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

COPY

November 19, 1953

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington

From: Field Team, Region VII

Subject: DMEA-3167 (Mica), Salem A. Bader
✓DMEA-3187 (Mica), McPeters and King

Enclosed herewith are four copies each of field examination reports on the subject applications.

We agree that neither prospect shows much promise for strategic mica, and approve the Field Examiner's recommendation that the applications be denied.

/s/ Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region VII

/s/ Wm. A. Beck, for V. J. Lynch
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

11-30-53
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
NOV 23 1953

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

(Mica)

DMEA-3187, PRICE (GEORGES FORK) MINE
Applicant: Woody McPeters and Biss King
Burnsville, North Carolina

By

Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

November 10, 1953

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
11-30-53
(date)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
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Field Examination Report
on
DMEA-3187, PRICE (GEORGES FORK) MINE
(mica)

Applicant: Woody McPeters and Biss King, Burnsville, North Carolina

The present poor condition of the old workings at this mine coupled with the lack of production by the last operator and the poor quality of the mica observed, does not indicate that sizeable quantities of strategic mica can be obtained from this mine. The expenses of rehabilitation would necessarily be high and would require much time. It is therefore recommended that the loan request be denied.

The deposit was examined on November 5, 1953. Woody McPeters and Biss King, the applicants, and Sam L. Phillips accompanied the writer on this examination which required two hours.

The Price Mine is on the west side of the valley of Georges Fork, 2.3 airline miles S 52° E of Burnsville, Yancey County, North Carolina. It is accessible by 3.5 miles of good road, with the exception of the last 0.5 mile of steep road which is accessible only by jeep or truck.

The mine has operated sporadically since 1900. J. E. Burleson worked the mine from 1910 to 1913 and it is reported that large amounts of mica was removed during this period. The mine was reopened in 1939 by Oliver Howell for J. L. Palmer. There is no record of any work since that time with the exception of a small "robbing" operation by Charles Hyatt, presumably during the early part of the present mica program.

One of the applicants, Woody McPeters, has had some mining experience. Biss King has had no experience in mica mining, having spent most of his lifetime in agricultural work. The property is held under lease by the applicants from the owner of the mineral rights, E. L. Briggs. It appears that the present lease is now void, since working time limits have not been exercised. The lease is for five years with option of renewal for an additional five years.

There are no facilities on the property. Workings consist of an incline 4 to 6 feet wide and 25 to 30 feet high. The depth from the surface, at an angle of 40 to 40°, measures 81 feet, at which point a lofting was erected. It is estimated that an additional 30 feet of incline lies below the lofting. Most of this lower area is now flooded and filled with muck from the last operation to the southwest from the 81 foot level by Charles Hyatt. This lower 30 feet is inaccessible and no attempt was made by the applicants to provide ladderways or other access to this space, where the proposed program by the applicants is located. From the surface to the lofting, large amounts of loose muck covers the floor. At the 81 foot level, several feet of loose boulder

sized muck extends from the back to the lofting, a distance of 23 feet. In its present condition and in the light of future operations this would create a continuous safety hazard, if attempts were made to deepen the incline along the lines of the applicants proposed program. No definite information could be gathered about the condition or extent of old works from this level.

The exposed pegmatite body strikes N 40° E and dips 80° SE. It is lath-like in shape and plunges S 47° W at an angle of 50°. It is from 2 to 4 feet thick along the floor and about 1 foot thick along the back. The country rock is biotite gneiss with local garnetiferous and kyanitic layers that strike N 40° W and dip southwest. The body consists chiefly of quartz and plagioclase with subordinate muscovite and minor biotite, garnet, kyanite, apatite and secondary sulphides. Most of the garnet is concentrated along the walls of the deposit. White to bluish-gray quartz is abundant.

Some of the mica observed was reddish brown in color, clear, hard and split well, but the majority was bent badly, contained a brown stain and was ruled. "A" structure is common and biotite intergrowths was observed. Only small amounts of mica could be found in place. Because of the poor condition of the old works and the obvious poor quality of mica examined, it is recommended that the loan be denied.

L. E. Shirley, Mining Engineer, USBM

November 10, 1953

DEC 2 - 1953

Mr. Woody McPeters

Danneville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3187 - Mica
Woody McPeters and Miss King
Price Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. McPeters:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning your application have been reviewed.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding materials of acceptable grade in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

Careful study of all our information, although noting a small amount of mica on your property, indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Program and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible]

Administrator

LCHook:gad 11/24/53

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Hook

Operating Committee

November 25, 1953

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and closing review.
Docket No. DMEA-3187 - Mica
Property: Price Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina
Located 2½ miles East of Burnsville, North Carolina
Operator's property rights - Lease for five years with privilege of renewal for five years.
Applicants: Woody McPeters and Biss King of Burnsville, North Carolina
Amount requested: $6,625.00
Application denied.

Docket Summary:

10/6/53 Received application, Form MF-103
10/9/53 Memo from Donald A. Brobst, USGS, recommending field team examination of property.
10/19/53 Memo from Donald R. Irving, USBM, recommending field team examination of property.
10/26/53 Referral letter to field.
10/26/53 Letter to applicant advising of field referral.
11/19/53 Received Report of Examination by Field Team, Region VII. By Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer, USBM. The field team is in agreement on denial of application.

Resume: The field team advises the following:

"The poor quality of the mica observed, does not indicate that sizeable quantities of strategic mica can be obtained from this mine. It is therefore recommended that the loan request be denied."

Comments:

Because of the poor quality of the mica, the Nonmetallic Minerals Division recommends that the application for exploration assistance should be denied.

LGHoulk:gad 11/25/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Mr. Houk

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MI-CNX

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

November 24, 1953

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3187 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Woody McPeters and Bise King, Burnsville, North Carolina.
Name of property: Price (Georges Fork) mine.
Location of property: 2.3 miles airline S 52° W of Burnsville, North Carolina.
Date of field team report: November 10, 1953.
Authorship of field team report: L. M. Shirley.
Field Team's recommendation: Denial.
Comments: None.
ACTION SUGGESTED: Follow field team's recommendation.

D. M. Larrabee

Larrabee:jeh
11/24/53
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3
Larrabee G-230

Mr. Robertson

C
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P
Y

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

ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.

KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

November 19, 1953

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington

From: Field Team, Region VII

Subject: DMEA-3167 (Mica), Salem A. Bader
DMEA-3187 (Mica), McPeters and King

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We agree that neither prospect shows promise for strategic mica, and approve the Field Examiner's recommendation that the application be denied.

/s/
Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region VII

/s/
Wm. A. Beck, for V. J. Lynch
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Mr. Roberson

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

(Mica)

DMEA-3187, PRICE (GEORGES FORK) MINE
Applicant: Woody McPeters and Biss King
Burnsville, North Carolina

By

Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

November 10, 1953

Field Examination Report
on
DMEA-3187, PRICE (GEORGES FORK) MINE
(mica)

Applicant: Woody McPeters and Biss King, Burnsville, North Carolina

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L. E. Shirley

L. E. Shirley, Mining Engineer, USBM

November 10, 1953

600

OCT 26 1953

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3187 - Miss Woody McPeters and Miss King Price Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Please review the subject application and arrange for a field examination if you deem it advisable.

Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

T. P. Thayer

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

JTRobertson:gad 10/23/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

600

OCT 2 6 1953

Mr. Woody McPeters

Hamersville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3187 - Mica
Woody McPeters and Miss King
Price Mine
Ramsey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. McPeters:

Your application for assistance in exploring the subject property has been reviewed by the Nonmetallic Minerals Division of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and has been referred to Mr. Robert A. Lawrence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

The Regional Office will contact you at an early date if an examination is to be made. Any assistance that you may give the members of the field team during the examination will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JTRobertson:gad 10/23/53
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

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

Defense Minerals
RECEIVED
OCT 20 1953

October 19, 1953

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Acting Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3187, Mica, Price Mine, W. McPeters and B. King, Yancey County, North Carolina.

Bureau of Mines records show that 53.86 pounds of full-trimmed muscovite mica were sold in 1952 to the GSA Mica Purchasing Depot in Spruce Pine, North Carolina from this mine. A total of 16.39 pounds was good stained and better. The proposed exploration program is in line with good engineering practices, except that the cost for the shaft appears to be $15 per foot higher than has been normal in North Carolina. I recommend the field team visit this mine whenever a member of the field team is in that vicinity to ascertain if an exploration program is justified.

Donald R. Irving

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

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

October 9, 1953

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3187 (Mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: Donald A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Woody McPeters and Biss King, Burnsville, North Carolina.
Name of property: Price Mine.
Location of property: 2.5 miles east of Burnsville on Georges Fork, Yancey County, North Carolina.
Summary of applicant's proposal: Rehabilitate an old 70-ft. shaft:

Remove 10 ft. of muck from bottom at $20.00/ft.	$200.00
Then extend 5x7' shaft another 45 ft. at $65.00/ft.	2925.00
with 100 ft. of drifts in pegmatite at $35.00/ft.	3500.00
Estimated total cost	$6625.00
Estimated time: 6 months	

Sources of information on applicant's property: None.
Comments:

1. More geologic data needed to determine, if possible, the nature of the pegmatite, the quantity and quality of the mica, the extent of old underground works from the shaft.

2. More information on the character of the ground is desirable. Can the shaft be rehabilitated? The cost of the new part of the shaft appears high.

3. The application, as usual, forces a field examination.

RECOMMENDATION:
Refer to the field team for an examination.

Brobst:jeh
10/9/53
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch 4212 "
DMEA 3
Brobst G-230 GSA Bldg.

Donald A. Brobst