mott Mica Mine
Buncombe County N. C.



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AUG 14 1952

Mr. L. S. Covin
Black Mountain
North Carolina

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-2648 - Mica
Red Ruby Mica Mine
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Covin:

Your application in the above captioned docket has not been sufficiently completed to permit further study.

It is suggested that you contact

Mr. Alexander L. Peyton
Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines
180 Cox Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina

for advice and assistance in properly completing the application, and that you furnish him a sample of your mica, preferably four or five pieces, fully trimmed and from 1/16 to 1/8 inch thick.

Sincerely yours,

-S-

Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Non-Metallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration
Administration

LFHearne:mp 8/14/52
cc: Docket File
Adm. Reading File
Mr. Norton, G-232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. A. L. Peyton
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Houk