REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
APR 30 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

April 25, 1951

Mr. Harry E. Ervin
125 1st Ave. #25
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Ervin:

This is in answer to your letter of April 11 regarding your application SMA-782. I am sorry for the delay, but it was necessary for me to make considerable investigation of your proposal before I could answer your letter.

I find that the manganese deposit that you propose to operate consists of partially oxidized veins in quartzite. The primary manganiferous material consists of rhodonite and rhodochrosite, with minor amounts of base and precious metals. The reserves are relatively small due to the fact that the oxidization does not extend to any great depth and the primary vein material is exposed in shallow shafts in several parts of the district.

Your proposal was rejected because the reserves are too small to justify the construction of an extensive plant for the chemical treatment of these ores. The Bureau-Survey examination consisted of trenching and sampling of all accessible underground workings. If the examination were to be repeated it would be a gross waste of the taxpayer's money.

I have reviewed the basis for the decision of rejecting your proposal for the installation of a leaching plant and electrolytic plant to treat ores from the Simpson Mountains in Utah. As indicated in my original letter, there must be some reasonable assurance that sufficient ore exists to repay the cost of the plant installation and mine development. Inasmuch as the information available does not indicate that this will be the case, there is no way that your original proposal can be approved.

Although there is no prospect of installing the facilities you propose, there is increasing interest on the part of private industry in the utilization of manganese alloys made from siliceous

ores. If that trend continues it is possible that a market for such ores as yours might develop.

Due to the fact that the oxidization of the veins on your property is relatively shallow and that frequently base or precious metals are found beneath a manganese gossan, it might be you would be interested in an exploration loan whereby the government shares the cost of exploration. I am enclosing a copy of MO-5 (pertinent regulations on Defense Minerals exploration program), and five copies each of Form MF-100 and MF-103 (general technical data and application forms). In case you are interested, please fill out the forms and mail them to the Defense Minerals Administration, and they will be given due consideration.

Very truly yours,

Tom Lyon

ad

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

Enclosure

TLyon/ad

cc: Administrator
Deputy Administrator
Executive Secretary
Field Team, Region IV
Ferro-Alloys Branch - Room 3624
Files

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

Lyon

No File

March 15, 1951

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
MAR 21 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

Memorandum

To: Landon F. Strobel, Executive Secretary

Through: Director of Supply Division

From: Manganese Commodity Committee

Subject: Harry E. Ervin - DMA No. 782

The attached letter from H. E. Ervin to H. C. Maull has been referred to DMA for consideration and has been assigned a DMA docket number. It has been treated as (1) a request for a loan of $500,000 in connection with a proposal to construct a leaching plant and an electrolytic furnace for the production of metallic manganese, and for development of associated manganese properties in the Simpson Mountains, Utah; and (2) as an offer of 120 tons per day of ore averaging 20% manganese, pending completion of arrangements for financing the larger project.

This application is being rejected. On the basis of information available to us, the reasonable expectation for ore in the Simpson Mountain district as a whole totals only 80,000 tons with an average grade of about 15% manganese. This includes rhodonite as well as manganese. Unaltered rhodonite is exposed at the water table in workings now accessible, and so the prospects for downward extension of the desirable oxides are very poor.

This district along with others in western Utah was considered as a possible source of supply for a proposed leaching plant during World War II. The amount of ore available was not then regarded as sufficient to warrant the various expenditures required, and there are no new factors to change this conclusion.

A letter for the signature of the Director of the Supply Division, informing the applicant of this action, is attached.

Approved:

/s/ P. R. Bradley

P. R. Bradley, Jr.
Chairman

Director, Supply Division

PRBradley/af
Copy to: Admin, Reading File, Mr. Strobel, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Bradley, Field Team Region IV, Files, Blue copy.

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

March 15, 1951

Mr. Harry E. Ervin
125 - 1st Avenue #25
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Ervin: Re: DMA No. 782

This will acknowledge receipt of your two letters of January 19, 1951 to General Services Administration in which you explained your difficulty in marketing ore from the Simpson Mountains, and outlined a proposal for installation of a leaching and electrolytic manganese plant for treating such ores.

In answer to your question whether present stockpile specifications are to be lowered: the specifications for ores to be stockpiled were set at the lowest possible grade which can be used without serious difficulty. As a result, there is no prospect that the P-30 specifications will be altered.

Your proposal for installation of a leaching and electrolytic plant has been given serious consideration. You will realize that for such a proposal to be successful, it must be amply demonstrated that the amount of ore available is sufficiently large to repay the loan at a reasonable amount per ton. The work done in the Simpson Mountains by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines in World War II was sufficient to indicate clearly the amount and character of the manganese ore available, and on the basis of that study there is no indication that the reserves are large enough to warrant the expenditure of money, manpower, and material that would be required. As you may be aware, a similar proposal was considered by the war agencies in 1942, but it too was abandoned. Under the present circumstances, the only market available for the particular type of ore present in the Simpson Mountains is at Geneva or Provo, and as you have pointed out the zinc content limits its usability for even this purpose. I regret that there appears to be no way the Defense Minerals Administration can help you at present.

Sincerely yours,

/s Dan Lyon

Director, Supply Division

MDGrittenden:gt/af
Copy to: Adm. Reading File
Mr. Strobel
Mr. Lyon
Field Team - Region IV
Mr. Bradley
Files
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Form 6-98

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

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