DMA Form 1

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
Control Slip

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

DMA Docket No. 3316

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

Action on this document is recorded and controlled in Reports and Records Branch. Any movement of this document between divisions or offices of DMA or movement outside DMA must be reported to the Reports and Records Branch. Actions taken that affect status of the case must also be reported.

This document has been recorded as

Exploration Assistance

Any action taken to change the type of request for assistance must be promptly reported to the Reports and Records Branch. Use DMA Form 2 for submitting these reports.

Cys to USBM, USGS & Reg.

Routing Slip

To:	600	Date	4/20/54
To:	Oper Com	Date	5-17-54
To:	600	Date	5-17-54
To:	Oper Com	Date	7-9-54
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	
To:		Date	

DO NOT DETACH

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

DOCKET FILE
Surname: Houk
~~Hedges~~
~~Tyndall~~
~~Selfridge~~
~~Fjerstad~~

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

JUL 12 1954

Messrs. Roy and Howard Sparks
Route 2
Burnsville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3316 - Mica
Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

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 6/28/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

R.C.S.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

July 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: Denial of exploration assistance.

Docket No. DMEA-3316 - Mica
Roy and Howard Sparks
Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

The application was received April 19, 1954, requesting $8,600.00 to bulldoze 10 hours to uncover and locate the best place to sink a shaft, then sink a shaft 100 feet and drift 100 feet.

The Field Team recommends denial of the application because the mica is not of strategic quality. The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs with the field team that the application should be denied. The Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey also concur.

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

July 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3316 (mica)

Applicant: Roy and Howard Sparks

Name and Location of Property: Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team's Report: June 10, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials Br.: June 18, 1954

Field Team's Recommendation::

1. Denial of application.

Comments:

1. Most of the mica obtained at subject mine is poor in quality and is not strategic.

2. No evidence is available to indicate that subject mine would be a worthwhile producer.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny subject application on the basis that the mica is non-strategic mica.

W. F. Dietrich

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

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

June 17, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3316 (Mica).

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration
From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Roy and Howard Sparks, Route 2, Burnsville, N. C.
Name of property: Buckeye Mine
Location of property: 0.4 miles N. 67° W. of Boonford, Yancey Co., N.C.
Date of field team report: June 4, 1954
Authorship of field team report: K. H. Teague, D. H. Amos, USGS, and L. E. Shirley, USBM.
Field team's recommendation: Denial

Comments: None

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Follow field team's recommendation.

D. A. Brobst

D. A. Brobst

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
ROOM 13, POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Adm.
JUN 14 1954

June 10, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: Field Examination Report, DMEA-3316, (mica) Buckeye Mine, Yancey County, North Carolina

Transmitted herewith are four copies of the field examination report on the subject application.

We agree with the examiners' conclusion that chances for strategic quality mica at this mine are poor and therefore recommend denial of the application.

Robert A. Laurence
Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION VII

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

Defense Minerals Administration
JUN 14 1954

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3316, BUCKEYE MINE (mica)
Yancey County, North Carolina

By

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

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

June 4, 1954

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT ON

BUCKEYE MINE
DMEA-3316, (mica)

Applicants: Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks, Route 2, Burnsville, N. C.

Most of the mica at this mine is heavily mineral-stained and is not of strategic quality under the present government stockpile program. The Field Team recommends that the request for exploration assistance be denied.

The Buckeye mine is on the southwest side of the North Toe River, 0.4 miles N. 67° W. of Boonford, Yancey County, North Carolina.

The deposit was examined on June 4, 1954. Messrs. Roy Sparks, Howard Sparks and Sam L. Phillips accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required one hour.

There are no surface facilities on the property. Existing works are along a 150-foot line which trends N. 80° E. They consist of two elongated open cuts at the northeast end, each about 15 feet deep; a - 25° incline near the southwest end which is about 30 feet deep and trends S. 20° W.; and a northwest trending adit, now largely caved, at the extreme southwest end.

An unpublished U. S. G. S. manuscript (author unknown) written during World War II gives the following description:

"The country rock is mica gneiss. The foliation strikes N. 60° E. and dips 70° SSE., in the north end of the workings, but strikes northwest and dips 35° SW. near the south end. The rock contains many small lenses and thin layers of pegmatite, as well as three large concordant bodies that were mined for mica. They are 10 to 12 feet thick and lie about 10 feet apart, but apparently converge to form a single large body in the southwest part of the mine.

The pegmatite minerals are plagioclase, quartz, microcline, muscovite, vermiculite, epidote, and garnet. Two types of muscovite are present. Flat books of brown mica occur in and adjacent to thin seams of quartz, generally with their cleavage surfaces parallel to the walls of the seams. The chief structural defects are ruling and warping, and some of the sheets are stained. Much of this mica is intergrown with biotite and vermiculite. Light green "wedge-A" mica fringes several large, irregular quartz masses. The amount of sheet and punch material that has been obtained from such books is negligible."

The deposit was first worked in 1895. Sales to Colonial Mica Corp., during World War II consisted of 688.66 pounds of full trimmed mica worth $3,313.38 (chiefly small #2 inferior).

All of the mica observed by the examiners was heavily mineral stained and not of strategic quality. Sales to Colonial confirm this observation. As the mica present at the mine is largely non-strategic, the application should be denied.

June 4, 1954.

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

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

zm

DOCKET FILE
INITIALS:

Anderson
Lynch
Gould
Hodges
Partridge
Mitchell

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

MAY 17 1954

Messrs. Roy and Howard Sparks
Route 2
Burnsville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3316 - Mica
Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

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. Laurence, 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

WCAnderson:gad 5/13/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

R.C.L.

DOCKET FILE
CHAIRMAN:

Anderson
Houk
Selfridge
AB Dunn
Westmoreland

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

MAY 17 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3316 - Mica
Roy and Howard Sparks
Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

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

Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey, dated April 22, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated May 7, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge
Chairman, Operating Committee (24B)

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines (24B)

Philip W. Guild
Member, Geological Survey (24B)

Enclosures 4
WCAnderson:gad 5/13/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

R.C.h.

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

May 7, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3316

Applicant: Roy and Howard Sparks

Name and Location of Property: Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fert. Materials Br.: April 21, 1954

Comments:

1. No data available on subject mine.

2. Costs are estimated on a unit-cost basis and in accordance with local practice.

3. Proposed exploration plan appears to be a logical method for exploration.

4. Total estimated costs - $8,600.

Recommendation:

It is suggested the field team visit this mine to ascertain if an exploration project is justified.

W. F. Dietrich

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:
G-MD-CNM

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

April 22, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3316 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks, Route 2, Burnsville, North Carolina.
Name of property: Buckeye Mine.
Location of property: ¼ mile W. of Booneford, N. C.
Summary of applicant's proposal:

10 hrs. bulldozing
100' shaft
100' drift

Sources of information on applicant's property:

No report at hand.
Colonial data indicate:

688.66 lbs. for $3,313.38
chiefly small F.T., #2 inf.

Comments: None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to Field Team for examination if required.

D. M. Larrabee

D. M. Larrabee

D. M. E. A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAY 5 - 1954

Route 2
Burnsville, North Carolina
May 3, 1954

Mr. Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Nonmetallic Minerals Division
U. S. Department of the Interior
DMEA, Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3316 Mica
Buckeye Mine

Dear Mr. Houk:

In reply to your letter of April 27, 1954 in which you state that the Government is limited to 75% of the approved costs on exploration assistance loans, I wish to state that this is satisfactory and I will pay the necessary 25% participation rate.

Very truly yours,

Roy Sparks

Roy and Howard Sparks
By Roy Sparks, Partner

File Copy
Surname:

Anderson
Houk
Hollenberg

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

APR 27 1954

Messrs. Roy and Howard Sparks
Route 2
Burnsville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3316 - Mica
Buckeye Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your application for exploration assistance for mica in which it is stated that the applicant will pay in money 10% required by regulation.

On March 19, 1954, DMEA Order-1, Amended, became effective and continues the limiting of Government participation in the case of mica to 75 percent of the approved costs. This limitation became effective on November 3, 1953, by Amendment No. 3 to DMEA Order-1. Inasmuch as your application was received after November 3, 1953, please advise this office in writing if you desire to have your application processed under the new Government participation rate. The processing of your application will be deferred until receipt of your reply.

A copy of the March 23, 1954, release is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Lawrence G. Houk, Chief
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Enclosure

WCAnderson:gad 4/26/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

R.C.G.

April 20, 1951
Subject: DMEA-3316
Re: Exploration Assistance
Buckeye Mine

Messrs. Roy & Howard Sparks
Route 2
Burnsville, N. C.

Gentlemen:

The receipt of your application dated (undated) for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-3316 and referred to the Non-Metallic Minerals Division.

Kindly refer to DMEA-3316 in any future correspondence relating to your application.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Adams
Chief, Operation's Control
and Statistics Division

MF-103
(Revised April 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. 3316
Metal or Mineral Mica
Date Received
Estimated Cost $8,600
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: Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C.

(*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 This is lease property (lease is attached in 3 (d) below.)

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

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

(*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*) State the mineral or minerals for which you wish to explore .....

.....

(*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 ..... days and be completed within ..... 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)?

(*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 ....., 195...

.....
(Applicant)

By Roy Sparks

.....

.....

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

MF 103

1. (a) Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C.

   (b) Partnership.

2. No Answer

3. (a) This is lease property (Lease is attached in 3 (d) below.)

   (b) Buckeye Mine.

   (c) Lessee

   (d) Lease is attached as Exhibit A.

   (e) Not owner.

   (f) Land is held by Landlord. No land patents involved.

4. (a) Physical works set forth on map attached as Exhibit B.

   (b) This mine has been worked quite a bit. It was worked before Colonial days. There has been a lot of good mica taken from this mine.

   (c) I, Roy Sparks helped work this mine the last time it was worked . We ceased operation because we ran out of money to operate the mine efficient.

   (d) This mine is located onthe property of Mr. & Mrs. Howard Sparks, about 1/4 mile West of Booneford, N. C.

   (e) There is ample experience manpower available. Electricty is within 100 yds. No difficulty is contemplated in obtaining equipment and supplies.

5. (a) It is anticipated that the pegmatite contains additional quantities of green mica of stockpile grade.

   (b) It is proposed to bulldoze 10 hours to uncover and locate the best place to sink a shaft. Then it is proposed to sink a shaft 100 feet deep and drift 100 feet.

   (c) The work will be started as soon as the contract is approved by the Government and the work should conclude within 6 months.

   (d) Attached as Exhibit C.

6. Estimate of Costs.

(a) Independent Contracts-None.

(b through h)

(1)	Bulldozing	10hrs.	@$10.00	$100.00
(2)	Sink Shaft	100 ft.	@$50.00	5000.00
(3)	Drifting	100 ft.	@$35.00	3500.00
			Total	$8600.00

7. (a) Applicant will pay in money 10% required by regulation.

MINING LEASE

State of North Carolina Yancey County:

This indenture made this 14 day of April, 1954, 4

between Howard Sparks and wife Kate Sparks

of Yancey County and State of North Carolina as party of the first part, and known as lessor s, and Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks

of Yancey County and State of North Carolina, party of the second part and known as lessee.

WITNESSETH, That the parties of the first part in consideration of One Dollar in hand received and hereby acknowledged by the lessor s, and in consideration of the agreements hereinafter contained, on the part of the party of the second part to be performed, hereby bargains, leases and grants to the party of the second part, and his 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 and State first above written to wit:

BEGINNING at the center of the Buckeye Mine running 250 ft. North; thence 500 ft. East; thence 500 ft. South; thence 500 ft. West; thence 250 ft. North to the beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands to him, for mining purposes, the said lessee and his heirs and assigns for the aforesaid period of five years in compliance with the condition of this instrument, for the purpose and with the right to dig, quarry, search, explore for, obtain, and remove any kind of minerals, metals or fossils, and particularly mica, and to conduct the same to any extent the said party of the second part, the lessee, may desire. And it is hereby agreed between the parties to this agreement that the party of the second part is to have the use of any unoccupied buildings on said lands for mining purposes, and that he shall have the right to erect such buildings as he needs to carry on such mining operatins during the period of this lease, and that the party of the second part shall keep the same in as good condition as when received, unavoidable accidents excepted. And it is also agreed by the party of the second part that no unnecessary damage is to be done to the lands herein leased during the period of this lease and the continuance of said lease, but the said party of the second part shall have the right to take from said lands leased to the party of the second part any wood or timber the party of the second part may need to carry on said mining operations or which may be needed to carry on the addition to existing buildings or to erect new buildings or sheds on said lands. (Timber of high or special market value is excepted and shall not be used by the lessee.) And it is hereby agreed that the party of the second part, the lessee, is to have right-of-way of ingress and egress to said mines or land upon which exploration is being conducted.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the party of the second part, the lessee hereby agrees to pay to the said part___ of the first part, or his or their heirs or assigns, a rental royalty of 1/8

on the minerals taken and sold from said mines which shall be for the use of the said lands for the aforesaid period of five years. The said amounts shall be payable on the computation of selling bills on the tenth day of each month covering sales made during the previous month. Any minerals other than those set forth above which may be taken and sold shall be paid for and at the usual royalty rate of the minerals taken.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, shall have the option to renew this lease and to extend the period of its running for an additional five years from the date of its present termination. The option shall be exercised by giving formal written notice to the party of the first part or by the continuation of any mining operations then being conducted. The lessor___ 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 grantee, purchaser, or assigns thereof. And it is agreed that the lessee may assign this mining lease or any part thereof and that he may sublease.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, is hereby given an option to purchase all the right, title and interest, legal and equitable to and in the real estate described and set forth in this lease for a total purchase price of_____, said purchase price to be paid in full within three years from the date of this instrument and it is agreed that all rental royalties paid to the party of the first part shall apply toward and be a part of the total purchase price above set forth, and that at such time that the total purchase price is paid in the form of royalties or a lump sum payment or a combination of both, the party of the first part will execute a special warranty deed to the party of the second part and that a tender of the remaining purchase price at any time within the next three years shall entitle the party of the second part to specific performance of this option contract.

BUT IT IS EXPRESSLY AGREED That unless mineral or fossil material of practical value for mining purposes shall be found within a period of two years from the date of this instrument, the lease may be terminated by the lessee at any time thereafter on thirty days notice to the lessor___. The lessee agrees that during the period of this lease or the continuance of this lease work in said mines or exploration for new mines within the area leased 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.

Witness:

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 14 day of April, 1954.

/s/ Kenneth R. McKinney

x Howard Sparks (Seal)

x Kate Sparks (Seal)

_____ (Seal)

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

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

BEGINNING at the center of the Buckeye Mine running 250 ft. North; thence 500 ft. East; thence 500 ft. South; thence 500 ft. West; thence 250 ft. North to the beginning.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract", between the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", and

2/ Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C. doing business as The Buckeye Mining Co.

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 14 day of April, 1954

x Howard Sparks [Seal]

x Kate Sparks [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.

2/ Insert the name of the Operator as it will appear in the exploration project contract.

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

RELEVANT CONTRACT PROVISIONS

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 (including any bonuses), in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

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

(b) One and one-half (1½) per cent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) per cent 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) per cent 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) per cent; on a net amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) per cent.)

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.

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

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

BEGINNING at the center of the Buckeye Mine running 250 ft. North; thence 500 ft. East; thence 500 ft. South; thence 500 ft. West; thence 250 ft. North to the beginning.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract", between the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", and

2/ Roy Sparks and Howard ~~Sparks~~ Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C. doing business as The Buckeye Mining Co.

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 14 day of April, 1954.

Howard Sparks [Seal]

Kate Sparks [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.

2/ Insert the name of the Operator as it will appear in the exploration project contract.

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

RELEVANT CONTRACT PROVISIONS

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 (including any bonuses), in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

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

(b) One and one-half (1½) per cent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) per cent 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) per cent 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) per cent; on a net amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) per cent.)

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.

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

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

BEGINNING at the center of the Buckeye Mine running 250 ft. North; thence 500 ft. East; thence 500 ft. South; thence 500 ft. West; thence 250 ft. North to the beginning.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract", between the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", and

2/ Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C. doing business as The Buckeye Mining Co.

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 14 day of April, 1954.

x Howard Sparks [Seal]

x Kate Sparks [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.

2/ Insert the name of the Operator as it will appear in the exploration project contract.

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 (including any bonuses), in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

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

(b) One and one-half (1½) per cent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) per cent 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) per cent 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) per cent; on a net amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) per cent.)

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.

MF-203
(Revised July 1, 1953)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO LIEN

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

BEGINNING at the center of the Buckeye Mine running 250 ft. North; thence 500 ft. East; thence 500 ft. South; thence 500 ft. West; thence 250 ft. North to the beginning.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract", between the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government", and

2/ Roy Sparks and Howard Sparks of Route 2, Burnsville, N. C. doing business as The Budkeye Mining Co.

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 14 day of April, 1954.

Howard Sparks [Seal]

Kate Sparks [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.

2/ Insert the name of the Operator as it will appear in the exploration project contract.

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 (including any bonuses), in whatever form disposed of, including ore, concentrates, or metal, as follows:

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

(b) One and one-half (1½) per cent of any such net amounts, plus one-half (½) per cent 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) per cent of such net amounts.

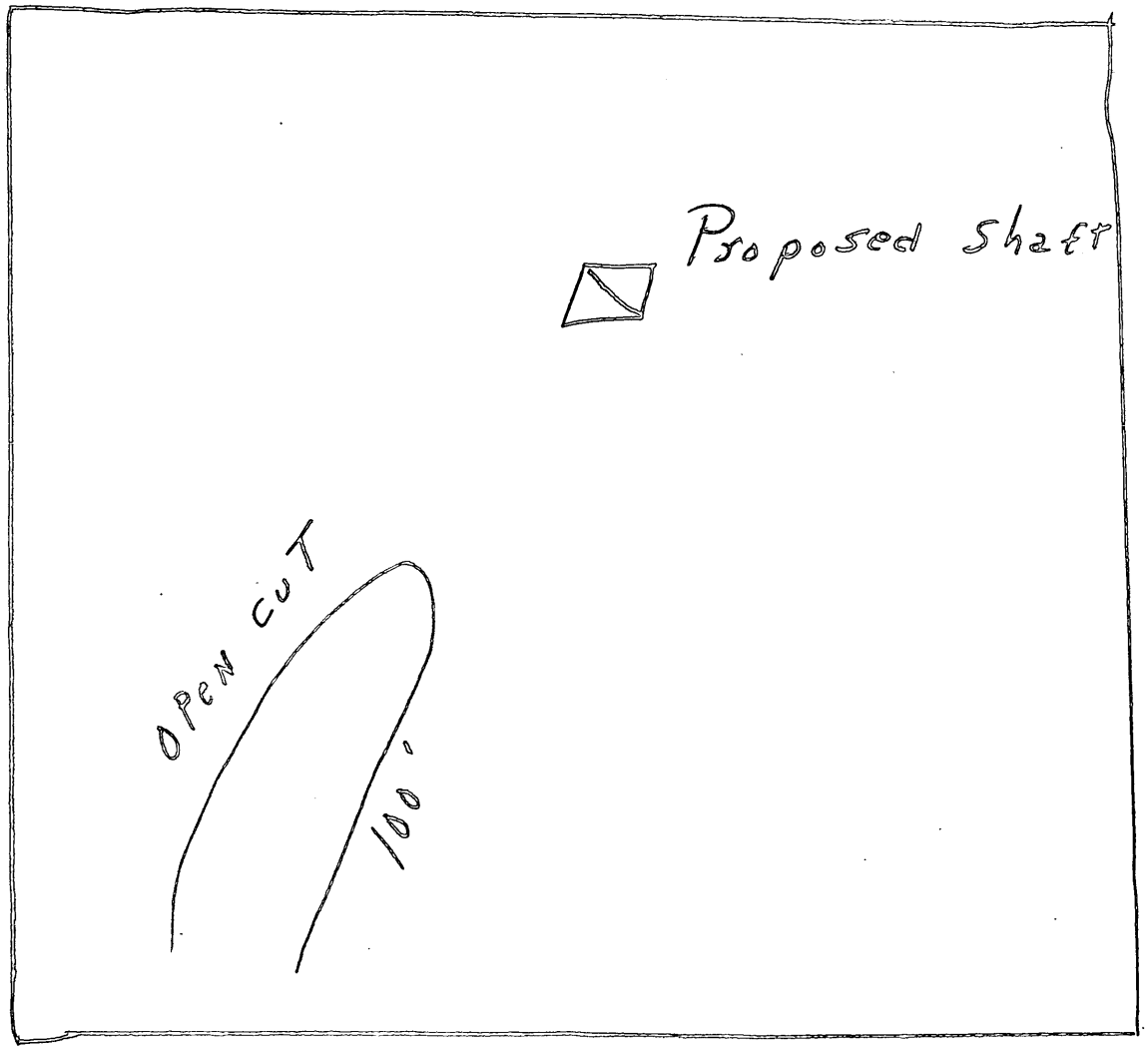
(For instance: the percentage royalty on a net amount of five dollars ($5.00) per ton, would be one and one-half (1½) per cent; on a net amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) per cent.)

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.



Buckeye Mine

HOWARD SPARKS

Mr. Sparks was borned in Yancey County and has lived there all his life. He attended the local schools. He is 43 years old. He has done quite a bit of mining during his life. For the past 5 years he has run a bulldozer for De-Weld Mica Co..

For references write:

Mr. Roy Welds
Altamont
N. C.

Mr. Frank Phillips
Spruce Pine
N. C.

Mr. Foney Jarrett
Route 3
Bakersville, N. C.