December 6, 1955

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report

By: James Hopkins

1. Docket No. DMEA-4020 - Mica
   Property: Bobby Hughes Prospects No. 1 and 2
   Avery County, North Carolina
   Applicants: Will McKinney, Ed Hollman, Sam L. Phillips and Jake Ollis d/b/a Bob Mining Company

   Application: Received October 17, 1955
   Work proposed:
   Bobby Hughes Prospect No. 1:

Sink 100 feet 5'x7' shaft @ $50.00/ft.	$5,000.00
Drift 100 feet 5'x 7' drift @ $35.00/ft.	3,500.00

   Bobby Hughes Prospect No. 2:

Bulldozer 50 hours @ $10.00/hr.	500.00
Sink 50 feet shaft @ $50.00/ft.	2,500.00
Drift 80 feet @ $35.00/ft.	2,800.00
Estimated total cost	$14,300.00

   No contract - application denied.

2. Comments:
   Prospect No. 1:

   Old workings consist of trench 15' x 30' deep 10' to 12' wide and 105' long. An adit at end of cut 5' to 7' wide, 6 feet high and 10 feet long. Pegmatite is highly weathered, kaolinized and consists of biotite and some muscovite - that is non-strategic. Very little of the mica is flat, clear or unstained. Biotite is abundant.

Prospect No. 2:

Old workings consist of an adit 5-1/2 feet high, 5 feet wide and 20 feet long. Pegmatite is 7 feet thick and contains only scrap mica and biotite. Mica is ruled in 1/2 inch and less sections. Country rock consists of a biotite and hornblende gneiss.

Pegmatite at Prospect No. 1 is conformable with foliation. Neither of the two prospects contain strategic mica and show no indication of changing with further exploration. The Field Team therefore recommends denial of exploration assistance.

The Nonmetallic Minerals Division and the Commodity Specialists of the Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey concur in the denial.

James Hopkins
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

JHopkins:ad 12/6/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

600

DEC - 7 1955

Bob Mining Company
C/o Sam L. Phillips
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4020 - Mica
Will McKinney, et al.
Bobby Hughes Prospects 1 and 2
Avery County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

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:ad 12/6/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Killagnard, 5222
Mr. Diederich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

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

RECEIVED
DEC - 1 1955

November 30, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-4020 (mica)

Applicant: W. McKinney, et al.

Name and Location of Property: Bobby Hughes Prospects Nos. 1 & 2, Avery County, N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: 11/1/55

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 11/21/55

Field Team Recommendation: Recommend denial of the application.

Comments:

1. At both prospects, the mica is predominately scrap, and is not of strategic quality.

2. Possibility for discovery of a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica is considered poor.

Recommendation: I concur with the recommendation of the field team for denial.

Signed
W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

RECEIVED
NOV 23 1955

November 22, 1955

Re: DMEA 4020
Will McKinney, et al.
Bobby Hughes Prospects 1 & 2
Avery County, North Carolina
$14,300 - Mica

Memorandum

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

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Team report.

The applicants requested assistance in doing bulldozing, shaft-sinking and drifting on two old prospects.

The examiners found old workings, but little evidence of strategic mica where the pegmatites have been prospected and conclude that further work will not change the outlook.

I concur with the recommendation of the examiners and the Field Team that the application for assistance be denied.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:jeh
G-11/22/55
cc: 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.~~

COPY

ROOM 13, POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

November 14, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: DMEA Field Team, Region V - Knoxville

Subject: Field Examination Reports: DMEA-4000, (mica) Chas. T. Bradley
and
DMEA-4020 (mica) Will McKinney, et al.

Enclosed are four copies of each of the subject examination reports.

We agree with the recommendation for denial of these applications.

/s/ ROBERT A. LAURENCE
Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION V

/s/ V. J. LYNCH
V. J. Lynch, Member
U. S. Bureau of Mines

11-24-55

RECEIVED
NOV 16 1955

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT, REGION V

On

DMEA-4020, BOBBY HUGHES PROSPECTS Nos. 1 and 2
(mica)
Avery County, North Carolina

By

K. H. Teague, Geologist
A. R. Taylor, Geologist
S. C. Bergman, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey
and

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

11-21-55

November 1, 1955

RECEIVED
NOV 16 1955

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
On
DMEA-4020, BOBBY HUGHES PROSPECTS 1 and 2 (mica)
Avery County, North Carolina

Applicants: Will McKinney, et al; c/o Sam L. Phillips, Spruce Pine, N. C.

The Bobby Hughes Prospect No. 1 is a highly weathered, kaolinized pegmatite which consists mostly of biotite with some muscovite. Mica is of non-strategic grade. Very little flat, clear, and unstained mica is present, and it is predominately less than one inch on edge. Prospect No. 2

Prospect No. 2 contains only scrap mica and biotite. The Field Examiners, on the basis of old workings and the non-strategic quality of the mica, recommended that the application for assistance be denied.

On November 1, 1955, the Field Examiners with Mr. E. Heilman inspected the prospect. One hour was spent on the examination.

The Prospects are on a steeply sloping hillside of Oaks Knob at about 3400 feet elevation, 2.7 airline miles, N. 34° W. of Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina.

An old trench at Prospect No. 1 trends N. 35-45 degrees West, ranges up to 15 to 30 feet deep, 10-12 feet wide, and is about 105 feet long. An adit on the northwest end of the cut in pegmatite is 5-7 feet wide, 6 feet high, and 10 feet long. The deposit has very little good mica, and has been scavenged for whatever mica could be found. An adit 5 1/2 feet high, 5 feet wide, and 20 feet long has been driven at No. 2 Prospect in a pegmatite 7 feet thick.

At both Prospects the mica is predominately scrap, in a highly weathered pegmatite. A small amount of the mica is flat, and unstained, but is less than one-inch on edge. Biotite is abundant in the kaolinized pegmatite. Mica in Prospect No. 2 is ruled in 1/2 inch and less sections.

Country rock consists of a biotite and hornblende gneiss. Strike and dip of foliation are E-W and 60 - 70 degrees SW respectively. The pegmatite is conformable with the foliation of the country rock at No. 1.

No equipment or buildings are present at the site. The site is accessible to power and a road.

Neither of the two Prospect contain strategic mica, and show no indication of changing with further exploration, therefore, it is the opinion of the Field Examiners that this application should be denied.

November 1, 1955.

K. H. Teague, A. L. Taylor, and
Sheldon C. Bergman, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

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

600

OCT 31 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-4020 - Miss Will McKinney, et al.
Bobby Hughes Prospects 1 and 2
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 dated October 21 and October 20, 1955, by N. E. Nelson, USGS, and W. F. Dietrich, USBM, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed.

The cut proposed by the applicants appears to be rather extensive for an exploration project. However, if surface excavations are recommended for the proposed trenching and shaft site, detailed estimated costs for this work should be reported as costs per cubic yard in lieu of hours and cost of tractor or manual labor time.

If your office recommends an exploration program as submitted or revised by the applicants, please furnish the necessary information to draft a contract. In this connection we will require nine copies of a map showing the proposed work and pegmatite exposures in relation to the property lines.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge
Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:
/s/ Robert W. Geehan
Member, Bureau of Mines

W. P. Williams
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

JHopkins:ad 10/28/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

Bob Mining Company
C/o Sam L. Phillips
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

OCT 31 1955

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4020 - Mica
Will McKinney, et al.
Bobby Hughes Prospects 1 and 2
Avery County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

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 7, 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 you may give the members of the Field Team during the examination will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

Acting Administrator

JHopkins:sd 10/28/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region 7
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

RECEIVED
OCT 21 1955

October 21, 1955

Re: DMEA 4020
Will McKinney, et al.
Bobby Hughes prospects
Avery Co., N. C.
$14,300 - Mica

Memorandum

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

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application.

The application concerns two new showings on which little or no work appears to have been done.

The proposed work consists of bulldozing, 50 hours, on prospect No. 2 to be followed by shaft sinking, 50 feet, and drifting, 80 feet. Shaft sinking without previous surface stripping, and drifting are proposed for the No. 1 prospect.

A staged work program involving thorough stripping at both prospects may be warranted.

Referral to the Field Team is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:iml
G-10/21/55
cc: 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.

October 20, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-4020 (mica)

Applicant: W. McKinney, E. Hoilman, G. L. Phillips, J. Ollis

Name and Location of Property: Bobby Hughes Prospects 1 & 2, Avery Co., N.C.

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 10/17/55

Comments:

1. No relationship between the two prospects is given. If they are sufficiently close, one exploration program may be sufficient.

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.

Signed
W. F. Dietrich