600

NOV 30 1954

Mr. Sam L. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3530 - Mica
Sam L. Phillips
Branch Mine Prospect
Yancey 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 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

JHopkins:gad 11/24/54

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Houk

November 24, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

By: James Hopkins

1. Docket No. DMEA-3530 - Mica
Property: Branch Mine Prospect
Yancey County, North Carolina

Applicant: Sam L. Phillips
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Application: Form MF-103 - date received 10/10/54.
Work proposed: Bulldoze two trenches 100'x10'x10'; sink 5'x7' shaft to a depth of 60', and then drift 100' from shaft on 60-foot level.
Amount requested: $6,900.00
No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

Geological premise: From surface exposures it appears quite evident that very little mica of strategic quality will be found in the pegmatite.

Geological criteria: Mica is green in color, small in size and badly cracked. Most is not of strategic quality.

Past production showed 8# of trimmed mica sheet from about one ton of "run-of-mine".

Float and dump material indicate a zoned pegmatite.

Future possibilities: None.

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

JHopkins:gad 11/24/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
RECEIVED
NOV 23 1954

November 22, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3530 (mica)

Applicant: Sam Phillips

Name and Location of Property: Branch Mine Prospect
Yancey County, N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: November 8, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: November 15, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Denial.

Comments:

1. A limited amount of work has been done on this property.
2. Mica encountered is green, small in size, and badly cracked.
3. Mica obtained has been non-strategic.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny this application on the basis that there is little likelihood in obtaining strategic mica.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
NOV 16 1954

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

November 16, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3530 (Mica)

To: L. G. Monk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: R. D. Trace, U. S. Geological Survey

Applicant: Sam L. Phillips

Name of property: Branch Mine prospect

Location of property: Yancey County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: November 4, 1954

Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Tongue and D. H. Amos, U.S.G.S., and L. E. Shirley, U.S.B.M.

Field Team's recommendation: Deny exploration assistance.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Follow Field Team recommendation.

R. D. Trace

RDTrace:blm
G-11/16/54

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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
NOV 10 1954

November 8, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region VII - Knoxville

Subject: Field Examination Report on DMEA-3530 (mica) Sam L. Phillips, applicant. Branch Mine Prospect, Yancey County, N. C.

Enclosed are four copies of the subject examination report.

We agree with the examiners conclusions 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/sm

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
11/15/54
(date)

Colorado Minerals
RECEIVED
NOV 10 1954

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

ON

DMEA-3530, BRANCH MINE PROSPECT
(mica) Yancey County, N. C.

By

Kefton H. Teague and D. H. Ames, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

and

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

Received by
DMEA Strategic Materials
11/15/54
(Date)

November 4, 1954

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
DEC 10 1954

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
ON
DMEA-3530, BRANCH MINE PROSPECT
(mica)

Applicant: Sam L. Phillips, Spruce Pine, North Carolina

A limited amount of work has been done in pegmatite at this property. As most of the mica observed was not of strategic quality and the past yeild of trimmed sheet mica has been small, exploration assistance should be denied.

The Branch Mine Prospect is 1.6 airline miles N. 78° E. of Gale, Yancey County, N. C., and about 300 yards east of the South Toe River.

The property was examined on November 4, 1954. Messrs. Sam L. Phillips, and W. Roy Nichols accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required one hour.

Present works consist of an 18-foot shaft and two shallow test pits, all in pegmatite. They are adjacent to a small creek whose level is about 10 feet lower than the cellar of the shaft, thus any work would probably encounter a serious water problem.

Little information can be obtained concerning the attitude ~~[illegible]~~ and thickness of the pegmatite from the existing openings. The latter trend north-south but according to the owner, (W. Roy Nichols) the mica-bearing portion of the body worked from the shaft strikes about N. 45° E, dips steeply, and is about 5 feet thick. The pegmatite exposed is semi-weathered and consists of potash feldspar, quartz, plagioclase, muscovite and garnet in order of abundance. Massive quartz in float and dump material indicates that the body is zoned.

The mica is green in color, small in size, and badly cracked. Most is not of strategic quality. According to the land owner, production from a past operation yielded only about 8 pounds of trimmed sheet mica from about one ton of "mine-run" mica.

Inspected November 4, 1954.

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

and

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

OCT 22 1954 600

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3530 - Miss Sam L. Phillips
Branch Mine Prospect
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 October 19, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated October 15, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

JHopkins:gad 10/21/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5223
Mr. Houk

600

OCT 22 1954

Mr. Sam L. Phillips

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3530 - Mica
Branch Mine Prospect
Yancey 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

JHopkins:gad 10/21/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5229
Mr. Houk

P. S. The center of the Branch Mine Prospect is an indeterminate point and cannot be used as the beginning point of a legal description. The 500-foot square should be tied to a property corner.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

October 19, 1954

Re: DMEA-3530
Sam L. Phillips
(Branch Mine Prospect)
Mitchell Co., N. C.
$6,900 - Mica

Memorandum

To: L. G. Bouk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application

The applicant proposes a program which involves a preliminary stage of trenching which would be followed, if results of trenching are favorable, by 60 feet of shaft sinking and 100 feet of drifting.

This is a new prospect. We have no information pertinent to this property.

A small trenching program may be warranted; however, the application should be referred to the Field Team for review and a possible examination if they believe it is warranted.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-10/19/54

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

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

Defense Minerals
RECEIVED
OCT 18 1954

October 15, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3530 (mica)

Applicant: Sam L. Phillips

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

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: 10/13/54

Comments:

1. No data available in this office on subject property, since this is a new prospect.

2. Mr. Sam Phillips has been connected with many other DMEA projects and has been one of the more successful operators.

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