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February 15, 2000

Mr. M.M. Underwood, Jr.
Director of Physical Resources
U.S. Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Region
P.O. Box 25127
Lakewood, CO 80225-0127

Dear Mr. Underwood:

This is in response to your January 26, 2000 (received February 2) request for information on locatable mineral resources in a land exchange proposal in which Ralph Miller has offered certain non-Federal lands within the Uncompahgre National Forest in exchange for Federal lands also within the Uncompahgre National Forest.

In accordance with the working agreement under Public Law 86-509, we are providing you with a report on the locatable mineral resources on the lands described in "Exhibits A and B", included with your request. These lands comprise 49 acres, more or less, in Ouray County, Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

Anna B. Wilson, Geologist
Mineral Resources Program, Central Region

Copies: W.D. Day
 E.A. duBray

LOCATABLE MINERAL REPORT FOR THE
RALPH MILLER LAND EXCHANGE OFFER,
UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST,
OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

By
Anna B. Wilson
U.S. Geological Survey

February 15, 2000

The following report is based on information contained in USGS mineral resource and commodity files, mineral information databases (MRDS and MAS), and on reports and maps available in the USGS library. These data are occasionally augmented with unpublished documents, personal communications, and professional experiences. No field studies or on-site visits were performed in preparing this report. Emphasis is primarily on locatable mineral resources. Leasable and salable resources are covered only if they appear in the above documents. Mineral resource assessments are subjective: the opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the author.

For the legal location description of lands considered for exchange, refer to Exhibits A and B in Attachment A.

Non-Federal

Telluride 1:24,000; Silverton 1:100,000, and Durango 1:250,000 quadrangles

Chicken Bill, Eldorado, and Pilot mining claims all are clearly shown on a detailed claim map of the San Juan Mountains area (Anonymous, 1905). The claims are in the Yankee Boy Basin area in the Miocene(?) Mount Sneffels - Stony Mountain composite intrusive stock, which is composed of gabbro to granodiorite (Burbank and Luedke, 1966; see Attachment B). The claims follow the Circassian and Altoona veins (Burbank, 1941). Mineral resource potential for precious and base metals in vein deposits is high. There is also high potential for acid drainage from the many abandoned mines in this area and extensive (and expensive) reclamation projects have been undertaken in the region.

Federal

Starvation 1:24,000; Nucla 1:100,000, and Moab 1:250,000 quadrangles

The Federal parcel is in the Uncompahgre uplift, in an area well removed from any historic mining activity (Wilson and Crane, USGS, unpublished data; USGS, 1999a, b). The entire area is underlain by Lower Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone and Burro Canyon Formation (Day and others, 1999). There are no known mines, prospects, or occurrences in the vicinity. Mineral resource potential for all locatable minerals is negligible.

REFERENCES:

Anonymous, 1905, Map of the San Juan Triangle: Denver, CO, Clason Map Company, scale 1 in = 2500 ft.

Burbank, W.S., 1941, Structural control of ore deposition in the Red Mountain, Sneffels, and Telluride districts of the San Juan Mountains, Colorado: Colorado Scientific Society Proceedings, v. 14, no. 5, p. 141-261.

Burbank, W.S., and Luedke, R.G., 1966, Geologic map of the Telluride quadrangle, southwestern Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-504, scale 1:24,000.

Day, W.C., Green, G.N., Knepper, D.H., Jr., and Phillips, R.C., 1999, Spatial geologic data model for the Gunnison, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre National Forests Mineral resource assessment area, southwestern Colorado and digital data for the Leadville, Montrose, Durango, and the Colorado parts of the Grand Junction, Moab, and Cortez 1° X 2° geologic maps: U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 99-427 [CD-ROM].

U.S. Geological Survey, 1999a, Mineral Resource Data System [MRDS: active computer file; data available from U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Resources Program, Building 20, Denver Federal Center, Denver CO 80225].

U.S. Geological Survey, 1999b, Minerals Availability System [MAS: active computer file; data available from U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Information Team (formerly U.S. Bureau of Mines), Building 20, Denver Federal Center, Denver CO 80225].

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Exhibits A and B (provided by U.S. Forest Service)
- B. Geologic map of the Stony Mountain area, Telluride quadrangle (Burbank and Luedke, 1966) showing approximate locations of the Non-Federal land exchange parcels.