July 18, 1954

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report

By: Walter C. Anderson

1. Docket No. DMEA-3323 - Mica
   Property: Fred Thomas Mine
   Yancey County, North Carolina

   Applicants: Royal Bailey and Guy McCurry, a partnership
   Micaville, North Carolina

   Application: Form MF-103, date received April 23, 1954.
   Work proposed: Sink 25 feet of shaft and drive 50 feet of drift.
   Amount requested: $5,500.00
   No contract - Application denied.

2. Comments:
   Geological premise: Because there is no persistent mica-bearing pegmatite, mica recovery would be insufficient in amount and quality to overcome the cost of operation and inaccessibility to the mine.
   Geological Criteria:
   1. Scattered small pegmatite pods and stringers, none over 18 inches thick.
   2. Past production from small pocket was of poor quality.
   Future possibilities - None
   Recommendations: The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in Field Team recommendation to deny the application. The Commodity members from the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur.

WCAnderson:pk 8/15/55
Copy to Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk
Mr. Anderson

Bailey & McCurry

Mineville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3323 - Mica
Fred Thomas 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 Minerals 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,

G. O. Mittenderf

Administrator

CAnderson:ag 7/15/54

Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, 5216
Mr. Houk

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

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1954

July 12, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3323 (mica)

Applicant: Bailey and McCurry

Name and Location of Property: Fred Thomas Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team's Report: June 25, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Br.: July 6, 1954

Field Team's Recommendation:

1. Denial of application.

Comments:

1. Pegmatite dikes are exposed on this property but the mica is small in size.

2. A small pocket of mica was worked out about 1940 and the mine appears to be inaccessible for bringing in equipment to conduct an exploration program, making the cost extremely high for an exploration project.

Recommendation:

I concur with the field team that the application be denied on the basis that the deposit does not appear to contain sufficient quantities of strategic mica to warrant an exploration program.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CMM

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

July 1, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3323 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: Bailey and McCurry, Micaville, N. C.
Name of property: Fred Thomas Mine.
Location of property: Yancey County, N. C.
Date of Field Team Report: June 25, 1954.
Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Teague and D. H. Amos.
Field Team's recommendation: None, except that costs would be high.
Comments: 1. No persistent mica-bearing peg is presently exposed.
2. No facilities, so cost would be out of line for such a risk.
3. Any peg exposed is thin (2'-3'), unzoned, and contains small mica.
4. Quality of mica produced in 1940 reported good.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Denial.

D. M. Larrabee

Larrabee:jeh
7/1/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3
Larrabee 5218 Interior

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERAL EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

ON

DMEA-3323, FRED THOMAS MINE (mica)
Yancey County, North Carolina

By

K. M. Teague and D. H. Ames, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

June 25, 1954

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
On
DMRA-3323, FRED THOMAS MINE (mica)

Applicants: Bailey and McCurry, c/o Royal Bailey, Micaville, N. C.

Reports indicate that about $600 worth of good quality mica were obtained from this deposit about 1940. A small "pocket" of mica was worked out and efforts to locate additional mica-bearing pegmatite were unsuccessful. Whether or not further efforts are warranted is not known. No persistent mica-bearing pegmatite is presently exposed.

The deposit was examined on June 18, 1954. Messrs. Royal Bailey and Guy McCurry accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required three hours.

The Fred Thomas Mine is on the northwest side of Joe Young Ridge, 2.96 airline miles S. 35° E. of Burnsville, Yancey County, N. C. Access is via 2 miles of jeep road up an east tributary of Bowlens Creek, thence north up the south side of Joe Young Ridge to within one-half mile of the mine. There is no road from this point to the mine.

Both applicants are competent mica miners.

Area covered by the applicant's lease is adequate for the proposed work.

There are no surface facilities on the property. Old workings consist an open cut 30 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 10 feet deep and a caved 15-foot adit from the south end of the cut. In the south face of the cut a 2-3 foot pegmatite is exposed which is conformable to the foliation of the mica kyanite gneiss, trending N. 10° W. and dipping 45° SW. This pegmatite is fine-grained, unweathered, unzoned, and contains only small mica.

Another small pegmatite pod is exposed about 30 feet east of the cut. This one is crosscutting, trending N. 40° W. and has a vertical dip. It contains only small mica.

Numerous other small pods and stringers of pegmatite are exposed in the immediate vicinity of the open cut; however, they are all small and appear to be/limited extent only.

As previously mentioned, it is very difficult to pass judgement on this deposit. Reports suggest that about 18 inches of pegmatite are present in the bottom of the slumped open cut and short drift. This cannot be verified as it is now covered. Certainly the mica recovered during the first work was of excellent quality, but whether there is more is open to question. Furthermore, as the mine is inaccessible, the cost of bringing equipment to it, so that it could be cleaned out, would be high. In order to get a dull-dozer to the deposit and clean out the open cut, would cost about $500. If anything were found, another $600-800 would be needed to build one-half mile

of new road and repair the existing 2 miles of jeep road.

If this deposit were easily accessible, the examiners probably would recommend exploration assistance. However, as it is inaccessible, we feel that the cost to explore it will be too high compared to the possibility of discovery which is very doubtful.

June 25, 1954.

K. H. Teague, and D. H. Amos, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

mm

MICAVILLE, N. C.

6/21/1954

JUN 23 1954

Defence Minerals Exploration Administration
Washington 25. D. C.

Gentlemen:

In regards to Docket No. DMEA-3323-
Mica. Fred Thomas Mine. Vance County, North Carolina
We wish to have our application processed
under the new Government participation rate of
75 percent of the approved cost.

Thanking you
Bailey & McPorr
by R. R. Bailey

600

JUN 7 1954

Bailey & McCurry

Micaville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3323 - Mica
Fred Thomas Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

Your application for assistance in exploring the subject property has been reviewed by the Nonmetallic Minerals Division of the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and has been referred to Mr. Robert A. Lawrence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 13, 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 new 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,

K. D. Mittendorf

Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 6/2/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region VII
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

600

JUN - 7 1954

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3323 - Mica
Bailey & McCurry
Fred Thomas Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Laurence:

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 26, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated May 7, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

D. M. Larrabee

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4
WCAnderson:gad 6/2/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Larrabee, G-232 GSA Bldg.
Mr. Houk

IN REPLY REFER TO:

G-MD-CNM

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

April 26, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3323 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Bailey and McCurry, Micaville, N. C.
Name of property: Fred Thomas mine.
Location of property: Inadequate.
Summary of applicant's proposal:

1,500' (?) access road
25' shaft
50' drift

Sources of information on applicant's property: None.

Comments:

1. Location inadequate.
2. No plan attached, showing where work is planned relative to peg.
3. What is target size?
4. What is size of peg?
5. What do applicants propose to do for their 25%?

RECOMMENDATION:

Request applicant for additional information.
Refer to Field Team for examination if required.

D. M. Larrabee

Larrabee:jeh
4/26/54
cc: Director's reading 4212
Branch reading 4212
DMEA 3
Larrabee G-230

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

U.S. Department of the Interior
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAY 7 - 1954

May 7, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3323

Applicant: Bailey and McCurry

Name and Location of Property: Fred Thomas Mine
Yancey County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fert. Materials Branch: 4/23/54

Comments:

1. No data available in this office on subject mine.
2. Estimated costs totaling $5,500 appear to be high for sinking a 25-foot shaft and drifting 50 feet.
3. Costs of exploration project should be estimated on a unit-cost basis.

Recommendation:

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

Signed

W. F. Dietrich