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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAR 11 1955

March 10, 1955

Mr. D. E. Pitman

Frank, North Carolina

Re: DMEA-3592 (mica)
Pitman Mining Co. Burnt Mine
Avery County, N. C.

Dear Mr. Pitman:

Your letter of March 10, inquiring about the status of your application, has been received.

Our field examiners re-visited the Burnt Mine, and completed the examination on February 2, the earliest date that the weather conditions permitted an adequate examination. I was along on the first inspection, when you drove us up to the mine in your jeep; the delay in completing the examination was not due to inability to reach the mine, but to the need to await melting of the snow so that the surface showings and workings could be examined.

On March 7, Mr. C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator, wrote you, notifying you that the application for assistance was denied. If you have not received this letter, please let me know and I will send you a copy.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION V

RAL/sm
cc:
Lynch
Shirley
Opr. Com-2
Files

MAR 7 - 1955

Mr. Vernon Pitman
Pitman Mining Company
Frank, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3992 - Mica
Pitman Mining Company
Docket Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Pitman:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington relating to the above-named property have been reviewed.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in the 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:ad 3/3/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Killingsord, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 5011
Mr. Houk

600

March 3, 1955

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report

By: James Hopkins

1. Docket No. DMEA-3592 - Mica
Property: Burnt Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Applicant: Pitman Mining Company
Frank, North Carolina

Application: MF-103 received December 2, 1954.

Work proposed:

The applicant's proposal is very vague. He apparently desires to perform unstated amounts of trenching, shaft sinking and drifting.

Trenching 150 hours @ $10.00/hr.	$1,500.00
Shaft sinking and drifting	5,483.75
Total cost	$6,983.75

No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

The old workings of the Burnt Mine extend along the hillside over a vertical distance of 800 feet to the 4600-foot level on the top of a ridge.

The workings consist of an 800-foot series of shafts and tunnels that trend N 60° W. Most are caved. The deepest shaft is about 40 feet. Mica on the dumps of the old workings is of poor quality, being heavily mineral stained.

Hornblende gneiss is exposed on the hanging wall side of the pegmatite near the bottom of one shaft. The pegmatite is 2' to 4' thick. The mica is brown and stained and is most abundant along the hanging wall. Some fairly large books have been obtained. It appears that the deposit consists of numerous lenticular bodies which are in the same zone.

The examiners conclude that the chances of discovering a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica is very poor and therefore recommend that the application be denied.

The commodity divisions of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey concur in the denial. The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in the denial.

JHopkins:ad 3/3/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

February 24, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-3592 (mica)

Applicant: Pitman Mining Company

Name and Location of Property: Burnt Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: February 8, 1955

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceram. & Fert. Mat.: February 16, 1955

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Denial of application.

Comments:

1. Mica encountered was brown and stained.

2. Examiners are of the opinion that possibility for discovery of a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica is poor.

Recommendation:

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

SIGNED

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 17, 1955

Re: DMEA-3592
Pitman Mining Co.
(Burnt Mine)
Avery Co., N. C.
Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Concurrence with Field Team's recommendation for denial

The Field Team has recommended this application be denied.

Old workings on the property are inaccessible, but mica in the dumps is of poor quality and badly stained. According to information obtained by the Field Team, pegmatite occurs as numerous lenticular bodies which suggests only limited amounts of mica may be found by the proposed exploration work.

I concur with the Field Team's conclusions and recommend the application be denied.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-2/17/55

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
FEB 9 1955

February 8, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region V, Knoxville, Tenn.

Subject: Field Examination Report - DMEA-3592, Pitman Mining Co. Burnt Mine, Avery County, N. C.

Transmitted herewith are four copies of the subject examination report.

We agree with the examiners conclusions and recommendatio denial of the application.

Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION V

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

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FEB 9 1955

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
ON
DMEA-3592, BURNT(Oaks Knob) MINE (mica)

Applicant: Pitman Mining Company, c/o Vernon Pitman, Franklin, N. C.

Old workings extend northwest up the hillside over a distance of approximately 800 feet. Mica in the dumps is of poor quality, being badly mineral stained. The examiners are of the opinion that little strategic mica could be obtained from the deposit, thus the application should be denied.

This deposit was first visited on December 15, 1954. At that time about 8 inches of snow covered the deposit. On February 2, 1955 the deposit was revisited. Messrs. Vernon Pitman and D. E. Pitman accompanied the examiners to the deposit at the time of the first visit. Time consumed in making this examination was five hours.

The Burnt (Oaks Knob) mine is at the 4600-foot level on a ridge north of Powder Mill Creek, 3.7 airline miles N. 47° W. of Pumtree, Avery County, N. C. Access is by way of a jeep road up the north side of Powdermill Creek. The workings consist of an 800-foot series of shafts and tunnels that trend N. 60° W. Most are caved. The deepest shaft is about 40 feet. Hornblende gneiss is exposed on the hanging wall side of the pegmatite near the bottom of one shaft. The contact is parallel with the gneissic structure, which strikes N. 60° W. and dips 45° to 60° SSW. The pegmatite is 2 to 4 feet thick. Plagioclase is the dominant feldspar. The mica, which is brown and stained, is said to be most abundant along the hanging wall, and some fairly large books have been obtained. It appears that the deposit consists of numerous lenticular bodies which are in the same zone.

From the above it is apparent that the chances of discovering a worthwhile depost of strategic mica are poor. The examiners recommend that the application be denied.

Date Examined: February 2, 1955.

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

JAN - 5 1955

Mr. Vernon Pitman
Pitman Mining Company
Frank, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3592 - Mica
Pitman Mining Company
Burnt Mine
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. 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. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JHopkins:ad 12/30/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Killsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

JAN - 5 1955

600

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3592 - Mica
Pittman Mining Company
Burnt Mine
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 December 6, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated December 23, 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:ad 12/30/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5221
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Bonk

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
DEC 23 1954

December 23, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3592 (mica)

Applicant: Pitman Mining Company

Name and Location of Property: Burnt Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceram. & Fert. Mat. Br.: December 2, 1954

Comments:

1. It is difficult to determine from the information furnished by the applicant what plan of exploration is being proposed or if exploration would be justified.

2. Although it would be desirable for the applicant to furnish more complete information, it appears that a visit by an examiner would furnish more useful data.

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.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

December 6, 1954

Re: DMEA-3592
Pitman Mining
(Burnt Mine)
Avery Co., N. C.
$6,984 - Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of application.

We are unable to determine what exploration will be done on this property. From the list of estimated costs, it can be assumed the project would involve trenching or stripping and some drifting or crosscutting.

This application is far from complete and probably requires a request for more information. However, I would have no objection to referring it to the Field Team for their review and an examination if they believe it is warranted on the basis of information available in the Survey's Knoxville office. This latter procedure would seem to be the more expeditious and probably more successful alternative to follow.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-12/6/54

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