DMEA Form 9
Rev. 6/57

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

OFFICIAL DOCKET FILE Idm-E NO._____ DMEA NO. 4956

Application
- [x] Denied
- [ ] Withdrawn

Contract
- [ ] Terminated - Not Certified
- [ ] Terminated - Certified
- [ ] Cancelled
- [ ] Royalty Agreement

The records contained in this file are marked (x) and arranged in this order:

Folder No. 1:

Left Side

- [ ] Royalty Audits
- [ ] Certification of Discovery
- [ ] Closing Letter
- [ ] Cost Audits
- [ ] Termination Notice or Agreement
- [ ] Recision Notice
- [ ] Assignment of Contract
- [ ] Contract Amendments
- [ ] Contract with all exhibits and annexes
- [x] Owner's Consent to Lien and Subordination Agreement
- [x] Application and attachments

Right Side

- [ ] Project summary (final)
- [ ] Work Completed analysis (final)

All other material filed in chronological order including the following reports if checked:

- [ ] Field Team Semi-Annual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Final Field Team Report (Tab)
- [ ] Operator's Final Report (Tab)
- [ ] Interim Field Team Reports
- [ ] Operator's monthly reports and all attachments
- [x] On-site Exam Report (Tab)
- [ ] Settlement Sheets
- [ ] Drill Logs

Additional Folders:

Left Side

Folders No._____: Reports
- [ ] Analysis of Semi-Annual Inspection Reports
- [ ] Project Summary (Interim) by DMEA Engineers

Right Side

- [ ] Field Team Semi-Annual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Field Team Interim Reports
- [ ] Operator's Monthly Reports with transmittal, narrative and maps.

Folders No._____: Maps (Use pocket folder or envelope)

Folders No._____: Settlement Sheets

Folders No._____: Drill Logs

Folders No._____: Royalty material

MF-205
(Combines and supercedes MF-201 and MF-203)
June 1956

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator_____
Docket No. DMEA-_____
Contract No. Idm-E_____
Contract Date_____

RECEIVED
MAR 11 1958
D.M.E.A.

CONSENT TO LIEN
and
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT 1/

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina, described as follows: 2/

The Entire Track of the Hunter Property located in Avery County, N.C. on Plumtree Creek know and designated as the "A" Mine. Beginning on a small Locust- N 47 W 430' to a stake; N 30 E 450' to a stake; S 47 E 400' to a pile of Rocks; S 25 W 450' to the Beginning. Containing 4½ acres.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom, to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the Contract;

3. Subordinates the undersigned's right, title, claim, or interest in or against the land and in any production therefrom to the rights of the Government under the contract with respect to royalty on production and liens to secure same;

4. Represents and undertakes that there is no claim, lien, or encumbrance upon the undersigned's right, title, claim, or interest in or against the land other than the following: (If "none" insert the word "none." Do not leave lines blank.)

None

1/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to pay royalty to the Government.

2/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in Book _____, Page _____, official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

5. Undertakes and agrees (a) neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement; and (b) to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Agreement to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, claim, or interest in or against the land, or any production therefrom furnishing the Government with two copies of such notice; and

6. Consents to all amendments (including an agreement of termination) and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and undertakes and agrees that this Agreement shall extend and apply thereto.

7. Added provision: _____ (State "None" or "See Annex No.____")

Dated this 4th day of March, 1958.

Mollie Hunter Seiler (Mrs. Frank) [Seal] 839 E. Elk Ave Elizabethton Tenn [Address]

Carrie E. Hunter [Seal] 829 E. Elk Ave Elizabethton Tenn [Address]

_____ [Seal] _____ [Address]

_____ [Seal] _____ [Address]

_____ [Seal] _____ [Address]

_____ [Seal] _____ [Address]

I, _____ certify that I am the _____ _____ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _____ _____ who signed this agreement was then _____ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.

_____

[Corporate Seal]

MF-205
(Combines and supercedes MF-201 and MF-203)
June 1956

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED MAR 11 1958 D.M.E.A.

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Carrie E. Hunter	[Seal]	829 E Elk Ave Elizabethton Tenn	[Address]
	[Seal]		[Address]
	[Seal]		[Address]
	[Seal]		[Address]
	[Seal]		[Address]

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[Corporate Seal]

MF-205
(Combines and supercedes MF-201 and MF-203)
June 1956

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED MAR 11 1959 DMEA

CONSENT TO LIEN
and
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT 1/

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_____ [Seal] _____ [Address]

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[Corporate Seal]

MF-205
(Combines and supercedes MF-201 and MF-203)
June 1956

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator_____
Docket No. DMEA-_____
Contract No. Idm-E_____
Contract Date_____

RECEIVED MAR 11 1958 DMEA

CONSENT TO LIEN and SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT 1/

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The Entire Tract of the Hunter Property located in Avery County, N.C. on Plantree Creek know and designated on the "A" Line. Beginning on a small locust- N 47 W 430' to a stake; N 30 E 450' to a stake; S 47 E 400' to a pile of Rocks; S 25 W 450' to the Beginning. Containing 4½ acres.

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MF-205
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For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED
MAR 11 1958
D.M.E.A.

CONSENT TO LIEN and SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT 1/

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The entire tract of the Hunter Property located in Avery County, N.C. on Pinetree Creek known and designated as the [illegible] tract. Beginning on a small locust [illegible] to a stake; [illegible] to a stake; [illegible] to a pile of Rocks; [illegible] to the Beginning. Containing 4½ acres.

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MF-205
(Combines and supercedes MF-201 and MF-203)
June 1956

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

CONSENT TO LIEN
and
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT 1/

RECEIVED
MAR 11 1958
DMEA

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of [redacted], State of [redacted], described as follows: 2/

[redacted]

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[Corporate Seal]

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

March 10, 1958

DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 11 1958
DATE | INITIALS | CODE

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: DMEA Field Team, Region V - Knoxville, Tennessee

Subject: Application from Lewie Aldridge, et al. Spruce Pine, N.C. "A" Mine, Avery County, N.C. (mica)

Enclosed are the original and two copies of the subject application received at this office, with a copy of the lease and five copies of the Consent to Lien.

We are keeping the fourth copy for our files.

Robert A. Laurence

Robert A. Laurence,
Executive Officer, DMEA
Region V

Wm. A. Beck

Wm. A. Beck, for V. J. Lynch
Member, DMEA - Bureau of Mines

Form MF-103
Revised Feb. 1957

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.3
Approval expires June 30, 1958

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT

PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER I, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

NAME OF APPLICANT (Full legal name and mailing address as it should appear on contract if one is executed)

The "A" Mine
c/o Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, N. C.

RECEIVED MAR 11 1958

APPLICANT NOT TO USE THIS BLOCK

Docket Number	4956
Date Received	3-11-58
Government Participation %	75
Region	V
Division Code	600

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION (Check one)

- Individual [ ]
- Corporation [ ]
- Partnership [x]
- Other (Specify) [ ]

State in which firm is organized: Partnership

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

Name	Address	Title
Lewie Aldridge	Spruce Pine, N.C.	Partner
Tom Benfield	Rt. 3, Newland, N.C.	Partner
Dewey Calloway	Rt. 3, Newland, N.C.	Partner

(Lewie Aldridge home address is Plumtree, N.C.
Business address is Spruce Pine, N.C.)

Mineral(s) for which you wish to explore: Mica

Estimated Cost of Project: $15965.00

LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Name	County	State
"A" Mine, Toe River Township,	Avery,	N. C.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read DMEA Order-I, Amended, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects." To assure prompt action, your application must provide all applicable material and information specified on the back of this application form. Avoid unnecessary correspondence and delays by submitting complete and accurate information. *Please submit four copies of this application and all accompanying papers* except as otherwise noted. Place your name and address on each sheet. Each item of information, maps, and reports required as a part of this application is described on the back of this form. Identify each attached statement by the item number to which it applies. If an item does not apply to your application, show the item number on your statement and after it write "not applicable." Maps or sketches should be used to supplement narrative descriptions of the property location and boundaries in item 1, existing mine workings and geology in item 2, and the proposed exploration project in item 4. When this information is not too complex, all of it may be shown on one map or sketch. All documents and other attachments submitted as a part of this application, except those in item 2(g) which you mark to be returned, become the property of the Government and will not be returned to the applicant. Send true copies, *not originals*, of leases, contracts, and other documents which are an essential part of your business records. *File this application with the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest DMEA Field Office.*

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Feb. 15, 1958
Dated

RECEIVED MAR 10 1958

Lewie Aldridge
BY (Signature)

Partner
Title

A wilfully false statement or certification to any Department or Agency of the United States Government is a criminal offense. U. S. Code, Title 18, Sec. 1001.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THIS APPLICATION

1. *Applicant's Property Rights:*

(a) State the legal description (section, township, and range; metes and bounds; patent number of claims) of the land upon which you wish to explore and all land adjacent to the proposed project area which you own or control. Describe any part of the project land or workings which should not be subject to Government lien for royalty payments. If the land consists of unpatented claims, state the book and page number for each recorded location notice, including amended locations, and the place where recorded (courthouse, recorder's office, county, and state).

(b) State all the names by which you know the property.

(c) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise. If you are not the owner, submit with this application one exact copy of the lease, contract, or other document (with address of owner) under which you control the property.

(d) Describe all liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances on the property.

2. *Physical Description:*

(a) Describe in detail and illustrate with maps or sketches all mining or exploration operations which you know have been or are being conducted upon the lands, including existing mine workings. Describe all production facilities.

(b) State your interest, if any, in operations stated in 2*(a)*.

(c) State, as far as you know, the past and current production, supporting your statement with copies of settlement sheets, mine records, or published data if available.

(d) Describe known ore reserves on the property giving quantities and grades and sampling methods used, supporting your statement with copies of assay certificates and assay maps if available.

(e) Describe by narrative and maps or sketches the geologic features of the property, including ore minerals, geologic formations if known, and type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.).

(f) State your reasons for expecting to find ore, and if you have sampled the area you propose to explore, show where the samples were taken, describe sampling methods used, and provide copies of assay certificates.

(g) Send with your application at least *two* copies of all geologic or engineering reports, assay maps, or technologic information which you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

3. *Accessibility of Project:*

(a) To aid DMEA representatives who may be required to examine the property, state the name and address of the person who will meet the DMEA representative; give directions for reaching the property; and describe accessibility of the property including the mine workings.

(b) Name the shipping and supply points and places where employees reside and state the distances between them and the property.

4. *The Exploration Project:*

(a) Describe fully the proposed exploration project giving individual footages and sizes of openings *for each item of work*. Use narrative, maps, plans, and longitudinal and cross sections as necessary. Show the location of the proposed work as related to geologic features such as veins, ore-bearing beds, contacts of rock formations, etc. Show also the relation of the proposed work to any existing mine workings and to *property boundaries* or to the closest identifiable corner.

(b) If an access road to the project must be built, show the location on the property map and state the length, type, and construction methods proposed.

(c) In the event that an exploration contract with DMEA is executed, how soon will the work start and how many months will be required to complete it? State your anticipated average daily or monthly rate of progress for each type of work.

5. *Experience:*

State your operating experience and background with relation to your ability to carry out this exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of Costs:*

Furnish detailed estimates of the costs *for each item of the work proposed in 4(a)* under the headings listed below with a total for each heading and the estimated total cost of the project. Costs for any work to be performed by an independent contractor should be shown separately under category *(a)* below. Costs for any work that is not to be performed by an independent contractor should be given in detail under categories *(b)* through *(g)*.

(a) Independent contracts. State the cost of any proposed independent contract for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in units of work, such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved. Cost estimates should be supported by bids from three contractors if possible. *(Note* – If none of the work is to be contracted, write "none" after this item.)

(b) Personal services. For necessary supervision, engineering and geological services, and labor, include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes, rates of wages, salaries or fees, and periods of employment. State whether these technicians and employees are available.

(c) Operating materials and supplies. List items of material and supplies with their cost. Include under this heading power, water, and fuel, and units of equipment and tools costing less than $50 each.

(d) Operating equipment. List items of operating equipment to be used giving specifications and indicating how each item is to be acquired – i.e., rented, purchased, or provided by the applicant. If it is rented or purchased, state the estimated rental or purchase price. If it is to be furnished by the applicant, give its present fair market value.

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs. Describe the type and the cost of necessary *initial* rehabilitation or repair of existing buildings, fixtures, installations (exclusive of mine workings), and movable operating equipment now owned by the applicant, which will be used on the exploration project.

(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations. Describe each building, fixed improvement, and installation to be purchased, constructed, or installed for the exploration project stating specifications and cost including labor, materials and supervision.

(g) Miscellaneous. For the operating equipment listed in 6*(d)*, describe the type and estimate the cost of repairs and maintenance expected during project operations. Do not repeat initial repairs listed in 6*(e)*. Show also the costs of analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employees' liability insurance, payroll taxes, and other required costs that do not fall within the previous categories.

Note – No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. *(a)* State whether you are prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation stated in Sec. 7 of DMEA Order–I, Amended.

(b) Explain to what extent you propose to furnish your share of the costs by providing money, by use of equipment owned by you, or otherwise.

* * * * *

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C. 15539

Attached to form MF-103.

APPLICATION FOR AID I[illegible]N EXPLORATION PROJECT PURSUANT[illegible] DMEA ORDER 1.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 11 1958
DATE | INITIALS | CODE

1- (a) Property in Avery County, North Carolina located on Plumtree Creek in Toe River Township; known as the Hunter Property, entire tract containing 4 ½ acres and on which the "A" Mine is located. Lease, copy attached, is recorded in office of Register of Deeds of Avery County, N. C. on Jan. 2, 1958 in book # 55 on pages 58 & 59.

(b) The "A" Mine, The Big A Mine.

(c) Lessees. Copy of lease attached from Mrs. Frank J. Seiler ~~and Carrie~~ E. Hunter of Elizabethton, Tennessee.

(d) None

2- (a) This mine was descovered by "Old Timers" and was mostly worked by hand. The last production was made in 1930. There has been a tunnel dug back in the ground but it is now full of water & muck.

(b) None except enough prospecting to see that it is a good prospect for production of good quality mica.

(c) No records are available as to production but it is public knowledge, (people who saw the mica), that it produced a good quality green mica and that the quanity of mica produced warrented cutting a tunnel by hand in 1930 untill the price of mica dropped during the "depression".

(d) The mica lays in hard vein rock between slate rocks, hard and soft mixture. We have no assays on the mica but will furnish the examining team with samples at any time.

(e) ~~Pegamite~~ Pegmatite is mica vein rock in side of mountain, typical of all mica mines now producing in this section.

(f) Samples have been dug from the exposed pegmatite and as mic a is qualified just by visual observation, there is no assay certifiate available.

(g) No maps or geologic reports available on the prospect but it is in a mica producing belt and there are several mines that have produced or are producing good grade mica in this same strata of ridges.

3- (a) Lewie Aldridge, who is known to the DMEA feild examiners, and who has a business in Spruce Pine, N. C. will ba available to go with the examing team to the prospect. His home is at Plumtree, N. C. The mine is located on the side of Elk Mountain on left side of Plumtree Creek. Turn off Highway 19 E just north of Plumtree, N. C. go up Plumtree Creek Road which has hard surface around three miles and the mine is situated about 300 yards from this road. The mine workings are readily accessibile for examination.

(b) Shipping and supply points are both at Spruce Pine, N. C. and the employees will be local men who live within 1 to 10 miles of the property.

4- (a) We would like to cut a Tunnel drifting into the mountain by or near the old existing tunnel for 200 feet, this following the pegmatite, and then cross cutt this tunnel with 2-75 feet crosscuts at points deemed necessary by your field examiners. See attached plot of property and the prospect entrance would be in the lower section of property.

4- (b) There is around 300 yards of road from the Plumtree Creek Road that will have to be smothed down but we are going to do that as we move the machinery in.

(c) We will be able to start work immediately and will fininsh it in six to eight months depending on the amount of tunelling and cross-cutting allowed by your field team upon examination of the prospect.

5- (1) Lewie Aldridge has had several years expierence in mining and has been operating mines since 1942. Some of his operations are producing and in operation at this time.

(2) Tom Benfield has been mining or working in mines for the last 30 years. He is an experienced miner.

(3) Dewey Calloway has been mining for himself for the last 7 years and is considered an execelent mica miner.

Tom Benfield and Dewey Calloway will supervise the day by day operation of the mine and Lewie Aldridge will be in close contact with the whole mining operations.

6 -(a) We would like for the Exploration contract to be written on a cost per unit basis. Work to be done by hired labor paid per day by us. The cost per foot for tunells and cross-cutts to be specified by you and 75% of this to be paid to us by you. Estimated as follows:

Preparation by Bulldozzer, 10 hours @ $10.00 per hour	$ 100.00
200 feet Drift/Incline @ $45.00	9000.00
2 75 Feet Cross-cutting= 150 feet @ $45.00	6750.00
1 Tool House.....	75.00
1 Powder Magazine.....	25.00
1 Exploder Magazine.....	15.00
Total Exploration cost all units.....	$15965.00

(b) No cost for this.

(c) This cost will be covered by the cost per unit.

(d) We will furnish all equippment.

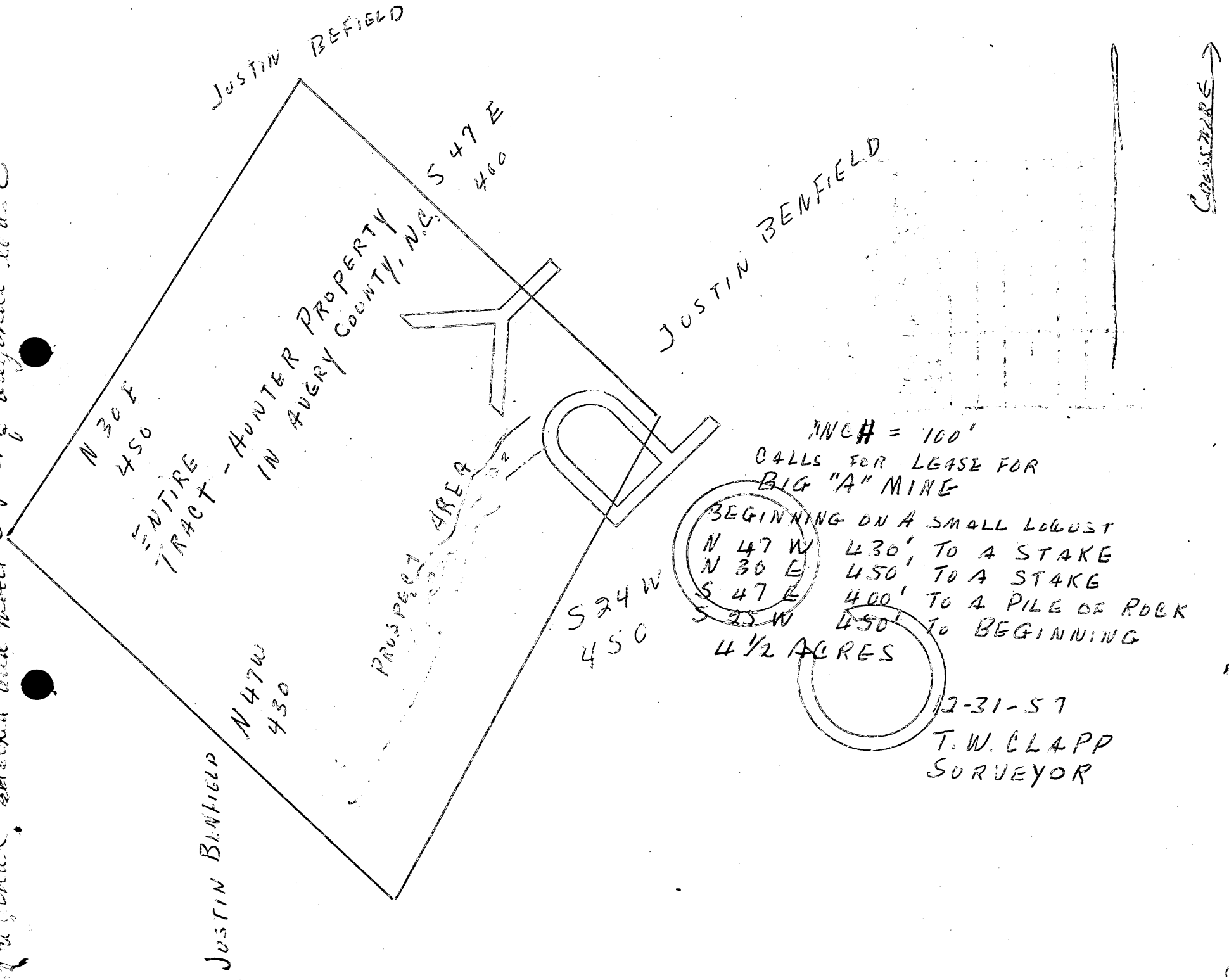
(e) This will be covered in the preparation unit named above.

(f) The Tool House, Powder and exploder Magazines listed in "a" above.

(g) Not applicabale

7- (a) Yes, we are prepared to pay our share.

(b) By Money.


JUSTIN BEFIELD
S 47 E
400
JUSTIN BENFIELD
N 30 E
450
ENTIRE TRACT - HUNTER PROPERTY IN AVERY COUNTY, N.C.
PROSPECT AREA
S 24 W
450
N 47 W
430
JUSTIN BENFIELD
MNC # = 100'
CALLS FOR LEASE FOR
BIG "A" MINE
BEGINNING ON A SMALL LOCUST
N 47 W 430' TO A STAKE
N 30 E 450' TO A STAKE
S 47 E 400' TO A PILE OF ROCK
S 25 W 450' TO BEGINNING
4 1/2 ACRES
12-31-57
T. W. CLAPP
SURVEYOR
ROAD
LITTLE PLUMTREE CREEK

MINING LEASE

State of North Carolina AVERY County:

This indenture made this 30th day of December, 1957

between MRS. J. FRANK SEILER and (Miss) CARRIE E. HUNTER

of Elizabethton, Carter County and State of ~~North Carolina~~ Tennessee as party of the first part, and known as lessor s, and LEWIE ALDRIDGE, TOM BENFIELD and DEWEY CALLOWAY, all

of AVERY County and State of North Carolina, party of the second part and known as lessee.

WITNESSETH, That the parties of the first part in consideration of One Dollar in hand received and hereby acknowledged by the lessor, and in consideration of the agreements hereinafter contained, on the part of the party of the second part to be performed, hereby bargains, leases and grants to the party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns, for the period of five years from the date of this agreement, the following described real property, for mining purposes, in the County and State first above written to wit:

The entire tract of the Hunter property located in Avery County, N. C. on Plumtree Creek, known and ~~designated as the "A" MINE~~

OPPOSITE FILE
DWEA
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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands to him, for mining purposes, the said lessee and his heirs and assigns for the aforesaid period of five years in compliance with the condition of this instrument, for the purpose and with the right to dig, quarry, search, explore for, obtain, and remove any kind of minerals, metals or fossils, and particularly mica, and to conduct the same to any extent the said party of the second part, the lessee, may desire. And it is hereby agreed between the parties to this agreement that the party of the second part is to have the use of any unoccupied buildings on said lands for mining purposes, and that he shall have the right to erect such buildings as he needs to carry on such mining operations during the period of this lease, and that the party of the second part shall keep the same in as good condition as when received, unavoidable accidents excepted. And it is also agreed by the party of the second part that no unnecessary damage is to be done to the lands herein leased during the period of this lease and the continuance of said lease, but the said party of the second part shall have the right to take from said lands leased to the party of the second part any wood or timber the party of the second part may need to carry on said mining operations or which may be needed to carry on the addition to existing buildings or to erect new buildings or sheds on said lands. (Timber of high or special market value is excepted and shall not be used by the lessee.) And it is hereby agreed that the party of the second part, the lessee, is to have the right-of-way of ingress and egress to said mines or land upon which exploration is being conducted.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the party of the second part, the lessee hereby agrees to pay to the said part of the first part, or his or their heirs or assigns, a rental royalty of 1/8 or $12.50 out of $100.00 on all Mica mined in said "A" Mine and 50¢ a ton for feldspar mined.

on the minerals taken and sold from said mines which shall be for the use of the said lands for the aforesaid period of five years. The said amounts shall be payable on the computation of selling bills on the tenth day of each month covering sales made during the previous month. Any minerals other than those set forth above which may be taken and sold shall be paid for and at the usual royalty rate of the minerals taken. This lease cannot be assigned without the consent of Lessors. Lessees shall pay to the land owners damages to surface by reason of the mining operations.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, shall have the option to renew this lease and to extend the period of its running for an additional five years from the date of its present termination. The option shall be exercised by giving formal written notice to the party of the first part or by the continuation of any mining operation then being conducted. The lessor reserve the right to use the land, or convey the same not conflicting with this lease, but under any conveyance the terms of this lease must be recognized by the grantee, purchaser, or assigns thereof. ~~And It is agreed that the lessee may assign this mining lease or any part thereof and that he may sublease.~~

~~AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, is hereby given an option to purchase all the right, title and interest, legal and equitable to and in the real estate described and set forth in this lease for a total purchase price of _____, said purchase price to be paid in full within three years from the date of this instrument and it is agreed that all rental royalties paid to the party of the first part shall apply toward and be a part of the total purchase price above set forth, and that at such time that the total purchase price is paid in the form of royalties or a lump sum payment or a combination of both, the party of the first part will execute a special warranty deed to the party of the second part and that a tender of the remaining purchase price at any time within the next three years shall entitle the party of the second part to specific performance of this option contract.~~

BUT IT IS EXPRESSLY AGREED That unless mineral or fossil material of practical value for mining purposes shall be found within a period of two years from the date of this instrument, the lease may be terminated by the lessee at any time thereafter on thirty days notice to the lessor. The lessee agrees that during the period of this lease or the continuance of this lease work in said mines or exploration for new mines within the area leased shall not cease longer than ninety days at any one time, unavoidable accidents excepted. This agreement shall be null and void if the Lessees cease to dilligently work said property or cease operations for more than 90 days without written consent of Lessors.

WITNESS our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Witness: Mrey C Mikey

Mrs J Frank Seiler (Seal)
Carrie E. Hunter
Lewie Aldridge (Seal)
Dewey Calloway (Seal)
Tom Benfield (Seal)

This agreement shall immediately terminate if the Lessees fail to keep and perform all or any of the conditions set forth therein

OMBA
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STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF CARTER

Personally appeared before me, Nancy Cooper a Notary Public in and for the said State and County, the within named bargainors, Mrs. J. Frank Seiler and Carrie E. Hunter, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged they executed the within instrument for the purposes therein contained.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Office in Elizabethton, this the 30th day December, 1957.

My Commission expires

February 6, 1961

Nancy Cooper
NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF MITCHELL

Personally appeared before me, Gurney D. Brinkley a Notary Public in and for the said State and County, the within named bargainors, Lewie Aldridge, Tom Benfield and Dewey Calloway, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged they executed the within instrument for the purposes therein contained.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Office this the 1 day of January 1958.

My Commission expires

December 1, 1958

Gurney D. Brinkley
NOTARY PUBLIC

State of North Carolina
Avery County.

The foregoing certificates of Nancy Cooper a Notary Public of Carter County, State of Tennessee under her official seal, and Gurney D. Brinkley a Notary Public of Mitchell County, State of N.C., under his official seal, are adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument and the certificates be registered.

This 2 day of January, 1958

Ralph Gwaltney
Clerk of Superior Court.

NORTH CAROLINA
AVERY COUNTY } OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS

Filed for registration at 10 o'clock a M. on the 2 day of January 1958 and registered in this office in book 55 at page 58-59 this the 2 day of January 1958.

Frank Welch
Register of Deeds

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
5/14	Houk	

600

May 8, 1958

Memorandum

To; Mr. C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator

From: Lawrence G. Houk, Director, Division of Nonmetallic Minerals

Subject: Evaluation of application and field examination report

Docket No. DMEA-4956-Mica
Lewie Aldridge, et al.
The "A" Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Denial of application is recommended.

Mica: The mica is reported to have been clear, ruby to rum in color, and of good quality. No record of quantity.

Past Production: Nothing could be seen of 1943 workings, most are now caved or water-filled and not accessible. Much pegmatite was mined but no mica produced.

Workings: The new openings seen are 150 feet of bulldozer cut along the strike; 60 feet of adit into the hill 15 feet above top of caved portal; and about 25 to 30 feet of inclined crosscut 20 feet inside the "Colonial" tunnel. The applicants report they had dewatered the tunnel in 1957 and drilled five or six percussion test-holes inclined upward into the tunnel.

Applicants' proposal:

Bulldozer preparation 10 hrs. $10/hr.	$100.00
Drift/Incline 200 ft. @ $45/ft.	9,000.00
Crosscuts (2 at 75 ft. ea.) 150 ft. @ $45/ft.	6,750.00
Toolhouse, powder and exploder magazines	115.00
Total estimated cost	$15,965.00

Recommendations: The Field Team recommends denial as it appears that most of the proposed 200-foot adit would cut ground already tested by the Colonial Mica Company in 1943 and found unproductive - "worked out", and there is insufficient evidence to support additional exploration. The Division of Nonmetallic Minerals concurs in the Field Team's recommendation as do the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey.

LGHouk:gad 5/8/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

8623

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

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Date	Surname	Code
5/14	[illegible]	600
5/14	[illegible]	130
5/14	[illegible]	130
5/14	[illegible]	~~130~~
4	[illegible]	110
5	[illegible]	100
		~~[illegible]~~ 220

MAY 14 1958 600

The "A" Mine
c/o Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4956-Mica
Lewie Aldridge, et al.
The "A" Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

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 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 (for)

Administrator

LGHouk:gad 5/8/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

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

May 13, 1958

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RECEIVED MAY 13 1958

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Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-4956 (mica)

Applicant: Lewie Aldridge, et al.

Name and Location of Property: The "A" Mine, Avery County, N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: 4/29/58

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 5/2/58

Field Team Recommendation: Recommend denial of DMEA assistance.

Comments:

1. Mica has been produced from this mine in the past from a pegmatite lenses.

2. The field examiners believe the mine to be worked out and no suitable exploration target exists, as no more pegmatite lenses appear to exist.

3. Sufficient recent work has been done to indicate the pegmatite is not suitable for producing additional quantities of strategic mica.

Recommendation:

I concur with the field team in recommending denial of this application.

W. F. Dietrich

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAY 8 1958
DATE CODE
5/8 C 1220
600

Memorandum

May 7, 1958

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

From: T. H. Kiilsgaard, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Examination Report, DMEA Docket 4956 (mica), The "A" Mine, Avery County, North Carolina.

Field Examiners recommend denial of the application because, (1) most of the proposed work would be in ground already tested by previous mine workings, (2) accessible parts of the pegmatite do not show sufficient mica to warrant further exploration, (3) a probability that the "A" mine is essentially worked out.

Field Examiner's report contains valid reasons for the denial of this application. I concur with them and recommend the application be denied.

T. H. Kiilsgaard

T. H. Kiilsgaard

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

April 29, 1958

DMEA
RECEIVED MAY 1 1958

DATE	INITIAL	CODE
5/1	C	220
5/5	JR	130
5/6	C	220
		600

Memorandum

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

From: Field Team, DMEA, Region V, Knoxville, Tennessee

Subject: Field Examination Report, DMEA-4956 (Mica)
Lewie Aldridge, et al., Spruce Pine, North Carolina
The "A" Mine, Avery County, North Carolina

Enclosed are the original and two copies of the subject examination report.

The meager evidence which is available indicates that the potential of the "A" mine is not sufficiently attractive to warrant a project of the size which would be required.

We do not recommend approval.

Robert A. Laurence
Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer

V. J. Lynch
V. J. Lynch, Member
Bureau of Mines

Enclosures 3

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
5-5-58
(date)

Ex-Site Exam Rpt

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

5/5 HB 130
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DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT, REGION V

DMEA-4956 (mica) THE "A" MINE
(Plumtree Area)
Avery County, North Carolina

Helmuth Wedow, Jr., Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

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

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
5-5-58
(date)

April 28, 1958

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT

DMEA-4956 (Mica), THE "A" MINE, Plumtree area
Avery County, North Carolina

Applicant: A partnership consisting of: Lewie Aldridge, Spruce Pine, N.C., Tom Benfield and Dewey Calloway, Route 3, Newland, N. C.

SUMMARY

The chief production of muscovite from the "A" Mine on Elk Ridge in the Plumtree area of Avery County, North Carolina, was from a series of flat-lying pegmatite lenses on a line trending slightly west of north. The mica is reported to have been clear ruby to rum in color and of good quality. No records are available to show the quantity of mica produced. Reinterpretation of geologic data, obtained chiefly by J. C. Olson (USGS) in 1943, suggests that the mica-producing lenses may have lain on a structural terrace and that it is unlikely other sizable productive lenses lie in any direction from those which produced the bulk of the mica. It is believed that the "A" Mine is essentially "worked out". The Applicants' proposed exploration has no favorable target, nor has any suitable target been pointed up by the relatively recent surface and underground work. Consequently, denial of this application is recommended.

INTRODUCTION

Location

The "A" Mine is located on the east slope of the southern spur of Elk Ridge about 1.9 miles S. 88° E. of Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina. (See 7½' Newland, 216-SW, N. C. quadrangle; scale 1:24,000). The elevation of the major part of the mine is about 3,600 feet.

Mine history, workings, and production

Little is known of the early history of the "A" Mine except that it is called an "old-timers" mine. It was reopened in August 1943 and was mapped and studied by Olson and Seeger in November 1943 at the request of the Colonial Mica Corporation and the Operators (see unpublished

USGS report by J. C. Olson, November 30, 1943). Olson reported that exploration was being started westward from near the portal of the old Borden Tunnel at the time of his mapping. Nothing could be seen of these later 1943 workings, although a part of the adit 15 feet above the old Borden Tunnel may well have been driven at this time.

The workings today are essentially the same as those accessible to Olson in 1943 except that most are now caved or water-filled and not accessible. The only new openings seen are: (1) about 150 feet of bulldozer cut along the strike, enlarging the old open cut southwest of the Borden Tunnel; (2) an adit extending about 60 feet into the hill in a generally northerly direction at an elevation about 15 feet above the top of the caved portal of the old Borden Tunnel; and (3) about 25 to 30 feet of inclined crosscut running northeast from a point about 20 feet inside the "Colonial" Tunnel.

The Applicants report that they had dewatered the "Colonial" Tunnel in the Fall of 1957 and drilled five or six percussion test-holes inclined upward into the back of this tunnel. Although some pegmatite had been found in these holes, the general consensus was that it had not amounted to much.

No information is available on production of mica from the "A" Mine. Olson states that operations in 1934 and 1940 produced little mica, but that in its early history the mine is reputed to have produced "some of the largest block mica in the Plumtree area." In the period from August through November 1943, when the "Colonial" Tunnel was driven, much pegmatite had been mined but no mica produced.

Field examination

The field examination of The "A" Mine was conducted on April 8, 1958. The examination consumed three hours, including travel time to the mine. All three of the Applicants accompanied the examiners.

GEOLOGY

Because of the lack of adequate exposure of bedrock at the time of this examination and because of the inaccessibility of the workings, much of the following information on geology is taken from the unpublished USGS report by Olson.

The country rock at the "A" Mine consists of alternating layers of mica gneiss and hornblende-biotite gneiss and schist. The pegmatite appears to be grossly concordant with but locally crosscuts the foliation of the gneiss. It is distributed in more or less disconnected flat-lying lenses through a zone of gneiss probably 10 to 15 feet thick. In plan the lenses are roughly elliptical with the largest lens (I, on map) reported to have been as much as 8 feet thick and 40 to 50 feet in diameter. Four other major lenses (II-V, on map) were mined but were both thinner and smaller in diameter. Olson states: "Lens II is reported to have been smaller than Lens I, but to have contained some very large blocks. Lens III was probably a little larger than Lens II, being about 7 feet thick at the maximum, but mica in it was of smaller average size. The other lenses, IV and V, were smaller and the mica in them was smaller . . ." Except for these larger lenses the pegmatite generally occurs in much smaller lenses and thin streaks with much of the ground intervening between the larger lenses being essentially barren.

Throughout most of the area already mined or explored the pegmatite lenses and streaks are flat-lying. Toward the west and southwest, however, the foliation of the gneiss assumes a general northeasterly strike with dips of 10 to 35 degrees to the northwest. From the information available it appears that pegmatite-bearing zone of gneiss follows this change of attitude.

The pegmatite at the "A" Mine is composed of potash and soda feldspars, quartz, muscovite, garnet, biotite, and a little pyrite with plagioclase predominating over microcline. Biotite is abundant but was generally scarce where the pegmatite contained large amounts of muscovite. The muscovite produced from this mine is reported to have been of good quality and clear ruby to rum in color. The mine has apparently been misnamed as "A" structure in the mica is reported as negligible.

From the foliation attitudes shown on the Olson and Seeger map it appears that the major mica-producing lenses (I-IV, on map) may have lain on a structural terrace that trends slightly west of north and possibly plunging slightly in this direction. The diameter and thickness of the lenses, as well as the size of the mica blocks in the lenses, decrease in the direction of the apparent plunge of the structural terrace. Thus, this terrace may well be the controlling structure limiting the emplacement of the productive pegmatite lenses to the east and west with minor cross terraces, disappearing northward in the direction of apparent plunge, controlling the positions of the lenses along the major structural terrace. It follows, then, that the possibility for other sizable productive lenses is considerably reduced in all directions from the area indicated as having produced the bulk of the mica to date (see map).

PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The Applicants propose an adit drifting 200 feet northwesterly (see map) into the hill on the pegmatite structure. The portal of the adit would be at a site near the old "Colonial" Tunnel. Two 75-foot crosscuts or lateral drifts would then be driven from the tunnel from points to be determined later. The proposed work is essentially development work to reopen the area at the northwest end of the older workings that are now largely filled with muck and water. Much of this proposed access tunnel would probably encounter old stopes and crosscuts.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Inasmuch as the older workings of the "A" Mine are essentially inaccessible and the new opencut showed only a minimum amount of exposure because of recent slumping, few, if any, conclusions on a possible new exploration target and the potential for significant reserves could be reached on direct observation in the field. According to Olson's report in 1943 the outlook for sizable new mica-bearing lenses to the north and northeast was not favorable. In his opinion the best possibility for exploration at that time appeared to be a drift westward from the "Colonial" Tunnel at a point 85 feet from the portal. Such a drift would have connected first with older workings and would then be extended farther to the west to explore for additional lenses lying in a zone in the strike of a line connecting Lenses I and II (see map). This target, however, appears to be less promising at the present time in the light of the Field Examiners' reinterpretation of attendant structures (see section on Geology).

Denial of this application is recommended for reasons as follows:

1) Most of the proposed 200-foot adit would cut ground that has already been tested by the 140-foot "Colonial" Tunnel driven in 1943 and found to be unproductive. The additional 60 feet as well as most of the 150 feet of proposed lateral drifting would then be in ground to the northeast, north, and northwest in an area regarded by Olson as distinctly unfavorable. R

2) The new opencut and adit to the southwest in the vicinity of the old Borden Tunnel have not revealed sufficient new significant showings of pegmatite to warrant exploration of the pegmatite zone in this sector of the mine area.

3) The probability that the "A" Mine is essentially "worked out", if it is postulated that a structural terrace plunging north at a low angle controlled the emplacement of the mica-producing pegmatite lenses. R

Helmuth Wedow, Jr., Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

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

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3/27	Houk	600
3/21	[illegible]	130
"	[illegible]	130
		~~130~~
		~~110~~
		~~100~~
	[illegible]	220
		[illegible]

600

MAR 21 1958

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4956-Mica
Lewie Aldridge, et al.
The "A" Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

Please review the subject application and arrange for a field examination if you deem it necessary.

We note that the Applicant proposes a small tract of four and one-half acres which ordinarily is not acceptable. However, if the work is near the center we will have no objection, but if it is close to the property line we will require additional land.

Copies of memoranda dated March 13 and 18, by Mr. N. E. Nelson USGS, and Mr. W. F. Dietrich, USBM, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed. There is also enclosed a copy of the application for the use of the Field Team.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

P. F. Yopes
Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 5

LGHouk:rsi 3/20/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3/21	Houk	600
3/21	Aldridge	1302
3/21	[illegible]	130
3/21	Kiilsgaard	130
"	[illegible]	110
		~~100~~ 3/8
		220

600

MAR 21 1958

The "A" Mine
c/o Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4956-Mica
Lewie Aldridge, et al.
The "A" Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

Your application for assistance in exploring the subject property has been reviewed by the Division of Nonmetallic Minerals of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and has been referred to Mr. Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region V, 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,

(for)

Administrator

LGHouk:rsi 3/20/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

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

March 18, 1958

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: W. F. Dietrich, Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA- 4956 (mica)

Applicant: Lewie Aldridge, et al

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

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 3/12/1958

Comments:

1. This is an old mine from which the applicants state some good quality mica was produced prior to 1930.

2. Applicants wish to explore pegmatite by incline drifting 200 feet and crosscutting 150 feet.

3. Although exploration proposed by applicants is consistent with local practices and in line with unit-cost estimates for other DMEA projects, the amount of work proposed may be excessive to prove or disprove the presence of a significant quantity of strategic mica.

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.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 19 1958
DATE
3 19 C 220
600

W. F. Dietrich

W. F. Dietrich

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
DMEA
RECEIVED MAR 14 1958
DATE | CODE
3/14 | C | 220
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 13, 1958
Re: DMEA 4956
Lewie Aldridge et al
"A" Mine
Avery County, North Carolina
$15,965.00 Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of application

The applicants request assistance in exploring, by incline drifting and crosscutting, a pegmatite about which little seems to be known other than what is verbally reported by "people who saw the mica."

Referral of the application to the Field Team is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

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

March 12, 1958

Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Subject: DMEA-4956

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

Your application for exploration assistance, dated February 15, 1958 submitted to our office at Knoxville, Tennessee has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-4956 and referred to the Non Metallics Minerals Division in the Washington office. Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this Docket Number.

Sincerely yours,

Allen S. Dakan, Director
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

Copy to: Region V

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

March 10, 1958

Mr. Lewie Aldridge

Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

Your application for aid in exploration for strategic mica at the "A" mine in Avery County, N. C., has been forwarded to our Washington office, in accordance with established procedure.

We will notify you in advance if a field examination is to be made.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Region V

RAL/zm
cc
Lynch
Opr. Com.2
Files

100' OF DRIFT AND/OR CROSSCUT TO BE DRIVEN FROM LOWER END OF TUNNEL
CAVED BEYOND HERE
WATER FILLED BEYOND HERE
PINE TREE TUNNEL (CAVED)
"COLONIAL" TUNNEL (DRIVEN IN 1943)
250' PROPOSED DMEA TUNNEL
IV
III
V
COLLAPSED UNDERGROUND WORKINGS
SLIDE FILLED
II
REPORTED HEADING 60' FROM PORTAL
CAVED
I
NEW ADIT
BALDEN TUNNEL (CAVED)
PROBABLY MOSTLY GNEISS
NEW BULL-DOZER OPEN CUT
(BEDROCK MOSTLY CONCEALED
SMALL AREA OF POORLY EXPOSED DECOMATITE
THE "A" MINE
(ON ELK RIDGE)
AVERY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
DMEA - 4956 (MICA)
SCALE 1" = 20'
EXPLANATION
NEW WORKINGS (POST - 1943)
OLD WORKINGS (THROUGH 1943)
PRINCIPAL PEGMATITE LENSES MINED - DESIGNATED BY ROMAN NUMERALS REFERRED TO IN TEXT
OUTLINE OF AREA FROM WHICH MOST MICA WAS OBTAINED
DOWN DIRECTION OF INCLINED TUNNELS
BASE FROM UNPUBLISHED MAP BY OLSON AND ZIEGLER, USGS, NOVEMBER 27, 1943.