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AUG 2 6 1954

Mr. F. C. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3387 - Miss
Maurice Property Mine
Rutherford 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 Mineral 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

WCAnderson:gcd 8/10/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Newcomb, 5227
Mr. Houk

August 19, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

By: Walter C. Anderson

1. Docket No. DMEA-3387 - Mica
   Property: Maurice Property Mine
   Rutherford County, North Carolina

   Applicant: F. O. Phillips
   Spruce Pine, North Carolina

   Application: Form MF-103, date received June 14, 1954
   Work proposed: Enlarge existing shaft, sink additional 40 feet of shaft and drive 80 feet of drifts.
   Amount requested: $6,400.00
   No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

   Geological premise: No pegmatite exposed. Reports indicate the deposit is not extensive and appears to be virtually barren of mica.

   Geological criteria:
   1. Vertical pegmatite two feet thick.
   2. Sparse occurrence of mica, which is small and poor in quality.
   3. Low yield of sheet mica in past operation.
   4. Soft ground and heavy flow of water.

   Future possibilities: Remote for finding enough mica for an economical mining operation.

   Recommendation: The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in field team's recommendation to deny the application. The Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines are in agreement.

WCAnderson:gad 8/19/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

August 20, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3387 (mica)

Applicant: F. O. Phillips

Name and Location of Property: Maurice Mine
Rutherford County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: August 4, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials Br.: August 10, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:
1. Denial

Comments:
1. A worthwhile deposit of mica probably does not exist.

Recommendations:
I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny subject application.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

August 13, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3387 (mica)

To: Lawrence G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: R. D. Trace, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: F. C. Phillips
Name of property: Maurice Mine
Location of property: Rutherford County, North Carolina
Date of Field Team Report: August 4, 1954
Authorship of Field Team Report: Teague and Arom
Field Team's recommendation: Deny application.
Comments: None
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Follow Field Team's recommendation.

R. D. Trace

RDTrace:hlm
G-8/10/54

Copy to: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
W. F. Dietrich, 3061

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

August 4, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: Field Examination Report, DMEA-3387 (mica)
F. O. Phillips, Spruce Pine, N. C. Maurice Mine
Rutherford Co., N.C.

Enclosed are four copies of the field examination report on the Maurice Mine. We agree with the examiners' that exploration of this deposit is not warranted, and recommend denial of the application.

Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION VII

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

RAL/zm
cc:
Beck
Lynch
Files
Opr. Com.

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-11-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3387, MAURICE MINE
(mica)
Rutherford County, N. C.

By

M. H. Teague, and D. H. Amos, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

August 4, 1954

Reproduced by
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, COLLEGE PARK
8-11-54
(date)

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII
On
DMEA-3387, MAURICE MINE (mica)

Applicant: F. O. Phillips, Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Information available on this property does not suggest that a worthwhile deposit of mica remains at this place. The field examiners recommend that the application be denied.

The deposit was examined on July 28, 1954. Mr. F. O. Phillips accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required one hour.

The Maurice Mine is on the northern outskirts of Ellenboro, Rutherford County, North Carolina. Access is excellent at all times.

Except for one 18-foot shaft in wall rock 20 feet west of the probable pegmatite ourcrop, no openings occur at present on the property. All previous openings have been backfilled and the area of the mine returned to cultivation. The following desctiption is taken from U. S. G. S. Prof. Paper 248-D, Mica Deposits of the Southeastern Piedmont, Part 5, Shelby-Hickory District, North Carolina, p.279, by Griffitts and Olson.

"The Maurice Mine was opened prior to 1941 by Frank Harrell. In the spring of 1942 E. M. Grindstaff sank two 35-ft. shafts and connected them with a 35-ft. tunnel. The Schmidt brothers, of Rutherfordton are said to have deepened both shafts to 50 feet in the fall of the same year."

"The vertical pegmatite dike strikes N. 5° E. in garnetiferous mica gneiss. The country rock foliation strikes N. 55° W. and dips 35° to 55° NE. The dip along the east wall of the deposit appears to be less steep than that along the west wall. The deposit is about 2 feet thick at the surface but thickens downward. All the pegmatite exposed above water level (14 ft. depth) is kaolinized plagioclase with interstitial quartz and a little book mica. A few small blocks of granular quartz are present in the dump, but the dike is not known to contain a massive quartz core. A little tourmaline is the only observed accessory constituent."

The mica is pinkish buff. Much is fractured and reeved, and some is typical wedge-A mica. The books remaining on the dump are small, but one 1,500-lb book is said to have been obtained during the mining operations. The recovery of sheet material from the mine-run mica probably was fairly low. According to Grindstaff, the dike continues beneath the drift but appears to be virtually barren of mica in this part of the mine."

From the above it is apparent that the deposit has questionable merit. Furthermore, a heavy flow of water along with soft ground will create a difficult problem. Therefore, the examiners believe the application should be denied.

August 4, 1954.

M. H. Teague and D. H. Amos, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

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JUL 12 1954

Mr. Z. L. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMA-3367 - Mica
Maurice Property Mine
Rutherford 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. 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:mg 7/8/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

JUL 12 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3387 - Mica
F. S. Phillips
Maurice Property Mine
Rutherford 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 June 17, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated July 1, 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:ag 7/8/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
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-3387 (mica)

Applicant: F. O. Phillips

Name and Location: Maurice Property Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mat. Br.: June 15, 1954

Comments:

1. No data available in this office on subject mine.

2. Proposed exploration is by sinking shaft 40 feet and drifting 80 feet. Estimated costs total $6,400 and, on a unit-cost basis, are consistent with normal practices in North Carolina.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the field team visit this mine when a member of the field team is in that vicinity to ascertain if an exploration program is justified. If so, the field team and applicant should agree on a definite exploration project.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Q-MD-CMN

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

June 17, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3387 (Mica).

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Frank O. Phillips, Spruce Pine, N. C.
Name of property: Maurice Property Mine
Location of property: 8 acres in Ellenboro, Rutherford Co., N. C.
Summary of applicant's proposal:

Enlarge 6' x 6' x 20' shaft to 6'x6'x20'	$ 200
Sink shaft 40' more at $50/ft.	2000
Timber 60' of shaft and build manway at $10/ft.	600
Drift 40' each way, 80' at $35/ft.	2800
Timber drift, 80' at $10/ft.	800
	$6400

Sources of information on applicant's property:
U.S.G.S. Prof. Paper 248-D, Mica Deposits of the Southeastern Piedmont. p. 279.

Comments: 1. Rehabilitation of shafts in this area can be difficult.

2. Prof. Paper 248-D reports the mica to be low in sheet recovery and that the dike beneath the drift "appears to be virtually barren of mica in this part of the mine."

RECOMMENDATION:

Have the field team examine the property.

D. A. Brobst

Copy to: DMEA (3)