Hopkins

600

SEP 27 1954

Mr. Thomas J. McKenzie
P. O. Box 511
Bryson City, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-1427 - Mica
Little Iris Mine
Swain County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

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

LOHouk:gad 9/22/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Killagnard, 5227
Mr. Houk

September 22, 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-3427 - Mica
   Property: Little Iris Mine
   Swain County, North Carolina

   Applicant: Thomas J. McKenzie
   P. O. Box 511
   Bryson City, North Carolina

   Application: Form MF-103, date received July 28, 1954.
   Work proposed: Sink 75 feet of incline shaft and drive 200 feet of drifts.
   Amount requested: $5,686.26
   No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

   Geological premise: No indications that proposed exploration will encounter a pegmatite containing worthwhile amounts of strategic mica.

   Geological criteria:
   1. Conformable pegmatite with thickness ranging to maximum of 6 feet. No zoning.
   2. Mica is sparse and of poor quality.
   3. No strategic mica.

   Future possibilities: None

   Recommendations: 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 9/22/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
SEP 17 1954

September 16, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Donald R. Irving, Acting for Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3427 (mica)

Applicant: T. J. McKenzie

Name and Location of Property: Little Iris Mine
Swain County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: September 1, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: September 10, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Denial of the application.

Comments:

1. The mica which is exposed in the pegmatite is of poor quality.

2. Examiners are of the opinion that an economical project could not be conducted at this mine.

Recommendation:

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

Signed

Donald R. Irving

DRIrving:dg

Copy to: Minerals Division
Ceram. & Fert. Mtls. Br.
E. D. Thomson
FILE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

September 13, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3427 (Mica)

To: L. G. Hook, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: T. J. McKenzie, Box 511, Bryson City, N. C.
Name of property: Little Iris Mine
Location of property: 1.8 mi. SE of Bryson City, Swain Co., N. C.
Date of Field Team Report: August 24, 1954
Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Teagan, R. A. Lawrence, D. H. Amos, USGS
Field Team's recommendation:
Application should be denied.
Comments:
Amount of pegmatite is small.
Mica is sparse and poor quality.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Denial of application.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-9/13/54

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

September 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: Field examination reports - DMEA-3427, T. J. McKenzie (mica)
DMEA-3430, J. C. Bowman (mica)

Enclosed are 4 copies of each of the subject examination reports. We recommend denial of both.

Robert A. Laurence

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

RA L/am

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
9-10-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD TEAM EXAMINATION REPORT, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3427, LITTLE IRIS MINE
(mica)
Swain County, North Carolina

By

R. A. Laurence, Geologist

K. H. Teague, Geologist

D. H. Amos, Geologist

U. S. Geological Survey

August 31, 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

9-10-54
(date)

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT ON

DMEA-3427, LITTLE IRIS MINE
(mica)

Applicant: Thomas J. McKenzie, P.O. Box 511, Bryson City, N. C.

Exposures on this property do not indicate the presence of a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica; therefore, the application should be denied.

The deposit was examined on August 24, 1954. Mr. Thomas J. McKenzie accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Little Iris Mine is a new prospect recently uncovered by the applicant. It is 1.8 airline miles S. 85° E. of Bryson City, Swain County, North Carolina. It is about 1/4 mile north of Shepard Creek along the crest of a ridge.

Work by the applicant has consisted of preparing a bench-like cut about 120 feet long, 30 feet wide, with an uphill face of 20 feet. The cut is parallel to the pegmatite, exposing it along its entire strike length and over its entire thickness. The cut and pegmatite trend N. 15° W. and the pegmatite dips steeply southwest. It is conformable to the enclosing mica schist. Thickness ranges to a maximum of 6 feet.

The pegmatite appears to be a flattened-elongated pod-shaped body. There is no apparent systematic zoning, although local areas of quartz pods and "burr-rock" are present. Most of the mica occurs adjacent to the quartz pods. The remaining minerals are fine-grained and consist of perthite, a little biotite, and scattered small mica.

The mica is sparce and of poor quality. Most of the mica exhibits "V" structure, is badly cracked, bent, severly ruled, and is of scrap size only. This deposit would not support a commercial operation and the amount of pegmatite is limited. Therefore, the examiners recommend that the application be denied.

Aug. 24, 1954

K. H. Tague, L. A. Laurence, and
H. H. Cros, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

August 2, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Executive Officer, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: DMEA-3427, Thomas J. McKenzie application; DMEA-forms 203.

Transmitted herewith are the two copies of the "Lender's Consent to Lien" forms mentioned in my letter of transmittal of July 26.

Robert A. Laurence

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3427 - Miss Thomas J. McKenzie
Little Iris Mine
Swain 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 July 29, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated July 30, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

s/ E. L. Newcomb

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

WCAnderson:gad 8/4/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

AUG 6 1954

Mr. Thomas J. McKenzie
P. O. Box 511
Bryson City, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3427 - Mica
Little Iris Mine
Swain County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

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,

E. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 8/4/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
JUL 30 1954

July 29, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3427 (mica)

To: L. G. Fouk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Thomas J. McKenzie, P. O. Box 511, Bryson City, North Carolina
Name of property: Little Iris Mine
Location of property: 3 mi. from Bryson City, Swain County, N. C.
Summary of applicant's proposal:
75 foot inclined shaft
200 feet of drifting
Total estimated cost — $5,686.26
Sources of information on applicant's property:
Bryson City district, N. C. (1950) (unpublished report)
No mention of Little Iris prospect.
According to F. Cameron, U.S.G.S., a few pegmatites in the district contain small concentrations of book mica. Most deposits are small, grades are low, and mica appears to be inferior in quality.
Comments: Objectives of project appear to have merit. However, a full appraisal of the proposal cannot be made based on our presently available information.
RECOMMENDATION: The Field Team should be instructed to examine this prospect and submit their recommendation.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-7/29/54

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

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

2

July 30, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3427 (mica)

Applicant: Thomas J. McKenzie

Name and Location of Property: Little Iris Mine
Swain County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: July 28, 1954

Comments:

There has been no past production from this mine.

The applicant states that a pegmatite vein containing ruby mica has been disclosed by stripping overburden.

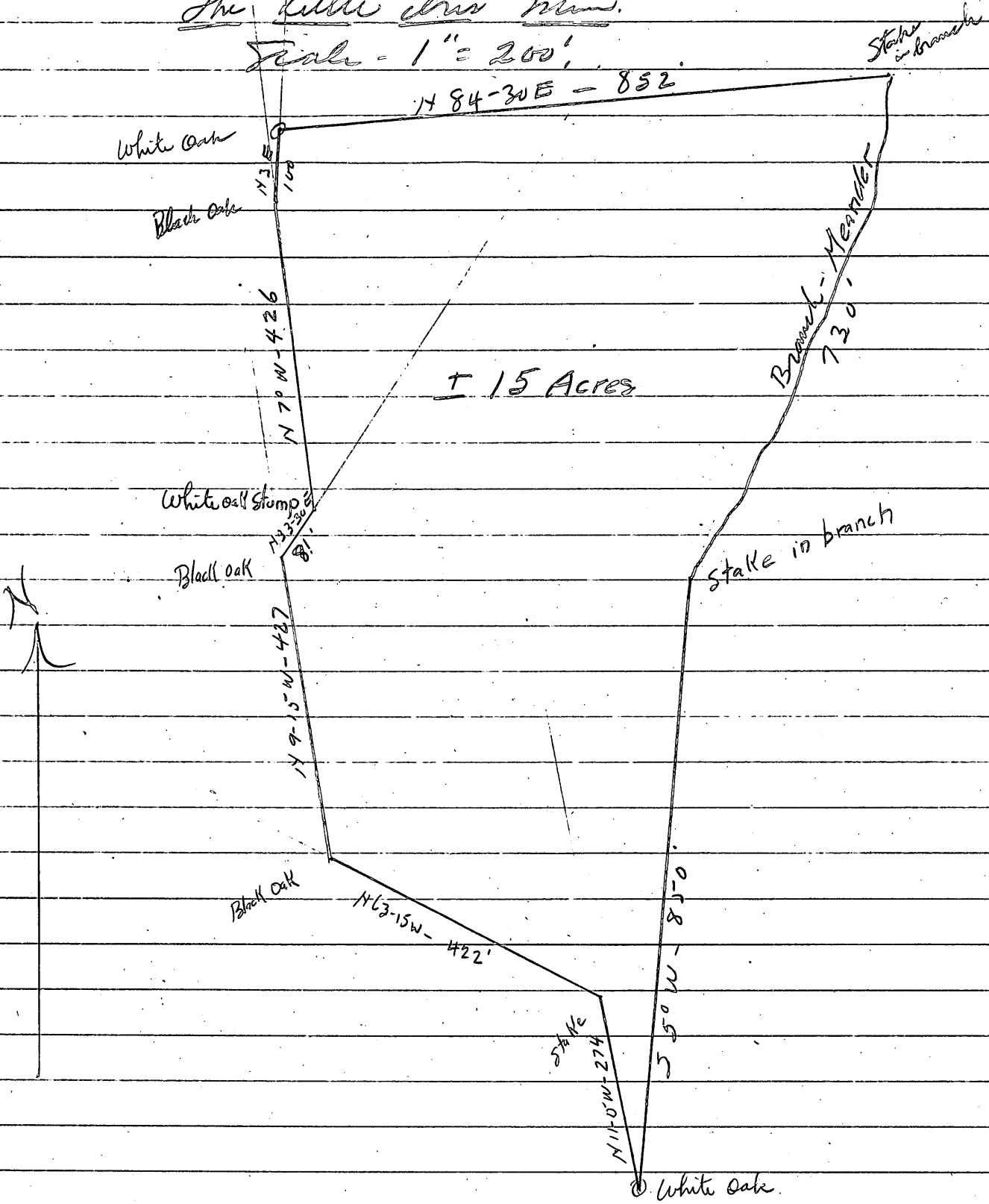
Recommendation:

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

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

MEA - 3427

The Little Chris Mine.

Scale - 1" = 200'