DMEA Form 9
Rev. 6/57

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

OFFICIAL DOCKET FILE Idm-E NO._____ DMEA NO. 5029

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- [ ] Withdrawn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

- [x] 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

17863

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

RECEIVED
MAY 22 1958
D.M.E.A.

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

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Mitchell, State of North Carolina, ~~described as follows:~~ Described in a lease Dated May 12, 1958 and recorded on May 17, 1958 in the Register of Deeds Office of Mitchell County in Book 86, Page 579.

_____,

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;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims, liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

None

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

None

1/ 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.

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

3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None

Dated this 15 day of May, 1958.

John C. McBee [Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

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]

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Revised March 24, 1955

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Operator _____
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None

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5. Added provision: None

Dated this 15 day of May, 1958

John C. McBee [Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

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]

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EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
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Contract Date _____

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Mitchell, State of North Carolina ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Described in a lease Dated May 12, 1958 and recorded on May 17, 1958 in the Register of Deeds Office of Mitchell County in Book 86, Page 579., described as follows:1/

_____

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;

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4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

None

5. Added provision: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Dated this 15 day of May, 1958.

John E. McBee [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

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]

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3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None

Dated this 25 day of May, 195[illegible]

John C. McBee [Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

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-203
Revised March 24, 1955

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

RECEIVED
MAY 22 1958
D.M.E.A.

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Mitchell, State of North Carolina, ~~described as follows:~~ 1/ described in a lease dated May 12, 1958 and recorded on May 17, 1958 in the Register of Deeds Office of Mitchell County in Book 66, Page 579.

_____,

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;

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5. Added provision: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 195_

John C. McBee [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

_____ [Seal]

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.

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[Corporate Seal]

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

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EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED
MAY 22 1958
D.M.E.A.

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of [redacted], State of [redacted], described as follows:1/ [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted],

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—

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[redacted]

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

[redacted]

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5. Added provision: None

Dated this 15 day of May, 1958.

John C McBee [Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

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]

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

22 1958

May 20, 1958

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington

From: DMEA Field Team, Region V, Knoxville

Subject: Application from Lewie Aldridge, Spruce Pine, North Carolina, Abernathy Mine, Mitchell County, North Carolina, (Mica).

Enclosed are the original and two copies of the subject application, received here yesterday, with one copy of the lease and five copies of the Consent to Lien on the old form, MF-203. We are keeping the fourth copy of the application for our use.

Also enclosed are one copy each of a letter to the Applicant from D. M. Larrabee and a Press Release by the Geological Survey, which the Applicant submitted with the application.

Robert A. Laurence
Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer

V. J. Lynch
V. J. Lynch
Member

Enclosures

Form MF–103
Revised Oct. 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

RECEIVED MAY 22 1958 D.M.E.A.

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

The Old Abernathy Mines
c/o Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

APPLICANT NOT TO USE THIS BLOCK

Docket Number: DMEA-5029
Date Received: 5-22-58
Government Participation %:
Region: V
Division Code: 600

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION (Check one)

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

State in which firm is organized: N. C.

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

Name	Address	Title
LEWIE ALDRIDGE,	SPRUCE PINE, N. C.	OPERATOR

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

Estimated Cost of Project: $12,490.00

LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Name	County	State
The Old Abernathy Mine,	Mitchell	N. C.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read DMEA Order–I, Revised, "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.

5-14-58
Dated

RECEIVED MAY 19 1958 U. S. Geological Survey Geologic Division Washington

Lewie Aldridge
BY *(Signature)*

OPERATOR
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, Revised.

(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. 25960

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN ECPLORATION PROJECT PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER I.

LEWIE ALDRIDGE, ABERNATHY MINE

1- (a) The Abernathy Mine is located in Snow Creek Township, Mitchell County, North Carolina. In a plot of land now owned by John McBee, registered in Mitchell County, North Carolina in Book # 121 , Page # 471 . This plot of land is leased to me from Mr. McBee, lease being registered in Mitchell County, North Carolina in Book # 86 , Page # 579 . This exploration ~~xxx~~ contract to cover a certain part of said lease, the plot to consist of 5 acres being located within the boundries of said lease and more fully described as follows: Starting point at an old shaft inside the boundry of this 5 acre plot and line running 253 feet N 47°W to the beginning corner, a 30" Spanish oak in the boundry line, thence north 600 feet to a stake, thence west 537 feet across the railroad to a stake in the boundry line, thence with said boundry line ~~xxxx~~ S 13°E 380 feet to a stake, thence S 5°W 136 feet to a stake, thence S 38° W 123 feet to a 14" Spruce Pine, thence east 542 feet to the 30" Spanish Oak beginning.

(b) The Abernathy Mine or The Old Abernathy Mine.

(c) Lease- Copy attached.

(d) None

2- (a) This is an old mine and has been worked over a period of 60 years. There have been three shafts or open pits worked. The deepest shaft is 160 feet deep. This shaft is now being worked by another company (this shaft starts on my lease but is now over on the property of another person) and is producing around 4 ton of mica per week. Two other shafts have been worked 60 or 65 feet deep. There is lights, water and roads available to this mine.

(b) I have had no interest in the above operations.

(c) The Abernathy Mining Company has mined this mine for 8 years and have sold GSA a large amount of good ruby mica. The amount is not available to me. Before 1952 this company sold to the Tar Heel Mica Company large amounts of sheet mica and tons of punch mica.

(d) There is still a large reserve of pegmatite. The Department of Interior Survey Department have mapped this mine and have them on file in Washington. Bureau of Mines.

(d) The pegmatite lies in a fair quality of feldspar, some of which has been salvaged and sold. See attached paper marked "B" in red pencil.

(e) The three mica viens exposed are from fifteen to thirt two feet thick with mica all through the viens, the depth is not known. The veins run parallel with each other and the mica is ruby and of stratigic quality. I am attaching a map covering the five acres which I wish to explore.

(f) I wish to explore this section because there has been no actual work in the section of stage I where I want to run the 200 feet of tunnel which would cut through three viens of mica and stage 2, the 75 feet of tunnel would explore the veins from the old shaft (which produced a great deal of mica) to connect with the 200 feet of tunnel. I believe that each tunnel would produce a large amount of good quality mica. Myers & Brown worked the shaft during the time of Colonial Mica Corporation and it produced an average of 1 ton of handcobbed mica per day. GSA might have the figures on the amount and percentage of good stained mica sold. These figures are not available to me.

(g) I am sending 2 reports on this property which is all the printed matter that I have available. They are marked "B" & "C" with red pencil.

3- (a) I will meet the DMEA examiners at my office in Spruce Pine or any other place they might designate. I will go with them and show them the roads. There is a jeep road from the hard surface road # 80 . This is about 2½ miles. This is a good jeep road and is now in use.

(b) Spruce Pine, N. C.is is both the shipping and supply point. Employees will be local miners who will drive back and forth to work.

4- (a) I would like to start the 200 feet of tunnel below the railroad and go under the railroad up through the pegmatite criss-crossing the veins. I would like to start the 75 feet of tunnel in the old shaft to cross theveins and connect with the 200 feet tunnel. See the attached map for a better description.

(b) The road is already built.

(c) Work would start within 5 days and finish in six months or less. We should pull four or five feet a day.

5- (a) I am an experience mica miner. Having been mining since 1942 and I am now operating several mines. I will supervise the operations and will have a well qualified mica miner as foreman.

6- (a) I would like for the operation contract to be based on a cost of unit contract. 1 foot equelling 1 unit. Contract to be as follows:

1 Tunnel- 200 feet @ $45.00	$9000.00
1 Tunnel- 75 feet @ 45.00	3375.00
1 Tool House	75.00
1 Powder Magazine	25.00
1 Exploder Magazine	15.00
Total Contract cost	$12490.00

(b) Cost included in cost of units.

(c) Also included in cost of units.

(d) Iown the necessary equipment and all cost is to be included in cost of unit.

(e) None

(f) See last 3 units above.

(g) Not applicable

7-

7- (a) Yes

(b) Money

CERTIFICATION TO THE ABOVE SIGNED ON FORM MF*102.

OFFICIAL FILE
DMEA
RECEIVED MAY 22 1950
DATE | INITIALS | SUBJ

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

"C" "C"

Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Aldridge Motor Company, Inc.
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

Your letter to the Bureau of Mines has been referred to the Geological Survey for reply, inasmuch as we mapped and studied the Abernathy mine during World War II.

Our final report covering the Spruce Pine district has not been published, unfortunately, but the preliminary map and sections, with a short statement describing the pegmatites, were open filed in January 1944. Copies of these are enclosed for your use.

The Colonial Mica Corporation records have not been published, and therefore we are unable to furnish this information. However, I can say that considerable good mica was produced from these pegmatites, especially the large one nearest the railroad.

You may wish to refer to U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 936-A, Muscovite in the Spruce Pine District, No. Car., by T. L. Kesler and J. C. Olson. On page 21 is a table showing character and power factor of some samples tested. Three samples from the Abernathy mine were ruby, and the power factor ranged from .02 to .06 percent. Additional information can be found on page 48 of U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 225, entitled "Physical characteristics of commercial sheet muscovite in the southeastern United States", by R. H. Jahns and F. W. Lancaster.

I hope the attached map and sections, revised as of December 1943, will be of use to you in your new development.

Sincerely yours,

D M Larrabee

D. M. Larrabee

Enclosures

True copy of Lease
"A"

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

COUNTY OF MITCHELL.

THIS AGREEMENT OF LEASE, Made and entered into this 12th day of May, 1958, by and between John C. McBee, single, of the County of Mitchell and State of North Carolina, sometimes hereinafter referred to as Lessor, and Lewie Aldridge of the County of Avery and State of North Carolina, sometimes hereinafter referred to as Lessee;

WITNESSETH:

That for and in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR paid by Lessee to the Lessor, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Lessor, for himself and his heirs and assigns, hereby leases unto the Lessee for mining purposes that certain tract or parcel of land situate in Snow Creek Township, Mitchell County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Herman W. Johnson on the north; Toe River on the west; M. E. Burleson and Luther Johnson on the south; E. L. Briggs and others on east and bounded as follows, viz:

BEGINNING at a stake on the north bank of Gouges Branch where the old White Oak corner stood, same being the beginning corner of State Grant #82 from the State of N. C. to Job Thomas, which Grant is dated June 8th, 1876, and is of record in the office of Register of Deeds of Mitchell County in Book 15 of Deeds page 416, which is also the beginning corner of a deed from Abijah Thomas to P. M. Abernathy, which deed is of record in the office of Register of Deeds for Mitchell County in Book 39 of Deeds page 379, same being also Herman W. Johnson's beginning corner, and runs west with the meanders of Gouges Branch and Herman W. Johnson's line to a stake at the mouth of said branch and on the east bank of Toe River; then up and with the meanders of said River south 1 degree 30 minutes west 790 feet to a stake on the east bank of said River identified by the letter "F" as shown on court map made in the cause of Paul Abernathy and Ella L. Berry vs. Ernest Johnson and Herman Johnson as surveyed by George W. McKinney and Shelby Hall, Court Surveyors; then up and with the meanders of said River south 15 west 531 feet to a stake on the east bank of said River identified by the letter "G" on said map; thence up and with the meanders of said River south 13 east 428 feet to a stake on the east bank of said River identified by the letter "H" as shown on said map at or near the location of the old Spruce Pine corner; thence up and with the meanders of said River south 5 west 136 feet to a stake on the east bank of said River as identified by the letter "I" on said map; thence up and with meanders of said River south 38 west 123 feet to a stake on the east bank of said River identified on said map by the figures 23 and also the figure 9 where the Spruce Pine corner formerly stood, the same being the corner

of the land conveyed by the judgment of the Superior Court in the matter above referred to, to Ernest Johnson and Herman Johnson; thence running east with the Johnson line 542 feet to a stake in the east line of the Job Thomas Grant where the old Black Oak corner stood, same being identified on said map by the figures 22 and 8; thence north with the eastern line of the Job Thomas Grant above referred to, to the beginning corner, containing 21.31 (twenty-one and thirty-one hundredths) acres, more or less.

This conveyance is made subject to easement heretofore acquired by South and Western Railroad Company, now Clinchfield Railroad Company.

And being same and identical lands wherein an undivided one-third (1/3) interest was devised unto H. M. Hickey and Jimmie Hickey under and pursuant to the Last Will and Testament of Ella L. Berry, deceased, and conveyed by deeds from them unto John C. McBee and wherein an undivided two-thirds (2/3) interest was conveyed by that certain deed of date April 24th, 1958, from Lewie Aldridge and wife, Corinna A. Aldridge, to John C. McBee, as appears of record in the office of Register of Deeds for Mitchell County, N. C., in Book of Deeds No. 121 on page 471, placing the fee simple title in John C. McBee.

Lessor for himself and his heirs and assigns leases unto the said Lewie Aldridge, Lessee, for mining purposes the hereinabove described lands and it is mutually agreed between both parties hereto that this lease shall be for a period of five (5) years provided that if at the end of said five-year period, Lessee shall have fully complied with the terms of this lease and shall have paid all of the royalties then due, then Lessee may at his option, have a five-year additional extension of this lease upon the same terms and conditions as contained in this lease.

The royalty payable hereunder shall be as follows:

For all feldspar mined, removed and marketed from the herein leased premises, fifty cents per long ton of 2240 pounds; for all mica mined, removed and marketed by Lessee, one-eighth (1/8) of the selling price where sold; and for any other minerals encountered by Lessee, 10% of the selling price of such minerals PROVIDED that Lessee can save and market such other minerals at a profit with no obligation on his part to same and market such other minerals unless the same be found to be profitable to said Lessee.

The royalties payable hereunder shall be paid on or before the 15th day of each succeeding month hereafter for all minerals of every kind mined, removed and marketed by Lessee during the preceding month, payable by check and with each check accompanied by true and accurate copies of all such sales and said Lessor is hereby authorized to go upon and examine the herein leased premises at will at all reasonable hours and to examine, at all reasonable times, the records of Lessee pertaining to sales of minerals therefrom.

Lessor for himself and his heirs and assigns grants unto Lessee the right and privilege to mine said premises in a workmanlike manner according to the established custom for such mining without resort to the practice commonly known as "ground-hogging" using especial care not to permit rocks or waste to fall or be deposited upon the right of way of Clinchfield Railroad Company unless otherwise provided by consent of said Railroad Company; to use all kinds of machinery deemed by him to be necessary in mining the same together with the right to erect and remove mining machinery, etc., at will; to use non-merchantable timber off the same for mining purposes and to construct and use thereon buildings for mining purposes.

Lessee does hereby agree to and with the Lessor that he will conduct his mining operations hereunder in such a manner so as to maintain at all times the status of an independant contractor; to obtain and keep in force such workmens' compensation insurance as may be required by law relative to such mining operations and generally to save and keep Lessor harmless in damages relative to said mining operation.

Lessee hereby agrees to and with the Lessor that upon the expiration or sooner termination of this lease that he will leave any excavations made by him on the herein leased premises open and reasonably clean, slides and cave-ins excepted, and with all timbers and stulls in place.

It is further agreed that said Lessee shall have full rights of ingress, egress and regress to and from the herein leased premises together with the right to construct and use roads for mining

purposes over said premises; to erect and use 'phone lines, power lines, pipe lines and generally, to do everything needful and necessary to the successful mining and removing of said minerals from the herein leased premises subject always to the easement and rights of Clinchfield Railroad Company in relation thereto.

It is agreed between all parties hereto that upon the expiration or sooner termination of this lease or any renewal of the same that Lessee shall have sixty days thereafter within which to remove all his machinery and equipment from the herein leased premises.

It is further mutually agreed between both parties hereto that Lessee will begin mining operations on the herein leased premises within 30 days after the execution of this lease and will conduct bona fide mining operations thereon and thereunder continuously thereafter it being understood and agreed that if said Lessee shall cease and fail to conduct bona fide mining operations on said premises for any one period of 60 consecutive days, unless hindered by some cause beyond his control; shall fail to pay the royalties as hereinabove provided for or shall otherwise fail to comply with the terms or conditions of this lease, then Lessor may, at his option, declare this lease completely null and void and of no effect and may, without notice of any kind, re-enter and re-take possession of the herein leased premises and Lessee, upon his part, may terminate this lease at will by first giving 30 days written notice to Lessor of his intention so to do, by completely complying with all stipulations in this lease contained and by paying all royalties then due.

It is further mutually understood and agreed between Lessor and Lessee that this written lease is the whole and entire lease between Lessor and his heirs and assigns and Lessee and that any change to be made in said lease contract shall be made in writing with the same formality as contained in this lease and that this lease shall not be transferable except with the written assent of the Lessor or his heirs or assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF both parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, in duplicate originals, as of the day and year first hereinabove written.

John C. McBee (SEAL)
John C. McBee

Lessor

Lewie Aldridge (SEAL)
Lewie Aldridge

Lessee

NORTH CAROLINA,

MITCHELL COUNTY.

I, Nell Bradshaw, Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that John C. McBee, single, Lessor, and Lewie Aldridge, as Lessee, personally appeared before me and acknowledged the due execution by them of the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal, this 14th day of May, 1958.

Nell Bradshaw
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires
10-29-59.

"B" "B"

(For Press Release)

Copy 1 of 4

ABERNATHY MICA MINES

MITCHELL COUNTY, N.C.

The Abernathy mines, near Bandana, Mitchell County, N.C. have been recently studied and mapped by the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, as a part of the general investigation of domestic mica deposits.

A series of pegmatites have been injected into mica gneiss, mica schist, and hornblende gneiss having a general northeast strike and high-angle dip to the southeast. The pegmatites in general are coarse-grained. Mica of deep ruby color is associated with plagioclase, quartz, and biotite along the hanging wall contact in the main pegmatite, and along both contacts and in the center of a second developed mass.

The mines, worked as far back as 60 years ago, have recently been reopened, and are being worked at present by the Meyer and Brown Corp. of New York, N.Y. Development has been by combination underground and open pit methods, with emphasis on the former. At present two workings are in operation, and more are planned for the immediate future.

A geologic map and sections have been prepared and are available to those directly interested upon application to the Director, Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

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Date	Surname	Code
6/27	Anderson	600

600

June 26, 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-5029-Mica
The Old Abernathy Mines
(Lewie Aldridge)
The Old Abernathy Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Denial of the application is recommended.

Mica: No data available as to quality or past production.

Pegmatite: Only data listed in the report -- pegmatite 10 to 25 feet thick and composed of coarse-grained plagioclase, microcline, muscovite intergrown with biotite and quartz. No good exposures are available. Two parallel pegmatites, northeastern and the southeastern which is the target of Applicant's proposed project.

Old Workings: Shafts, drifts, and stopes. No work done on southeast pegmatite since World War II, and Larrabee states in U.S. Geological Survey, Blue Ridge manuscript, that the No. 1 pegmatite has been largely worked out where the Applicant wants to explore.

Method of exploration: Proposed by Applicant:

1 "tunnel" - 200 ft. @ $45/ft.	$9,000.00
1 "tunnel" - 75 ft. @ $45/ft.	3,375.00
Construction - toolhouse, powder and exploder magazines	115.00
Total requested	$12,490.00

The 200 foot "tunnel" is designed to start below the C.C.O. Railroad tracks (See Applicant's map) intercepting "veins." The 75 foot "tunnel" starts from shaft to connect with 200 foot "tunnel."

Comments: There appears to be some conflict as to designation of pegmatites. The writer is led to believe from the reports that the No. 1 pegmatite is the target for the proposed project, yet the examiners state that recent underground work by the Applicant and others has been on No. 2 pegmatite. However, Larrabee suggests that both No. 1 and No. 2 pegmatites do not plunge under the railroad. Therefore, it seems to this Division that the Applicant's proposed exploration work would be conducted up a blind alley in the country rock, lacking geological criteria and, therefore, not justified.

Recommendations: The Division of Nonmetallic Minerals and the Commodity Members of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey concur in the Field Team's recommendation to deny the application.

W. C. Anderson

W. C. Anderson
Division of Nonmetallic Minerals

WCAnderson:gad 6/26/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

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Date	Surname	Code
6/27	Anderson	600
6/30	Houk	600
6/30	Selfridge	130
6/30	McMahon	130
6/30	Kiilsgaard	130
"	Johnson	110
"	Mittendorf	100
		220

600

JUN 30 1958

The Old Abernathy Mines
c/o Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-5029-Mica
The Old Abernathy Mines
The Old Abernathy Mine
Mitchell 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 that, under these circumstances, 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 (fw)

Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 6/26/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

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DMEA
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6/27 B 220-
600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

June 26, 1958

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of Field Team Examination Report, DMEA 5029 (Mica) Old Abernathy Mine, Mitchell County, North Carolina

The applicant proposes to explore the Old Abernathy Mine by driving a 200-foot adit from the edge of the North Toe River beneath the C.C. and D. Railroad and southeastward into the Abernathy property. He also proposes to drive a 75-foot drift southerly from the Old Abernathy shaft to connect with the 200-foot adit. Cost of the project is estimated at $12,490.

Field examiners recommend denial of the application. They point out that the southeast pegmatite has apparently not been worked since World War II, although it was a good producer at that time. The No. 1 pegmatite, however, appears to have been largely worked out in the area where the applicant wants to work. There is even doubt that the No. 1 and No. 2 pegmatites plunge under the railroad, in which case exploration in that area would be wasted.

In view of the field examiners' recommendations and in the light of the description of the property made by Dave Larrabee, I concur that the applicant's project does not warrant exploration. I therefore recommend that the application be denied.

T. H. Kiilsgaard

T. H. Kiilsgaard

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6-24	N.G.	225
		600

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

June 24, 1958

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Acting Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-5029 (mica)

Applicant: Lewie Aldridge

Name and Location of Property: Old Abernathy Mine, Mitchell County, N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: 6/18/58

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 6/23/58

Field Team Recommendation: Recommend denial of application.

Comments:

1. A mica bearing vein crossing this property and designated as No. 2 pegmatite is being worked by the applicant and by another company.

2. Applicant wishes to explore what appears to be a past producing area of pegmatite No. 1.

3. Geologic reports indicate that pegmatite No. 1 has been worked out.

Recommendation:

I concur with the recommendation of the field team for denial of the application.

Donald R. Irving

Donald R. Irving

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

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DATE	INITIALS	
6/20	C	220
6/23	2HB	130
6/23	C	220
6/23	Hank	600

June 18, 1958

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

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

Subject: Field Examination Report - DMEA-5029 (mica)
Lewie Aldridge, Spruce Pine, N. C. Applicant.
Old Abernathy Mine, Mitchell County, N.C.

Transmitted are three copies of the subject examination report with maps attached.

The Field Team concurs with the recommendations by the Field Examiners that this application be denied.

Robert A. Laurence
Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Region V

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

On-Site Exam Rpt

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-23-58
(date)

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DATE	INITIAL	CASE
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
REGION V

DMEA-5029, OLD ABERNATHY MINE (mica)
Mitchell County, N. C.

F. G. Lesure, Geologist
Geological Survey

and

S. A. Feitler, Mining Engineer
Bureau of Mines

June 17, 1958

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-23-58
(date)

DMEA EXPLORATION PROJECT

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
On
DMEA-5029 (mica) OLD ABERNATHY MINE
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Applicant: Lewie Aldridge, Spruce Pine, North Carolina

SUMMARY

Several pegmatite bodies have been worked for a number of years at the Abernathy mine. Mining is being done at the No.2 or northwest pegmatite by both the Applicant and the Abernathy Mining Company. The southeastern pegmatite has apparently not been worked since World War II, but was a good producer at that time. Reports written for the U. S. Geological Survey, Blue Ridge manuscript indicates that the No.1 pegmatite has been largely worked out in the area where the Applicant wants to work. We recommend that exploration assistance be denied.

INTRODUCTION

Location: The Abernathy mine is on a steep west slope overlooking the North Toe River about 0.7 mile S80°W of Bandana post office, Mitchell County, North Carolina. The mine can be reached by 4-wheel-drive vehicles on a rough dirt road about 0.5 mile long leading west from North Carolina State road 80.

Examination: The examination of the Abernathy mine was made June 3, 1958 and lasted about five hours. Messrs. Milt Burleson, Lewie Aldridge, Luther Johnson and Ernest Johnson accompanied the Examiners.

History: The Abernathy mine was started about 1890. Larrabee(Abernathy Mine, U.S. Geol. Survey unpublished manuscript,copy attached) gives the early history of the mine. During the present buying program one DMEA contract tested part of the Abernathy pegmatites at the Half Moon mine (DMEA-2785) and an application was submitted on the Old Morris Putman mine (DMEA-4430) along the railroad south

of the main mine. Mining is going on today from a shaft northeast of the No.2 cut, and also from two shafts in the No.2 cut.

The latter two shafts have been sunk since the war time mapping. The northeastern shaft is 35 feet vertical, 63 feet -50° and 20' vertical; the southwestern is 48 feet -65° with a loft 20-feet from the bottom. A large stoped area in the No.2 pegmatite has been worked mostly from the NE shaft. Production data for this work are not available.

Apparently little or no work has been done in the No.1 and No.3 workings since the war. Both cuts are partly caved and inaccessible. Maps available in this office are dated November, 1943, but Larrabee in a letter to the Applicant speaks of a map revised in December 1943.

Electric power and water are available at the mine. Mine buildings northeast of the No.2 cut are used by the Abernathy Mining Company which is mining in the adjoining property.

GEOLOGY

The geology of the Abernathy mine area is described by Larrabee(Abernathy Mine, unpublished U.S. Geol. Survey manuscript, copy attached). The recent underground work by the Applicant and others has been on the No.2 pegmatite. This body is 10 to 25 feet thick and is composed of coarse-grained plagioclase, microcline, muscovite intergrown with biotite and quartz. Strategic muscovite has been produced from this pegmatite but no data are available as to the amount or quality. At present the Applicant is doing some

work on this pegmatite but stoping to the northeast has stopped because of the property line.

The target pegmatite is the one worked in holes 1 and 3. No good exposures of this pegmatite are now available. Larrabee (p. 4 & 7) states that the pegmatite has been largely worked out.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that exploration assistance be denied. Very little mining has been done on the southeastern pegmatite since World War II and Larrabee states that it is largely worked out. The Applicant does not control the land to the northeast where reserves in this pegmatite (Larrabee, p.7) may still be present.

We see no justification on the ground or in Larrabee's report and maps for the Applicant's proposed 200 foot tunnel driven under the railroad. In fact Larrabee suggests that both the No. 1 and No.2 pegmatites do not plunge under the railroad.

F. G. Lesure, Geologist
Geological Survey (DMEA

S. A. Feitler, Mining Engineer
Bureau of Mines (DMEA)

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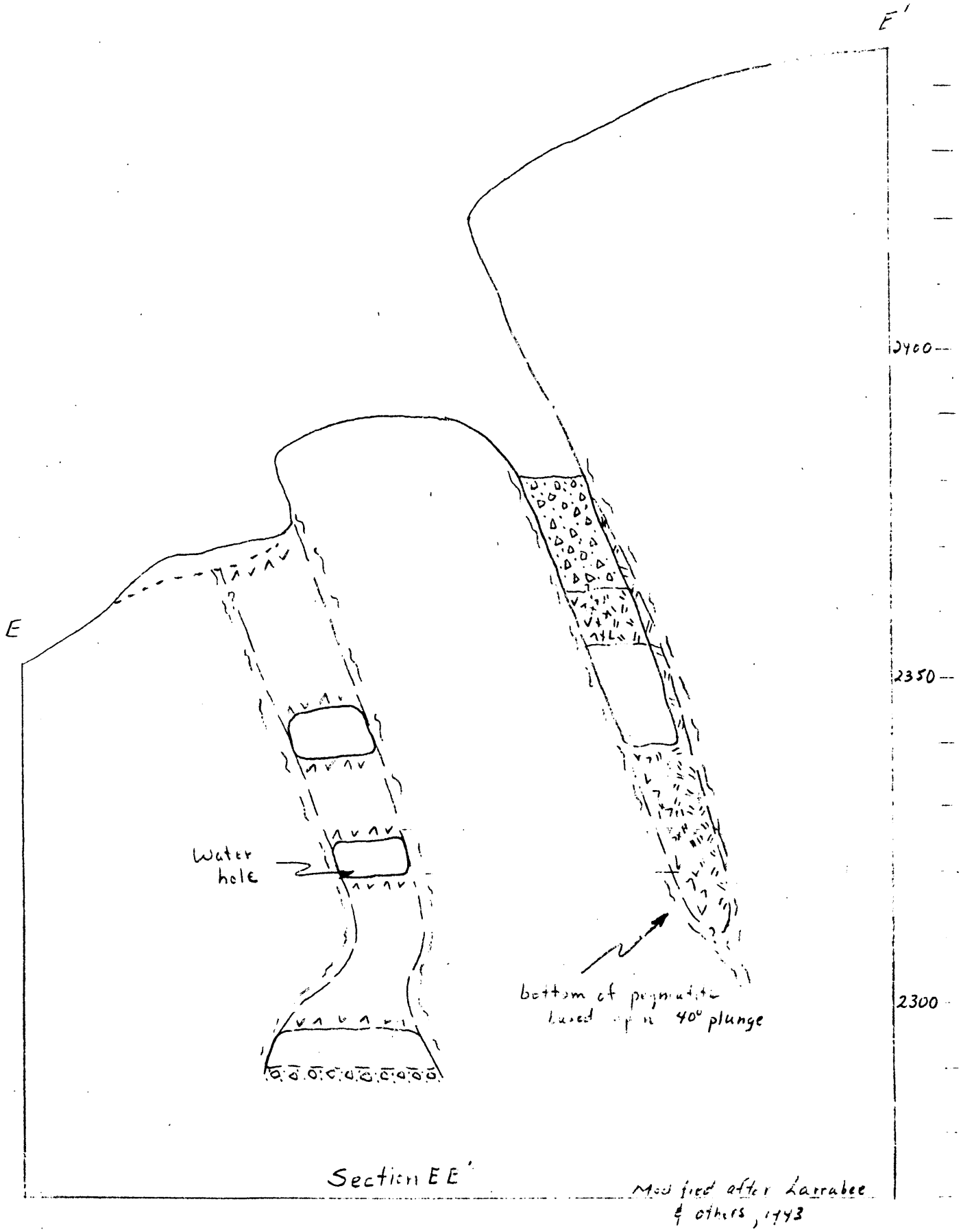

Abernathy Mine

Mitchell County, North Carolina

0 20 Feet

DMEA - [illegible]

Fig. 6/[illegible]

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RECEIVED JUL 29 1958

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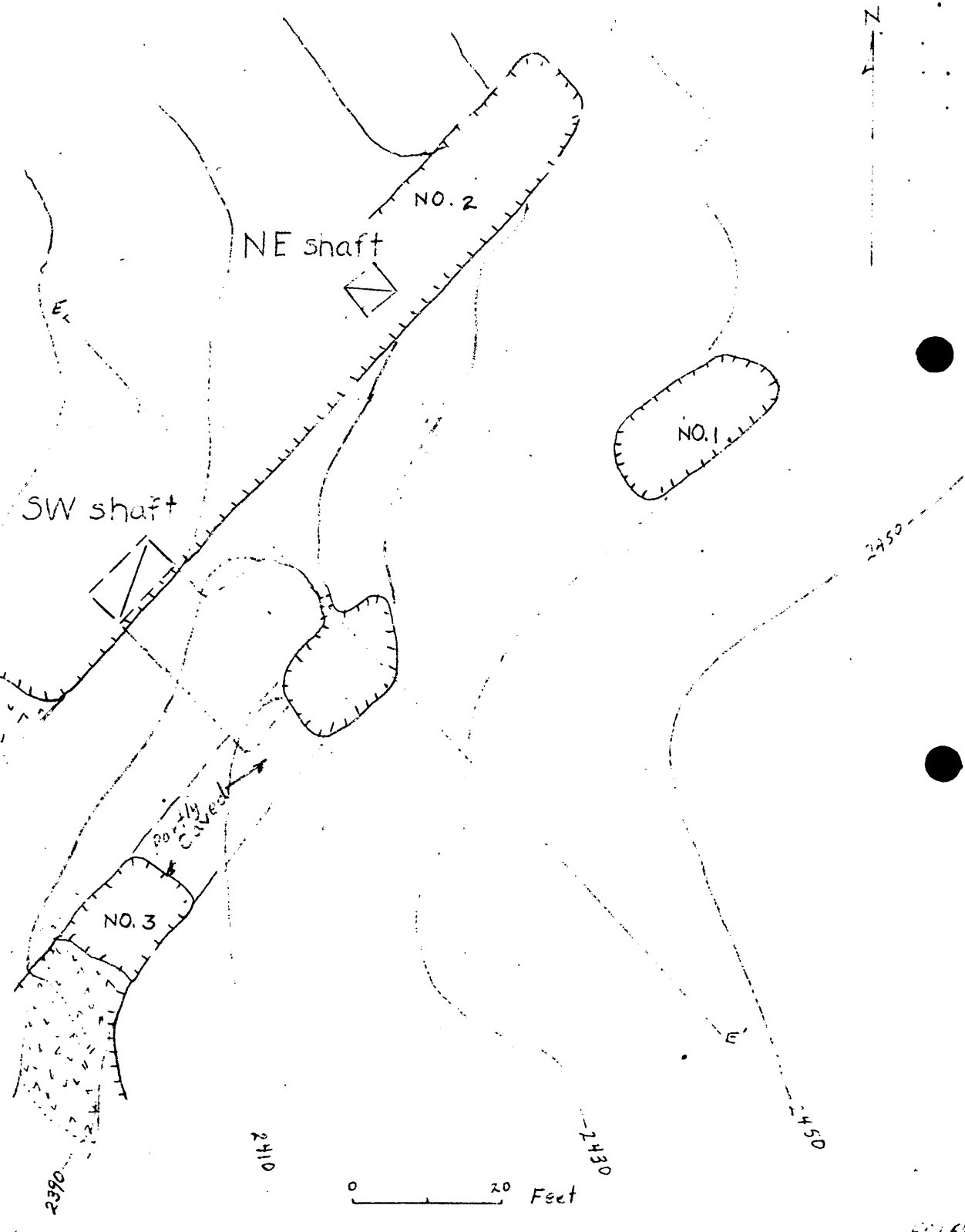

Abernathy Mine

Mitchell County, North Carolina

DMEA-5024 mica

Modified from Laurence et al. 1943

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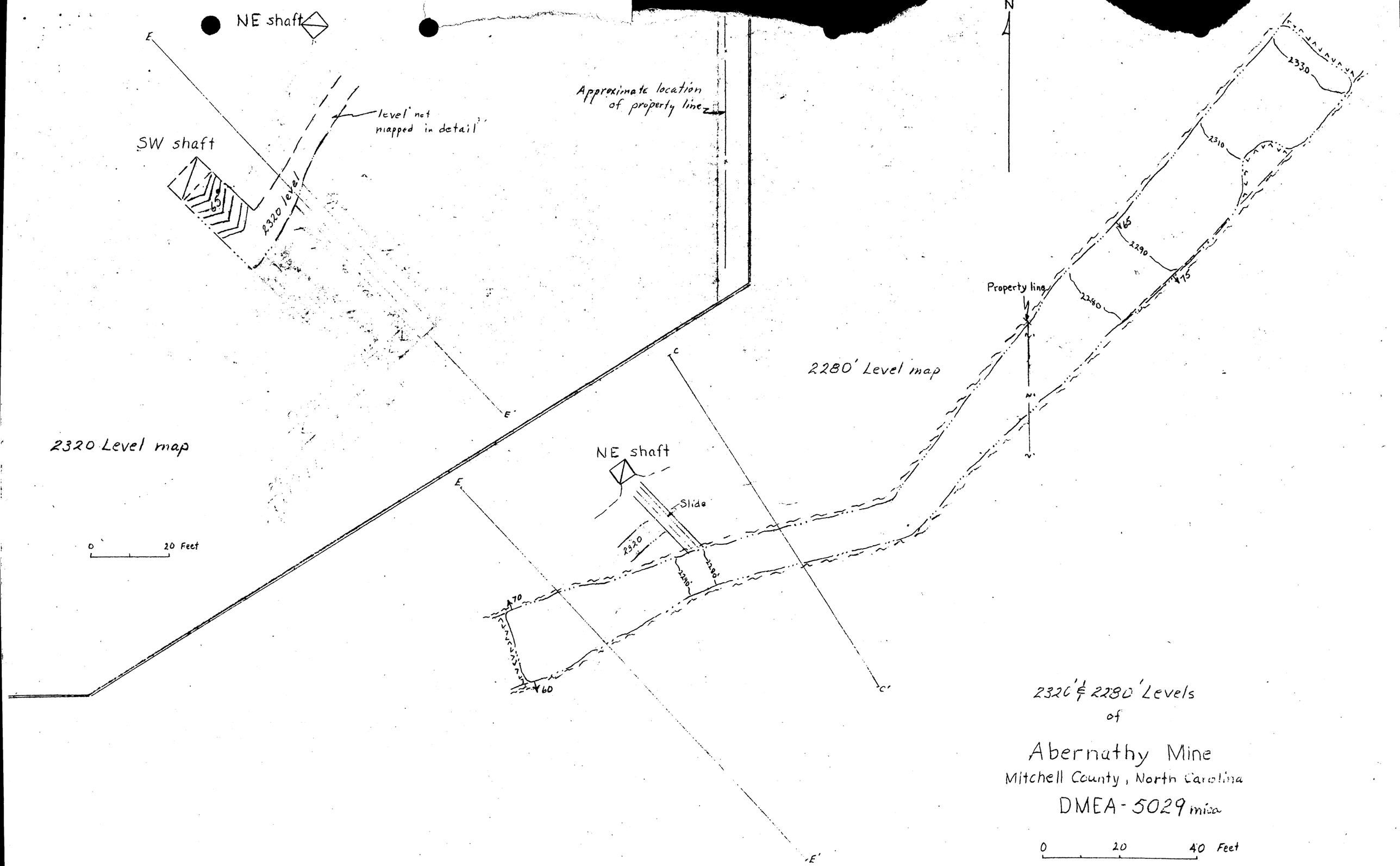
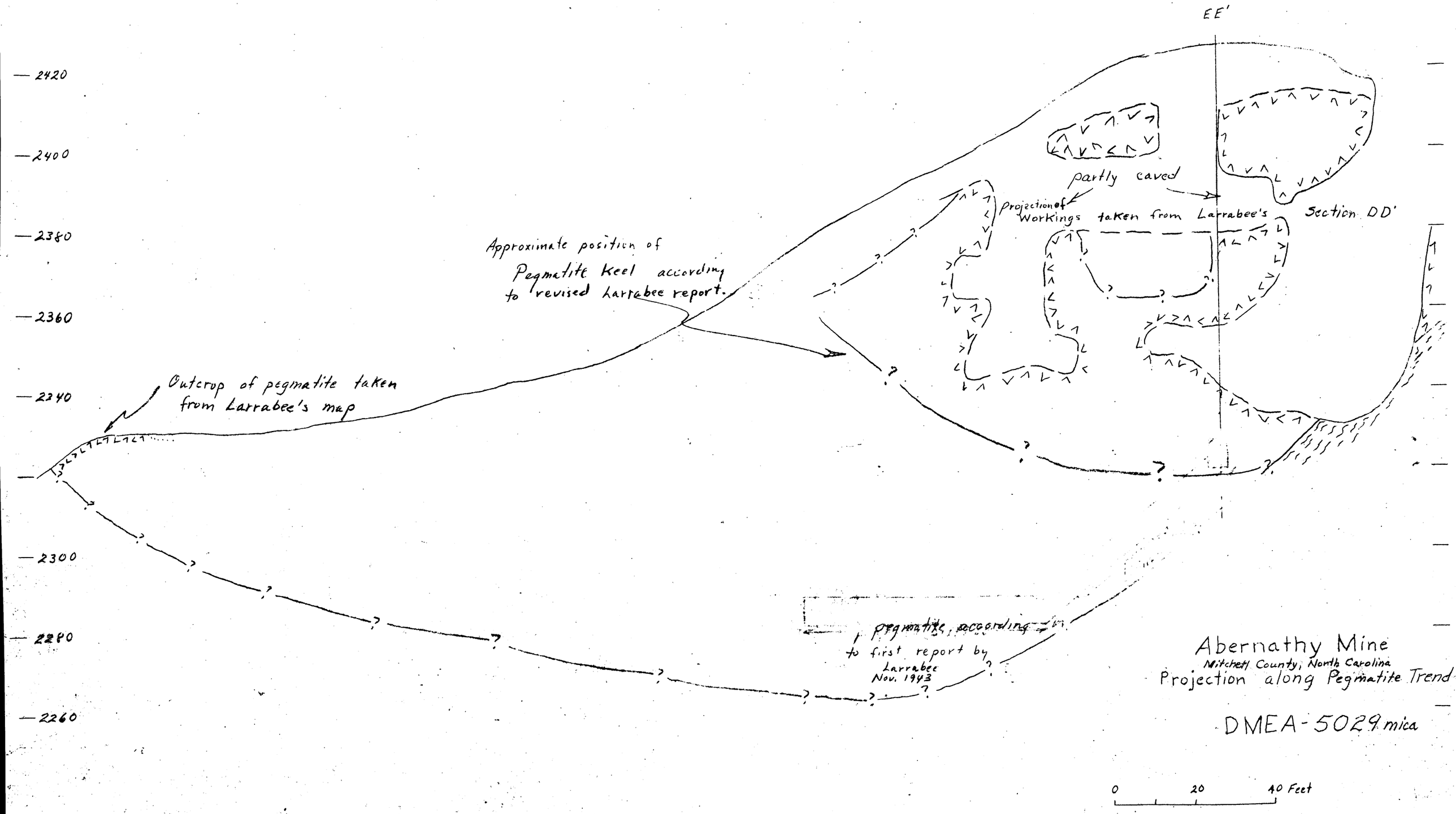
RECEIVED J. 20 1968
DATE


NE shaft
E
level not mapped in detail
SW shaft
65
2320 level
Approximate location of property line
E'
2320 Level map
0
20 Feet
C
NE shaft
Slide
2320
2310
2280'
E
70
60
C'
E'
N
2330
2310
65
2290
75
Property line
2280
2280' Level map
2320' & 2280' Levels
of
Abernathy Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina
DMEA-5029 mica
0
20
40 Feet

FGL 6/88



Abernathy Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina
Projection along Pegmatite Trend

DMEA-5029 mica

FGL 6/58

ABERNATHY MINE

MITCHELL COUNTY, N.C.

by
D. M. Larrabee

The Abernathy mine (_/) is about three and a half miles

(_/) Plate . Maps & sections of Abernathy mine

south-southwest of Bakersville, N. C., three-quarters of a mile west of Bandana, on the steep west slope overlooking the Toe River. Local sources indicate the ownership of the property by Job Thomas about 1880. Later owners were Harge Thomas and Col. Rorison. The present owners are Paul Abernathy, of Asheville, N. C. (two-thirds interest) and Mrs. Ella L. Berry of Spruce Pine, N.C.

The workings (Pl.) include two large, steeply dipping, partly open stopes on parallel pegmatites, and a number of old cuts and largely inaccessible underground workings higher on the hillside to the northeast. The mine was worked from about 1890 to 1903 by P.H. Abernathy, Sam Patrick and Dave Berry, in 1931 by Y. C. Sparks, in 1933 by E. C. Norman, in 1938 by Y. C. Sparks and E. L. Westall, and in 1939 and 1940 by W. C. and Marvin McKinney in the No.2 stope. The Meyer-Brown Corporation of New York City purchased the mining lease from Will McKinney and began operations in May 1942, continuing until about January 1944. The southeast pegmatite was largely mined out, from openings no. 1 and no.3. The northwest pegmatite was also mined considerably in no.2 stope but was abandoned because of the low yield of trimmed mica from the mine-run. A shaft was sunk near the old "A" workings but was abandoned at a depth of 50 feet

when it failed to encounter pegmatite. W. C. McKinney again worked the mine for about six months starting in July 1944, opening the shallow cut ("C") just north of the no. 1 opening.

The area is underlain by mica schist, mica gneiss and hornblende gneiss. The mica schist is a highly crenulated rock containing muscovite, biotite, kyanite, feldspar and quartz. The mica gneiss is well banded and generally much lighter in color than the schist and is distinguished from it by much higher content of feldspar. Contacts between mica schist and gneiss are gradational. The hornblende gneiss consists of thin layers of light-colored feldspathic rock interlayered with a dark-colored hornblende-rich rock. Contacts between hornblende and mica gneiss are gradational, the hornblende content decreasing and the biotite content increasing as the mica gneiss is approached. Red garnets are present in both gneisses and the schist.

The foliation of the country rock generally strikes about northeast and dips steeply to the southeast. In the southwestern part of the area the strike is more northerly and the dip more gentle to the east. A syncline, plunging gently to the north-northeast, is exposed in the northwestern part of the area. Axes of minor folds commonly plunge gently to the northeast.

Several pegmatites conformable to the foliation of the mica schist trend northeast and dip steeply to the southeast. Contacts between pegmatite and schist are sharp. The pegmatites mined in the old open cut in the northeast part of the mapped area and in workings "A" and "B" are so poorly exposed that their extent and relationships are obscure. They are believed to warrant no further development. The pegmatite in workings "A" appears to be narrowing

downward at the adit level. It may be a continuation of the pegmatite mined in the recent shallow open cut ("C") just north of the no.1 opening. Mica is associated with a quartz mass and large quantities of biotite. In workings "B" the pegmatite is extremely irregular and the mica small and of poor quality.

The pegmatite in the "C" workings (see section B-B', pl) lensed out in the bottom of the cut and seems to bend more to the north as traced northeastward. The gneiss is closely crumpled below the rounded pegmatite keel and seems to bend around the bottom. The pegmatite consists of plagioclase, quartz, muscovite, and biotite with a little pyrite. Much of the mica was formed along cruved fractures.

In the stope reached by openings No. 1 and No.3 an unusual pegmatite seemingly shaped like the lower half of an ellipsoid has been largely mined out. Below no.1 opening the keel of the pegmatite pitches 40 degrees southwest parallel to minor rolls in the walls above this point. Below the no.3 opening the keel pitches similarly in the opposite direction. The bottom of the pegmatite is thus roughly semicircular in longitudinal section (see projection D-D', pl.). In cross-section also the keel is rounded and the foliation of the schist bends around the bottom from hanging wall to footwall position (see sec. C-C', E-E', and F-F', pl.). The thickness ranges from about 9 to 15 feet. The pegmatite is medium- to coarse-grained plagioclase-quartz-microcline rock. The central part of the body is generally coarser grained than the outer

parts. Plagioclase is the predominant feldspar. Muscovite and biotite are unusually abundant and are distributed throughout all parts of the pegmatite but are especially concentrated in the 6-feet next the hanging wall. Individual books of muscovite and biotite are as large as 1 by 1½ feet across. Biotite is approximately one-half as abundant as muscovite. Garnet is relatively common.

The pegmatite opened by the no. 2 stope is thicker than the others, ranging in thickness from about 13 to 25 feet. It apparently continues some distance to the northeast and to depth. At the southwest end its crest either plunges below the schist at the railroad, or more likely, its keel bottoms on the same formation, the pegmatite never reaching the railroad below the surface. The pegmatite is of similar composition to the others though in general it is coarser grained. It is vaguely zoned, the central portion being coarser grained and microcline - and quartz-rich. Locally outer parts of the pegmatite also have much microcline. The microcline is perthitic, subhedral to anhedral, and individual masses are as much as 3 feet across. Pods consisting of quartz with abundant small muscovite books are present in all portions of the pegmatite, and some quite thick quartz masses are reported near the middle with microcline areas. Stringers of the quartz-muscovite rock, apparently fracture-controlled, extend from some of the pods. One such stringer is about 10 feet long and 1/2 to 1 inch thick. It consists of a series of overlapping muscovite books, as much as 3 by 5 inches in size, with interstitial quartz. Similar mica

streaks commonly appear to have been deposited along curved fractures and can not be definitely associated with the quartz-muscovite pods. Muscovite is abundant throughout the pegmatite but most is so badly ruled, sharply crenulated and intergrown with biotite as to be of little value. Small apatite crystals are rare and are reported by W. G. Valentine to be fluorescent. Light green sericite forms a coating on many minerals.

An undeveloped barren pegmatite in the southeastern part of the mapped area is in contact with mica schist although it is in an area of hornblende gneiss. This suggests either that the pegmatite altered the hornblende gneiss to mica schist or that the pegmatite was injected into a narrow lens of schist surrounded by hornblende gneiss.

The muscovite is ruby colored. Books 6 by 9 inches in size are common but the average is about 4 by 6 inches, The chief imperfection is ruling, commonly in two directions, and is most pronounced in the mica from the no.2 stope. Cracks, and clay stains are common. Many of the books are intergrown with biotite, and "A" structure is present in some. A few light green books of muscovite about 1 by 1 inch in size were found in the dump material. Much of the mica, however, is excellent quality, hard, flat, and generally free from inclusions. The size of the trimmed sheet is generally small.

The pegmatite opened by no. 1 and no.3 workings appears to be the ~~sa~~ most promising for future production. Although the south end of the body is nearly mined out, an appreciable amount of unmined pegmatite with considerable mica exposed remains to the northeast of the workings.

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
6/5	Houk	600
6/6	Aldridge	130
6/6	Houk	130
6/6	Gilsgaard	100
"	Johnson	110
"	Matthewson	100
6/9	C	220
		600

600

The Old Abernathy Mines
c/o Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-5029-Mica
The Old Abernathy Mines
The Old Abernathy Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

The application for assistance in exploring your property, under the captioned docket number, has been reviewed by the Division of Nonmetallic Minerals of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration. It has been referred to Mr. Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region V, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee.

The Regional Office will contact you in regard to your project if additional information is required. Any assistance you may give the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf (for)

Administrator

LGHouk:gad 6/5/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

DMEA Form 7
(12-56)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
6/5	Houk	600
6/6	GCS	130
"	Gunson	110
"	Abernathy	100
		220

600

JUN 9 1958

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-5029-Mica
The Old Abernathy Mines
The Old Abernathy Mine
Mitchell 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 May 26 and 27, 1958, by Mr. W. 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.

You will note that in our letter to the Applicant we made no reference to a field examination as you may not find time to schedule one if needed.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee (GCS)

Approved:

Frank D. Lamb (FDL)
Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard (THK)
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 5

LGHouk:gad 6/5/58
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

8623

28

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

5/28 C 220 600

May 27, 1958

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-5029 (mica)

Applicant: Lewie Aldridge

Name and Location of Property: The Old Abernathy Mine, Mitchell County, N. C.

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls.: 5/26/58

Comments:

1. This is an old mine from which a large quantity of good-quality mica has been produced.
2. Applicant wishes to explore ground which he states has not been mined before.
3. Applicant's proposed work on two intersecting tunnels appears to include duplication of work.
4. If tunnel under railroad is contemplated, legal rights should be ascertained.

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

W. F. Dietrich

DMEA
RECEIVED MAY 27 1958
C 220
Tenk 680

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

May 26, 1958
Re: DMEA 5029
Lewie Aldridge
Abernathy Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina
$12,490.00 - Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of application

The applicant requests assistance in exploring by crosscuts, 275 feet, a block of ground believed to contain hitherto unworked parts of pegmatites from which strategic mica has been mined.

Referral of the application to the Field Team for appropriate action is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

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

May 23, 1958

The Old Abernathy Mines
c/o Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Subject: DMEA-5029

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

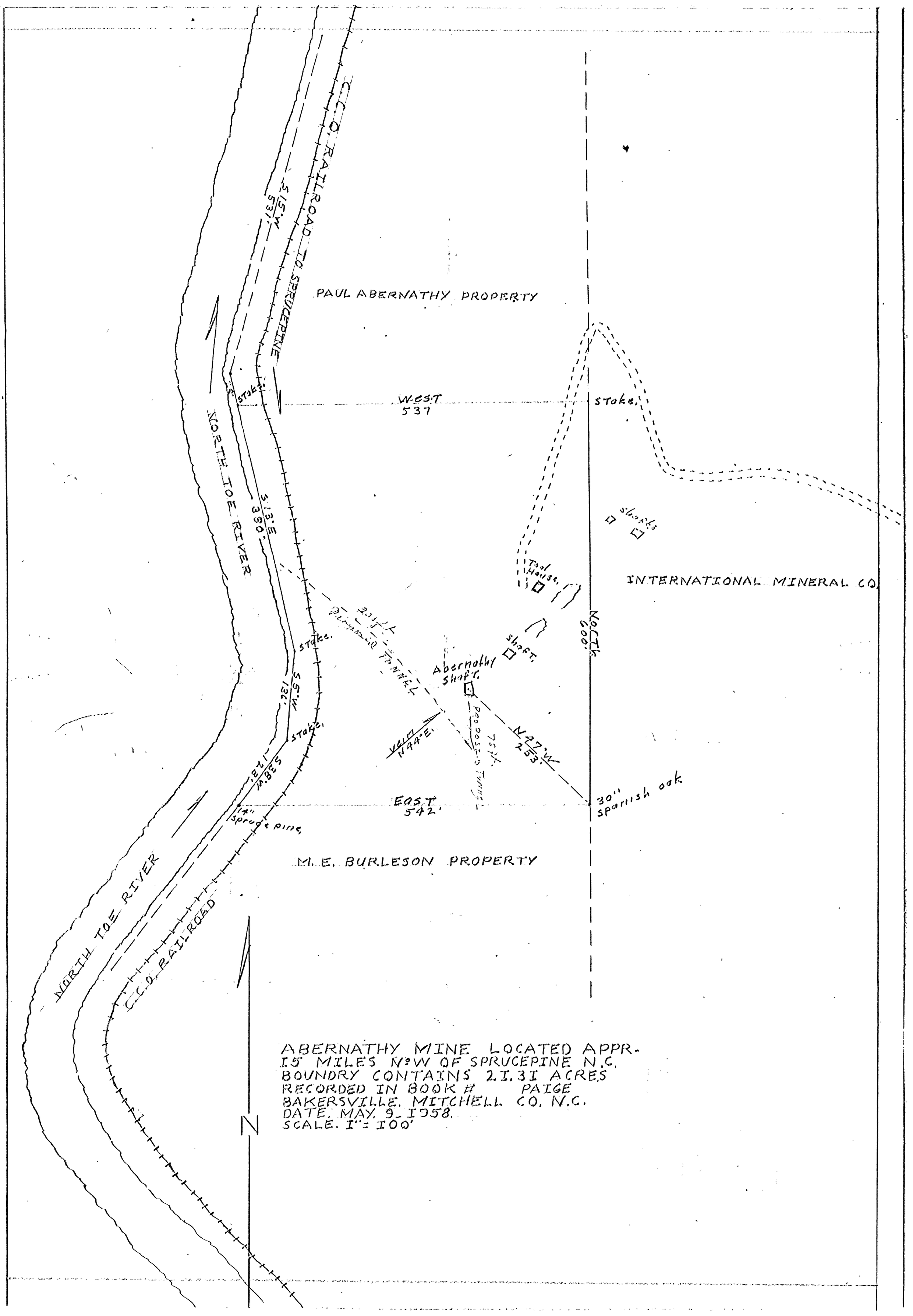
Your application for exploration assistance, dated May 14, 1958 submitted to our office at Knoxville, Tennessee has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-5029 and referred to the Nonmetallic Minerals Division in the Washington office.

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.



ABERNATHY MINE LOCATED APPR-
15 MILES N°W OF SPRUCEPINE N.C.
BOUNDRY CONTAINS 21.31 ACRES
RECORDED IN BOOK # PAIGE
BAKERSVILLE. MITCHELL CO. N.C.
DATE. MAY. 9_1958.
SCALE. 1" = 100'