JUN [illegible]

Messrs. Johnny and Guy McCurry

Micaville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3307 - Mica
Ayerlee Creek Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other reports available to us in Washington relating to the subject property have been reviewed.

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

Careful study of all our information indicates to us that the probability of disclosing significant reserves of mica by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application for exploration assistance is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Program and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 6/21/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

June 21, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

By: Walter C. Anderson

1. DMEA Docket No. 3307 - Mica
Property: Ayles Creek Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Applicants: Johnny and Guy McCurry
Micaville, North Carolina

Application: Form MF-103, date received April 12, 1954

Work proposed: Sink 40 feet of shaft and drive 75 feet of drift.

Amount requested: $4,787.00
No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

Geological premise: The mica is so sparsely distributed throughout the pegmatite that to obtain a small amount of mica would require the removal of such great amounts of pegmatite as to render the project unprofitable.

Geological criteria:
1. Conformable unzoned pegmatite about 12 feet thick.
2. Limited amount of strategic mica.
3. Heavy ground and serious water problem.

Future possibilities: none.

Recommendations: The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in field team's recommendation to deny the application. The Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines are in agreement.

WCAnderson:gad 6/21/54

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 16, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Acting Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3307 (mica)

Applicants: Johnny and Guy McCurry

Name and Location of Property: Ayles Creek Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: May 21, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic and Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: June 3, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Denial.

Comments:

1. The mica found at this mine is badly curved and cracked.
2. The mica is sparsely distributed throughout the pegmatite.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny exploration at the subject mine on the basis of the poor quality of the mica and the low mica content of the pegmatite.

Signed

Donald R. Irving

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MU-CMP

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

June 2, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3307 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Johnny & Guy McCurry, Micaville, North Carolina.
Name of property: Ayles (Ayerles) Creek Mine.
Location of property: Yancey County, North Carolina.
Date of Field Team Report: May 25, 1954.
Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Teague, L. M. Shirley, and D. H. Amos.
Field Team's recommendation: Denial.
Comments: No mica shoot as such.
Small amount of strategic mica.
Heavy ground and water problem.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:
Follow Field Team's recommendation.

D. M. Larrabee

Larrabee:jeh
6/2/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3
Larrabee G-230

May 27, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: Field Examination Report, [illegible] (Uranium) Corporation, Terrace Creek, [illegible] & Dry Gulch Areas.

Enclosed are four copies of the subject examination report. We agree with the field evaluation and recommend denial of the application.

Robert A. Laurence

Wm. A. Ross, for K. J. Lynch
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Mim/ms

Div. file - DMEA

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-4-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

ON

DMEA-3307, AYLES CREEK MINE
Yancey County, N. C.

BY

Kefton H. Teague, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

Lawrence E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

Dewey H. Amos, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

May 25, 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
6-4-54
(date)

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT ON

DMEA-3307, Ayles Creek Mine

Applicant: Johnny and Guy McCurry, Micaville, North Carolina.

Only a limited amount of strategic mica appears to be present in the pegmatite at this mine. Heavy ground and possibly considerable water would probably be major problems in any operation. The Field Examiners recommend that exploratory assistance be denied.

The Ayles Creek Mine is located 1.6 airline miles S. 28° W. of Micaville, North Carolina, in Yancey County.

The property was examined May 21, 1954. Messrs. Johhny McCurry and Guy McCurry and Tom Edge accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required one and one-half hours.

The mine is accessible via about 1 mile of jeep road. No surface facilities are present on the property. Workings consist of a large semicircular cut open to the south that is about 100 feet in diameter, and several caved adits and caved shallow shafts. The north side of the open cut is about 80 feet high.

A conformable pegmatite about 12 feet thick, with a medial inclusion about 1 foot thick of country rock, biotite schist, is exposed in the cut. It strikes N. 10° E. and appears to dip steeply to the northwest. No zoning is apparent but irregular quartz pods up to 2 feet long are scattered throughout the pegmatite. It consists of plagioclase, quartz, perthite, muscovite and garnet.

The mica is hard, ruby-colored, badly curved and cracked, and somewhat mineral-stained . According to the applicants who have done work during the present Government purchasing, the best quality mica came from along the east wall of the pegmatite. The mica is rather sparsely distributed throughout the pegmatite where exposed and would require removal of considerable pegmatite to obtain a small quantity of mica.

The applicants were unable to hold a recently sunk shaft because of heavy ground and water.

It is the opinion of the field examiners that the application for exploratory assistance should be denied on the basis of inferior quality mica and heavy ground and possibly considerable water.

Kefton H. Teague and Dewey H. Amos,
Geologists, U. S. Geological Survey

L. E. Shirley, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

May 21, 1954

600

MAY 3 - 1954

Messrs. Johnny and Guy McCurry

Mineville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMA-3307 - Mica
Johnny & Guy McCurry
Spruce Creek Mica
Lenoir County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

Your application for assistance in exploring the subject property has been reviewed by the Nonstrategic Minerals Division of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and has been referred to Mr. Robert. A Lawrence, Operation Officer, DMA Field Team, Region VII, Room 12, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

Please advise this office in writing if you desire to have your application processed under the Government participation rate which is 75 percent of the approved cost.

The Regional Office will contact you at an early date if an examination is to be made. Any assistance that you may give the members of the field team during the examination will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

LAlbrecht:kmg 4/29/54

Copy to: Mng. R. Fils
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Bierlich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Hook

600

MAY 3 1954

Mr. Robert A. Lawrence
Executive Officer, DMEA
Field Team, Region VII
Room 13, Post Office Bldg.
Knoxville 2, Tennessee

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3307 - Mica
Johnny & Guy McCurry
Apatite Creek Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Please review the subject application and arrange for a field examination if you deem it necessary.

Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey, dated April 13, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated April 23, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin

ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Larrabee

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

P.S. Please show the bounding lines of the leased area and their relation to the work, if a contract is recommended.

LGHouk:ag 4/29/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232, GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

Notes on DYEA-3307

1. Must both partners sign application (See Legal)

2. Sink shaft 40 feet and drift 75 feet to pick up pegmatite. – Sink shaft in what? (ask FT)

3. Can applicant carry on 2 projects at the same time? (ask FT)

4. How about Hoot claim? 95%?

~~5. OCL Zoning.~~

6. Are areas large enough to support project.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 21, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3307

Applicant: Johnny and Guy McCurry

Name and Location of Property: Ayles Creek Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fert. Mats. Br.: April 13, 1954

Comments:

1. Bureau of Mines records show an average monthly purchase from May to September 1944 of $847.80 worth of mica by Colonial Mica from subject mine (Allis Creek, Micaville, N. C.).

2. Proposed exploration is by sinking a shaft 40 feet and drifting 75 feet and is consistent with local engineering practices.

3. Estimated cost - $6,828.

Recommendation:

It is suggested the field team examine this mine to ascertain if an exploration program is justified. If so, the field team and applicants should agree on a definite exploration plan with expenditures on a unit-cost basis.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

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

April 13, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3307 (mica)

To: L. G. Hook, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Johnny and Guy McCurry, Micaville, N. C.
Name of property: Ayerles Creek Mine.
Location of property: Near Micaville, N. C.
Summary of applicant's proposal:
40' shaft.
75' drift to pick up pegmatite.
$6,828

Sources of information on applicant's property:
U.S.G.S. ms. report by J. M. Parker, May 1945 (Ayles Creek mine) indicates great deal of old UG workings to 80-90' depth, plus large area by hydraulic methods.

Mica of inferior quality, with poor sheet recovery.

Comments:

1. Applicant put in DMEA-3306 application at same time. Has the experience with applicants indicated ability to push 2 projects at once? If no experience with them, should 1 application be delayed until such experience is gained? Or should both be expedited, but actual work on one delayed until the other shows progress?

2. Tentative costs look high.

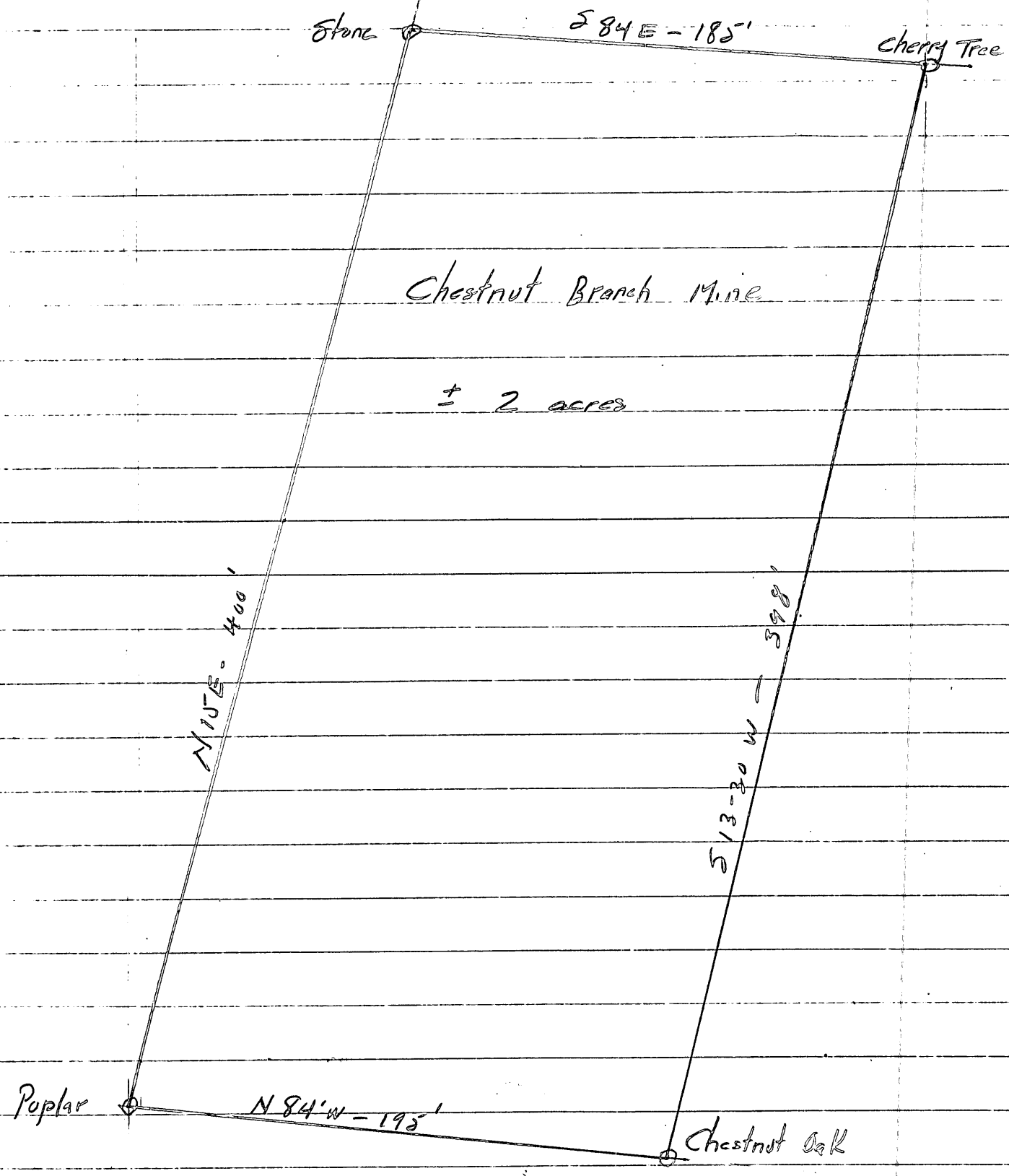
3. No good location specified.

4. No sketch of proposal.

5. Sounds like a thoroughly gophered deposit.

RECOMMENDATION:
Refer to Field Team for examination if desired.

Larrabee:jeh
4/13/54
cc: DMEA 3
Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
Larrabee G-230

D. M. Larrabee

DMEA-3307 - Johnny + Gary McCurry