SEP 17 1954 600

Mr. William C. Pitman, Jr.
Route 3
Bowland, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3399 - Mica
Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Pitman:

At the request of Congressman Charles R. Jonas, we have made a review of your application for exploration assistance and the action taken in connection therewith.

I understand from Congressman Jonas that you have complained of the attitude of our field staff and feel that they were unfair in their appraisal of your proposed project. I am very sorry that you are not satisfied with the examination made of your property. However, I wish to point out that your property was given more attention than is customary in connection with field examinations. Two engineers, one geologist, and the Executive Officer for DMEA in your region all made the examination of your property. As it so happened they were on a trip together on other business, therefore, you benefited by having this unusual amount of technical talent examine your property. Inasmuch as none of these men had seen your property before the examination they had no preconceived ideas as to its merits. After the examination, they were all of the opinion that further exploration of your property was unwarranted, and I understand, so informed you.

In our review of your application and the Field Team report we find that you have already done preliminary exploration of your property. Based upon the results of this work it does not appear that the expenditure of additional funds for exploring your property would be worthwhile.

Under the circumstances, there would be no point in having another engineer examine your property at this time as he could not see anything more than those who previously examined your property. However, if you still believe that your property can produce a significant amount of strategic mica, we suggest that you do some additional work and expose new areas. On completion of this work, if you will advise us as to what new work has been done we will be very pleased to arrange for another examination of your property.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

Acting Administrator

LGHouk:gad 9/17/54

Copy to: Hon. Charles R. Jonas (2)
Docket
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Hillsgaard, 5227
Mr. Houk

60X

SEP 17 1954

Hon. Charles A. Jonas
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Jonas:

Reference is made to your secretary's telephone conversation on September 7, 1954 with John L. Hoffland, Acting Assistant Solicitor, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, concerning a letter from Mr. William C. Pitman, Jr., objecting to the denial of his application, DMEA-3399.

I have had a complete review made of this case and have written Mr. Pitman regarding this review. For your information there are enclosed two copies of my letter to him of this date.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

Acting Administrator

Enclosures 2

ICHouk/FEJohnson/gad/bih
9/17/54
Copy to: Docket
Admr. Reading File
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Kiilsgaard R-5227
Mr. Dietrich R-3061
Mr. Houk

Hon. Charles H. Jonas
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Jonas:

Reference is made to your secretary's telephone conversation with John L. Roffiund, Acting Assistant Solicitor, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, September 7, 1954, on the letter from Mr. William C. Pitman, Jr., on denial of his application, DMEA-3399.

I have had a complete review made of this case and for your information there are enclosed two copies of my letter to the applicant of this date.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Administrator

Enclosures 2

LGHouk:gad 9/17/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5227
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

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

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3399 - Mica
William C. Pitman, Jr.
Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

You will find enclosed herewith a copy of a memorandum from the Acting Assistant Solicitor, dated September 8, 1954, on a telephone conversation ~~he had~~ with Congressman Jonas' secretary & copy on denial of the subject application.

of a telephone conversation of Mr Houk with the Sol. Office

Aside from the facts set forth in the Acting Assistant Solicitor's memorandum, and the enclosed copy of a telephone conversation between Mr. Houk and Congressman Jonas' secretary, dated August 2, 1954, we do not know, specifically, what Mr. Pitman's objections are. Please re-examine the application and facts connected with the examination, and send us your comments and recommendations as to the necessity of another examination.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

Member, Bureau of Mines

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 2

There is enclosed also a ~~copy of~~ proposed letter to the applicant which should be forwarded if you are in agreement

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 8, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Acting Assistant Solicitor, Defense Minerals

Subject: Pitman, William C., Jr., Docket No. DMEA-3399 (Mica)

The subject application was denied by your letter to the Operator dated August 10.

Yesterday Congressman Jonas' secretary phoned me to say that Mr. Pittman has written to the Congressman complaining about DMEA's rejection of his application. As I understand it, he says that the men who examined his property denied the application in advance, and that we have granted loans on properties that have produced no mica but refuse one on his that has produced it.

It seems that Mr. Pitman's letter to the Congressman is very critical of DMEA and perhaps of Congressman Jonas, and his secretary indicated that she thought it would be indiscreet to send it to DMEA.

I gather that Congressman Jonas would like for DMEA to re-examine the application and the property by someone who has not previously handled the matter. I suppose if this is done, we should advise the applicant that we are re-examining the matter upon request from Congressman Jonas, and should send a copy of the letter to the Congressman.

I suggested to the Congressman's secretary that she might communicate with you direct, but she indicated that she would prefer that I take up the matter with you.

J. L. Hofflund

J. L. Hofflund
Acting Assistant Solicitor
Defense Minerals

Attachment 1

August 2, 1954

Congressman Jonas' Secretary calling Mr. L. G. Houk re: DMEA-3399.

Secretary: I was referred to you by Mr. Rubin in the Solicitor's Office. I am calling about DMEA-3399 - Mr. W. C. Pitman, Jr.

Mr. Houk: It is in the process of being analyzed by the commodity men.

Secretary: Aren't you a commodity man?

Mr. Houk: No. The commodity specialists are in the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey. We are waiting for their recommendations.

Secretary: What are the prospects?

Mr. Houk: Not encouraging.

Secretary: Mr. Pitman doesn't feel that he had a fair deal. He wants another examination. He doesn't think the geologists will approve the loan. He has asked the Congressman to take it up with the DMEA, and ask them to look it over again. "I understand the geologists were around and indicated they would not be granting a loan", he writes the Congressman. Mr. Pitman wants the Congressman to request a loan. Maybe a further investigation would be in order. They also send an invoice work sheet on ruby mica.

Mr. Houk: How much did they sell?

Secretary: $212.85 - 12.56 lbs.

Mr. Houk: Well, the denial has not been sent yet.

Secretary: I don't know much about it but it reads "good stained 94.27%", and that sounds good to me.

Mr. Houk: You don't know how much or how long they labored for that small amount of mica. I understand it has proven to be non-economic in its operation. We are limited in the type of work we can do. Our job is to explore for new and undeveloped sources of strategic and critical minerals. The applicants may go to DMPA, General Services Administration, if they have developed mica. This program is entirely different from the Colonial Mica Program that existed in World War II. We rely on the field team and they judge whether there is a probability of making a worthwhile discovery.

Secretary: Is there any way of having another inspection?

Mr. Houk: We don't like to send the technical men back there. It costs the Government money to send Engineers and Geologists to look over a project. On this particular examination the report is by Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, Kefton H. Teague, Geologist, Dewey H. Amos, Geologist, all of the Geological Survey, and Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer of the Bureau of Mines. The report indicates that there were four technical people there. Their recommendation will be the basis for our action .

Secretary: From what I get from you it doesn't sound too good.

Mr. Houk: We cant give out Government money indiscriminately, and everyone down there thinks his prospect is good, that is why we have the Survey and the Bureau of Mines come in to inspect and send us a report on their examination. Apparently this man has spent about $2,000 to date but that doesn't indicate that it is a worthwhile prospect.

Secretary: Mr. Jonas is going to hate to tell that man that. They say the percentage was high and you say you don't know how long it took to obtain the mica. I will tell Mr. Jonas but he probably won't like it.

Mr. Houk: Yes - you cant tell how long it took. I wouldn't do anything until the final action has been taken.

Secretary: I'll call you again.

Mr. William C. Pitman, Jr.
Route 3
Newland, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3399 - Mica
Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Pitman:

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,

G. Q. Mittenderf

Administrator

LGHouk:gad 7/29/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

August 5, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: Recommendation of denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

By: L. G. Houk

1. DMEA Docket No. 3399 - Mica
Property: Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Applicant: William C. Pitman, Jr.
Route 3
Newland, North Carolina

Application: Form MF-103, received June 25, 1954.
Work proposed: Not given.
Amount requested: $5,710.00
No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments: A 150-foot diameter semi-circular bench was bulldozed and blasted into the hillside and exposed a flat lying sill-like conformable pegmatite up to 15 feet in thickness.

Geological criteria upon which denial is based: The pegmatite has been adequately tested with unfavorable results by the applicant.

Future possibilities: No evidence to justify additional exploration. Mica is hard, ruby-colored, mineral stained, bent, tied, small and sparce, and some is intergrown with biotite.

Recommendations:

The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in the field team's recommendation to deny the application.

The Geological Survey concurs with the field team.
The Bureau of Mines concurs with the field team.

LGHouk:gad 8/5/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

August 2, 1954

Congressman Jonas' Secretary calling Mr. L. G. Houk re: DMEA-3399.

Secretary: I was referred to you by Mr. Rubin in the Solicitor's Office. I am calling about DMEA-3399 - Mr. W. C. Pitman, Jr.

Mr. Houk: It is in the process of being analyzed by the commodity men.

Secretary: Aren't you a commodity man?

Mr. Houk: No. The commodity specialists are in the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey. We are waiting for their recommendations.

Secretary: What are the prospects?

Mr. Houk: Not encouraging.

Secretary: Mr. Pitman doesn't feel that he had a fair deal. He wants another examination. He doesn't think the geologists will approve the loan. He has asked the Congressman to take it up with the DMEA, and ask them to look it over again. "I understand the geologists were around and indicated they would not be granting a loan", he writes the Congressman. Mr. Pitman wants the Congressman to request a loan. Maybe a further investigation would be in order. They also send an invoice work sheet on ruby mica.

Mr. Houk: How much did they sell?

Secretary: $212.85 - 12.56 lbs.

Mr. Houk: Well, the denial has not been sent yet.

Secretary: I don't know much about it but it reads "good stained 94.27%", and that sounds good to me.

Mr. Houk: You don't know how much or how long they labored for that small amount of mica. I understand it has proven to be non-economic in its operation. We are limited in the type of work we can do. Our job is to explore for new and undeveloped sources of strategic and critical minerals. The applicants may go to DMPA, General Services Administration, if they have developed mica. This program is entirely different from the Colonial Mica Program that existed in World War II. We rely on the field team and they judge whether there is a probability of making a worthwhile discovery.

Secretary: Is there any way of having another inspection?

Mr. Houk: We don't like to send the technical men back there. It costs the Government money to send Engineers and Geologists to look over a project. On this particular examination the report is by Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, Kefton H. Teague, Geologist, Dewey H. Amos, Geologist, all of the Geological Survey, and Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer of the Bureau of Mines. The report indicates that there were four technical people there. Their recommendation will be the basis for our action .

Secretary: From what I get from you it doesn't sound too good.

Mr. Houk: We cant give out Government money indiscriminately, and everyone down there thinks his prospect is good, that is why we have the Survey and the Bureau of Mines come in to inspect and send us a report on their examination. Apparently this man has spent about $2,000 to date but that doesn't indicate that it is a worthwhile prospect.

Secretary: Mr. Jonas is going to hate to tell that man that. They say the percentage was high and you say you don't know how long it took to obtain the mica. I will tell Mr. Jonas but he probably won't like it.

Mr. Houk: Yes - you cant tell how long it took. I wouldn't do anything until the final action has been taken.

Secretary: I'll call you again.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

August 2, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3399 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: R. D. Trace, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: William C. Pitman, Jr.
Name of property: Pitman Prospect
Location of property: near Plumtree, in Avery County, North Carolina
Date of Field Team Report: July 21, 1954
Authorship of Field Team report: Laurence, Teague, Ames, and Shirley
Field Team's recommendation: Deny application.
Comments: The mica is apparently both sparse and poor in quality.
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Follow Field Team's recommendation.

R. D. Trace

RDTrace:hlm
G-8/2/54

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

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

July 30, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3399 (mica)

Applicant: William C. Pitman, Jr.

Name and Location of Property: Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: July 21, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials Branch: July 29, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:

Denial

Comments:

Considerable exploration has failed to disclose a sufficient quantity of strategic mica.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation of denial of this application on the basis that the deposit does not contain adequate reserves of strategic mica.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF FIELD EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3399, PITMAN PROSPECT
(mica)
Avery County, N. C.

By

Robert A. Laurence, Geologist
Kefton H. Teague, Geologist
Dewey H. Amos, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

and

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

July 21, 1954

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
ON
DMEA-3399, PITMAN PROSPECT (mica)

Applicant: William C. Pitman, Jr. Route #3, Newland, North Carolina

The applicant has conducted considerable exploration on this deposit recently without success. No additional work is warranted and exploration assistance should be denied.

The deposit was examined on July 15, 1954. Messrs. Wm. C. Pitman and Wm. C. Pitman, Jr. accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Pitman Prospect is 1.1 airline miles N. 73° W. of Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina. The mine is on a steep wooded hillside 300 yards north of the Henson Creek Road. No road exists from the Henson Creek Road to the mine.

A 150-foot diameter semi-circular open bench has been bulldozed and blasted into the hillside exposing a flat-lying, sill-like conformable pegmatite that ranges in thickness up to 15 feet. The pegmatite is unzoned, medium coarse grained, and pinches and swells considerably on both strike and dip. It is in biotite gneiss. Perthite and graphic intergrowths of quartz and feldspar make up the dominant part of the pegmatite. In addition shall lenses and pods of quartz, biotite, muscovite, and sulphides, listed in order of abundance are present. Strips of biotite up to 18 inches long are present.

The mica is hard, ruby-colored, mineral-stained, bent, tied, small and sparce. Some is intergrown with biotite.

The applicant reports that he has lost approximately $2,000 on the operation to date. This pegmatite has been adequately tested, with unfavorable results. The field examiners find no evidence to justify additional exploration, thus we recommend that the application be denied.

Exam. date: July 15, 1954

Robert A. Laurence, Geologist, USGS

K. H. Teague, Geologist, USGS

D. H. Amos, Geologist, USGS
and

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

JUL 14 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3399 - Miss
William C. Pitman, Jr.
Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery 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 28, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated July 6, 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:ag 7/9/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

JUL 14 1954

Mr. William C. Pitman, Jr.
Route 3
Newland, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3399 - Mica
Cloud Pitman Prospect
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Pitman:

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.

Please advise this office in writing if you desire to have your application processed under the new Government participation rate which is 75 percent of the approved cost.

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:ag 7/9/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

July 12, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee - DMEA - Washington, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: DMEA-3399 (mica) W. C. Pitman, Jr. applicant.

Enclosed herewith is an additional copy of the Owner's Consent to Mine, for the subject application. This was sent at my request, as only five copies were included with the application.

Robert A. Lawrence

RAL/sm

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

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
JUL 7 - 1954

July 6, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3399 (mica)

Applicant: William C. Pitman, Jr.

Name and Location of Property: William C. Pitman, Jr.
Avery County, North Carolina

Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: June 25, 1954

Comments:

1. No information was supplied with our copy of the application regarding question 5(b), making it difficult to determine how the applicant plans to spend the $5,710 or to appraise the merits of the proposed exploration program.

Recommendation:

It is recommended without the assistance of the complete information requested on Form MF-103 that the field team should visit this property to ascertain if an exploration project is justified. If the field team is of the opinion a worthwhile exploration project can be arranged on a unit-cost basis, a proposed program should be submitted for consideration by the Operating Committee.

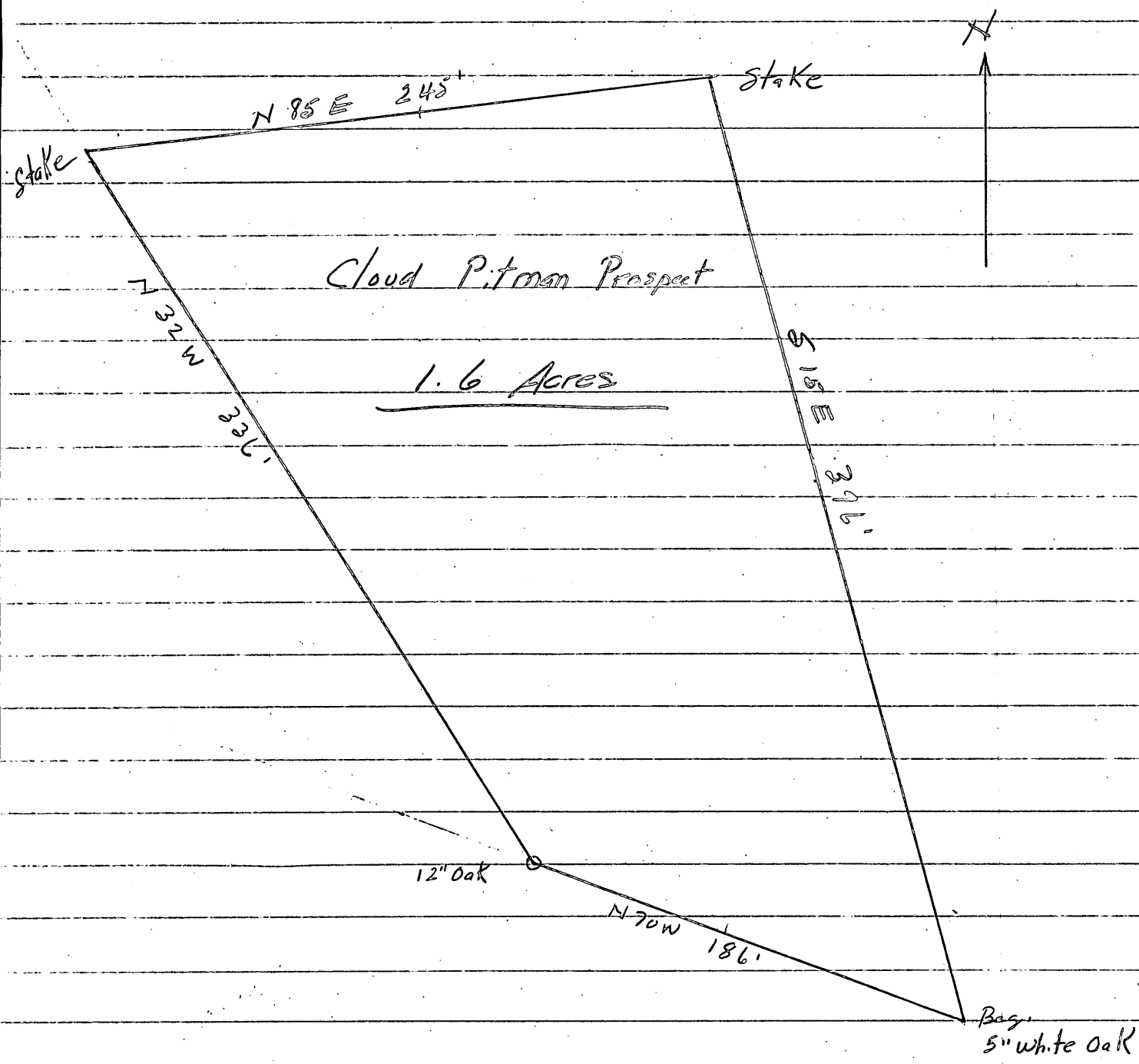
Signed

W. F. Dietrich

DMEA - 3399

Wm C. Pitman

Scale - 1" = 60'



IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CBM

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

June 28, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3399 (MICA)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: W. G. Pitman, Jr., Route 3, Newland, N.C.
Name of property: None.
Location of property: None given.
Summary of applicant's proposal: None given. $5,710.
Sources of information on applicant's property: None.
Comments:

1. Name of mine not given, so can't look it up.
2. No location given.
3. Will he pay 25%?
4. No evidence of peg or mica mentioned.

RECOMMENDATION:
Get more information from applicant before wasting time of the Field Team.

D. M. Larrabee

Larrabee:jeh
G-6/28/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3
Larrabee 5218 Interior