600

MAY 25 1954

Mr. A. Ward
Route 4
C/o Bob Brendle
Franklin, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
Charlie Grindstaff (Harris)
Mine
Macon County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Ward:

Reference is made to your letter of May 18, 1954, expressing surprise that the application was not in your name; the requested assistance was denied, and requesting new application forms.

The name of the applicant, in this case, was A. Ward, John Phillips, both of Spruce Pine, North Carolina, and Hayden Keller of Pinesola, North Carolina, (a partnership). Inasmuch as the application form was signed by John Phillips, all correspondence was directed to Mr. John Phillips, et al., Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

The denial of the application for exploration assistance was based upon information relating to the probability of disclosing significant reserves of mica. This decision was reached with full cognisance of your ability and mining experience. Reconsideration of the present application or a new application without supporting it with additional factual information would only lead to re-denial.

The necessary application forms are enclosed should you desire to re-apply.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

Enclosures 5
LGHouk:gad 5/24/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg. Mr. Houk

Administration
RECEIVED
FEB 5 1954

From: Kermit Dehart and wife, Margie Ethel Dehart

To: Charles Smith Grindstaff

Date: March 2, 1946

Book M-5, page 590

DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a black gum on the South side of Hall's Mill Creek, an old corner common to George Jacobs, Kermit Dehart and C. S. Grindstaff and running thence S. 7 deg. 30' W 100 feet with the George Jacobs line to a post; thence N. 69 deg. W 24 poles to a post; thence N 64 deg. 30' W. 17¼ poles to a pine; thence N 56 W 39½ poles to a stake and pointers on top of the mountain in Frank Cunningham's line; thence with his line N. 34 deg. 45' E. 13½ poles to a white oak on top of the mountain, a corner of C. S. Grindstaff's land; thence with the C. S. Grindstaff Southwest line S. 56 E. 78¼ poles to the point of BEGINNING containing 5.6 acres more or less.

The parties of the first part reserve unto themselves, their heirs and assigns, the right to build and construct a drain ditch over the above described property on the South side of the creek and the right to enter upon said land to repair and maintain the same.

From: Rose Ella Hill and Claude L. Love, Administrators c. t. a. and Trustees of the Estate of B. C. Grindstaff

To: Henry Cabe, Guardian of Charles S. Grindstaff

Date: March 21, 1944

Book J-5, page 506

DESCRIPTION

TRACT 1

A certain tract or parcel of land on the waters of Hall's Mill Creek in Macon County, State of North Carolina and Franklin Township adjoining the lands of Walter Angel, Mary Raby and others and bounded as follows viz:

BEGINNING at a black gum on Hall's Mill Creek near the Raby mine, now known as Harris mine, said black gum being on the East bank of said branch, which is East of the Harris Mica Mine aforesaid and runs Northerly 60 steps to a maple (now dead and marked) and more particularly described as being North 5 deg. East 10 poles and 20 links to a stake on the east side of the branch; thence Westerly 500 steps to a marked young chestnut and more particularly North 56 deg. West 84 poles to a stake; thence South 60 steps to an old chestnut corner in Section No. 54 and more particularly South 5 deg. West 10 poles and 20 links to a bunch of chestnuts the corner of Section No. 54; thence to the beginning and more particularly South 56 deg. East 84 poles to the place of the BEGINNING, containing five (5) acres more or less.

TRACT 2

Also all the mineral interests and mining privileges with all woods and waters and all and whatever appurtenances thereto belonging in, on, and to the following tract of land in said Macon County, North Carolina, adjoinin the lands above described to wit:

BEGINNING at a black gum, which is the beginning corner on above named tr and running thence Westerly along the South line of the above described tract 675 feet to a stake or more particularly North 56 deg. West 41 pole a stake; thence Southerly 250 feet to a stake or more particularly South 34 deg. West 15 poles and 3 links to a stake; thence Easterly 475 feet t stake or more particularly South 56 deg. East 28 poles and 6 links to a stake; thence to the BEGINNING or more particularly North 73 deg. East 2 poles more or less to the place of BEGINNING containing three (3) acres more or less.

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
FEB - 5 1954

WHEREAS, the undersigned, as owner, co-owner, lessor, or seller has an interest in certain property in the State of North Carolina, County of Macon, described as follows:1/

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2/ A. Ward, John Phillips of Spruce Pine, N. C., and Hayden Keller of Pineola, N. C. trading and doing business as The Grindstaff Mine.

hereinafter called the "Operator"; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of said contract the Government is entitled to a percentage royalty on production (as set forth on the reverse side hereof) and to other rights and equities which do or may conflict with or be adverse to the rights of the undersigned:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, in consideration of said contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into same, undertakes and agrees as follows:

1. The Government's equity in and right to dismantle, sever, take possession of, and remove and dispose of facilities, buildings, fixtures, equipment, or other items as provided in the contract, or any amendment thereof, shall prevail over and be prior and superior to any conflicting or adverse rights of the undersigned, and the Government is authorized to enter upon the land for such purposes.

2. To secure the payment to the Government of the percentage royalty on production3/ provided for under the terms of said exploration project contract, or any amendment thereof, there is hereby granted to the Government a lien upon the land above referred to and upon any production of minerals therefrom, until said royalty is fully paid or ten years have elapsed from the date of the contract, whichever occurs first.

3. The undersigned shall commit no act nor assert any claim that may contravene or conflict with the lien, claim, or rights of the Government under the provisions of said contract. This agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the undersigned.

4. Changes and added provisions _____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 195___.

/s/ Lake V. Shope, Guardian [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

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b. Percentage royalty.--The Operator, or his successor in interest, shall pay to the Government a royalty on all minerals mined or produced from the land described in Article 2,--(1) regardless of any certification of discovery or development, from the date of the contract until the lapse of the time within which the Government may make such certification of discovery or development, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government, without interest, is fully repaid, whichever occurs first, unless the Government waives its right to a royalty; or (2) if the Government makes a certification of discovery or development, for a period of ten years (or other period fixed by the contract) from the date of the contract, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government, without interest, is fully repaid, whichever occurs first. Said royalty shall be a percentage of the net smelter returns, the net concentrator returns, or other net amounts realized from the sale or other disposition of any such production, in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

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(b) One and one-half (1½) percent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) percent of such net amounts for each additional full fifty cents ($0.50) by which such net amounts exceed eight dollars ($8.00) per ton, but not in excess of five (5) percent of such net amounts.

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Interior--Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 47318

IN REPLY REFER TO

G-MD-CNA

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

February 25, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3231 (MICA)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: A. Ward, John Phillips, and Hayden Keller, c/o A. Ward, Spruce Pine, North Carolina.
Name of property: Charlie Grindstaff (Harris Mine)
Location of property: On N. side of Jacobs Br., 2.4 miles N. 49 W. of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina.
Date of field team report: February 8, 1954.
Authorship of field team report: R. H. Teague, D. H. Amos, L. E. Shirley.
Field team's recommendation:

10' x 12' tool house	$150.00
Powder magazine	50.00
Exploder magazine	25.00
100' of 5' x 7' 2-compartment shaft at $50/ft.	5000.00
150' of drift or cross-cut at $35/ft.	5250.00
Estimated total cost	$10,475.00

Estimated time required: 10 months

Comments:

This application requests exploration assistance on another of these properties which have a previous record for production of strategic mica. The target is hazy and the project calls for an expenditure of $10,000. The reasons for approving this contract might be questioned on the basis of how "exploratory" this work really is. We are not enthusiastic about expenditures for exploration which only amount to reopening old mines with good production histories. If the work is to be done, we will approve the field team's proposal, but a denial seems more in order.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Denial.

D. A. Brobst

Brobst:jeh
2/25/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3 ✓
Brobst G-230

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
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4. Changes and added provisions

Dated this _____ day of _____, 195___.

Robert Shope, Guardian [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

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Interior—Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 47318

DEPARTMENT OF T...
Defense Records Administration
RECEIVED
FEB - 5 1954

From: Kermit Dehart and wife, Margie Ethel Dehart

To: Charles Smith Grindstaff

Date: March 2, 1946

Book M-5, page 590

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MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

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3/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to repay the Government.

Repayment by Operator.--a. Certification.--If at any time the Government considers that a discovery or development from which production may be made has resulted from the exploration work, the Government, at any time not later than six months after the Operator has rendered the final report and final account, may so certify in writing to the Operator. Such certification shall describe broadly or indicate the nature of the discovery or development.

b. Percentage royalty.--The Operator, or his successor in interest, shall pay to the Government a royalty on all minerals mined or produced from the land described in Article 2,--(1) regardless of any certification of discovery or development, from the date of the contract until the lapse of the time within which the Government may make such certification of discovery or development, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government, without interest, is fully repaid, whichever occurs first, unless the Government waives its right to a royalty; or (2) if the Government makes a certification of discovery or development, for a period of ten years (or other period fixed by the contract) from the date of the contract, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government, without interest, is fully repaid, whichever occurs first. Said royalty shall be a percentage of the net smelter returns, the net concentrator returns, or other net amounts realized from the sale or other disposition of any such production, in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

(a) One and one-half (1½) percent of any such net amounts not in excess of eight dollars ($8.00) per ton.

(b) One and one-half (1½) percent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) percent of such net amounts for each additional full fifty cents ($0.50) by which such net amounts exceed eight dollars ($8.00) per ton, but not in excess of five (5) percent of such net amounts.

(For instance: the percentage royalty on a net amount of five dollars ($5.00) per ton, would be one and one-half (1½) percent; on a net amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) percent.)

c. Definitions.--As here used, "net smelter returns", "net concentrator returns", and "other net amounts realized from the sale or other disposition", mean gross revenue from sales; or if not sold, the market value of the material after it is mined in the form in which and the place where it is held. In the case of integrated operations in which the material is not disposed of as such, these terms mean what is or would be gross income from mining operations for percentage depletion purposes in income tax determination.

d. Lien for Payment.--To secure the payment of its percentage royalty, the Government shall have and is hereby granted a lien upon the land described in Article 2 and upon any production of minerals therefrom, until the royalty claim is extinguished by lapse of time or is fully paid.

e. Notice to Purchasers.--The Operator shall notify any purchaser of the production of the Government's royalty interest, and shall authorize and direct the purchaser to pay the royalty directly to the Government and to furnish the Government with copies of the settlement sheets; but failure or refusal by the purchaser to comply shall not relieve the Operator of liability to pay any royalty falling due.

f. No Obligation to Produce.--This article is not to be construed as imposing any obligation on the Operator or the Operator's successor in interest to engage in any mining or production operations.

Interior—Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 47318

From: Kermit Dehart and wife, Margie Ethel Dehart

To: Charles Smith Grindstaff

Date: March 2, 1946

Book M-5, page 590

DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a black gum on the South side of Hall's Mill Creek, an old corner common to George Jacobs, Kermit Dehart and C. S. Grindstaff and running thence S. 7 deg. 30' W 100 feet with the George Jacobs line to a post; thence N. 69 deg. W 24 poles to a post; thence N 64 deg. 30' W. 17¼ poles to a pine; thence N 56 W 39½ poles to a stake and pointers on top of the mountain in Frank Cunningham's line; thence with his line N. 34 deg. 45' E. 13½ poles to a white oak on top of the mountain, a corner of C. S. Grindstaff's land; thence with the C. S. Grindstaff Southwest line S. 56 E. 78¼ poles to the point of BEGINNING containing 5.6 acres more or less.

The parties of the first part reserve unto themselves, their heirs and assigns, the right to build and construct a drain ditch over the above described property on the South side of the creek and the right to enter upon said land to repairand maintain the same.

From: Rose Ella Hill and Claude L. Love, Administrators C. T. A. and Trustees of the Estate of B. C. Grindstaff

To: Henry Cabe, Guardian of Charles S. Grindstaff

Date: March 21, 1944

Book J-5, page 506

DESCRIPTION

TRACT 1

A certain tract or parcel of land on the waters of Hall's Mill Creek in Macon County, State of North Carolina and Franklin Township adjoining the lands of Walter Angel, Mary Raby and others and bounded as folbows viz:

BEGINNING at a black gum on Hall's Mill Creek near the Raby Mine, now known as Harris mine, said black gum being on the East bank of said branch, which is East of the Harris Mica Mine aforesaid and runs Northerly 60 steps to a maple (now dead and marked) and more particularly described as being North 5 deg. East 10 poles and 20 links to a stake on the east side of the branch; thence Westerly 500 steps to a marked young chestnut and more particularly North 56 deg. West 84 poles to a stake; thence South 60 steps to an old chestnut corner in Section No. 54 and more particularly South 5 deg. West 10 poles and 20 links to a bunch of chestnuts the corner of Section No. 54; thence to the beginning and more particularly South 56 deg. East 84 poles to the place of the BEGINNING, containing five (5) acres more or less.

TRACT 2

Also all the mineral interests and mining privileges with all woods and waters and all and whatever appurtenances thereto belonging in, on, and to the following tract of land in said Macon County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands above described to wit:

BEGINNING at a black gum, which is the beginning corner on above named tract and running thence Westerly along the South line of the above described tract 675 feet to a stake or more particularly North 56 deg. West 41 poles to a stake; thence Southerly 250 feet to a stake ommore particularly South 34 deg. West 15 poles and 3 links to a stake; thence Easterly 475 feet to a stake or more particularly South 56 deg. East 28 poles and 6 links to a stake; thence to the BEGINNING or more particularly North 73 deg. East 20 poles more or less to the place of BEGINNING containing three (3) acres more or less.

MAY 7 - 1954 600

Mr. John Phillips, et al.

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
Charlie Grindstaff (Harris) Mine
Mason County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other reports available to us in Washington relating to the subject property 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 indicates to us that the probability of disclosing significant reserves of mica 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,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

LGHouk:gad 4/16/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

April 16, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

1. DMEA Docket No. 3231 - Mica
   Property: Charlie Grindstaff (Harris) Mine
   Macon County, North Carolina

   Applicants: A Ward, John Phillips and Hayden Keller
   c/o John Phillips
   Spruce Pine, North Carolina

2. Application, Form MF-103, dated January 8, 1954

   Applicants' proposal:
   55 ft. shaft and 80 ft. drift $5,550.00

   Field Team's proposal:
   100 ft. shaft and 150 ft. drift $10,475.00

3. Comments on field team's proposal:

   Bureau of Mines - recommends contract for $10,475.00.
   Geological Survey - denial seems in order.
   DMEA - denial.

   According to 1945 USGS Report:

   Two parallel crosscutting zoned pegmatites 10' to 15' thick. Northeast pegmatite belt of workings 280' long a 70-foot main shaft at eastern end, a 22-foot shaft 60' West of main shaft and six shallow pits and cuts. Southwestern pegmatite prospected by 13 cuts. There is no record of 1922 production. The owner states it was outstanding.

   The attached pencil sketches show schematically the location of the proposed work and the possible location of the old workings.

Geological Premise: Is based on report by former operator as little factual data can be obtained from examination of the property. In this Northeast pegmatite to be explored, mica was most abundant in the vicinity of an abandoned shaft as shown on the attached sketch, sketch mining having taken place for a distance of about 40 feet and depth of 70 feet. The proposed exploration includes sinking a 100 foot shaft directed toward the downward extension of the mined out shoot. From best information we have this will leave a 10 foot pillar between the shaft and old workings, and open up a possible mica shoot about 40 feet long by 45 feet in depth. Minimum cost of this exploration will be $6,750, shaft alone amounting to $5,000.

Geological criteria on which work is based by field team:

1. Formerly mined stope extends to depth.
2. Well zoned mica rich pegmatite.
3. Pegmatite mined intensively in 1922.
4. Mica in dump is of excellent quality, ruling principal defect.

Study of supplemental data submitted by field team:

1. Surface work removed pegmatite.
2. Mica most abundant in vicinity of 70' shaft - shoot 40' long.
3. Dump material similar to other producing mines in area.
4. Dump material suggests the pegmatite is large.
5. Other mines in area worked in excess of 100 feet.
6. Dump indicates pegmatite is zones.
7. Bulldozing unless extensive not recommended.

Past production:

Bureau of Mines has no record of production at the Charlie Grindstaff (Harris) Mine. Applicant says last operator was Asheville Mica Company in 1916, who produced substantial amounts of high grade mica and stopped when hard rock was contacted. USGS says mine was operated intensively in 1922, and was reopened in 1944 by two separate operators. Only a small amount of mica was obtained during these two operations.

Recommendations:

During 1944, when mica was in great demand, attempts at production failed. The expenditure of $10,475 for exploring and old mine is not believed justified. The

Nonmetallic Minerals Division recommends denial.

The proposed work has as its main objective the gaining of access to the downward projection or mica-bearing pegmatite previously mined. The stope is reported to have a strike length of 40' and a depth of 70'. There is no information as to the location of a 70' shaft with respect to the stope. It appears that there would be a 10' vertical pillar between the new shaft and the southeast wall of the stope. A 100-foot inclined shaft would explore a block 45' x 40' x 12' or 1,700 tons of pegmatite at a cost of $6,750. The additional 100 feet of work is directed toward drifting or crosscutting for blind mica shoots on this and the parallel pegmatite.

In answer to our suggestion relating to a preliminary bulldozing program to find surface indications, the field team stated:

> "Previous surface workings have, in all likelihood, removed most of the surface mica as well as pegmatite, thus future work will have to be at greater depth."

They further state that bulldozer trenching, unless quite extensive would add little information.

LGHouk:gad 4/16/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

APR 1 6 1954

Mr. A. Ward

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-1231 - Mica
Charlie Grundstaff (Harris) Mine
Mason County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Ward:

Reference is made to the telephone request of Mr. Warren Pritchard, Attorney, of April 16, 1954, on the subject application.

This is to inform you that the decision with regard to your possible contract has been delayed. However, you may expect a definite answer sometime after the first of May.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

LGHouk:gad 4/16/54

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

March 30, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, D M E A - Washington

From: Field Team, D M E A - Region VII

Subject: DMEA-3231 (mica), A. Ward, John Phillips and Hayden Keller, Charlie Grindstaff (Harris) Mine Macon County, N. C.

Reference is made to your letter of March 18, 1954 regarding the subject mine.

The proposed program of exploration as given in the examination report is based on the following:

1. Previous surface workings have, in all likelihood, removed most of the surface mica as well as pegmatite, thus future work will have to be at greater depth.

2. The northeast pegmatite, on which exploration was recommended, has been worked to a reported depth of 70 feet. Mr. Grindstaff, who worked the mine to this depth, reports that mica was most abundant in the vicinity of the shaft. The length of this enriched zone is not known, but from the distribution of the workings it appears that the "shoot" may be about 40 feet long.

3. The reported reason for abandoning the mine about 1923 was the inability to handle the flow of water present. This is reasonable as the 70-foot shaft collar is only about 20 feet above branch level. Modern pumps should be able to cope with the water problem without difficulty.

As mentioned in the examination report and in the Operating Committee's letter of March 18, little factual data can be obtained from examination of the property. All of the dump material is pegmatite, being composed of fragments of milky quartz more than a foot in diameter, plagioclase feldspar, and good quality ruby-colored muscovite. This material is very similar to dump material found at the Chalk Hill, Letal-Bowers, Moody, and Allman Cove mines - all of which are or have been substantial producers and are located within two miles of the Grindstaff (Harris) Mine.

Copies sent to USGS and BM on 4/5/54

Certainly the dump material suggests that this pegmatite is large enough and contains a mineral assemblage from which sheet mica can be obtained.

Of course another question which arises is the possibility of the pegmatite extending to depth. Answer to this is drawn from experience gained from nearby pegmatites. So far as the Field Team knows, none has been bottomed. The Iotla-Bowers mine has been worked on the dip to a depth in excess of 250 feet and all of the others have produced mica below the 100 foot level. Therefore, there is an excellent possibility that the pegmatite and mica producing zone extends below the depth of the proposed shaft.

The Field Team believes that the program as recommended in the examination report is the best one for this deposit. Bulldozer trenching, unless quite extensive, would add little information. At present we know that the pegmatite trends northwest, dips steeply southwest, and may be as much as 15 feet thick. The dump shows that the pegmatite is zoned and experience with nearby deposits indicate that there are adequate reasons to believe the pegmatite will extend to the depth of the proposed shaft.

We realize that the cost of the proposed program is higher than most on mica exploration. It is entirely possible that all of the proposed level work (150 feet) will not be required. Certainly if the limits of the "shoot" have been established before the footage is expended, no further footage will be used.

The Field Team is still of the opinion that this deposit is one of the better bets for successful exploration. We recommend that exploration aid be given on the deposit as outlined in the examination report.

Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer
DMEA - Region VII

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

KHT/sm

MAR 18 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
A. Ward, John Phillips,
Hayden Keller
Charlie Grindstaff Mine
Macon County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

Reference is made to the field team report on the Charlie Grindstaff Mine.

While it is apparent that little factual data are available for inclusion in this field team report, either from historical records or by actual field examination, we wish to have your reasons for the proposed approach to exploring this pegmatite. The statement of an opinion that substantial quantities of strategic mica exist below the old workings is not sufficient to justify the expenditure of $10,475.00. What are the geological reasons for believing a mica shoot may exist in the area being prospected?

Before writing a contract, we must determine from the field team report the geological premise upon which the contract is recommended and apply the DMEA criterion of geological probability of making a significant discovery. Inclusion of remarks on these items in the field team report would greatly facilitate our work here. In light of the meager factual data on this deposit, it is suggested that the field team recommend a new approach to exploring this deposit. Perhaps a preliminary bulldozing program of the surface would indicate a favorable location for the shaft and give more detailed information to justify further work.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

Philip W. Guild

Member, Geological Survey

LGHouk:gad 3/17/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

March 11, 1954

Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
A. Ward, John Phillips, Hayden Keller
Charlie Grindstaff Mine
Macon County, North Carolina

Memorandum

To: Mr. C. O. Mittenderf

From: Lawrence G. Houk

Subject: Denial

Applicants proposal:
55 ft. shaft and 80 ft. drift $5,550.00

Field Team proposal
100 ft. shaft and 150 ft. drift $10,475.00

Geologic Premise of Field Team:
1. Pegmatite mined intensively 1922.
2. Pegmatite zoned.
3. Core margin zone rich in mica.

Past production:
Not known but 1920-1922 production said to be outstanding by former operator.

Comments on Field Team's proposal:
Bureau of Mines recommends contract for - $10,475.00.
Geological Survey - Denial seems in order.
DMEA - Denial: 1. Reopening old mine.
2. Previous abandonment because of large volume of water.
3. Geologic target obscure.
4. Mica heavily clay stained, ruled and intergrown with biotite.

LGHouk:gad 3/11/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Mr. Houk

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau Minerals Adm.
RECEIVED
MAR 2 - 1954

March 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3231

Applicant: A. Ward, John Phillips, and Hayden Keller

Name and Location of Property: Charlie Grindstaff
Macon County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: February 16, 1954

Date Rec'd by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mats. Branch: February 25, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:

1. A contract for exploration in the amount of $10,475.

Comments:

1. Exploration by sinking 100-foot 2-compartment shaft and drifting 150 feet.

2. Proposed exploration is consistent with good engineering practices.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation for an exploration project in the amount of $10,475.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
FEB 8 - 1954

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

February 25, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3231 (MICA)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: A. Ward, John Phillips, and Hayden Keller, c/o A. Ward, Spruce Pine, North Carolina.
Name of property: Charlie Grindstaff (Harris Mine)
Location of property: On N. side of Jacobs Br., 2.4 miles N. 49 W. of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina.
Date of field team report: February 8, 1954.
Authorship of field team report: K. H. Teague, D. H. Amos, L. E. Shirley.
Field team's recommendation:

10' x 12' tool house	$150.00
Powder magazine	50.00
Exploder magazine	25.00
100' of 5' x 7' 2-compartment shaft at $50/ft.	5000.00
150' of drift or cross-cut at $35/ft.	$5250.00
Estimated total cost	$10,475.00

Estimated time required: 10 months

Comments:

This application requests exploration assistance on another of these properties which have a previous record for production of strategic mica. The target is hazy and the project calls for an expenditure of $10,000. The reasons for approving this contract might be questioned on the basis of how "exploratory" this work really is. We are not enthusiastic about expenditures for exploration which only amount to reopening old mines with good production histories. If the work is to be done, we will approve the field team's proposal, but a denial seems more in order.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Denial.

D. A. Brobst

Brobst:jeh
2/25/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3 ✓
Brobst G-230

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3231, CHARLIE GRINDSTAFF(Harris)MINE
(mica)
Franklin, Macon County, N. C.

By

Kefton H. Teague, and Dewey H. Amos, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

and

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

February 16, 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
2-26-54
(date)

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
On
DMEA-3231, CHARLIE GRINDSTAFF (Harris) Mine

Applicants: A. Ward, John Phillips and Hayden Keller, Spruce Pine, N. C.
c/o A. Ward, Spruce Pine, N. C.

Shortly after World War I this mine was a substantial producer of high quality mica. No recent work has been done, nor is pegmatite exposed. Mica in the dump is of excellent quality. Reason given for having abandonment was the large amount of water, which seems reasonable. The examiners are of the opinion that substantial quantities of strategic mica occur below the old workings and that exploration assistance on the deposit is warranted.

The mine was examined on February 8, 1954. Messrs. A. Ward, and Charlie Grindstaff accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Harris (Charlie Grindstaff mine in application) mine is on the northwest side of Jacobs Branch, 2.4 miles N. 49° W. of Franklin; Macon County, North Carolina. Access is excellent at all times.

All of the applicants are at present engaged in mica mining and appear to be competent to conduct the proposed project.

The applicants hold the property under lease, area of which is adequate for the proposed project.

The following description of the deposit was taken from a manuscript prepared about 1945 by the U. S. Geological Survey.

"The deposit, which is owned by C. S. Grindstaff, was opened by him in 1919 and was intensively worked in 1922. It was reopened by Mr. Grindstaff in March 1944 and operations in the old workings were continued intermittently until November of that year. From late July to late September 1944, Boise Hall, J. F. Hyatt, and F. M. Brendle worked the mine by means of a new 30-foot shaft, from which drifts were run 12 feet to the north and 28 feet to the south. Only a small amount of mica was obtained during these two operations. The belt of workings extends 280 feet in a direction slightly north of west uphill from the level of the creek. The northeastern group of workings consists of the main 70-foot shaft at the eastern end of the group, a 22-foot shaft in country rock 60 feet to the west, and 6 pits and cuts from 80 to 160 feet west of the main shaft. The largest of the cuts is about 20 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. The southwestern group of workings includes 13 cuts and pits from several of which short drifts were run. Most of the workings are now inaccessible.

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
2-26-54
(date)

Blocks of unweathered biotite gneiss on the dump show that the pegmatite body cuts across the gneissic foliation. Two parallel pegmatite dikes strike N. 65° W., probably dip 60° SSW., and may be as thick as 10 to 15 feet. According to Mr. Grindstaff a third dike, which trends N. 12° W. and is vertical, was encountered in a drift from the bottom of the main shaft. This dike is said to be 4 to 6 feet thick and to contain quartz core. It was narrow and decomposed in the drift northwest of the shaft and became relatively hard but thickened to the southeast. The two main dikes contain cores of massive quartz flanked by mica-rich core margin zones. The wall zones consist of weathered perthite, plagioclase, granular quartz, abundant biotite, and scattered books of muscovite.

Most of the flat reddish brown mica is clear, but a few books are slightly specked. The mica on the dumps is heavily clay stained and split by weathering. Intense ruling appears to be the chief defect. Although most of the books are free splitting, a few split unevenly due to intergrowths with biotite."

According to Mr. Grindstaff production during the 1920-22 interval was outstanding. Certainly mica now in the dump is of strategic grade (ruby colored). The examiners recommend that exploration assistance be granted. Exploration should consist of sinking a 100-foot shaft at the approximate location shown on the attached sketch, then driving 150 feet of crosscut and/or drifts from it.

Estimated Cost:

10' x 12' tool house	$150.00
Powder Magazine	50.00
Exploder Magazine	25.00
100-foot 5' x7', 2-compartment shaft @ $50/ft.	5,000.00
150 feet of drift and/or crosscut @$35/ft.	5,250.00
Estimated Total Cost.....	$10,475.00

Estimated time required - 10 months.

February 8, 1954

K. H. Teague and D. H. Amos, Geologists
U. S. G. S.

L. E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. B. M.

600

FEB 12 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
A. Ward, John Phillips, Hayden
Keller
Charlie Grimlstaff Mine
Mason County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

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

Please obtain a written statement from the applicant: that the new Government participation rate of 75 percent is acceptable to them.

Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey, dated January 15, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated January 25, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Larrabee

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

WCAnderson:gad 2/10/54
Copy to: Admrl R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3526
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

FEB 12 1954

Mr. John Phillips, et al.

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3231 - Mica
Charlie Grindstaff Mine
Mason County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

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,

W. J. Mi[illegible]

Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 2/10/54

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

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

Bureau Library
Received
JAN 28 1954

January 25, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3231

Applicant: A Ward, John Phillips, and Hayden Keller
Name and Location of Property: Charlie Grindstaff Mine, Macon County, North Carolina
Date of Application: January 11, 1954
Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials Br.: January 12, 1954
Estimated Cost: $5,550.
Comments:

1. No data are available in this office on subject mine.
2. The mine is located in the general area of productive mica mines.
3. Applicant should be advised of the change in Government participation from 90 percent to 75 percent.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the field team visit this property when a member of the field team is in that vicinity to ascertain if an exploration program is justified.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CMM

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

January 15, 1954

Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
JAN 22 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3231 (Mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: A. Ward, John Phillips, Spruce Pine, North Carolina; Hayden Keller, Pineola, North Carolina.
Name of property: Charlie Grindstaff.
Location of property: 5 miles northwest of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina.
Summary of applicant's proposal: 55' of 5'x7' shaft ($2750); then 80' of 5'x7' drift "in the most promising pegmatite that is discovered by the shaft" ($2800).
Sources of information on applicant's property: No information is available.
Comments:

1. The map is inadequate to judge the possibilities of finding mica of strategic grade. More information is definitely needed.
2. The applicants are willing to furnish 10% of the cost ($5550) in money.

RECOMMENDATION:

Return the application for more information and an adequate map, showing exposed pegmatite, etc. Learn especially whether the applicants are still interested in the project if they have to contribute 25% of the cost.

D. A. Brobst

Brobst:jeh
1/15/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch " "
DMEA 3
Brobst G-230

000

JAN 15 1954

Mr. John Phillips, et al.
Spruce Pine
North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMA-[illegible] - Mica
Charlie Windstaff Mine
Macon County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Reference is made to your application for exploration assistance for mica.

On November 5, 1953, amendment No. 3 to DMA Order-1 became effective and limited Government participation in the case of mica to 75 percent of the approved costs. Inasmuch as your application was received after November 5, 1953, please advise this office in writing if you desire to have your application processed under the new Government participation rate. A copy of our release of November [illegible], 1953, is enclosed for your information.

In the event you wish to have your application processed under the new Government participation rate, it will be necessary for you to return to this office six copies of Owner's Consent to Lien executed and signed by owner's duly authorized agent. Seven forms are enclosed herewith.

The land description in the lease submitted to your application is inadequate. Kindly submit the description of the two tracts as written in the deeds referred to in the lease. It is not enough to merely make reference to pages in the County Book of Deeds.

The processing of your application will be deferred until receipt of all the above-requested information.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

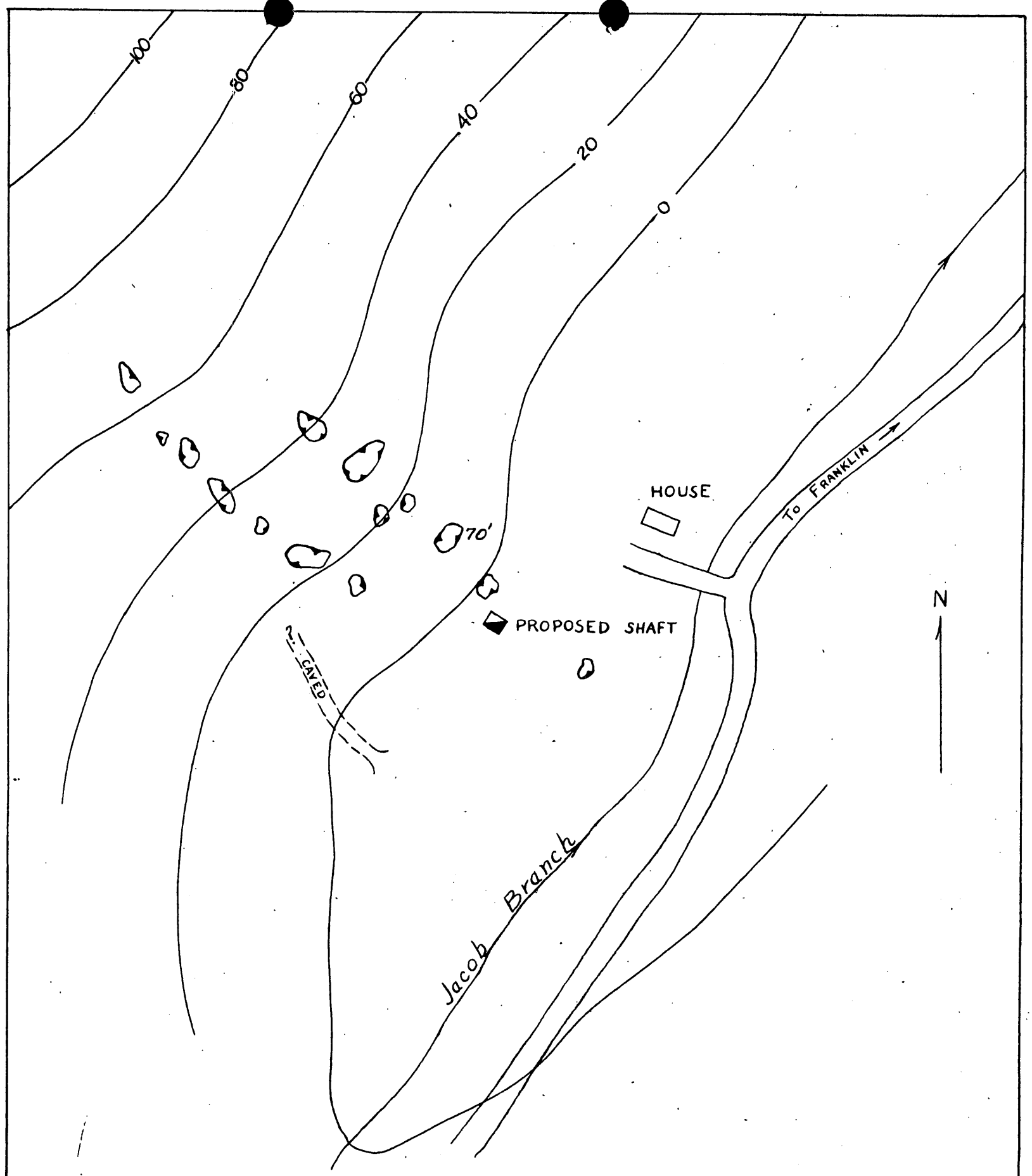
Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

WCAnderson:gad 1/13/54

Enclosures 8

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

Mr. Houk



SKETCH OF
HARRIS MINE
MACON CO., N.C.

0 40' 80'
SCALE

DMEA-3231 (mica)