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## BERYL RESOURCES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

By James J. Page and David M. Larrabee

Trace Elements Investigations Report 551 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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

January 30, 1958

AEC - 302/8

Mr. Robert D. Nininger Assistant Director for Exploration Division of Raw Materials U. S. Atomic Energy Commission Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Transmitted herewith are three copies of TEI-551, "Beryl resources of New Hampshire," by James J. Page and David M. Larrabee, December 1957.

This report is a summary of a paper that is in preparation for publication as a Geological Survey bulletin. The bulletin will include detailed descriptions of pegmatites, but will not include the tables of reserves of individual properties.

Sincerely yours,

Tom H Si

W. H. Bradley Chief Geologist

(200) T(07) NOS51



Geology and Mineralogy

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BERYL RESOURCES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE\*

Ву

James J. Page and David M. Larrabee

December 1957

JUL 06 1983 RAEY

Trace Elements Investigations Report 551

This preliminary report is distributed without editorial and technical review for conformity with official standards and nomenclature. <u>It is not for public</u> inspection or quotation.

\*This report concerns work done on behalf of the Division of Raw Materials of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and the New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission.

## USGS - TEI-551

## GECLOGY AND MINERALOGY

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	Hampshire

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#### BERYL RESOURCES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

By James J. Page and David M. Larrabee

#### INTRODUCTION

The beryl resources of New Hampshire were studied by the U. S. Geological Survey as part of its program of investigation of domestic beryllium resources, made partly in behalf of the Division of Raw Materials of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Concurrently, the feldspar and other industrial minerals in the pegmatites were studied in behalf of the New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission.

The primary purpose of this work was to summarize and bring up to date the information on beryl resources as gained from investigations during 1942-45, to examine in detail certain beryl-bearing pegmatites discovered and developed in recent years, and to study other pegmatites and groups of pegmatites known or suspected to contain beryl. The study began with work by J. C. Olson and J. W. Adams in 1947, and was continued by the senior author and his assistants in 1948-1950.

The pegmatite districts of most economic importance in New Hampshire are the Grafton and Keene districts in the west-central and southwestern parts of the state, respectively. The Raymond district in the southeastern part of the state has received much less study in former years and has not yielded any great quantity of pegmatite minerals.

Although the pegmatites occur in schist, gneiss, quartz monzonite, and granite, most of the economic pegmatites are in schist of the Littleton formation of Devonian age. This formation consists chiefly of mica-quartz

or quartz-mica schist, in places containing appreciable amounts of sillimanite, actinolite, or andalusite. Some parts are quartzitic, conglomeratic, or include lime-silicate rocks. Relations of the pegmatites to wall rocks and to major structures have been described by Cameron (Cameron and others, 1954, p. 15-19, 22-24).

The two most important beryl-bearing pegmatites are the Palermo No. 1, in Groton, and Beryl Mountain, in Acworth, both of which were mined extensively after World War II. The small area southwest of Raymond village, referred to as the Raymond district, contains 87 pegmatites that were studied in detail. Still other pegmatites that have been mined or prospected, and that also were studied in some detail, are the Corson mine, Nottingham; the Chickering mine, Walpole; the Millard Chandler mine, Chatham; the Parker Mountain mine, Strafford; and the Vatcher prospect, Raymond. Reconnaissance studies were made elsewhere in the state, notably in the vicinity of Raymond, outside of the Raymond district, in Strafford, in the general vicinity of Gorham and the Presidential Range of the White Mountains, and east of the productive Grafton district.

The most comprehensive account of the geology of New Hampshire pegmatites has been reported by Cameron and others (1954). Their report also contains a summary of studies prior to World War II. On the basis of field studies in 1947, Olson (1950) prepared a report entitled "Feldspar and associated pegmatite minerals in New Hampshire" for the New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission.

The writers are indebted to mine owners and operators for cooperation that facilitated the work, and to various members of the U. S. Geological Survey who furnished active field assistance and valued advice. This

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assistance is acknowledged elsewhere in the description of various pegmatite districts, but it is appropriate to state here that the Raymond district was selected for special attention upon the recommendation of J. C. Olson and J. W. Adams of the U. S. Geological Survey. Field assistance in 1948 and 1949 was provided by L. F. Dellwig, and in 1949 by P. K. Brown, Jr. and for one week by Frederick Stugard, Jr. L. R. Page, together with Larrabee, briefly restudied the Beryl Mountain mine in 1955.

#### BERYL MINING

Only rarely in New Hampshire has it been economically feasible to mine a pegmatite over an extended period of time solely for one mineral, and the same probably will be so in the future. The economics of pegmatite mining have been described by Bannerman (1943), and Bannerman and Cameron (1947). During World War II, under subsidy prices for strategic mica and beryl, some deposits were operated profitably for mica but not for long periods. Mines were operated for mica and for beryl during the Korean emergency, again under Government-sponsored subsidy programs, which are continuing in 1957.

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According to data in the Minerals Yearbooks of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, beryl production in New Hampshire since 1944 was as follows:

Y	ear	Tons	3		
l	945	l			
19	946	5			
	947	*			
19	948	*			
19	949	*			
l	950	106			
	951	50			
19	952	*			
	953	57			
	954	12			
19	955	*	(increased	over	1954)
			•		

\*Not listed separately. However, production generally was very small. Beryl production from New Hampshire represents a small part of the total domestic production during the above period.

Beryl has been the chief product of a few small mines and also has been obtained as a byproduct of feldspar and mica mining. Mining has been by small-scale methods, mostly in open pits, and the beryl concentrated by hand-cobbing. Some of it has been sold to the U. S. Government and some to private firms.

The Government pays a flat rate of \$0.20 per pound or \$400 per ton for beryl accepted on visual inspection. The price of analyzed beryl is based on the content of BeO. Beryl containing 8.0 to 8.9 percent BeO is bought at \$40 per unit, 9.0 to 9.9 percent BeO at \$45 per unit, 10.0 to 11.9 percent BeO at \$50 per unit, and 12 percent or more at \$55 per unit. As an example, beryl having 12 percent BeO is worth \$660 per ton. For comparison, in the late 1920's and early 1930's, beryl sold for \$35 per ton.

Beryl has an ideal composition of Be3 Al<sub>2</sub> Si6 O<sub>18</sub>. This formula indicates a content of 14.0 percent Be0 or 5 percent Be (Fleischer and Cameron, 1946). Commercial beryl concentrates have a lower Be0 content

partly because other elements substitute for Be in the mineral structure and also because the concentrates contain other minerals. These minerals may be small inclusions or alteration products in the beryl. More commonly, however, the contaminants are minerals from the matrix surrounding beryl, chiefly quartz, feldspar, and mica. Many beryl crystals are euhedral, especially where surrounded by quartz, and a clean product can be produced by hand-cobbing. Others are intergrown with the minerals of the matrix, especially feldspar, and the cobbed concentrate is correspondingly impure.

Beryl is the only known economic source of beryllium, which has been used primarily in beryllium-copper alloys for special types of springs and bushings, to mention only two of many uses. New applications of beryllium of great importance are in the atomic energy field as a moderator and reflector of neutrons. The uses and technology of beryllium have been discussed in Mineral Facts and Problems, published in 1956 by the U. S. Bureau of Mines. A more complete compendium on beryllium is contained in Materials Survey, Beryllium, compiled in 1953 by the U. S. Bureau of Mines with the cooperation of the U. S. Geological Survey in behalf of the National Security Resources Board.

#### INTERNAL STRUCTURE AND MINERALOGY OF PEGMATITES

The internal structure and mineralogy of granitic pegmatites have been described many times in recent years (Bannerman, 1943, Cameron and others, 1949, 1954, Jahns, 1955, Page and others, 1953), and the details will be outlined only briefly here.

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Pegmatites that can be mined ordinarily show some degree of systematic arrangement of the constituent minerals into two or more lithologic units, and the mineral to be extracted is more abundant in some units than in others. Boundaries between units are marked by changes in mineralogy, proportions of minerals, or texture. In many pegmatites these boundaries are gradational, in others they are sharp and readily discernable. The names of the units are formed by hyphenating the names of the chief mineral constituents, the names of the minerals appearing in the order of abundance.

Fracture fillings are commonly tabular bodies that fill fractures in previously consolidated pegmatite. Replacement bodies are formed along boundaries between pegmatite units, along fractures, at the contact of pegmatite and wall rock, or along other structural features within the pegmatite. Many replacement bodies are controlled by fractures.

Zones are continuous or discontinuous shells or units that in many pegmatites have the same shape as the entire body. Zones are classified as follows, in order from the outside: border zone, wall zone, intermediate zones, and core.

Border zones are usually less than 6 inches thick and are made up chiefly of quartz, muscovite, and plagioclase. Wall zones are much thicker, and also consist of quartz, muscovite, and plagioclase, but some contain perthite. Intermediate zones have more perthite and less plagioclase than outer units. The cores are commonly quartz and perthite, or quartz alone.

In a general way, grain sizes may be described as follows:

Fine - Less than 1 inch Medium - 1 to 4 inches Coarse - 4 to 12 inches Very coarse - Greater than 12 inches

### METHODS USED IN ESTIMATING RESOURCES

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To eliminate the confusion arising from the all-too-common interchangeable use of the terms reserves and resources in past work, the definitions of Blondel and Lasky (1956) are used in this report. Reserves refer to minerals exploitable under present economic and technologic conditions; potential ores are those awaiting more favorable conditions; resources are the sum of the reserves and potential ores.

The percentage of beryl in a pegmatite may be determined by several methods: by measuring the area of all beryl crystals on representative exposures of each unit; by measuring the length of crystals along equally spaced traverses, as in the Rosiwal petrographic method; by measurement of crystals intersected in core drilling; or by analyses of representative samples of the beryl-bearing pegmatite. Visual estimates, although used at times, are much less accurate and usually misleading.

The volume of the beryl-bearing unit is determined by projection along strike, dip, and plunge. Where more than one structural interpretation of the beryl unit can be made on the basis of available data, it is necessary to acquire more information by physical exploration. The determination of grade and reserves of pegmatite minerals is the subject of a paper by Norton and Page (1956).

The BeO content of the beryl is determined by measuring the omega index of refraction of the crystal, as this index varies with the BeO content.

#### BERYL RESOURCES

The resources of beryl in known pegmatites of New Hampshire shown in table 2 are 1,634 tons in the indicated and inferred category, and in the Raymond district, an additional 146 tons may be present (tables1, 3, and 4). Thus the total is 1,780 tons. Of this quantity, about 1,200 tons are in crystals that are at least 1 inch in diameter and can be recovered by hand-cobbing. Most of the beryl in New Hampshire is so scattered throughout any given zone or zones in a pegmatite that it can be recovered only as a byproduct from mining for other minerals, such as feldspar or mica. Only a very minute part of the beryl in table 2 is suitable for gem aquamarine or gem golden beryl.

Some of these pegmatites may contain additional beryl that has not been recognized in the field, either because it is fine-grained and white, or anhedral. Such beryl can be recovered only by milling, and suitable methods have not yet been developed.

Details of the individual pegmatites and maps are given in a more complete report now in preparation for a U. S. Geological Survey bulletin entitled "Beryl resources of New Hampshire."

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## Table 1. MINERAL ASSEMBLAGES IN PEGMATITES / OF THE RAINORD DISTRICT, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, HEW HAMPSHIRE.

										_		_																		28529
Mineral assemblage														Pegaa	ite No															
											-			•																
	4	5 7	10 1	2 14	18	19 2	1 22	<u>, 23 ,</u>	25 . 2	26 31	۱ <u>32</u>	35	37 44	2 44	45.	46 1	47 4	8 49		52	54 .	6 57	_ 60	62	<u>64 6</u>	5 60	6 69	. 78 1	82,8	5 86
Wall some		1	:	!		1 -					· · ·	.	Ì	1	.	•											:		;	
Plagioclase-quartz-muscovite				-							·	<u> </u>							- <u>-</u>	+								<u> </u>	<del>-  </del>	
Plagioclase-quarts-perthite	. x		x	x									X X					x			I			x			x		c . , ,	x .
Quarts-plagioclase-muscovite		x									x						X				-							:		
Perthite-plagioclase-quartz		x																											1	
Plagioclase-quarts-perthite-muscovite			X :																	•		x							- 1	
Quartz-perthite-plagioclase			X	۲						κ				x																
Plagioclase-perthite-quarts					x	X																								
Plagioclase-quarts						X																						4		
Quartz-muscovite-perthite						•	<u>x</u>																	i		_				
Quartz-plagioclase								· X.				_																		
Perthite-quarts-plagioclase-aplite									x															<u>.                                    </u>						
Perthite-quartz-muscovite										X																				
Graphic granite-quarts												x								·				i						
Quartz-plagioclase-perthite-muscovite															X					·										
Quartz-plagioclase-perthite					· · ·											x				<u>×</u>										
Quartz-muscovite-plagioclase					· ·							·····					5					<u>د</u>			x			<u>x</u>		
Muscovite-quartz-plagioclase																							<u>x</u>							
Quarts-perthite-plagioclase-muscovite															-											<b></b>		<u></u>		
Intermediate zone(s)					:																								-	i
Perthite-quartz-plagioclase	X.	x	x	·													-					c		x						
Muscovite-cleavelandite-quarts		X_																												
Quarts-cleavelandite-muscovite		X																												
Plagioclase-quartz-muscovite			x																										_ <u>.</u>	
Perthite-quarts					X																					Ľ		÷		
Quarts-perthite-plagioclase													I											· · · ·						
Plagioclase-perthite-quarts-muscovite					<u> </u>								X																	
Perthite-quartz-muscovite																						X						<u> </u>		
Plagioclase-quarts-perthite	i														· · ·								<u>x</u>				·			
Aplite-perthite-plagioclase-quartz								· · · ·																×						
Quarts-plagioclase Plagioclase-quarts-perthite-mscovite	··																			-				X						
Flagiociass-quares-perchite-suscovice			·									_	· · · ·																	<u> </u>
Core											-																			
Perthite-quarts-plagioclase	x	x				x							x					x						1						
Quartz-beryl-spodumene		x																		1										
Perthite-quarts			X X	X X					x							X				X	X								2	<u> </u>
Quarts					x																	X	X		2	K X				
Quarts-perthite-plagioclase		•				Χ				,	1 7			X														·		
Quartz-perthite		· ·					X	1			X								x		2	<u>د</u>								
Quartz-plagioclass-muscovite								x																·						
Quarts-perthite-muscovite					1					x		x																		
Perthite-quartz-plagioclase-graphic granite	• • •				-								X											÷						
Perthite-cleavelandite-muscovite															x									i						
Perthite-plagioclase-quarts																	x									<u> </u>		X		·
Plagioclass-quarts														_			X							<b></b>			,			
Perthite-quartz-muscovite-cleavelandite									·	• • • • •														×						
Quarts-plagioclass-perthite							i																	<u> </u>	x	-			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Perthite-quartz-plagioclase											T	لمغررهما		!					1				·							

1/ Only zoned pegmatites are shown.

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Table 4.-BASIC DATA SHEET USED FOR CALCULATION OF PEGMATITE MINERAL RESOURCES

IN THE RAYMOND DISTRICT, N. H.

Pegmatite No.	Tons pegnatite	Number of beryl crystals	Average size of beryl crystals (Sq. in.)	Beryl content (Percent)	Beryl re Ton		Total beryl <sup>1</sup> / resources	Scrap muscovite resources	Sheet muscovite2	Pe	rthite resou Tons	rces	reso	tal hite <sup>1</sup> /	Columbite-tantalite resources (Pounds)
	and Inferred				Indicated	Inferred	Tons	Tons inferred	Tons inferred	Rec., 3/	Indicated	Inferred	Rec. 3/	Tons	
1 2	67,000 128,000	. <b>-</b>	:	-	-	-	-	1,300 2,500	13.00	M M	8,000 10,000	12,000 25,000	:	25,000 50,000	-
3	5,900	81	0.3	0.0600	0.5300	2.0700	5.00	85	-	 Mit	600	800	- M	2,000	-
5	800 100	2	.2	.0020	.0080	.0080	.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7	-	3	9.0 .1	.0600	77.0000	78.0000	155.00	2,250	10.00	-	10,000	15,000	-	35,000	17,400
9 10	10,400 23,500	57	.4 1.3	.0100 .0020	. 5200	.5200 2.0000	2.00	200 300	1.00 3.00	MH MH	2,000 7,000	3,000 3,000	MH MH	8,000 15,000	500 2,000
ш	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,450
12 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 15	1,300 24,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	H M	500 3,500	500 3,700	н -	1,000 15,000	-
16 17	96,000 480,000	-	-	Ξ	-	-	-	950 4,800	24.00	M M	5,000 50,000	14,000 70,000	-	25,000 200,000	9,600
18 19	385 9,100	1 2	3.0 1.7	.1400 .0150	.2700	.2700	1.00 2.00	50	-	M M	65 1,225	65 1,225	- M	200 3,000	Ξ
20 21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 23	2,620	5	1.4	.0600	.2000	.1600	. 50	40	.30	-	-	-	-	-	60
24	-	-	-		-	-		30	-		-	-	-	-	-
25 26	13,400 11,250	29 55	.7 .9	.0080 .0500	.5400 1.8200	.5400 3.8000	5.00 10.00	50 200	.20	M M	500 1,000	2,500 2,400	M M	5,000 5,000	400
27 28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 30 31	6,400 80	2		.0015	.0012	-	-	50	-	M	480 40	480	M	1,000	-
32 33	1,200 6,000	13	.1 .2 .8	.0100	.0800	.0400	. 50	- 60	-	M	175 600	350 1,200	M	750 2,500	-
34 35 36	1,200		.01		-	-	.25	-	-	- - M	400	200	- M	1,000	60
36 37	3,200	74	.7		2.0000	-	-	50	-	M	300	650	M	1,000	-
38 39	26,250	70	.2	.0035	.2200	.6800	5.00	250	-		3,000	6,500	- M	12,000	-
40 41	136,000	6	.2	.0006	-	.8200	2.00	2,500	-	<u>N</u>	10,000	15,000	M	40,000	-
42	12,800 136,000	10	3.3	.0600	.4300	1.4400	10.00	140 1,350	.60	MH M	1,500 10,000	6,000 25,000	M -	50,000	-
43 44	12,500	3 16	.2 .1	.1000 .0010	.0200	.0800	2.00	500	-	́- м	600	2,500	- M	5,000	-
45	200,000	4	.1 -	Ξ	-	-	-	5,000	-	H M	1,000 3,500	2,000 7,000	M -	15,000	-
46 47	4,200 320	27 3	.4 .2	.0380 .0040	.6600 .0060	.6600 .0060	3.00 .25	35	-	M -	500	600	-	1,500	-
48 49	250 1,600	5 2	.03 .5	.0010	.0012 .0480	.0013 .0480	. 50	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
	18,600	102	.2	.0036	.3300	.3400	5.00	375	-	H M	1,500 500	1,600 1,000	H M	5,000 3,000	-
50 51	130 1,000	23 8	.1 .1	.0170 .0200	.1200 .1000	.0600 .1000	1.50 1.00	 -	-	-	-	-	-		-
52 53	480,000 96,000?	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500 950	-	M	-	150,000 14,000	-	200,000 20,000	? _
54 55	4,700 1,280	89 26	.1 .6	.0200 .1350	.2800 1.7200	.5000 1.7200	2.00	100 25	-	M	300 100	550 100	-	1,500 300	-
56	21,250	16 186	1.5	.0340 .1480	14.7600 19.6100	10.7500	60.00	230	1.60	MH -	6,750	4,950	HM -	15,000	7,000
57	24,000	- 8	7.3	.3700	2.3700	4.8300	10.00	1,100	-	н	950	2,000	-	4,000	-
58	80,000 8,300	27 26	.9 .2	.0140 .0100	5.6000 .4100	5.6000 .4100	20.00 2.00	1,500 150	-	M M	5,000 500	7,000 750	-	20,000 2,000	-
58 59 60 61	64 16	7	.4	.0900	-	.0600 .0020	.50 .25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
62	77,000	112 41	3.3	.0390	11.7000 1.6800	7.6800	25.00	1,500	4.00	H	4,000 6,000	6,000	H M	15,000	3,000
63 64 65	50 32,000	- 4	.3 .6	.0030	.4800	.4800	5.00	650	-	- M	2,500	8,500 _ 4,000	- -	20,000 - 10,000	-
65	27,000	93	1.1	.0450	2.8800	2.8800	15.00	600	-	H	1,000 1,500	2,250 2,000	H M	4,000	800
66 67	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	-	M	\$500	1,300	M -	2,000	-
68 69	105,000	304	.5	.0820	11.8000	- 60.7800	100.00	1,000	-	- M .	7,500	30,000	л. ж	50,000	5,250
73 74	144,000 46,300	80 111	.3	.0160	5.6000 .7400	9.7600 5.0500	25.00 10.00	1,400 450	-	M	20,000 5,000	30,000 8,000	M	75,000 20,000	-
75 76	100 240	6 4	.2 .3	.0310 .0340	-	.0300	.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-
77 78	5,850 750	70 5	.1 .4	.0190	.2700	.8400	5.00	Ξ	:	M -	500	700	M -	2,000	-
79 80	35 30	-	-	-	:	-	-	Ξ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
81 82	65 11,100	207	.3	.1270	3.4000	10.7200	25.00	- 325 125	-	m	500	600	Ξ	1,500	555
83 86	2,500	4	34.3	.0880	1.5800	.6300	5.00	125	1.25	MH -	500	700	-	2,000	125
87	2,550	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total					170.9344	215.2353	532.50	38,030	58.95		196,585	496,670	•	1,008,800	50,200

J/ Total resources include fine-grained mineral classed as potential ore, as well as the indicated and inferred resources of easily visible mineral, much of which is also potential ore.

2/ Book mics from which block mics can be recovered.

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3/ Recoverable by milling (M), hand-cobbing (H), or a combination of both (MH).

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					•	Table 3SIZE AN		PEGMATITES, AND DISTRI RAYMOND DISTRICT, N. H	BUTION OF HINERA	EASE P		*		CKET		
tatus of operation	n: No = no ope	eration, P = pros	spect only, St ·	- overburden strip;	med, only, Oc = o	pen cut			متط ال		•.		1455			
alation to foliat	ion: P = naral	llel. X = crosscu	itting				e, Pl = plagioclas	e, Q = quarts, S = spo ediate sone, W = wall	sone	BACKE			一個別			
istribution of mag	jor useful mine	erals: A = throu	ghout pegaatit	e, C = core, PC = 1	racture-controll	ed body, FW = fo	otwall, I = interm	ediate sone, W = wall	some UUU		- ··				6	
ume of deposit	Pegnatite	Status	Exposed si	se of pegnatite	Relation	Pegmatite		Essential	minerals			Dist	ribution of maj	or useful miner		. 3
	number	of operation		feet)	to foliation	zoned			of abundance)				_			
			Length	Thickness			Wall zone	Intermediate sone	Core	Other units or unsoned pegmatite	Beryl	Sheet muscovite	Scrap muscovite	Perthite	Columbite- tantalite	Other
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