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July 29, 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of application for exploration assistance by Field Team, Region IV
Docket No. DMEA 3325 - Manganese
Central Mining Co., Inc.
Rincon Manganese claims
Dona Ana County, New Mexico

The applicant requested exploration assistance in the amount of $19,023.00 to explore for manganese on five unpatented claims at the southern end of the Caballo Mountains about one mile north of Rincon, New Mexico. The Rincon claims cover relocation of the north part of the Morgan group of claims which were owned in 1942 by the Manganese Products Corporation. The main manganese dump it explored by that corporation lies a few hundred feet south of the Rincon claims.

Total production from the area has been small. Some 471 tons of manganese ore was produced in 1943 that averaged 38 percent manganese. Production by the Manganese Products Corporation during World War II must have been negligible as there is no recorded production. Possibly a very small amount of any ore produced from this area came from the deposits now owned by the Central Mining Co. The Central Mining Co. has produced about 135 tons of hand-sorted ore that averaged 29 percent manganese.

Manganese orides occur as fissure fillings in northerly-trending fractures on both sides of a major fault trending N. 50-60°. and dipping 55-60° S. The south side of the fault, consisting of well-bedded sands and gravels of Santa Fe or Gila age, is down dropped against the north side, which consists of red, well-bedded and firmly-cemented sandstones and gravels of Early to Mid-Tertiary age. The red beds of the north side of the fault are interbedded in a thick series of andesite and rhyolite flows and tuffs.

The main workings are entirely within the red sandstones and conglomerates of the footwall block. Production to date appears to have come from workings that followed individual veins ranging from 6 inches to 36 inches wide which constitute the high-grade occurrences of the manganese orides. Veins of this width are scarce.

The applicant had proposed to drift eastward from the area of manganese mineralization. The drift, 300 feet in length, was to be driven from a point in the old adit and would explore the eastern apex of a triangular-shaped zone between branches of the main fault. The north-trending fractures along which the manganese apparently was deposited do not appear in this area, and nothing was seen on the surface to indicate that conditions were favorable for manganese oxides to occur at depth.

The examining field team recommended that the subject request for exploration assistance be denied.

The application was denied by the Field Team, Region IV, and Mr. Little was advised of this action by letter of June 18, 1954.

This Division believes that the denial is justified and concurs with such action.

Mr. Little, however, believed that the denial of his request was not justified and made several accusations concerning the examiners in letters dated June 23, 1954, to Senator Clinton P. Anderson and Region IV, DMEA. On July 6, we requested the Executive Officer's comments on these charges.

By letter of July 21, we received copies of letters from the geologist and the mining engineer who made the field exam that completely disproved Mr. Little's statements.

A letter to Senator Anderson has been prepared to refute Mr. Little's accusations.

F. A. Rutledge, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

cc: DOCKET
CODE 400
ADM. READING FILE
OPERATING COMMITTEE

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7/29/54

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AUG 6 1954

Hon. Clinton P. Anderson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Anderson:

Reference is made to your letter of June 29, 1954, transmitting a letter dated June 23 by Rufus C. Little and requesting a review of our denial of an application by the Central Mining Company, Inc., for exploration assistance at the Rincon Manganese claims, Dona Ana County, New Mexico - our Docket No. NMA 3325, Manganese.

We have investigated the matter thoroughly and find that our denial of the subject application was valid. Refutation of the accusations made by Mr. Little follows:

(1) Implied attempt by Field Team to examine property unaccompanied by Mr. Little.

The three members of the examining field team, one mining engineer and two geologists, had completed an examination of another manganese deposit north of Lordsburg, New Mexico, by noon Tuesday, May 25, 1954. Though the examination of Mr. Little's property had not been scheduled before Wednesday afternoon, May 26, the Field Team had been advised by Mr. Little that he planned on being at the property Tuesday or Wednesday. Therefore, upon completion of the other examination near Lordsburg, the field examiners drove to Hatch, New Mexico, and left word for Mr. Little at the Woodward Courts before proceeding to the property near Rincon. If Mr. Little had not arrived at the property on Tuesday, the examiners would have waited for him.

(2) That the geologists were incompetent.

It is true that one of the geologists making the examination was inexperienced in the evaluation of mining prospects. However, he was a new man with good technical training who only accompanied the party to gain experience and had no part in writing the report or making any recommendations.

The geologist making the report based his recommendations on geologic evidence. A thorough examination was made of all the old and new workings in the area but there were no geologic or other data to support Mr. Little's proposed program.

It should also be mentioned that usually geologists are not in charge of operating mines and that capability for mine management has no necessary relationship to the capacity for solving geologic problems.

(3) That only the geologist's report would be considered in evaluating the subject application.

In evaluating all applications for exploration assistance, consideration is given to the reports of both the mining engineer and the geologist comprising the examining field team. The mining engineer making the referenced examination has a long record covering the exploration and examination of mineral deposits prior to entering Government service in 1941. Subsequently, his work has principally been concerned with exploration. A thorough examination of the subject property by the mining engineer member of the field team failed to indicate any target that would warrant Government participation in an exploration program.

(4) That the examining field team failed to examine the area in sufficient detail and Mr. Storms never did take a look.

Because of the limited nature of the showings all three members of the field team were able to make a thorough examination of the prospect area prior to Mr. Little's arrival. Then in Little's company, they re-examined the major points of interest and discussed the proposed project. Part of this time was spent by the geologist in explaining the probable geology of the deposit to Mr. Little, some of whose theories on the subject were widely at variance with more commonly held beliefs in that science.

The Rincon manganese deposit had previously been examined by the Government. In July 1953 the deposit was examined by Sherman K. Neuschel of the Geological Survey: "A Memorandum Report on Manganese Deposits of the Sierra Caballo Range, New Mexico, War Minerals Investigations, July 1943." The deposit is also a part of a larger area that was examined and thoroughly sampled by Paul L. Russell of the Bureau of Mines late in 1942: "U. S. Bureau of Mines R. I. 4021, Manganese Products Corp.'s Morgan Group, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, Feb. 1947." The present examination was made to see if later work had exposed more significant data. No evidence was obtained that would warrant Government participation in the requested exploration program.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittenderf

Administrator

CC DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REG. IV
CODE 400
OPER. COMMITTEE
ADMIN. READ. FILE
GILBERT DE HUFF, USBM
E. L. NEWCOMB, USGS

FAButledge/ls 8/6/54

It ~~must~~ should also be ~~realized~~ mentioned that ~~normally~~ usually geologists ~~do~~ are not in charge of operating mines and that capability for mine management has no necessary relationship to the ~~bearing on~~ capacity for solving geologic problems.

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Sincerely yours,

Administrator

400

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

224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

July 21, 1954.

Memorandum

To: Chairman of the Operating Committee

From: Field Team, DMEA, Region IV

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3325 (Manganese), Central Mining Company, Inc., Rincon Manganese Claims, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Reference is made to your letter of July 6, 1954 regarding the examination of the subject application and the attached correspondence with Senator Clinton P. Anderson and the applicant, Rufus C. Little.

We have requested our examining engineers to supply us with information regarding their examination of this property.

Attached are two copies of a letter to A. H. Koschmann from William R. Jones, Geologist, and the original and two copies of a memorandum from W. R. Storms to W. H. King, both in reply to the letters by Senator Anderson and Rufus C. Little. These memoranda are self-explanatory.

Also enclosed is a copy of Report of Investigations, R.I. 4021 - "Manganese Products Corp.'s Morgan Group, Dona Ana County, N. Mex.," by Paul L. Russell. The information contained in this publication was assembled by the Bureau of Mines in its sampling program carried out during the Fall of 1942. A study of the assays of samples taken and the positions of the samples will provide you with an excellent appraisal of the deposits. Although information contained in R.I. 4021 was available to the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey, we requested a field examination in order that work completed subsequent to Russell's work might be appraised.

With the information we have supplied, we believe that you can prepare a satisfactory reply to Senator Anderson.

W. H. King
W. H. King

E. N. Hauchman
for A. H. Koschmann

Enclosures

COPY PKM

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Geological Survey
July 15, 1954

A. H. Koschmann
Supervising Geologist
DMEA Denver Federal Center
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Mr. Koschmann:

Your letter of July 9th with 5 enclosures has been received. At your request I will give my version of the mine evaluation conducted by Mr. Storms of the Bureau of Mines and myself in the Rincon Manganese deposit, owned by Mr. Rufus Little.

As the trip arrangements were handled by Mr. Storms, I will let him explain why the examination was made on Tuesday rather than on Wednesday.

Mr. Samuel Moore, GS-9, Minerals Deposit Branch, accompanied us on the examination. Moore has had no experience in evaluation work and I thought this might be an opportunity for him to gain experience. He had no part in writing the report and no responsibility in the matter. The responsibility for the geologic part of the report is mine. Mr. Moore honestly admitted his limited experience in mine evaluation work to Mr. Little. Evidently Mr. Little did not understand that Moore had no responsibility in evaluating the deposit.

By the time Little reached the property we had examined the old underground workings which incidentally, we learned later, had been examined during World War II by Sherman K. Neuschel of the Geological Survey. McCray's property, near Red Rock, then called the "Black Jack," was also examined by Neuschel. When Little arrived we were busily engaged examining the few feet of new workings and sizing up the geologic relations. In Little's company we re-examined the major points of interest namely, the outcrop of the major fault structure and the two showings of manganese oxides, one in a deep trench and the other in the face of a very short drift which Little had driven 10 or so feet from a shaft-like opening. Contrary to Mr. Little's statement we examined this deposit most thoroughly, especially all the ore exposures, and I am completely satisfied that we gained an understanding of the geologic conditions of the deposit. As my report shows, the geology of the deposit is not complicated and I felt no need to call on Mr. Little's geologic knowledge to comprehend what was obvious. This is to refute Little's immodest as well as untruthful statement (end of his second paragraph) that I told him "in the same English" that if I were to get any information on the mine, Little "would have to show me and tell me." Actually I spent considerable effort trying to convince him that some of his ideas about the deposit were absurd.

I can't imagine why I should have mentioned to Little that I "had never operated any kind of a mine." The relationship between experience in mine operation and competency as a mining geologist escapes me. To the best of my knowledge neither Mr. Anderson, our branch chief, or Mr. Bradley, our chief geologist, or such eminent economic geologists as Lindgren and Butler ever operated a mine, yet even Little will admit that they are competent to evaluate a property such as the Rincon Manganese deposit.

However, it is not my place to pass on my competency;-there is a record of experience in this line which can be consulted.

Obviously, hell hath no fury like a promoter scorned!

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William R. Jones

William R. Jones
Geologist

Enclosures (6)

July 12,1954

Memorandum

To : W. H. King, Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

From : Chief, Mining Methods Br., Mining Div., Region IV

Subject : Docket DMEA-3325, Central Mining Co.'s Rincon Manganese Claims, Dona Ana County, N. Mex.

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum of July 9 with attached correspondence regarding our examination of the Rincon manganese claims.

On May 25, 1954, William R. Jones and Samuel L. Moore of the Geological Survey, and I visited H. E. McCray's Black Eagle manganese deposit (Docket DMEA-3319) north of Lordsburg, N. Mex. As we completed that examination about noon, we returned to Lordsburg, had lunch, then as Jones and Moore wanted to return to Silver City, N. Mex. (their headquarters) that night, we went on to Rincon in Dona Ana County and examined the Rincon manganese deposit of the Central Mining Co. (Rufus C. Little, president). I'll admit that I had written Little in Santa Fe that we did not expect to get to his Rincon property before Wednesday afternoon or Thursday, but Little had answered my letter and said: "I am glad that you are coming over, and I will be going back down there about Tuesday or Wednesday of this coming week". If Little had not arrived on Tuesday, we would have waited for him.

Jones, Moore, and I arrived at Hatch, N. Mex., Tuesday afternoon, May 25, and left word at the Woodward Courts (where Little wrote that he stopped) that we had gone on to the property north of Rincon. We arrived at the Rincon deposit about 3.30 p.m. and examined the deposit very thoroughly, especially the area where the company proposed to drive the 300-foot drift. About 5.30 p.m. Little arrived at the property, after we had gone over it, both underground and on the surface. We left the property about 6.30 pm., Little stopping at the Woodward Courts in Hatch, Jones and Moore going on to Silver City, and I going to Deming enroute to Tucson.

If you will look at the application of the Central Mining Co. for exploration assistance, you will note where the only exploratory work proposed by the applicant was to drive a 300-foot drift from within the adit workings. No other proposal was made, and Jones and I could not think of an alternate exploration project as the manganese mineralization seemed to occur in the broken up area where two fault zones met.

CC W. H. King (7)
J. N. Faick; DMEA-3325-report; DF WRStorms:frj

Little states in his letter to Senator Anderson: "We have good ore showing there in two different places but this bunch would not look at that only as I requested and Mr. Storms never did take a look." I believe Jones and I probably examined the entire deposit before Little arrived on the property as there wasn't much to see and we had spent nearly two hours there before Little came.

No samples were taken because the property had been very thoroughly sampled by Paul L. Russell of the Bureau of Mines in 1942 and we couldn't see where the present operators had changed the picture very much. As the deposit seemed to occur only at the junction of the two fault zones and as the proposed 300-foot drift would explore a virgin area entirely outside this zone, we could see no reason for spending the tax payers money on this project.

Possibly other examiners might find indications that we missed, so if you wish, we can send another team to re-check the property.

I have no knowledge concerning William R. Jones' professional career, but so far as I know, he is a capable mining geologist. It should be pointed out that Samuel L. Moore did not take part in this examination other than to go with Jones and me. He was along more or less "for the ride," as you might say. That may be one reason why he told Little that he didn't know what it was all about. I believe Jones merely brought Moore along on the trip for the experience.

My professional experience, before entering the Bureau of Mines in October 1941, was spent principally in the exploration and examination of mineral deposits. I don't claim to be an expert, but I believe I know much more about mineral deposits than does Rufus Little. I am a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and am a Registered Professional Engineer in Arizona (Mining Engineering and Geology), and in New Mexico (Mining Engineer). The U. S. Civil Service Commission has given me a rating of Examination and Exploration Engineer, 99 for a GS-13 and 92 for a GS-14. I believe these ratings were given on education and experience. The above is given merely to indicate that these RMEA examinations are made by experienced men, not by "punks or job-holders" as Little states in his letter to Senator Anderson.

Walter R. Storms

Walter R. Storms.

Mining Division
Date Rec'd.
JUL 9 - 1954
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

R. I. 4021

FEBRUARY 1947

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
J. A. KRUG, SECRETARY

BUREAU OF MINES
R. R. SAYERS, DIRECTOR

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS

MANGANESE PRODUCTS CORP.'S MORGAN GROUP

DONA ANA COUNTY, N. MEX.

BY

PAUL L. RUSSELL

R. I. 4021,
February 1947.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF MINES

MANGANESE PRODUCTS CORP.'S MORGAN GROUP, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO[1]

By Paul L. Russell[2]

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INTRODUCTION

This property has been examined several times in the last few years, and findings have been reported.

In the fall of 1942, the author supervised sampling both lode and placer deposits. The ore was beneficiated, and the results obtained are incorporated in this report.

The Morgan Group, which comprises seven unpatented mining claims and the Black Cat placer claims, was purchased by the Manganese Products Corp. from H. D. Hill of Hatch, N. Mex., and Dr. A. C. White of Hot Springs, N. Mex.

Arthur L. McRowe, 876 27th Avenue, San Francisco, is president of the corporation, and David Fewer, 824 Times Building, Long Beach, is treasurer. J. T. Murray is in charge of operations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In its program of exploration of mineral deposits, the Bureau of Mines has as its primary objective the more effective utilization of our mineral resources, to the end that they make the greatest possible contribution to

1/ The Bureau of Mines will welcome reprinting of this paper provided the following footnote acknowledgment is made: "Reprinted from Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 4021."

2/ Mining engineer, Bureau of Mines.

national security and economy. It is the policy of the Bureau to publish the facts developed by each exploratory project as soon as practicable after its conclusion. The Mining Branch, Lowell B. Moon, chief, conducts preliminary examinations, performs the actual exploratory work, and prepares the final report. The Metallurgical Branch, R. G. Knickerbocker, chief, analyzes samples and performs beneficiation tests.

With respect to this report, special acknowledgment is due to C. H. Johnson who was district engineer for New Mexico at the time of this work, and to E. D. Gardner, regional engineer, and his staff, of the Central Region of the Bureau of Mines; also to H. Kenworthy, metallurgist at the Bureau's Rolla, Mo., laboratories for his work on the metallurgical tests, and to W. R. Storms, who edited the final report.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Morgan Group is situated in the Rio Grande Valley about 1 mile north of Rincon, Dona Ana County, N. Mex. The claims are in the west half of sec. 5, T. 19 S., R. 2 W., New Mexican principal meridian, and are easily accessible. A fair dirt road leads from Rincon to the mill site and principal shaft.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE

The Morgan claims lie in the southern foothills of the Sierra de Los Caballos, east of the Rio Grande, at an altitude of 4,300 feet. The immediate locality is one of moderate relief; surrounding hills are well-rounded and rise about 500 feet above the present workings.

The climate is moderate, with warm summers and winters.

The nearest source of water is a well adjacent to the mill site, half a mile from the mine.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

During 1918, 471 tons of manganese ore analyzing 38 percent manganese, 3.5 percent iron, 5.5 percent silica, and 0.025 percent phosphorus was shipped from the Morgan Group to the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Co. at Birmingham, Ala.

In 1942, the Manganese Products Corp. of New Mexico carried on development work and began construction of a mill, but very little ore was mined.

THE DEPOSIT

Manganese oxides occur in a number of nearly vertical fissures traversing flat-lying red sandstones and conglomerates. In general, the veins are well-defined. The main vein strikes N. 60° W. and is exposed by old

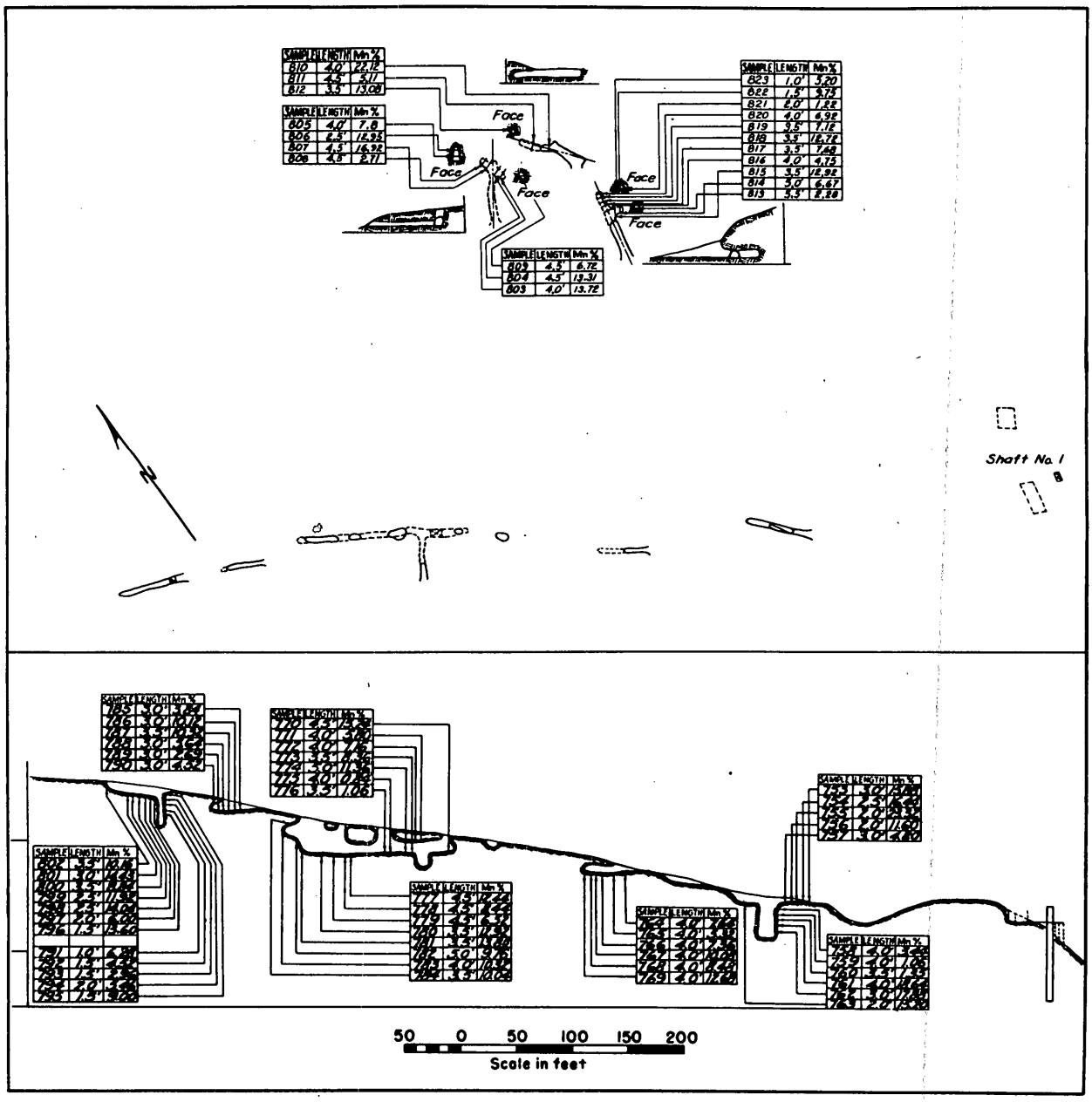
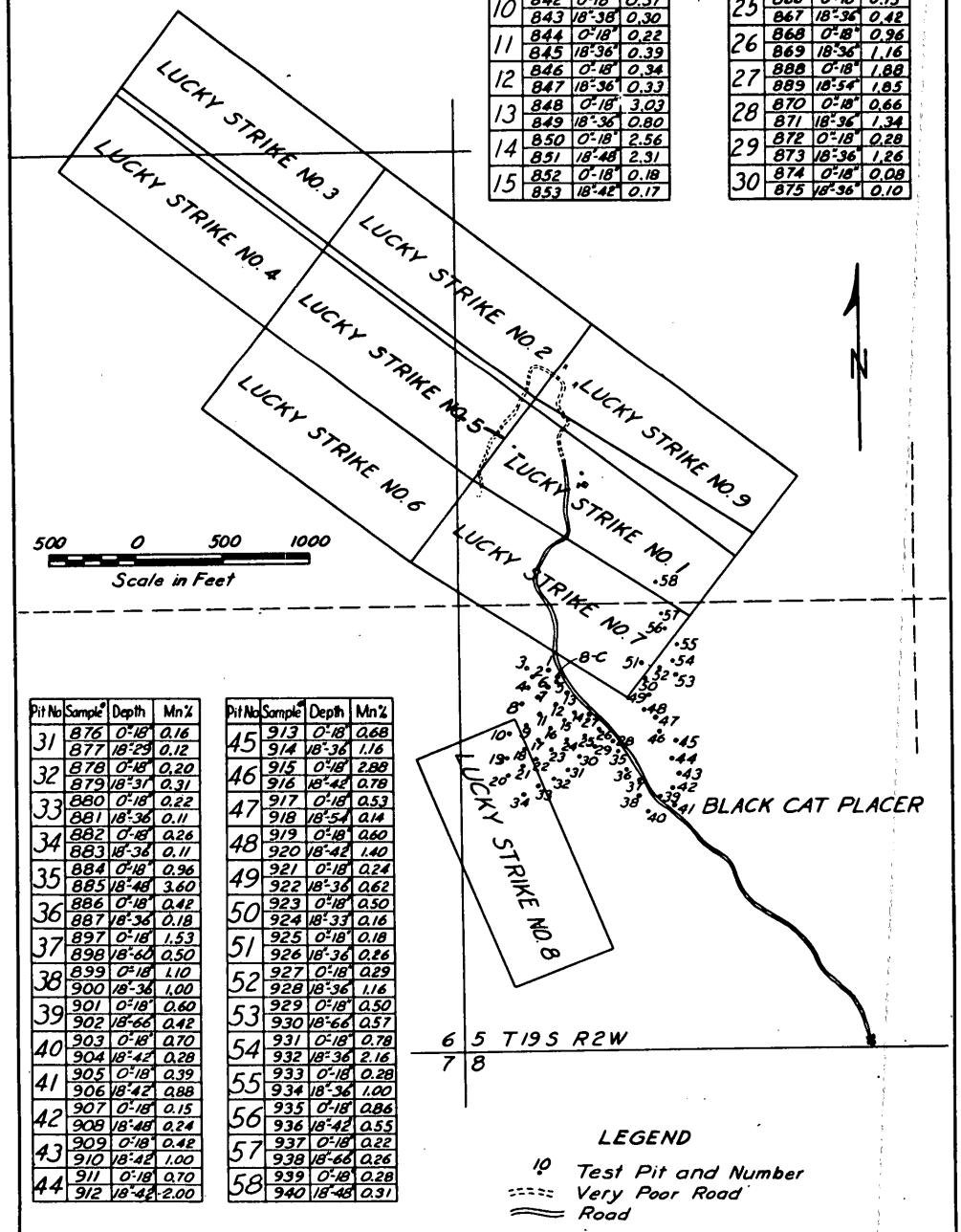


FIGURE 1.—ASSAY MAP, MORGAN PROPERTY, RINCON, N. MEX.

Pit No	Sample	Depth	Mn %
1	824	0"-18"	0.42
	825	18"-39"	0.15
2	826	0"-18"	2.00
	827	18"-43"	2.60
3	828	0"-18"	1.87
	829	18"-36"	1.16
4	830	0"-18"	2.59
	831	18"-36"	2.43
5	832	0"-18"	6.04
	833	18"-36"	3.12
6	834	0"-18"	0.58
	835	18"-66"	0.64
7	836	0"-18"	0.60
	837	18"-42"	0.28
8	838	0"-18"	0.15
	839	18"-42"	0.20
9	840	0"-18"	3.36
	841	18"-36"	2.47
10	842	0-18"	0.37
	843	18"-36"	0.30
11	844	0"-18"	0.22
	845	18"-36"	0.39
12	846	0"-18"	0.34
	847	18"-36"	0.33
13	848	0"-18"	3.03
	849	18"-36"	0.80
14	850	0"-18"	2.56
	851	18"-48"	2.31
15	852	0"-18"	0.18
	853	18"-42"	0.17

Pit No	Sample	Depth	Mn %
16	854	0"-18"	0.13
	855	18"-38"	0.28
17	856	0"-18"	0.37
	857	18"-36"	0.06
18	858	0"-18"	0.31
	859	18"-36"	0.11
19	892	0"-18"	2.24
	891	18"-42"	2.87
20	894	0"-18"	4.40
	895	18"-48"	2.16
21	860	0"-18"	1.45
	861	18"-48"	2.46
22	862	0"-18"	0.15
	863	18"-36"	0.22
23	890	0"-18"	0.28
	896	18-48"	0.20
24	864	0"-18"	0.11
	865	18"-38"	0.16
25	866	0"-18"	0.13
	867	18"-36"	0.42
26	868	0"-18"	0.96
	869	18"-36"	1.16
27	888	0"-18"	1.88
	889	18"-54"	1.85
28	870	0"-18"	0.66
	871	18"-36"	1.34
29	872	0"-18"	0.28
	873	18"-36"	1.26
30	874	0"-18"	0.08
	875	18"-36"	0.10



Pit No	Sample	Depth	Mn %
31	876	0"-18"	0.16
	877	18"-29"	0.12
32	878	0"-18"	0.20
	879	18"-31"	0.31
33	880	0"-18"	0.22
	881	18"-36"	0.11
34	882	0"-18"	0.26
	883	18"-36"	0.11
35	884	0"-18"	0.96
	885	18"-48"	3.60
36	886	0"-18"	0.42
	887	18"-36"	0.18
37	897	0"-18"	1.53
	898	18"-60"	0.50
38	899	0"-18"	1.10
	900	18"-36"	1.00
39	901	0"-18"	0.60
	902	18"-66"	0.42
40	903	0"-18"	0.70
	904	18"-42"	0.28
41	905	0"-18"	0.39
	906	18"-42"	0.88
42	907	0"-18"	0.15
	908	18"-48"	0.24
43	909	0"-18"	0.42
	910	18"-42"	1.00
44	911	0"-18"	0.70
	912	18"-42"	2.00

Pit No	Sample	Depth	Mn %
45	913	0"-18"	0.68
	914	18"-36"	1.16
46	915	0"-18"	2.88
	916	18"-42"	0.78
47	917	0"-18"	0.53
	918	18"-54"	0.14
48	919	0"-18"	0.60
	920	18"-42"	1.40
49	921	0"-18"	0.24
	922	18"-36"	0.62
50	923	0"-18"	0.50
	924	18"-33"	0.16
51	925	0"-18"	0.18
	926	18"-36"	0.26
52	927	0"-18"	0.29
	928	18"-36"	1.16
53	929	0"-18"	0.50
	930	18"-66"	0.57
54	931	0"-18"	0.78
	932	18"-36"	2.16
55	933	0"-18"	0.28
	934	18"-36"	1.00
56	935	0"-18"	0.86
	936	18"-42"	0.55
57	937	0"-18"	0.22
	938	18"-66"	0.26
58	939	0"-18"	0.28
	940	18"-48"	0.31

FIGURE 2.—ASSAY MAP, MORGAN PLACER, RINCON, N. MEX.

workings for about 600 feet. Its width ranges from 1 to 10 feet and averages about 2 feet. Pockets containing up to 10 tons of ore have been found near the surface, chiefly at the intersections of subordinate fractures with the main fissure.

The placer deposit lies in the washes that drain the manganese-bearing strata and extends approximately 1-1/2 miles from the main vein to the mouth of a small canyon near the eastern limit of the property.

The placer deposit is characterized by larger and heavier pieces of manganese ore near the vein outcrop, and the "nuggets" become progressively smaller away from the outcrop. There is no concentration near or on bedrock, which lies at an average depth of 3 feet. Maximum depth of gravel is about 5 feet.

The principal mineral is psilomelane, which occurs as mammillary crusts or nodular aggregates. The barium content of the pure psilomelane is usually high. In the deeper workings, psilomelane gives way to wad and manganiferous calcite.

THE WORKINGS

The main vein is exposed for 600 feet by shallow workings consisting of trenches, two 50-foot shafts, and two short adits. Adjoining veins are exposed by short adits, none of which is over 50 feet long.

Manganese Products Corp. has sunk a 70-foot shaft about 150 feet from the main vein and 600 feet from an adjoining vein, from which it is planned to crosscut under these veins. This crosscut is 50 to 200 feet below the present workings on the main vein.

A gravity-type mill of 50-ton capacity is being constructed half a mile from the main shaft. In October 1942 foundations had been poured, and completion was expected in April 1943.

EXPLORATION BY BUREAU OF MINES

Channel samples 6 inches wide by 4 inches deep were cut across the vein exposed in the old workings. Analyses show wide variation in grade over short distances, indicating the spottiness of the ore. Along the main vein, the sample channels were extended into the brecciated footwall of this vein as far as impregnation of the brecciated zone by manganese oxides continued.

Channel samples 8 inches wide by 6 inches deep were cut in the 58 pits at 50- and 100-foot intervals along the placer ground. Here, two samples were taken from each channel. The first included the top 18 inches of material, as in this type of deposit better values were expected near the surface; the second sample included the remainder of the material to bedrock.

A total of 72 lode samples and 116 placer samples was taken.

METALLURGICAL TESTS

Metallurgical tests on vein ore were made by the Rolla, Mo., Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines to find a method of concentrating the manganese to a salable product. As a result of preliminary tests, it was found that the ore is not amenable to gravity beneficiation. Flotation followed by sintering of the concentrate produced a sinter cake that met low-grade B specification with 69.5 percent recovery. The presence of barium in the ore, both in the psilomelane and as barite, prevented recovery of a higher-grade product.

JUL 6 - 1954

402

Mr. W. H. King, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV
224 New Customhouse Building
Denver 2, Colorado

Re: Docket No. DMEA 2325 - Manganese
Central Mining Co., Inc.
Rincon Manganese Claims
Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. King:

At the same time that we received the brochure covering the denial of the subject application we received Senator Clinton P. Anderson's letter of June 29, 1954, with attachments, copies of which are enclosed for your comments at your early convenience.

Also enclosed is a copy of our letter of today to Senator Anderson.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Enclosures

APPROVED:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

Philip W. Guild

Member, Geological Survey

cc: DOCKET
ADM. READ. FILE
CODE 400
OPER. COMMITTEE
G. DEHUFF, USBM
L. PAVLIDES, USGS
FIELD TEAM, REG. IV

WSMartin/ls
6-30-54

JUL 6 1954

Hon. Clinton P. Anderson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Anderson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 29, 1954, regarding the application of Mr. Rufus . Little, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, for exploration assistance at the Central Mining Company's Pincon Manganese claims, Pincon Mining District, Dona Ana County, New Mexico - our Docket No. DMEA 3325-Manganese. With your letter you enclosed copies of Mr. Little's letter to you of June 23, 1954, the DMEA Field Team, Region IV, letter of June 18 to Mr. Little, and Mr. Little's reply of June 23 to the same Field Team.

In accordance with your request that we review the matters discussed in Mr. Little's letter and his application generally, we are making inquiries. You will be advised as soon as we are able to obtain the necessary information.

The enclosures which accompanied your letter of June 29 are returned as you desired.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

Enclosures

cc: DOCKET
FIELD TEAM, REGION IV
CODE 400
ADM. READING FILE
G. DeHUFF, USBM
L. PAVLIDES, USGS
OPERATING COMMITTEE

WSMartin/le
6-30-54

C
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UNITED STATES SENATE

June 29, 1954

3325

Mr. C. O. Mittendorf
Administrator
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

(Canada)

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

I am enclosing a letter which I have just received from Mr. Rufus C. Little, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and also some correspondence from the DMEA to Mr. Little and his reply.

I think this situation should be looked into, and I would appreciate your reviewing this case and giving me a report.

Please return the enclosed letters with your reply.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Clinton P. Anderson

Clinton P. Anderson

CPA-VLFw

C
O
P
Y

CENTRAL MINING COMPANY, INC.

RT. 1, Box,

Santa Fe, New Mexico

June 23, 1954

Senator Clinton P. Anderson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Anderson:

About the last week in March of this year we made an application for one of those DMEA Mine loans. A copy of the results is enclosed.

This application was sent to the Denver Office and they in turn sent it to the Bureau of Mines for the field examination at Tucson, Arizona. I cannot at this time quote dates as this information is in Hatch. But any ways Mr. R.R. Storms of the U. S. Bureau of Mines wrote me and told me that they would be at our property on a Thursday and requested I meet them in Hatch on that day, but instead they were there on the Tuesday before Thursday, so that did not look any to good, but it so happened that I arrived in Hatch about 4.00 P.M. on that Tuesday and I went out to the mine and there was Mr. Storms and two other fellows who are on the Government pay-roll and called them selves geologist. One of these geologist told me in plain english that he had no idea what he was trying to do as this was his second trip, and the other geologist told me in the same english that he had never operated any kind of a mine, and if he were to get any information on this mine that I would have to show him and tell him.

So I went to great length to show this geologist just what the program was all about, and he agreed with me and also went so far to tell Mr. Storms that we had agreed and that he had the picture very clearly, so then they all left. The point is just what kind of service can the tax-payers get from a bunch of punks or job-holders like that running around, when they dont know, they are just as apt to recommend a bad deal as turning down a good one. Mr. Storms told me that the report which these two geologist sent in would be the answer.

On the very same day this same bunch made another inspection for H.C. McCray of Deming, for one of these DMEA Loans, and these two same geologist told Mr. McCray the same thing about their experience. To be plain I think that this DMEA program is just a plain hoax or at least for any one in New Mexico.

When I first sent my application in they returned it to me stating that the Government did not loan money on any project that showed that the project would be working in ore. I first showed that we would follow ore, but that they did not want.

We have good ore showing there in two different places but this bunch would not look at that only as I requested and Mr. Storms never did take a look. If that is the way in which the DMEA program is operated, in this case the thing should be done away with or just up and throw the doors wide open and put every one on the pay-roll that will admit to the public that he does not know any thing about what he is sent for.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Rufus C. Little

402

COPY

Rt. 1, Box 3
Santa Fe, New Mexico

June 23, 1954

Defense Minerals Administration
224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

Re: DMEA Docket 3325 (Manganese)
Central Mining Co's Rincon
Manganese Claims, Rincon
Mining District, Dona Ana County,
New Mexico

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of June 18, 1954, you mention data available is your reason why you have denied our application for one of those DMEA loans.

Where did you expect to get your information, as you surely could not expect to get any information from the two geologist which you sent in for the inspection. One told me in plain english that this was his second inspection, and the other one told me in the very kind of language that he had never been connected with any operating mine, so how could you get any correct information.

Just to be plain these two geologist had no idea what they were even trying to do. This same group did another applicant the same way the same day, only that they got told off at that place. My only answer is that the Tax-Payers should get up in arms about such conditions.

Thanking you.

Yours very truly,

Rufus C. Little

400

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

224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

June 28, 1954.

Memorandum

To: C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator, DMEA

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3325 (Manganese), Central Mining Co.'s Rincon Manganese claims, Rincon Mining District, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Enclosed for your information is copy of a letter dated June 23, 1954 from the Central Mining Company, Inc.

W. H. King

W. H. King

Enclosure

[illegible]

[illegible]

Yours very truly,

[illegible]

[illegible]

MF-500

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

REFERENCE SLIP

DATE 6/29/54

REFERRED TO:

1. ~~Operating Committee~~
2. ~~Miss Curtin~~
3.
4. 400

FOR:

..... Action	..... Recommendation
..... Approval	..... Record
..... Comment	of .....
..... Conference	..... Referring
..... Consideration	to .....
..... Filing	..... Reply for signa-
..... Instructions	ture of .....
..... Investigation	..... Rewriting
..... Initials	..... Signature
..... Mailing	..... Suggestions
..... Previous correspondence	..... Your information

REMARKS: Field Report & Denial
~~For Agenda 6/28/54~~

Check (X) before the items needing attention.

George C. Selfridge

Initials of sender.

GPO 16—63815-1

400

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

224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

June 18, 1954

Memorandum

WSM

To: C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator DMEA
Attentinn: Code 200

From: Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Report of Examination - DMEA Docket 3325 (Manganese) Central Mining Co's. Rincon Manganese claims, Rincon Mining District, Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Enclosed are four copies of the Engineering and Geologic reports of examination on the subject property, a copy of the letter of denial to the applicant, and two copies of Form 3b.

The applicant proposed to explore his property by 300 feet of drifting at an estimated cost of $19,028.38. This request for assistance was denied because the examining engineers find no justification for the proposed drifting and do not recommend any alternate method of exploration.

Enclosures

W H King
W. H. King

for E. N. Hausbauer
A. H. Koschmann

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

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

C
O
P
Y

224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

June 18, 1954

Mr. Rufus C. Little, President
Central Mining Co., Inc.
Route #1, Box 3
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: DMEA Docket 3325 (Manganese)
Central Mining Co.'s Rincon
Manganese claims, Rincon
Mining District, Dona Ana
County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Little:

Reference is made to your application for Government assistance to explore the Rincon Manganese claims, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding material of acceptable grade, and in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

A careful study of your property and data available to this agency reveals that the probability of disclosing mineable reserves of manganese is not considered sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. Under these circumstances, we regret to advise that your application for exploration aid is denied.

Very truly yours,

/s/ W. H. KING
W. H. King
DMEA Field Team, Region IV

RDS:es

cc: Docket 3325
Administrator DMEA
Storms
Koschmann (2)
Chron.
AFShride

/s/ E. N. HARSHMAN
for A. H. KOSCHMANN
DMEA Field Team, Region IV

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Mining Division
Region IV

June 22, 1954.

Memorandum

To: Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: Report of Examination - DMEA Docket 3325 (Manganese), Central Mining Co.'s Rincon Manganese claims, Rincon Mining District, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Enclosed are the original and eight copies of the Engineering Report of Examination on the subject docket.

The examining team does not believe that the property has enough merit to justify Government participation in an exploration project and recommends denial of the application.

We concur in this recommendation.

W. E. King

Enclosures

Received
DMEA OPERATIONS OFFICE
6-28-54
(date)

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Denver Federal Center
Denver 2, Colorado

June 15, 1954

Memorandum

To: DMEA Field Team, Region IV

From: A. H. Koschmann

Subject: DMEA Docket 3325 (manganese) Central Mining Company, Rincon claims, Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Enclosed are 9 copies of a geologic report by W. R. Jones of the U. S. Geological Survey covering the above docket.

It has been recommended that the application be denied since geologic conditions do not indicate that ore will be discovered.

A. H. Koschmann

A. H. Koschmann
Supervising Geologist
Colorado-Wyoming

Enclosures (9)

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

June 11, 1954

Memorandum

To : W. H. King, Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

From : Chief, Mining Methods Br., Mining Div., Region IV

Subject : Report on Docket DMEA-3325, Central Mining Co.'s Rincon Manganese Claims, Rincon Mining District, Dona Ana County, N. Mex.

Enclosed are original and 8 copies of the section on Summary, Conclusions and Recommendation by Walter R. Storms of the Bureau of Mines and William R. Jones, of the Geological Survey, and the section on Engineering by Storms for the above report. A separate section on Geology will be submitted by the Geological Survey.

The DMEA examiners believe that a significant amount of manganese ore will not be discovered by the proposed exploratory work, so recommend that the application for a loan be denied.

Brochure is enclosed.

Walter R. Storms

Walter R. Storms

CC W. H. King (8)
J. N. Faick
DMEA-3325
MF

WRStorms:frj

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Box 4126 University Station
Tucson, Arizona

June 9, 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. A. H. Koschmann

From: J. N. Faick

Subject: Report of Examination, DMEA 3325 (Manganese)
Central Mining Company, Rincon Claims
Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Enclosed are the original and 8 copies of report on the above subject by W. R. Jones. The report recommends denial of the application because geological conditions in the area to be explored do not indicate that ore will be discovered by the project.

The report has my approval.

John N. Faick
Geologist

JNF:ms

cc Koschmann (8)
Storms

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION IV

DMEA-1325, Central Mining Co.'s

Rincon Manganese Claims

Rincon Mining District

Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Walter R. Storms, Supervising Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

William R. Jones, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

June 1954

Declassified by
DMEA OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE
6-28-54
(Date)

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By Walter R. Sterns[1] and Wm. R. Jones[2]

On April 6, 1954, the Central Mining Co., Inc. of Hatch, N. Mex., Rufus C. Little, president, applied to the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, for Governmental assistance in exploring the Rincon manganese-bearing claims about one mile north of the village of Rincon, Dona Ana County, N. Mex. by 300 feet of drift. The total amount of the proposed loan was $19,028.38, the Government to furnish 75 percent and the company 25 percent. The application was docketed as DMEA-3325 and sent to the field for an examination.

On May 25, 1954, Walter R. Sterns of the Bureau of Mines, and William R. Jones and Samuel L. Moore of the Geological Survey visited the property, accompanied by Rufus C. Little, president of the applicant company. This property previously had been examined by the Geological Survey[3] and also by the Bureau of Mines[4] during World War II, when the deposits were thoroughly sampled.

The Rincon manganese deposits, about one mile north of Rincon, evidently were located originally during World War I when a reported 471 tons[5] of 38 percent manganese ore were produced. During World

---

1/ Supervising mining engineer, Bureau of Mines.
2/ Geologist, Geological Survey.
3/ Neuschel, Sherman K., A Memorandum Report on Manganese Deposits of the Sierra Caballo Range, New Mexico, War Minerals Investigations, Manganese, Geological Survey, July 1943.
4/ Russell, Paul L., Manganese Products Corp.'s Morgan Group, Dona Ana County, N. Mex., Bureau of Mines R.I. 4021, Feb. 1947.
5/ Previously cited in footnotes 3 and 4.

War II, the deposit was owned by Manganese Products Corp. and was known as the Morgan group. A 50-ton gravity-type mill was constructed on the property at that time. However, the production during that period is unknown. Evidently all of these claim locations were allowed to lapse, because the Central Mining Co. now owns 5 unpatented lode claims on part of the old property, these claims being the Rincon Nos. 1 to 5, inclusive.

Manganese oxides occur in several northwest-striking veins in sandstones and conglomerates in the area. Psilomelane with some pyrolusite is found as narrow fracture fillings in the crushed rock adjacent to the faults. Calcite and barite are the chief gangue minerals. One vein, which has furnished the major part of the total production, occurs to the south of the applicant's property. This vein may be traced for 700 feet and was sampled thoroughly in 1942 by the Bureau of Mines.[5/] Some 520 feet north-northwest of this vein, manganese oxides again are found in a large fault zone. It is in this latter area that the applicant proposes to drive 300 feet of exploratory drift.

The manganese deposit, where the applicant proposes to do its exploratory work, lies along a major fault which trends N. 30° to 60° W. and dips 55° to 60° south. The south side of the fault consists chiefly of well-bedded sands and gravels of Santa Fe age

5/ Previously cited in footnote 4.

and has been dropped down in relation to the north side. The north or footwall side of the fault is composed of Tertiary sandstones and conglomerates, and contains the manganese deposits. All of the mine workings in this locality are in this formation. The deposit seems to be localized where a vertical fracture zone, striking N. 10° to 15° W., intersects the major northwest fault. Manganese oxides have occur as fissure fillings in the fractures on both sides of the main fault, in northwest fractures which parallel the main fault, and also as coatings on breccia fragments. Production by the applicant company seems to have come from small veins ranging from 6 to 36 inches in this area, although these veins seem to be scarce.

No measured ore reserves can be estimated and only a few tons of tons are indicated or inferred.

The applicant proposed to drive a 300-foot drift, N. 64° E., from this mineralized area in an endeavor to discover additional quantities of ore. In its application the company states: "When we took over this property we planned an entirely a new idea of attack from what had ever been undertaken here before for the following reasons: The Cabalio Range runs north to south and at the very south end of the mountain there is a very large slikem wall fault which runs east and west and is exposed at about half way up the mountain side, and is exposed about 10 feet above the surface and for a distance of a quarter of a mile, see (EXHIBIT TWO)

This fault is all broken up on the west end for a distance of about 150 feet and at this point is where we have been developing and extracting the ore which we have produced. It was and is yet our idea that this ore either came through this major break or came off of some sort of a releif fault from the main fault which is showing on the surface and is running to the east from where we have been working. We cannot hope to develop much ore if any in such a broken up area, we will have to fallow the trend of what ore we can until we get beyond this broken up area. - - - ." Applicant also states: "There are a number of old workings on the property which we are not interested in every trying to use them, as stated above we had different plans when we went on the property, therefore there is no need for showing these old workings. See EXHIBIT THREE FOR our plans."

The BM&A examiners can find no justification for drifting 300 feet eastward from what appears to be the area of manganese concentration. Presently exposed ore showings do not warrant the expenditure of the proposed $19,028.38, the Government's share of which would be 75 percent, or $14,271.29. Therefore, the BM&A examiners recommend that the asked for Governmental assistance to explore this deposit be denied.

CENTRAL MINING CLAIMS
RINCON CLAIMS
DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
(MANGANESE)

DMEA 3325

Geology

By
W. R. Jones
Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

CENTRAL MINING CLAIMS
RINCON CLAIMS
DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
(MANGANESE)

DMEA 3325

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EXPLORATION PROPOSED BY APPLICANT	3
RECOMMENDATIONS	3

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Location Map	See Engineering report
Fig. 2 Geologic Sketch Map	Following Page 2

INTRODUCTION

The manganese deposits of the Central Mining Co., Inc., located on the Rincon Lode Claims No. 4 and No. 5, were examined on May 25th by W. R. Storms and W. R. Jones in company with Mr. Rufus C. Little, president of the Central Mining Co., Inc. The property is located near Rincon, N. Mex. To reach the mine take the first left turn beyond the General Store in Rincon; pass a school at the end of street, on left (west) side of the street, and follow winding dirt road for about one mile to mine area. The mine area is in the extreme northwest corner of R. 2 W., T. 19 S., at the southern end of the Caballo Mountains.

According to Mr. Little, the property is an old manganese mine but its earlier production is not known. The present operators have produced 125 tons of manganese ore containing 29 percent manganese. Mr. Little reports that the ore shipped yielded a very good concentrate, that it was very low in trace minerals and silica.

GEOLOGY

The Rincon manganese deposit lies along a major fault which trends N. 50-60° W. and dips about 55-60° S. The south side, consisting of well bedded sands and gravels of Santa Fe or Gila Age, is down dropped against the north side which consists of red, well bedded and firmly cemented sandstones and gravels of Early to Mid Tertiary age. The red beds of the north side are interbedded in the thick series of Andesite and rhyolite flows and tuffs.

The essential features of the geology are shown in Fig. 2. The mine workings are entirely within the red sandstones and conglomerates of the footwall block. The deposit appears to be located where a vertical fracture zone striking N. 10-15° W. intersects the major northwest fault. The vertical fractures are most numerous in the arroyo north-northwest of the open cuts, but a few fractures of similar attitude were observed cutting the Gila or Santa Fe gravels a short distance southeast of the mine.

Manganese oxides occur as fissure fillings in the northerly-trending fractures on both side of the major fault as well as in northwest fractures paralleling the main fault, and as coatings on brecciated fragments close to the fault. Barite veinlets, a fraction of an inch thick, were noted in the underground workings. Manganese oxide veinlets cut the earlier barite veinlets. Small lenses of manganese oxides were observed in the walls of a winze being sunk from the open cuts and in fractures in the wall of the open cuts. Mineralized fractures or veins usually strike either N. 50° W. or N. 10-15° W. parallel to the local fracture pattern. Production to date appears to have come from workings following individual veins ranging from 6 inches to 36 inches wide which constitute the highgrade occurrences of the manganese oxides. Veins of this width are scarce.

ORE RESERVES

No ore reserves are blocked out although several tons of manganese oxides are visible in the workings. Indicated and inferred reserves are estimated to be a few tens of tons of ore.

EXPLORATION PROPOSED BY APPLICANT

Mr. Little proposes to drive a drift eastward a distance of about 300 feet from a point in the old adit. This drift would explore beneath the fault exposed at the surface, at locality "A" on Figure 2. It would explore the eastern apex of the triangular-shaped zone between branches of the main fault, in an area where nothing was seen on the surface to indicate that manganese oxides exist at depth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the request for aid in the proposed exploration drift be denied because there is no justification for drifting 300 feet eastward away from what appears to be the principle zone of manganese concentration. Geological conditions do not indicate that significant amounts of mineable ore will be discovered by the proposed project, and presently exposed ore showings do not warrant an outlay of $19,000 for such exploration as is proposed by this applicant.

DMEA-3325, CENTRAL MINING CO.'S
RINCON MANGANESE CLAIMS
RINCON MINING DISTRICT
DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Engineering Report

By Walter R. Storms
Supervising Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

June 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-28-54
(date)

DMEA-3325, CENTRAL MINING CO.'S
RINCON MANGANESE CLAIMS
RINCON MINING DISTRICT
DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure		Following page
1	Location map	2
2	Geological map	(See Geology section)
3	General property map	2

INTRODUCTION

In April 1954, the Central Mining Co. of Hatch, N. Mex. applied to the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, for Governmental assistance in exploring its Rincon manganese deposit about one mile north of Rincon, Dona Ana County, N. Mex. The total amount of the proposed loan was $19,028.38, the Government to furnish 75 percent and the company the remaining 25 percent. The application was docketed as DMEA-3325 and sent to the field for an examination.

On May 25, 1954, Walter R. Storms of the Bureau of Mines, and William R. Jones and Samuel L. Moore of the Geological Survey visited the property, accompanied by Rufus C. Little, president of the applicant company.

This same manganese deposit was examined in July 1943 by Sherman K. Neuschel[1] of the Geological Survey; it also was examined and thoroughly sampled by Paul L. Russell[2] of the Bureau of Mines late in 1942. At that time the property covered a larger area than at present and was known as the Morgan group.

1/ Neuschel, Sherman K., A Memorandum Report on Manganese Deposits of the Sierra Caballo Range, New Mexico, War Minerals Investigations, Manganese, U.S.Geological Survey, July 1943.

2/ Russell, Paul L., Manganese Products Corp.'s Morgan Group, Dona Ana County, N. Mex., U. S. Bureau of Mines R. I. 4021, Feb. 1947.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The Rincon manganese property of the Central Mining Co. is situated in the southern foothills of the Caballo Mountains about one mile north of the village of Rincon, in sec. 5, T. 19 S., R. 2 W. (figure 1). It may be reached from Hatch by traveling eastward for about 7 miles on a good paved highway to Rincon, thence north from Rincon past the local school house for about one mile over a fair desert road to the property.

The property lies in the southern foothills of the Caballo Mountains at an altitude of about 4,300 feet. The immediate locality is one of moderate relief with well rounded hills. Immediately north of the deposit the hills rise possibly 500 feet above the mine workings. The only vegetation in the vicinity consists of scattered small desert growths.

The climate is typical of the southern New Mexico desert regions with hot summers and mild winters. Heavy rains usually occur during the summer rainy season; some small amount of snow may fall during the winter. Annual precipitation probably is about 9 inches. The nearest permanent stream is the Rio Grande, some 2 miles south of the property.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The main manganese deposit, which lies a few hundred feet south of the present Rincon claims, was worked during the first World War (figure 3). Some 471 tons of manganese ore were produced

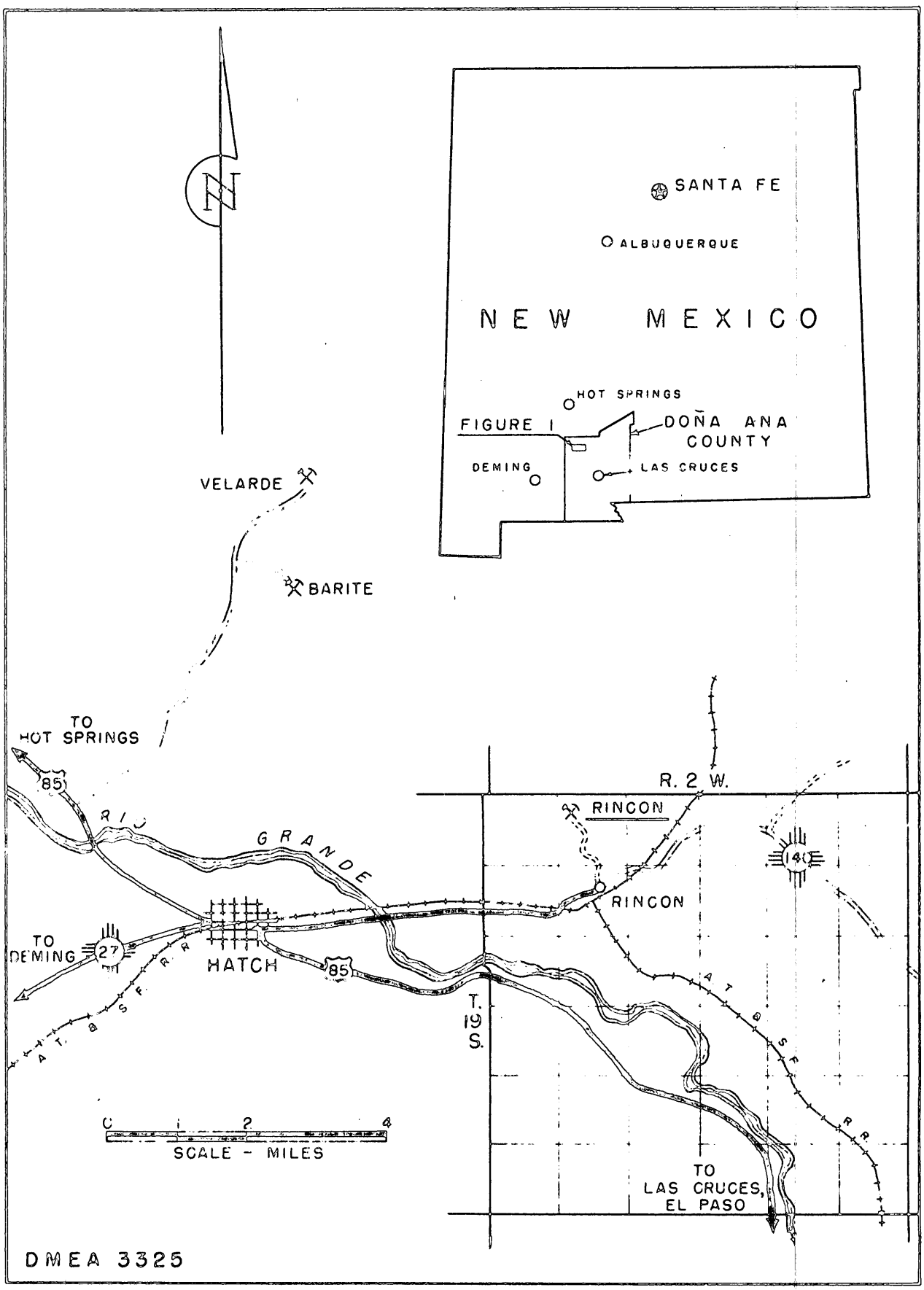

FIGURE 1. - LOCATION MAP - RINCON MANGANESE CLAIMS
CENTRAL MINING COMPANY DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

in 1918 that averaged 38 percent manganese.[3] Possibly a very small amount of this ore came from deposits now owned by the Central Mining Co.

In 1942, the Manganese Products Corp. owned claims, known as the Morgan group, covering all of the deposits. At that time a 50-ton gravity-type mill was constructed on the property. Production during that period is unknown.

Evidently the claim locations were allowed to lapse after World War II because the Central Mining Co. recently relocated 5 lode claims, called the Rincon Nos. 1 to 5, inclusive. These five claims are on the northern manganese deposits of the old Morgan group where very little previous production had taken place (see figure 3).

The Central Mining Co. has produced about 125 tons of hand-sorted ore that averaged 29 percent manganese. This ore was shipped to the General Services Administration's Deming Purchase Depot.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The Central Mining Co., Inc., of Hatch, N. Mex. owns 5 unpatented lode claims covering this manganese deposit. The claims are the Rincon Nos. 1 to 5, inclusive, and are recorded in the Dona Ana County Courthouse in Las Cruces in Book 21-LM, pages 333, 334, and 335. Rufus C. Little, Route 1, Box 3, Santa Fe, is president of the company; Gordon Herkenhoff,

3/ Previously cited in footnotes 1 and 2.

866 Don Cubero, Santa Fe, is secretary and treasurer; Julia Herkenhoff of the same address is vice-president; and Anna W. Little, same address as Rufus C. Little, also is a vice-president.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

The general geology of the area is described by Neuschel[4/] as follows:

"The country rock in the vicinity of the deposits is an older series of well consolidated red sandstones and conglomerates of probable Tertiary age unconformably overlain by the younger Santa Fe formation (late Tertiary). The manganese veins cut the older series of rocks which strike NE and have SE dips varying from 30° to 70°. Southward these older sediments are covered by the younger Santa Fe formation striking more nearly north and dipping about 15° E. The Santa Fe consists of loosely consolidated sands, silts, and gravels which, in places, show marked cross-bedding and exhibit other characteristics of stream channel deposits. Boulders within the Santa Fe formation are derived from the erosion of all older deposits in the region including the sandstones and conglomerates outcropping immediately to the north.

"The older sediments are cut by a series of NW striking faults of near vertical dip. Most of these faults are mineralized by at least a trace of manganese oxide occurring as narrow, fracture fillings in the crushed rock adjacent to the faults. Mineralization was pre-Santa Fe as is shown by the inclusion of psilomelane fragments in the Santa Fe gravels. However, renewed movement in post-Santa Fe

4/ Previously cited in footnote 1.

time along the old faults has in many places brought Santa Fe into contact with the older sandstones and conglomerates. Some of the recent prospecting work in the eastern fractured area has demonstrated manganese mineralization along faults cutting the Santa Fe. This mineralization is not, however, of the hard psilomelane type found in the older sediments but appears to be a wad type ore which may have been derived from the earlier psilomelane deposits.

Manganese mineralization in the veins consists predominately of botryoidal psilomelane and some pyrolusite. These minerals occur as fracture fillings in the crushed rock adjacent to the faults. Only in the more brecciated areas is there much evidence of replacement of the country rock. Gangue minerals consist of abundant calcite and barite. A small amount of quartz is also present. The main vein, sampled in all of the surface workings by the Bureau of Mines, is the only one which contains more than a trace of manganese. In all others mineralization consists either of a single narrow fracture filled with psilomelane or merely of a stain of manganese oxide on the various fracture surfaces. - - - ."
He also states: "Several old tunnels and cuts along the eastern fractured area were also sampled by the Bureau of Mines. Since their work, the Manganese Products Corporation has prospected this zone for 200 feet along the hillside by additional tunnels. To date no minable ore body has been developed. In places where minor fractures cross the main northwest striking faults, there are small

bodies of 10% ore but the average for the whole zone is probably less than 5%." Evidently this "eastern fractured area", which is referred to by Neuschel, is the area where the Central Mining Co.'s claims are located.

The essential features of the geology on the Rincon claims are shown on figure 2 in the section on Geology of this report. The manganese deposit lies along a large fault which trends N. 50° to 60° W. and dips 55° to 60° to the south. The main fault is cut by another vertical fracture zone which strikes N. 10° to 15° W. The main ore zone seems to be localized at this intersection. Manganese oxides occur in the fractures on both sides of the main fault as well as in northwest fractures which parallel this fault. The oxides occur as fissure fillings and also as coatings on breccia fragments near the fault.

ORE RESERVES

No measureable ore can be estimated on the Central Mining Co.'s claims, and only a small quantity is indicated or inferred. Some 125 tons of hand sorted ore that assayed 29 percent manganese is said to have been produced by the applicant company, but from the appearance of the mine workings this ore was produced from "gophering" operations, small lots having been mined from several scattered locations.

PRESENT STATUS

The Central Mining Co.'s property was not operating when the DMEA examiners visited it on May 25, and it apparently had not been operated for some time. Equipment consisted of a Caterpillar D4 tractor with Trackson Traxcavator front end loader, a 105 cfm. Gardner-Denver compressor, and one 16-cubic foot mine car.

The present operator went into the old adit, shown on figures 2 and 3, and evidently mined a small amount of ore from several different places in the adit workings. This ore was tramned via track and mine car out to the dump where it was dumped into a small wooden ore bin. The ore then was drawn out into a truck below the dump and hauled to Deming. After the operator found some fair ore in the cut east of the adit (also shown in figures 2 and 3), a raise was driven up from the adit level to the bottom of the open cut, then ore was mined at several places in the cut, dropped down the raise, and drawn out through the adit.

PROPOSED EXPLORATION

The Central Mining Co. proposes to drift 300 feet in a N. 64° E. direction from within the adit as shown on figure 3. In its application the company states its reason for this work as follows: "When we took over this property we planned an entirely a new idea of attack from what had ever been undertaken here before

for the following reasons; The Caballo Range runs north and south and at the very south end of the mountain there is a very large slicken wall fault which runs east and west and is exposed at about half way up the mountain side, and is exposed about 10 feet above the surface and for a distance of a quarter of a mile, see (EXHIBIT TWO). This fault is all broken up on the west end for a distance of about 150 feet and at this point is where we have been developing and extracting the ore which we have produced. It was and is yet our idea that this ore either came through this major break or came off of some sort of a raleif fault from the main fault which is showing on the surface and is running to the east from where we have been working. We cannot hope to develop much ore if any in such a broken up area, we will have to follow the trend of what ore we can until we get beyond this broken up area. I might add that this large fault crosses at the head of a small canyon and to the south in the Recent sand and gravels, deposits derived from this fault and adjacent slopes occur detrital material containing considerable fragmental pailomelane ore. This has formed an area of manganese placer material covering several acres. Such a condition does lead us to believe that this placer material does come from this large fault area, either the fault its self or the broken up area allowing the manganese to come from the area back of the fault. Just north or back of the fault rests the bedding planes pitching to the east at about a 30 degree." Applicant also

states: "There are a number of old workings on the property which we are not interested in every trying to use them, as stated above we had different plans when we went on the property, therefore there is no need for showing these old workings. See EXHIBIT THREE FOR our plans."

Exhibit three indicates that the applicant proposes to drive a drift in a N. 64° E. direction from within the old adit workings, this 300-foot drift to cross the major fault at about point A on figure 2. Applicant states: "Program: We would like to drive one drift to the east about 300 feet in length and size 4'6 x 6'6. We would be guided by the trend of what ever ore we could follow . This would not be mining in any way, it would be prospecting through a broken-up area, and at the same time trying to locate as much ore as possible."

The applicant's costs for the proposed 300 feet of drift are as follows:

Labor	$6,000.00
Supervision	3,000.00
Drill steel, bits, etc. on hand	798.00
Supplies to be purchased	1,729.50
Rental of compressor, jackhammers, etc.	2,478.00
Blacksmith shop & tool shed	451.88
Repairs, assaying, accounting & taxes	3,300.00
Traveling expenses and phone calls	1,289.00
Total	$19,026.38

Time to complete the project was estimated by the applicant as 6 months. Cost per feet for the drift, using applicant's costs , would be $63.42.

The writer has revised the applicant's costs as follows: 3/

Time to complete project, - 50 working days or about 2 months, working 2 shifts per day and pulling 3 feet per shift.

Labor:

Supervisor @ $500 per mo. for 2 months	$1,000.00
2 Miners @ $1.75 per hour	1,400.00
2 Helpers @ $1.50 per hour	1,200.00
4 Muckers @ $1.50 per hour	2,400.00
Total labor	$6,000.00

Equipment Rental:

1 Compressor @ $265 per mo.	530.00
2 Jackhammers @ $60 per mo.	120.00
1 Ore car @ $5 per mo.	10.00
1 Rail bender @ $3 per mo.	6.00
1 Truck with tank @ $80 per mo.	160.00
Repairs, 10% of above	82.60
Total	$908.60

Supplies:

Gasoline, oil, dynamite, caps, fuse, rail, pipe, small tools, drill steel, bits, hose, etc.	$3,335.30

Miscellaneous:

Assaying, 1 sample every 5 ft. @ $1.25 each	75.00
Workmen's compensation and employer's liability insurance @ 8.5%	510.00
Payroll tax @ 1.5%	90.00
Security Com., 3%	180.00
Total	$855.00

Total	$11,098.90
Per foot	$37.00
Blacksmith shop and tool shed	$200.00
Total for project	$11,298.90

3/ Supervisor's salary, miner's wages, etc., same as quoted by applicant.

Thus it would seem that the applicant could do the work as proposed for considerable less than $12,000.00, instead of the proposed $19,028.38.

CONCLUSIONS

Manganese oxides occur in a relatively small brecciated area where two fault zones meet. The applicant reportedly has shipped about 125 tons of hand-sorted ore from workings in this area which averaged 29 percent manganese. Now the applicant wants to drive a 300-foot drift from this mineralized area, across the major fault zone into virgin ground in an endeavor to discover new ore.

No manganese of any significance could be noted on the surface above the proposed drift and geological reasoning seems to indicate that no ore would be found in that area. Some manganese might be found along the main fault, but it is doubtful if any significant amount would be discovered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The BMMA examiners believe that a significant discovery of manganese ore would not be made by the 300 feet of drifting as proposed by the applicant, so recommend that this exploration loan be denied.

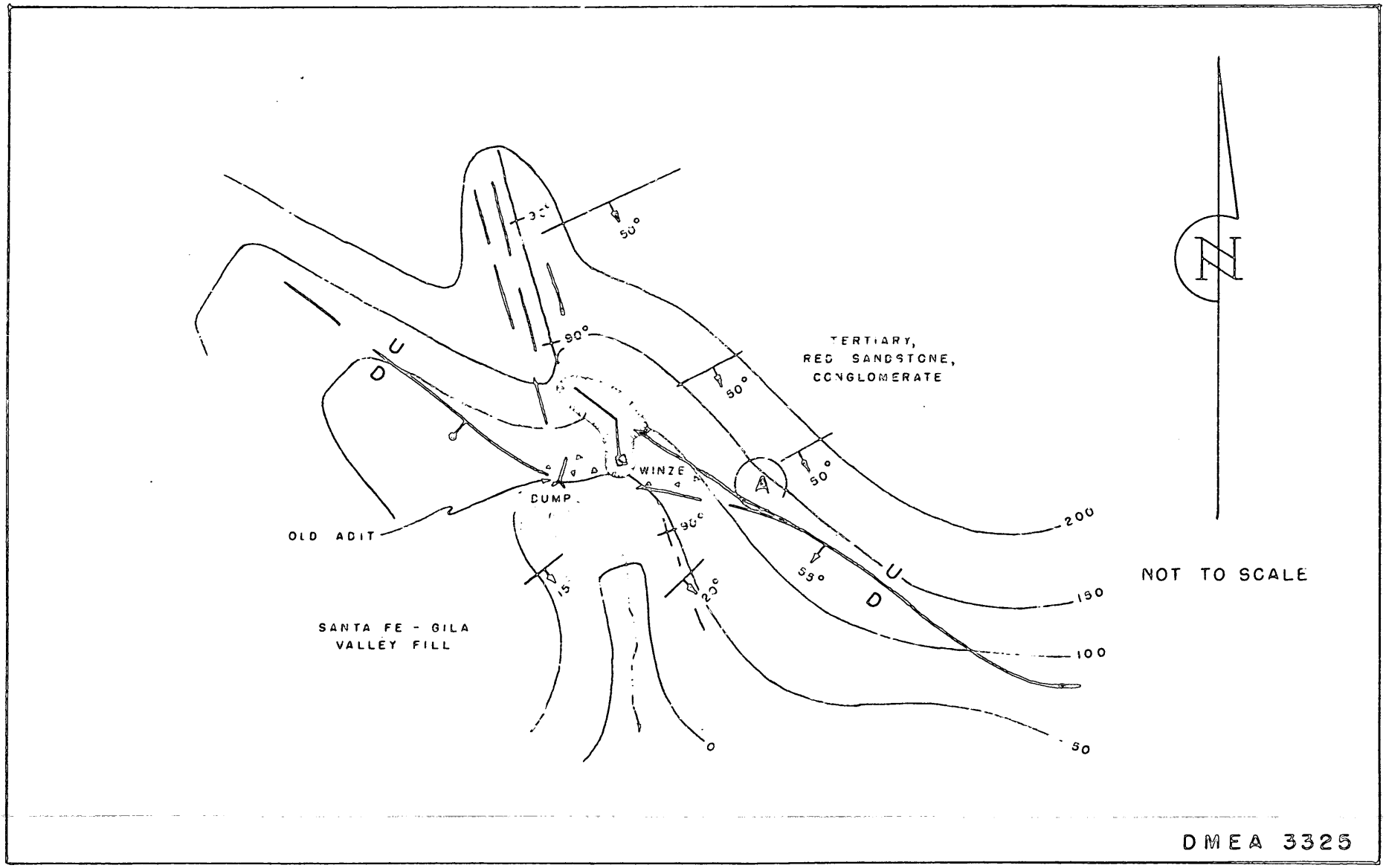

FIGURE 2. - GEOLOGIC SKETCH MAP OF RINCON MINES AREA
DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

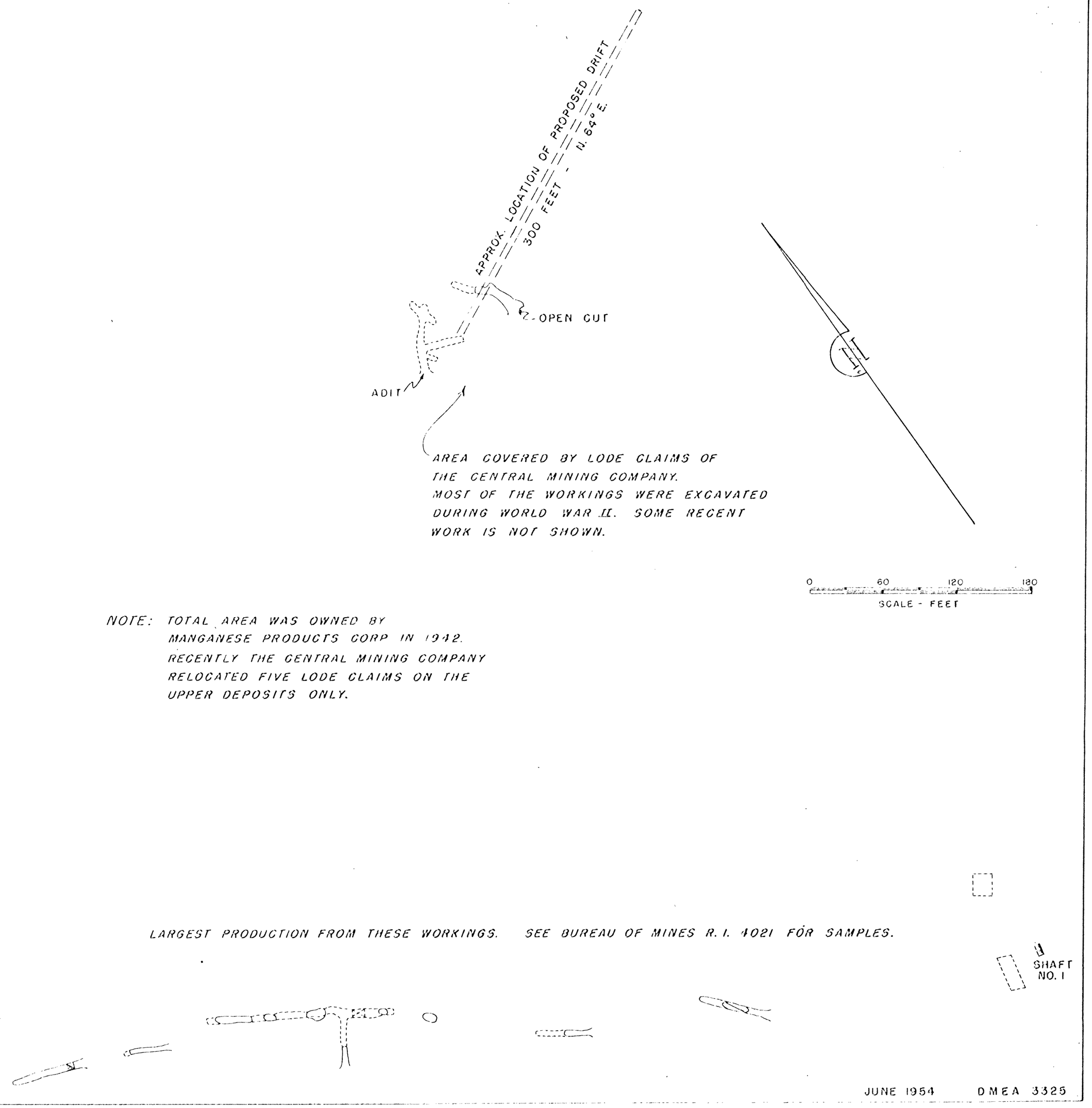

FIGURE 3. - RINCON OR MORGAN MANGANESE DEPOSITS - DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO