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

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.

LGHouk:gad 7/1/54

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

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. Hook, 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 Bennford, 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

Copy to: DMEA (3)

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
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

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

RAL/mh
cc:
DMEA Hdq. File
Beck
Lynch
Files

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-10-54
(date)

RECEIVED
APR 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

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-18-54
(date)

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

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MAY 17 1954 600

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. Lawrence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

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

Sincerely yours,

C. D. Whitehead

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

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
Ray 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

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines

Philip W. Guild
Member, Geological Survey

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

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.

Signed
W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CMM

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: ½ 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.F., 12 inf.

Comments: None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to Field Team for examination if required.

D. M. Larrabee

Copy to: DMEA 3 ✓

600

APR 27 1954

Messrs. Ray 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