330

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

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
SEP 24 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

SEP 20 1951

Mr. [illegible], President
Rock Creek Placers Inc.
[illegible] Building
Tulsa 3, Oklahoma

Re: Rock Creek Platinum
DMA-[illegible]27

Dear Mr. [illegible]:

I have your letter of [illegible] and note you are preparing additional maps showing location of test pits and ore reserve calculations.

In regard to your [illegible] guaranteed bank loan I wish to advise that such guarantees are considered only in instances where working capital is required on a short term basis. In instances where the applicant can show that he is ready to produce, possesses the plant, [illegible] equipment and complete facilities, this type of assistance can be considered.

From the information you have [illegible] I believe you would be well advised to make application for an exploration contract in order to test your ground and definitely prove the [illegible] per cubic yard of ground. [illegible] in the project amounts to [illegible]. Then upon successful completion of the test program you would be in a position to apply [illegible] for a loan, [illegible] that the situation with regard to platinum [illegible].

I trust the above will give you the information you desire.

Very truly yours,

Weston Bourret

Weston Bourret, Chief
[illegible] Branch

Bourret/ch 9-19-51
cc: Adm. Reading File
Lyon
Bourret
Norton - [illegible]
Dietrich
Field Team - [illegible]

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

AUG 31 1951

AUG 28 1951

J. F. S.

E. R. Garland

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

SEP 6 1951

Memorandum

To: [illegible] Development Division

through: [illegible], [illegible] Division

from: [illegible] and Metals Branch

Subject: [illegible] Placers - [illegible] County, [illegible]
[illegible] - [illegible]-727

Under date of February 26, 1951, Mr. [illegible], President [illegible] Placers, Inc., [illegible] Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma, submitted the subject application, [illegible] Docket 727, for an equipment loan in the amount of $17[illegible],000.

Attached hereto and [illegible] letter of even date addressed to applicant advising that the developed reserves of platinum [illegible] gravel are insufficient to justify his request. [illegible] Field Team and personnel of the DMS and [illegible] are to assist with this. We have however suggested that applicant consider [illegible] an exploration loan.

[illegible] contains [illegible] copy and of the following:

(a) [illegible] copy [illegible] together with letter of [illegible] and engineering report on subject application.

(b) Copy of [illegible] memorandum of March 21 and Field Team's memorandum of April [illegible], 1951 and letter of March 22 to applicant from [illegible] Merrill.

(c) [illegible] copy of [illegible]-100.

(d) Copy of Field Team report, letter [illegible] and updated [illegible] [illegible].

Ernest R. Gordon
[illegible], Chief
[illegible] and Metals Branch

Approved:

[illegible] Lyon

Director, Supply [illegible]

Gordon/[illegible] [illegible]-2[illegible]-51

cc: Adm. Reading File
[illegible] and Records
Lyon
Lourmet
[illegible]ell
[illegible]ht
Field Team [illegible]
D A Docket File

July 27, 1952

Memorandum

To: Landon Strobel, Executive Secretary
Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: DMA Docket 727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., Fremont County, Wyoming

We are enclosing herewith original and two copies of the above report.

The engineer recommends that the direct loan request be denied, but that the property be considered for an exploration loan where the ground can be tested properly under competent supervision.

We concur with the findings of the engineers.

The brochure is returned herewith.

J. H. Hunt, Jr.

A. H. Koschmann

Enclosures
One copy by Air Mail
Two copies by Regular Mail

cc: DMA
Koschmann

jd

Mining Division
Region IV

July 28, 1951

Memorandum

To: BLM Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: BLM Permit 727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., Atlantic City, Fremont County, Wyoming

The engineering report and brochure on the above dredge lease have reached. It is noted that the application for a dredge lease to produce platinum as a by-product of a gold dredging operation, on Rock Creek near Atlantic City, Wyoming.

During the early operations for recovering gold on Rock Creek the bulk of the platinum content of the gravel and platinum was not recovered. Only 13 test pits were excavated on the 14 mile course of the work and only a few of these proved an appreciable amount of platinum.

The testing of the gravel has been entirely too sketchy to appraise the deposits and the amount recommended denial of the requested dredge lease. I agree with the conclusions and recommendations.

The deposits should be completely tested as a prelude to the original work made to determine the gold content before a dredge lease should be further considered. If the applicant is willing and financially able to participate in an exploration contract and if he will employ competent technical assistance, it is recommended that an exploration lease be considered.

Anticipating that such a recommendation might be made by the examiner the applicant had submitted a tentative proposal for testing the deposits by the use of a small dredge already available. A copy of this letter is attached for your consideration.

R. T. Allison

JH

Sub

Enc: BLM

MINERALS CONSERVATION
105 North Boulder - Tulsa 3, Oklahoma

July 6, 1952

Orig letter filed in DMA 727 found report

Mr. J. H. Mayr, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
7th Floor Federal Bldg.
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Mayr:

I have recently returned from a field trip over the Rock Creek Pleasant, Inc. properties on Rock Creek near Atlantic City, Wyoming.

Unfortunately, I failed to make contact with Mr. Young, your field engineer, who made a preliminary survey of the property. I understand, however, that in view of the opinion that the basic and historical information related to the property was insufficient for your department to make a conclusive statement of its placer values, he informed that he was considering recommending a loan in the amount of $5,000.00 for drill testing the properties. This expenditure would develop additional information but would be expensive and time consuming. The relatively short working season added that of even greater importance.

As an alternate, I wish to suggest the following for your consideration. A dry back washing plant of approximately 1,000 cu. yds. per day capacity is available on Rock Bank, Wyoming for a sales price of $3,000.00. I have inspected this plant and its sales price is an estimate of its actual value. An additional outlay of $3,500.00 would move, repair and place the washing plant in operation. By washing a dragline bed down, both of which are available locally, this plant could be placed in service as a pilot plant operation. Selected parts of the bank, but could be added as a volume basis whereby the tests would be economically enough to be conclusive.

Due to the size of the operation, I doubt that it would be a profitable operation but I do feel a conclusive test could be made on a basis that would be partially paid for from values recovered.

If this approach be further proving the value of the property is acceptable to you, we will be pleased to take any steps necessary to secure a lease and proceed with the tests.

Mr. J. E. Bush, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
Denver, Colorado

Recent tests made on Gray Creek, a minor tributary of Rock Creek, at points near the point of entering Rock Creek were sampled by Dakota and Lincoln and showed average values of gold 0.02 oz. per cu. yd. and platinum 0.02 oz. per cu. yd. These tests further confirm our belief relative to values contained on the property but we are still at a loss as to what additional work would be necessary in order to place the values to your satisfaction and approval.

Any reaction to the suggested procedure will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,
ROCK HILL GOLD, INC. and
KIMBERLY CONSOLIDATED, INC.

By: /s/ Chris Welch
Chris Welch, Vice-President

CW/ccp

KERR-MCGEE CORPORATION
105 South Boulder - Tulsa 3, Oklahoma

July 6, 1951

Mr. J. E. Hoyt, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
224 New Federal Bldg.
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Hoyt:

I have recently returned from a field trip over the Rock Creek Placers, Inc. properties on Rock Creek near Atlantic City, Wyoming.

Unfortunately, I failed to make contact with Mr. Young, your field engineer, who made a preliminary survey of the property. I understand, however, that he was of the opinion that the water and historical information related to the property was insufficient for your department to make a conclusive statement of the placer values. He indicated that he was considering recommending a loan in the amount of $35,000.00 for drill testing the properties. This exploration would develop additional information but would be expensive and time consuming. The relatively short working season makes this of even greater importance.

As an alternate, I wish to suggest the following for your consideration. A dry land washing plant of approximately 1,000 cu. yds. per day capacity is available at South Pass, Wyoming for a sales price of $1,500.00. I have inspected this plant and the sales price is my estimation of the actual value. An additional outlay of $1,500.00 would move, repair and place the washing plant in operation. By renting a dragline and dozer, both of which are available locally, this plant could be placed in service as a pilot plant operation. Selected parts of the creek bed could be tested on a volume basis wherein the data would be extensive enough to be conclusive.

Due to the size of the operation, I doubt that it would be a profitable operation but I do feel a conclusive test could be made on a basis that would be partially paid for from values recovered.

If this approach to further proving the value of the property is acceptable to you, we will be pleased to take any steps necessary to secure a loan and proceed with the tests.

Page -2-
Mr. J. L. Bain, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
Denver, Colorado

Recent tests made on Dove Creek, a minor tributary of Rock Creek, at points near the point of entering Rock Creek were assayed by Bureau and Minerals and showed average values of gold 0.02 per cu. yd. and platinum 0.02 per cu. yd. These tests further confirm our belief relative to volume contained on the property but we are still at a loss as to knowing that approach would be necessary in order to prove the values to your department satisfaction.

Your reaction to the suggested procedure will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,
ROCK CREEK MINING, INC. and
MONTANA CONSOLIDATED, INC.

By: /s/ Clyde Wynn
Clyde Wynn, Vice President

CW/bmc

TELEPHONE 5-5644

ROCK CREEK PLACERS INC.
WRIGHT BUILDING
TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

JUNE 13, 1951

"Air Mail"

Mr. J. H. East, Jr.,
Regional Director Bureau of Mines,
224 New Custom House,
Denver 2,
Colorado

Dear Mr. East:

Re: Docket No. D. M. A. - 727

Thank you, very much, for your letter of June 6, 1951 enclosing forms MF-100, which this letter will acknowledge.

Following your suggestion, we have sent these forms to Washington addressed to Mr. Charles W. Merrill, Acting Chairman Non-Ferrous Metals Committee, since Mr. Merrill acknowledged the receipt of our original application. Our original application for assistance was filed on Form NSRB-146.

We trust that you will find it convenient to make an examination of our property in the near future. Before doing so it will be appreciated if you will advise either Mr. Clyde Wyant, Mr. Howard Lipp or the writer. At the present time we are working a crew of men, doing additional testing, under the direction of Mr. Ray R. Stevenson. We have testing equipment on the property and available.

Again thanking you very much.

Very truly yours,

Milton Leon

MILTON LEON,
President

ML/egw

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
JUN 14 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

Mining Division
Region IV

April 10, 1951

Memorandum

TO: S. R. Wilson

From: Chief, Mining Division

Subject: Docket DMA 727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc. (Platinum and Gold) Atlantic City, South Pass district, Fremont county, Wyoming

Enclosed herewith is the brochure on the subject docket.

As noted in the memorandum to the Executive Officer, Field Team, Region IV, the work done by the applicants is entirely inadequate to prove such a large area and yardage.

The engineering report also does not present sufficiently detailed maps and there is not any description of the character of the gravel and the bed-rock.

An important omission in the Feasibility Study - Exhibit 3 - is the cost of transportation, treatment charges, and metallurgical recovery of the platinum in the black sands. Metallurgical tests are indicated.

Please arrange for an examination of this project when convenient. At this end, it appears that considerable exploration would be required before a loan could be approved.

P. T. Allsman

Attachments
WDM/al
cc-Allsman
DMA files

Tulsa FA
Mr. Lipp — DMA 727

April 9, 1951

Memorandum

To: A. K. Koschmann

F. T. Allman (with brochure)

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Docket DMA 727, Rock Creek Placers Inc. (Platinum and Gold)

We are attaching the brochure of the Rock Creek Placers, DMA Docket 727. You will note that the Operating Committee requested information relative to (1) the feasibility of repaying the loan, and (2) the prospects of producing a substantial quantity of the strategic metal (platinum).

Please make an investigation of this property and submit the usual report.

J. H. Eastman Jr.
J. H. East, Jr.

A. H. Koschmann
A. H. Koschmann

Attachments:
Non-Ferrous Committee memorandum, March 21
Engineering report on the Placer Mining Project of the Rock Creek Placers, Inc.

JHE/ah
cc-Allman
Koschmann
DMA files

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

April 3, 1951

Mr. H. S. Lipp
Rock Creek Placers, Inc.
208 Wright Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Lipp:

Your application (Docket DMA-727) for a Government loan under the provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950 has been reviewed by the Non Ferrous Branch of the Defense Minerals Administration. Before final decision can be taken on your request it will be necessary to obtain additional information on your property. Your application, therefore, has been referred to J. H. East, Jr., Executive Officer, Field Team, Region IV, 224 New Customhouse Building, Denver 2, Colorado with the request that the needed information be supplied to us.

Yours very truly,

Tom Lyon
Director, Supply Division

C.Merrill/rhr

Copy to: Base Metals Branch
Rare and Precious Metals
Minerals Division
Tom Lyon
E. T. McKnight
L. F. Strobel
C. O. Mittendorf
Field Team, Region IV (2)
F i l e s

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

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
APR 9 - 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

March 21, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Officer Field Team, Region IV
Non-Ferrous Metals Committee, DMA

From: Charles W. Merrill, Acting Chairman, Non-Ferrous Committee, DMA

Subject: Docket DMA-727, Rock Creek Placers Inc. (Platinum and Gold)

If realized, the production of 1,000 ounces of platinum annually anticipated by the applicants would constitute a worthwhile contribution to the Country's supply. It would justify an adequately secured loan even though the principal product (gold) is not on the critical or strategic list.

Although inactive in recent years, the district has produced considerable gold, both lode and placer. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 6846, Placer-Mining Methods of E. T. Fisher Co., Atlantic City, Wyo. (1935), cites a yield of more than 40 cents per cubic yard over a large area, thus lending support to the anticipated recovery of the applicants of 40 cents per cubic yard. Gravel of much lower grade is worked profitably in various districts.

No mention of the occurrence of platinum was noted in material found on the district. However, the geological formations there include serpentine dikes which could provide a source of platinum. The platinum assays cited in the report submitted by the applicants were made by old established laboratories and presumably are reliable.

The work by the applicants of proving the ground comprised excavating 13 test-pits and assaying 30 samples therefrom, which seems inadequate to represent the large area and yardage under consideration. The security of the loan, comprising liens on the equipment, leases, and claims also seems inadequate.

Before passing on the docket, a Field investigation is necessary to develop information relative to (1) the feasibility of

repaying the loan, and (2) the prospects of producing a substantial quantity of the strategic metal (platinum).

CHARLES W. MERRILL

APPROVED:

Tom Lyon

Olof G. Nora

Lowell B. Moon

Form 6-98

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—53493-2

(Dictated by Mr. East,
signed in his absence)

June 6, 1951

Mr. Milton Leon
President, Rock Creek Placers, Inc.
208 Wright Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Leon:

This will acknowledge your letter dated June 4 regarding your application, DMA 727. We are forwarding you six copies of form Mf-100 as requested in your letter.

If your application was filed on MF-103, it is not necessary for you to file MF-100. However, if you complete MF-100 it is suggested that you forward it to the Defense Minerals Administration, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

We expect to make an examination of Rock Creek Placers, Inc., DMA 727, early in June.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. East, Jr.
Regional Director

Enclosures
JHE/cl

MILTON LEON
CONSULTING ENGINEER
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
208 WRIGHT BUILDING

JUNE 4, 1951

"Air Mail"

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
JUN 5 - 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. J. H. East, Jr.,
Regional Director Bureau of Mines,
224 New Custom House,
Denver 2,
Colorado

Dear Mr. East:

Will you please send us six copies of Form MF-100 for the filing for a serial number for priorities to purchase supplies and equipment? We wish two copies of this form for our files and four copies to file with your department. These forms are for filing under our Docket No. D.M.A.-727; which I believe is now in your office.

Will you also please advise if we should file Form No. MF-100 through your office or direct with the Defense Minerals Administration in Washington? Likewise it will be appreciated if you will tell us the present status of our application Docket No. D.M.A.-727, and what progress has been made.

Thanking you very much.

Very truly yours,

ROCK CREEK PLACERS, INC.,

Milton Leon

MILTON LEON,
President

ML/egw

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

July 27, 1951

Memorandum

To: Landon Strobel, Executive Secretary
Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: DMA Docket 727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., Fremont County, Wyoming

We are enclosing herewith original and two copies of the above report.

The engineer recommends that the direct loan request be denied, but that the property be considered for an exploration loan where the ground can be tested properly under competent supervision.

We concur with the findings of the examiners.

The brochure is returned herewith.

J. H. East, Jr.

J. H. East, Jr.

A. H. Koschmann

A. H. Koschmann

Enclosures
One copy by Air Mail
Two copies by Regular Mail

cc: DMA
Koschmann

ld

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Mining Division
Region IV

224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

July 25, 1951

Memorandum

To: DMA Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: DMA Docket 727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., Atlantic City, Fremont County, Wyoming

The engineering report and brochure on the above docket has been received. It is noted that the application is for a direct loan to produce platinum as a by-product of a gold dredging operation, on Rock Creek near Atlantic City, Wyoming.

During the early operations for recovering gold no tests were made of the platinum content of the gravel and platinum was not recovered. Only 13 test pits were excavated on the 14 mile course of the Creek and only a few of these showed an appreciable amount of platinum.

The testing of the gravel has been entirely too sketchy to appraise the deposits and the examiner recommends denial of the requested direct loan. I agree with the conclusions and recommendations.

The deposits should be completely tested on a pattern similar to the original test made to determine the gold content before a direct loan should be further considered. If the applicant is willing and financially able to participate in an exploration contract and if he will employ competent technical assistance, it is recommended that an exploration loan be considered.

Anticipating that such a recommendation might be made by the examiner the applicant has submitted a tentative proposal for testing the deposits by the ore of a small dredge already available. A copy of this letter is attached for your consideration.

P. T. Allsman

MIDWESTERN CONSTRUCTORS INC.
BETTER BUILDERS
105 NORTH BOULDER ○ TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA
F. E. STANLEY, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER • TELEPHONE 3-4113 • C. C. BLEDSOE SECRETARY AND TREASURER

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION IV
JUL 12 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

July 6, 1951

Copies for report

Mr. J. H. East, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
224 New Customs House
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. East:

I have recently returned from a field trip over the Rock Creek Placers, Inc. properties on Rock Creek near Atlantic City, Wyoming.

Unfortunately, I failed to make contact with Mr. Young, your field engineer, who made a preliminary survey of the property. I understand, however, that he was of the opinion that the tests and historical information related to the property was insufficient for your department to make a conclusive statement of its platinum values. He indicated that he was considering recommending a loan in the amount of $35,000.00 for drill testing the properties. This suggestion would develop additional information but would be expensive and time consuming. The relatively short working season makes time of even greater importance.

P.T.O.

As an alternate, I wish to suggest the following for your consideration. A dry bank washing plant of approximately 1,000 cu. yds. per day capacity is available at South Pass, Wyoming for a sales price of $3,000.00. I have inspected this plant and its sales price is no criterion of its actual value. An additional outlay of $3,500.00 would move, erect and place the washing plant in operation. By renting a dragline and dozer, both of which are available locally, this plant could be placed in service as a pilot plant operation. Selected parts of the creek bed could be tested on a volume basis wherein the tests would be extensive enough to be conclusive.

Due to the size of the operation, I doubt that it would be a profitable operation but I do feel a conclusive test could be made on a basis that would be partially paid for from values recovered.

If this approach to further proving the value of the property is acceptable to you, we will be pleased to take any steps necessary to secure a loan and proceed with the tests.

Mr. J. H. East, Jr.
Bureau of Mines
Denver, Colorado

Recent tests made on Snow Creek, a minor tributary of Rock Creek, at points near its point of entering Rock Creek were assayed by Deason and Nichols and showed average values of gold @ 82¢ per cu. yd. and platinum @ 31¢ per cu. yd. These tests further confirm our belief relative to values contained on the property but we are still at a loss as to knowing what approach would be necessary in order to prove the values to your departments satisfaction.

Your reaction to the suggested procedure will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,
ROCK CREEK PLACERS, INC. and
MIDWESTERN CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

By: Clyde Wyant
Clyde Wyant, Vice-President

CW/avc

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
1600 EAST FIRST SOUTH STREET
SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

Mining Division
Date Rec'd.
JUL 18 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

July 17, 1951

Memorandum

To: Paul T. Allsman, Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

From: Chief, Utah-Wyoming Branch, Mining Division

Subject: Docket DMA-727, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., Atlantic City, Fremont County, Wyo.

Attached are the original and seven copies of a report prepared by W. E. Young covering the subject DMA docket. The original brochure with correspondence is also enclosed.

Stephen R. Wilson

Stephen R. Wilson (JB.)

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By William E. Young

Rock Creek Placers, Inc., has made application for an operating loan of $175,000 under DMA Docket 727. The company has proposed that this amount be used to purchase equipment necessary for conducting a floating dredge placer operation to recover gold and platinum along Rock Creek, Fremont County, Wyo. Collateral offered as security for repayment are three separate property leases and fourteen placer claims held by the company, in addition to all proposed plant equipment.

A successful placer operation was conducted along the bed of Rock Creek by the E. T. Fisher Co. from 1933 to 1937. Gold valued at approximately $800,000 was mined from a strip 8 miles long, 200 feet wide, and 10 feet deep. Description of the operation does not mention recovery of platinum. The gravel averaged 42 cents per cubic yard in gold and the operating costs were approximately 12 cents per cubic yard.

The economic feasibility of the proposed project is based on the results of 13 test pits along 14 miles of river. Thirty-six samples were taken and only eighteen of these were assayed for platinum. It is considered that insufficient engineering data are available upon which to base an operation of this size. It is recommended that the present loan request be denied. If sufficient data are obtained from additional exploration on the property, it is recommended that the proposal be reconsidered.

ROCK CREEK PLACERS, INC.
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING

Engineering Report

By William E. Young
Mining engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

ROCK CREEK PLACERS, INC.
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Location map, Rock Creek Placers, Inc., property, Fremont County, Wyoming

INTRODUCTION

Property controlled by Rock Creek Placers, Inc. includes approximately 14 miles of placer rights along the bed of Rock Creek from its junction with the Sweetwater River, to a point about 1/2-mile above Wyoming State Highway 28 (fig. 1). The placer group consists of a consolidation of 3 leased blocks and 14 placer claims held by right of location. The heart of the area is covered by the Timba Bah lease, upon which a large placer operation was conducted during the years 1933 to 1937. The gravel from a strip approximately 200 feet wide and 8 miles long was washed in this operation and it is reported gold valued at $800,000 was recovered.

The present company plans to dredge the creek bed gravels for its entire length of 14 miles, reworking the gravels previously run and including the fringe edges not accessible to the last operation. The company estimates a platinum value of 12.5 cents per cubic yard in addition to a gold value of 40 cents per cubic yard in the gravels. The old operation reported no platinum recovery. The present company submitted a DMA application on February 20, 1951 requesting a loan of $175,000 to purchase equipment for conducting a floating dredge placer operation for the recovery of platinum and gold.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

Rock Creek, a tributary of the Sweetwater River, is on the southeast flank of the Wind River Mountains and flows southeastward at an average grade of 2°. The general drainage pattern for the surrounding

area slopes to the southeast with low, rounded hills between the stream beds. The country shows evidence of glaciation with large gravel moraines cut by stream beds.

The climate is mild in the summer with long, cold winters and heavy snowfall. Winter operation would be hampered because of freezing of the creek.

Wyoming Highway 28 passes through the upper end of the property. Fair dirt roads from Highway 28 make most of the property readily accessible. The distance to the railhead of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad at Lander is 28 miles.

The total shipping distance from Lander to Garfield, Utah is 906 miles.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

Gold was discovered in the Sweetwater district in 1842. It was not until 1867 that any permanent operation was established. Several small lode mines have been productive in the area and it is estimated that production to date from lode mines totals between $1,000,000 and $4,000,000. Gold production from placer operations has been in excess of $2,500,000. In the early years the steeper side creeks were hydraulicked and sluiced, but the gentle slope of most major streams prevented successful sluicing except in selected areas. Attempts to conduct large scale hydraulicking and sluicing operations by constructing extensive canals or ditches met with little success in the early days. The E. T. Fisher Co. conducted a large-scale placer operation

on the Timba Bah lease on Rock Creek between 1933 and 1937. This property covers 8 miles along the beds of the creek including a zone which develops a comparatively wide flood plain. A strip along the creek bottom approximately 8 miles long, 200 feet wide, and 10 feet deep was successfully worked.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The Rock Creek Placers, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with home offices at Room 208, Wright Building, Tulsa, Okla. Milton Leon is president and Clyde Wyant and R. R. Stevenson are vice-presidents.

The property consists of 3 leased blocks and 14 placer claims containing 4,870 acres. The most important block is the Timba Bah lease containing 1,410 acres. This lease covers the central part of the bed of Rock Creek and is situated on an area ideally located for placer operation. The Hester lease is near the head of Rock Creek and covers a wide basin including side creeks and large glacial moraines. The Hansen lease covers an area near the mouth of Rock Creek near its confluence with the Sweetwater River. The 14 claims locations cover the intervening portions of the creek bed and surrounding areas.

No topographic maps are available. Detailed information of the creek bed in its meandering course is needed. It is doubtful if more than 600 acres of placer gravel would be involved in any dredging operation along the bed of Rock Creek.

EXPLORATION

The Timbah Bah lease property was sampled in 1932 by the E. T. Fisher Co.[1] A single row of holes 150 to 300 feet apart were drilled along the center line of the channel. Rows of holes were then drilled across the deposit at 1/2-mile intervals; holes in the rows were spaced 20 to 60 feet apart. A total of 140 holes were drilled at an average cost of $1.12 per foot (1932). The sampling device was a 4-inch casing with a Keystone cutting shoe. The gravel was retained in the casing until it was pulled. It was then removed from the casing in 6-inch sections and panned. Following this, forty-six 4- by 6-foot shafts were sunk at average drill holes. The gravel from each shaft was sluiced and results compared with drill hole panning results. The value of the gravel in the area tested, as calculated from the drill holes, averaged 19 cents per cubic yard (gold at $20.67 per ounce). The results of sluicing the gravel from the shafts indicated a value 15 percent higher. The actual recovery from the operation was approximately 25 cents per cubic yard (42 cents at $35 per ounce). The average operating cost during 1934 was $0.119 per cubic yard.[2]

The present company excavated 13 test pits in the area and report a total of 36 samples were obtained. The free gold content is reported for 18 of these. The concentrated black sand of 23 samples was assayed; 18 for platinum and 23 for gold. Only five of the 36

1/ U. S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 6846, Placer Mining Methods of the E. T. Fisher Company, C. L. Ross, H. D. Gardner.
2/ Work cited in footnote 1.

samples report both the free gold content and the results of assaying the concentrated black sand. Several of the 13 test pits reported to have been sampled are located above the creek bottom and do not represent the type of material to be worked in any floating dredge operation. None of the above mentioned pits are located along the zone worked by the previous operation. As far as known no sampling of this material has been made since the E. T. Fisher operation. The worked gravel represents a substantial part of the total yardage along Rock Creek, possibly as much as one-half. It would appear that any floating dredge type operation must necessarily rerun this yardage, or at least a substantial part.

Most of the samples containing a high platinum content (samples 1, 6, 7 and C) were taken from a relatively small area on the Nester lease. These have been combined with the few others taken and the average obtained has been considered representative of the total yardage involved. Based on this information it is assumed that the gravels contain an average of between 5 and 10 pounds of black sand per cubic yard and that this black sand will contain an average of 0.516 ounce platinum per ton. It is considered that insufficient engineering data are available to substantiate this average.

METALLURGY

As far as known no work has been done on recovery of platinum from the black sands. The cost of shipping concentrates from Lander to Garfield, Utah is approximately $2.73 per ton. Substantial savings

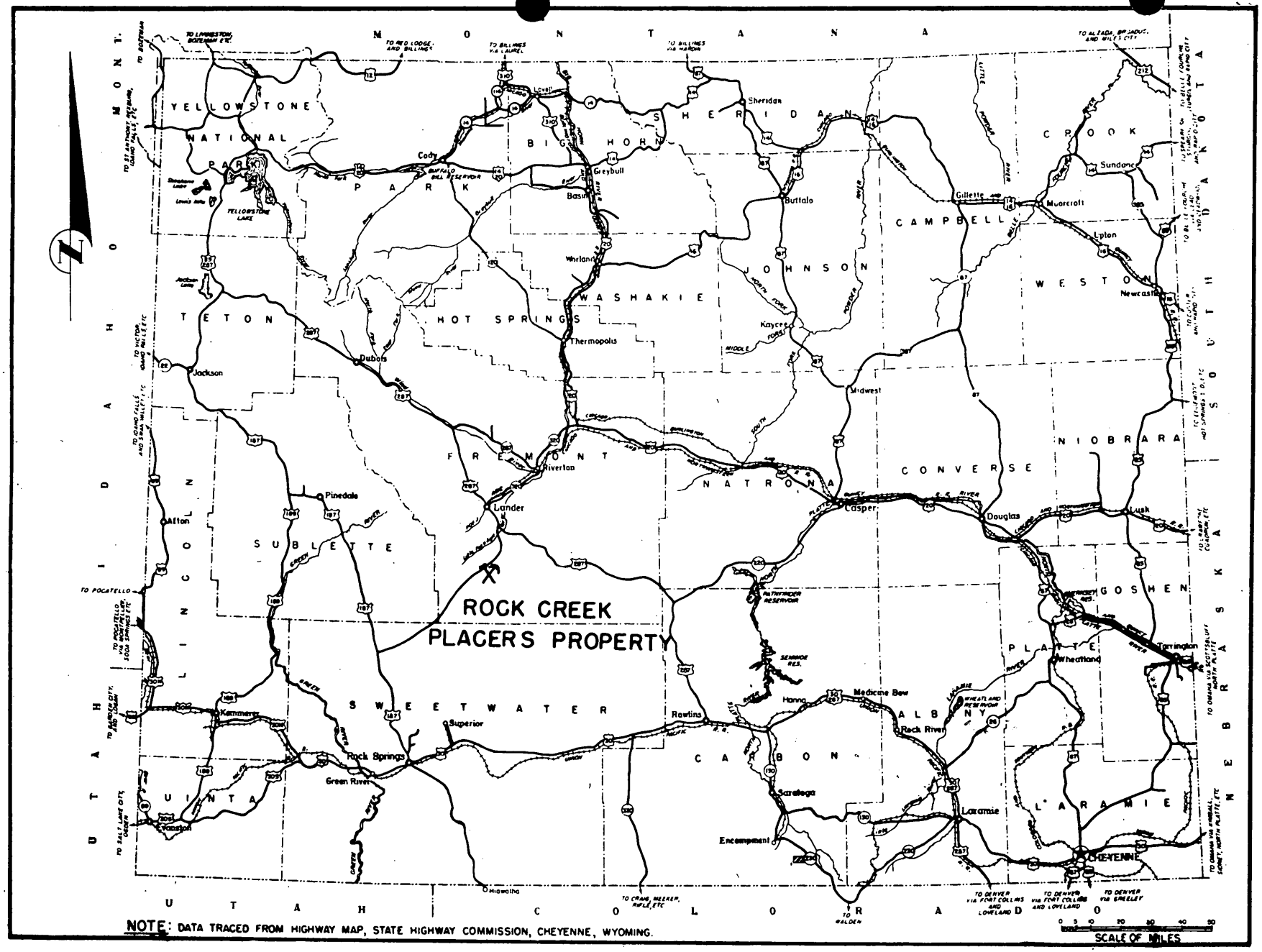
may be effected by concentration of the platinum and gold. It appears reasonable that a black sand with a value of $72.11 could be economically concentrated.

At the present time the American Smelting & Refining Co., Garfield plant does not have a schedule for buying platinum. It will be necessary to procure and furnish this company with sufficient quantities of black sand or platinum concentrates for smelter tests before a purchase contract can be established.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considerable exploration will be necessary to demonstrate the existence of substantial amounts of platinum and the economic feasibility of the proposed project. It is recommended that a few carefully selected test pits be excavated by the company to ascertain the existence of platinum in the gravels to be worked. If platinum is found in substantial amounts, it is recommended that extensive sampling be conducted to include the area covered by the previous operation. A detailed topographic map will be necessary to calculate the yardage of material to be moved. Metallurgical work with cost estimates will be necessary to determine the feasibility of the project.

It is recommended that the present loan request be denied. If the company conducts the suggested exploration and sufficient engineering data are obtained to evaluate the proposal, it is recommended that the application be reconsidered on the basis of the additional information.



NOTE: DATA TRACED FROM HIGHWAY MAP, STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, CHEYENNE, WYOMING.

Figure I. Location map, Rock Creek Placers Inc. property, Fremont Co., Wyoming