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

September 7, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Donald R. Irving, Acting for Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3415 (mica)

Applicants: Guy E. Coffey, Larkin Buchanan and John D. Ayers

Name and Location of Property: Buchanan Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: August 17, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: August 23, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:
1. Denial of application.

Comments:
1. An unzoned pegmatite dike is exposed but books of mica are small.
2. Examiners are of the opinion an economical operation cannot be conducted at this mine.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny subject application.

Signed

Donald R. Irving

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

August 23, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3415 (mica)

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: E. F. and H. L. Burleson
Name of property: Buchanan Mine
Location of property: 3.4 mi. SE of Bakersville, Mitchell Co., N. C.
Date of Field Team Report: August 17, 1954
Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Teague and D. H. Ames
Field Team's recommendation: Application should be denied.
Comments: I concur with Field Team conclusions.
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Application should be denied.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-8/23/54

Copy to: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
W. F. Dietrich, 3061

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

August 23, 1954

Memorandum

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To: L. G. Henk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey
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Field Team's recommendation: Application should be denied.
Comments: I concur with Field Team conclusions.
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Application should be denied.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-8/23/54

Copy to: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
W. F. Dietrich, 3061

600

SEP 17 1954

Mr. Guy E. Coffey, et al.

Hawk, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. TMEA-3415 - Mica
Larkin Buchanan, John Dewitt Ayers
and Guy E. Coffey, Partnership
Buchanan Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Coffey:

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,

Frank E. Johnson

ACTING Administrator

WCAnderson:gad 9/15/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Killsgaard, 5227
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

September 15, 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-3415 - Mica
   Property: Buchanan Mine
   Mitchell County, North Carolina
   Applicants: Larkin Buchanan, John Dewitt Ayers and
   Guy E. Coffey, Partnership
   C/O Guy E. Coffey
   Hawk, North Carolina

   Application: Form MF-103, date received July 14, 1954
   Work proposed: Drifting at three separate levels, in words of applicants, "Explore side veins-about 10 feet under each other and main vein for a distance of 50 feet". Total footage not given.
   Amount requested: $4,028.50
   No contract: Application denied.

2. Comments:

   Geological premise: There are no geological criteria that will justify Government participation in exploration of this project which is based on the premise that the submarginal characteristics of the deposit will improve.
   Geological criteria:
   1. Unzoned pegmatite up to 3 feet thick.
   2. Mica is sparse and small.
   3. Past operations uneconomical.
   Future possibilities: Remote for economical operation.

   Recommendation: The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs with field team in denying the application. The Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines also concur.

WCAnderson:gad 9/15/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk

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

September 7, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Donald R. Irving, Acting for Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3415 (mica)

Applicants: Guy E. Coffey, Larkin Buchanan and John D. Ayers

Name and Location of Property: Buchanan Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: August 17, 1954

Date Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fertilizer Mtls. Br.: August 23, 1954

Field Team Recommendation:
1. Denial of application.

Comments:
1. An unzoned pegmatite dike is exposed but books of mica are small.
2. Examiners are of the opinion an economical operation cannot be conducted at this mine.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to deny subject application.

Signed

Donald R. Irving

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

August 23, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF FIELD TEAM REPORT ON APPLICATION DMEA-3415 (mica)

To: L. G. Hook, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant: E. F. and E. L. Burleson
Name of property: Buchanan Mine
Location of property: 3.4 mi. SE of Bakersville, Mitchell Co., N. C.
Date of Field Team Report: August 17, 1954
Authorship of Field Team Report: K. H. Teague and D. H. Amos
Field Team's recommendation: Application should be denied.
Comments: I concur with Field Team conclusions.
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Application should be denied.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-8/23/54

Copy to: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
W. F. Dietrich, 3061

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
ROOM POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

August 17, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA- Region VII

Burleson

Subject: Field Examination Reports (mica) DMEA-3416, E. E. & H. L. ~~Buchanan~~
DMEA-3415, Coffey, Buchanan & Ayers

Enclosed are four copies each of the two subject examination reports.

We recommend denial of both, in keeping with the field examiners' conclusions that further exploration is not justified.

Robert A. Laurence,
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION VII

Wm. A. Beck, for V. J. Lynch
U. S. Bureau of Mines

RAL/sm
cc:
Beck
Lynch
Files-2

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-23-54
(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM, REGION VII

On

DMEA-3415, BUCHANAN MINE (mica)
Mitchell County, N. C.

By

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

August 12, 1954

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-23-54
(date)

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
ON
DMEA-3415 -BUCHANAN MINE (mica)

Applicants: Guy E. Coffey, Larkin Buchanan and John Dewitt Ayers,
c/o Guy E. Coffey, Hawk, North Carolina

Recent work on this deposit has been submarginal. Additional work would likely meet the same fate. Therefore, the examiners recommend that the application be denied.

The deposit was examined August 12, 1954. Mr. Guy E. Coffey accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Buchanan Mine is on the steep north slope of Pisgah Mountain 3.37 airline miles S. 67° E. of Bakersville and 1.47 airline miles S. 33° E. of Clarrissa, Mitchell County, North Carolina. Access is possible to within 0.75 mile of the mine. From that point to the mine only a foot trail is present. This is not the J. K. Buchanan Mine.

This prospect is supposed to have been worked during World War II and recently the applicants operated it for about two months and sold about $250 worth of mica for their efforts. Cost of production was about three times the value of the mica produced.

At this place three thin stringer-like pods of pegmatite have been exposed by a circular pit 20 feet in diameter. It has been worked to a depth of about 25 feet. The pit is in unweathered biotite gneiss and pegmatite. The pegmatites are emplaced conformable to the foliation of the wall rock which varies in strike from east-west to N. 50° W. Dip of the foliation is about 60° south and southwest.

The various pegmatite pods are discontinuous along both strike and dip and appear to occur in a zone about 10 feet thick. Where exposed the pegmatites grade into quartz veins along both strike and dip. The pegmatites range in thickness up to about three feet. They are essentially unzoned, consisting of a medium to fine-grained mixture of soda feldspar, quartz, muscovite, and red garnet. No books of mica more than 4 inches in diameter were observed and most of the mica is less than two inches in diameter. The mica is hard, ruby-colored, clear, generally flat, but all is small and sparse.

The Field examiners recommend that the application be denied because past operations appear to have adequately tested the deposit. The pegmatites are small, discontinuous, and past operations have been uneconomical.

August 12, 1954.

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

Mr. Guy E. Coffey, et al.

Bewk, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-2415 - Mica
Buelanon Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Coffey:

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. Laurence, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region VII, Room 12, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

In order to continue with the processing of your application we must have a better description of the property. The land description with the lease is inadequate, since the directions are too vaguely given. Instead of merely the Westerly or Northerly direction, the exact direction in degrees and minutes must be given. The metes and bounds description should accurately describe a closed traverse, and total acreage indicated. A property map, if available, showing relationship of mine to boundary lines would be helpful.

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

WCAnderson:gad 6/6/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Field Team, Region VII
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Newcomb, 5227
Mr. Houk

AUG 6 1954 600

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3415 - Mica
Guy A. Coffey, et al.
Buchanan Mine
Mitchell 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 July 15, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated July 30, 1954, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines

E. L. Newcomb
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures: 4

WCAnderson:gad 8/5/54
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket File
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Newcomb, 5227
Mr. Houk

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

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
JUL 30 1954

July 30, 1954

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials Branch

Subject: DMEA-3415 (mica)

Applicant: Guy E. Coffey

Name and Location of Property: Buchanan Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Ceramic & Fert. Materials Br.: July 14, 1954

Comments:

1. No specific data are available on subject mine but three mines with the name "Buchanan" are mentioned as being in Mitchell County in Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 225.

2. Proposed exploration is not explicit.

3. Expenditures should be on a unit-cost basis.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the field team visit this mine when in that vicinity to ascertain if an exploration project is justified. If so, the field team and applicant should agree on a definite plan of exploration on a unit-cost basis.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

July 23, 1954

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA- Washington

From: Executive Officer, DMEA - Region VII

Subject: DMEA-Ml5, Application of Larkin Buchanan, John Dewitt Ayers and Guy R. Coffey. (sion)

Transmitted herewith are 6 signed copies of the Owner's Consent to Lease on the subject application.

Mr. Warren H. Pritchard the attorney who filled out the application, states in a letter to me that "John H. Ayers, and Dewitt Ayers is one and the same." The lease is to Larkin Buchanan, DeWitt Ayers, and Guy Coffey but is signed by Larkin Buchanan, John D. Ayers and Guy R. Coffey.

Robert A. Lawrence

RH

IN REPLY REFER TO:
G-MD-CBM

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

July 15, 1954

Memorandum

REVIEW OF APPLICATION DMEA-3415 (mica)

To: L. G. Hook, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
From: D. M. Larrabee, U. S. Geological Survey
Applicant's name and address: Larkin Buchanan, John Dewitt Ayers and Guy E. Coffey, Hawk, North Carolina.
Name of property: Buchanan mine.
Location of property: Mitchell County, North Carolina.
Summary of applicant's proposal: No details given.
Sources of information on applicant's property: If this is the J. K. Buchanan mine, we have an unpublished ms. report by J. R. Wolfe, Jr., U.S.G.S., 1944.
Comments: Parts of the deposit might be worth a look, under present mica prices. The mine was no ball of fire during War II conditions.
RECOMMENDATION: Refer to Field Team.

D. M. Larrabee

Copy to: DMEA (3)