☑ Audited

☑ Certified

Name Elbert Watson

State N. C

WORK ANALYSIS SHEET - DMEA PROJECT

Analysis as of May

Incl. Voucher for Apr 1977

Commodity Mica

☐ Actual Cost

☑ Agreed Unit Costs

Docket No. 5615

Idm-E No. 772

OPERATION	AUTHORIZED Units	AUTHORIZED Cost	COMPLETED Units	COMPLETED Cost	NET COST
Drifting & Crosscutting					
Raising					
Shafts	65	5925.00	—	—	
Winzes					
Drilling (Specify)					
Surface Excavation		150.00		150.00	150.00
Underground Excavation					
Roads and Trails					
Operating Equipment Purchased					
Surface Rehabilitation & Repairs					
Underground Rehabilitation					
New Building, Improvements, etc.		37.00		—	
Other (Specify)					
Totals		2962.00		150.00	150.00

Prepared by James Hopson

71626

Division Copy

RECEIVED
JUN 20 1955

NOTICE OF FAILURE TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

To: Mr. Elbert Watson
Route #3
Newland, North Carolina

Operator under Exploration
Project Contract Idm-E772
Docket No. DMEA-3615
dated: 14th day of March 1955

1. The United States of America, acting through the Department of the Interior, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of the subject contract, hereby notifies you that in its opinion operations under the contract have failed to achieve anticipated results that indicate the probability of making a worthwhile discovery, and in its opinion further operations are not justified.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of said Article 8, the Government upon giving this notice is "free of all obligation to pay on account of units of work not then performed.....;" and you are "free of all obligations to prosecute the work other than such as may be necessary and indidental to winding up, reporting, and accounting."

3. By the provisions of Article 8 c of the contract, the giving of this notice by the Government ".....shall not affect the Government's rights as provided for in the contract with respect to a percentage royalty, and such rights shall be fully preserved."

Dated this April 7, 1955.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By Robert A. Lawrence
Robert A. Lawrence, Execut
DMEA Field Team, Region V

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT DIVISION

REPORT OF REVIEW

I have reviewed the Monthly Reports of:

Elbert Watson
Route 3
Newland, North Carolina

pertaining to Exploration Project Contract No. Idm-5772, Docket No. DMEA-3615, for the month of April, 1955, covering a project for the exploration of mica on property, known as the Ben Aldridge Mine located in Avery County, North Carolina.

My review included an examination of the Monthly Reports (Forms MF-104) and supporting documents attached thereto, comparison of the costs claimed with the contract and pertinent schedules, verification of work performed by reference to Field Team reports, and a determination of the reasonableness and propriety of the costs.

This review was made in lieu of a final audit of the Operator's accounts and records for the following reason:

all of the costs incurred were under a contract provision for payment by the Government on the basis of agreed estimated costs of units of work actually performed.

The review disclosed the following facts in regard to the amount paid or to be paid the contractor:

Total cost as billed by Contractor		$150.00
Exceptions:		
By DMEA Finance Officer	$ -0-	
Herewith	-0-	-0-
Total Accepted Cost		$150.00

The contract calls for a 75 percent participation of exploration expenses by the United States Government. Therefore, payment to the contractor by the Government in the amount of One hundred twelve and 50/100 Dollars

$112.50

is considered valid and proper, provided that the Regional Executive Officer, the Administrator, or other competent official has accepted or will accept the project as having otherwise met the terms of the contract.

E. D. Telbert, Auditor

May 24, 1955

Division Copy

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAR 28 1955

MF-200A
(Revised June 1954)

Docket No. DMEA [redacted]

Commodity [redacted]

Contract No. Idm-E 772

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT[1]
(Short Form)

It is agreed this 14th day of March, 1955, between the United States of America, acting through the Department of the Interior, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, hereinafter called the "Government," and [2] [redacted]

whose mailing address is Route 23
Newland, North Carolina

hereinafter called the "Operator," as follows:

ARTICLE 1. *This contract* is entered into under the authority of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended. It consists of this form (MF-200A), the attached Exhibit "A," Annex I, and .....

The Operator shall not transfer or assign this contract or any right thereunder without the written consent of the Government.

ARTICLE 2. *Operator's property rights.*—(a) The land which is the subject of this contract (hereinafter called "the land") is in the State of North Carolina, County of Avery, and is described in Annex I.[3]

(b) The Operator represents and undertakes that:

(1) The Operator is the [4] [redacted] of [5] the entire interest in the land, in possession and entitled to possession for all of the purposes of this contract, under and by virtue of a [6] ....., [7] .....recorded in Book ....., page ....., official records of said County; and

(2) The Operator's right, title, or interest (whether as owner, lessee, or otherwise) is subject only to the following claims, liens, or encumbrances: [redacted]

(c) The Subordination Agreement of the holder of any claim, lien, or encumbrance listed above, and (if the Operator does not hold the legal title) the Consent to Lien of any holder of the legal title of the land (lessor, seller, optionor, etc.), are attached, as follows: .....

[1] If sufficient space is not provided in any blank, use an extra sheet of paper and refer to it in the blank.
[2] Insert name, and if an organization, its nature (corporation and place of incorporation, partnership with names of partners, etc.).
[3] State on a separate sheet marked "Annex I" the legal description or enough to identify the property, particularly excluding any areas from which the production is not to be subject to the Government's percentage royalty.
[4] Insert "owner," "lessee," "contract purchaser," "locator," etc.
[5] Insert "the entire interest," "the mineral rights," "an undivided one-third," etc.
[6] Insert "deed," "lease," "contract," "location notice," "patent," etc.
[7] If not recorded, so indicate by inserting "un."

(d) The Operator shall preserve and maintain his right, title, and interest in the land and his right to the possession thereof for the purposes of this contract, and shall devote the land and all existing improvements, facilities, buildings, installations, and appurtenances to the purposes of this contract. Until the lapse of the time within which the Government may make a certification of discovery or development without any such certification having been made, and after any such certification has been made, the Operator shall neither transfer, convey, nor surrender the land nor any right, title, or interest therein, nor permit nor suffer any claim, lien, or encumbrance thereon, without expressly referring to and providing in the instrument of conveyance, lien, or encumbrance for the preservation of the Government's right to a percentage royalty on production and lien for the payment thereof. If the Government makes no certification of discovery or development within the time limited in Article 7, it shall thereafter have no claim against the land or any production therefrom except for any production referred to in Article 7(b)(1).

ARTICLE 3. *The exploration project.*—The project is a search for indicated or undeveloped deposits of Mica. The work to be performed is described in Exhibit "A." The Operator on or before APR 15 1955 shall commence the work, and on or before 6 mos. from date of contract (unless the Operator's obligation to complete the work is terminated—see Article 8) shall complete the work.

ARTICLE 4. *Performance of the work.*—(a) *Operator's responsibility.*—The work shall be performed with reasonable diligence, efficiently, expertly, in a workmanlike manner, in accordance with good mining standards and State regulations for health and safety and for liability insurance covering employment; and with suitable and adequate equipment, facilities, materials, supplies, and labor, to bring it to completion within the time fixed.

(b) *Government may inspect.*—The Operator shall consult with and inform the Government on all phases of the work as it progresses. The Government may enter at all reasonable times to inspect the work under the contract, and also after a certification of discovery or development to inspect production operations and underground workings. The operator shall provide the Government with all reasonable means of access for such inspections.

ARTICLE 5. *Contribution by the Government.*—A fixed cost for each unit of work to be performed (per foot of drifting, per foot of drilling, per hour of operations, etc.) is hereby agreed upon, and is set forth in Exhibit "A" in connection with the estimated total cost of the project in the sum of $3,112.00. The Government will contribute 75 percent of the fixed unit costs as work is performed, in a total sum not in excess of $2,334.00: *Provided,* That until the Operator has rendered to the Government his final report, and any final auditing required by the Government has been made, and a final settlement of the contract has been made, the Government may withhold from the last voucher or vouchers such sums as it sees fit not in excess of 10 percent of the estimated total cost of the work. The Government will make its contribution on the basis of the monthly vouchers referred to in Article 6(b), but all payments by the Government are provisional only, subject to audit, until the account between the Operator and the Government is finally audited and settled. To the extent that excesses over fixed unit costs or any excess over the estimated total cost may be necessary for the performance of the work, the Operator shall incur and pay such excesses for his own account without contribution by the Government. The Government may make payments directly to independent contractors and suppliers for the account of the Operator rather than to the Operator.

ARTICLE 6. *Reports, accounts, audits.*—(a) *Operator's records.*—The Operator shall keep suitable records and accounts of the units of work performed and of any production in which the Government may have an interest; and shall preserve those with respect to work performed for at least three years after final payment by the Government, and those with respect to production for at least three years after any obligation to pay royalties to the Government has terminated. The Government may inspect and audit said records and accounts at any time, either by itself or by a certified public accountant. The Comptroller General of the United States or his representative, until the expiration of said three-year periods, shall have access to and the right to examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the Operator. All of the Operator's vouchers and records and accounts relating thereto and the Government's payments thereof remain subject to adjustment until final audit by the Government.

(b) *Progress reports and vouchers.*—The Operator shall provide the Government with five copies of monthly progress reports in three sections as follows: (1) Operator's Monthly Report and Voucher showing a detailed statement of units of work performed during the reporting period; (2) Operator's Unit Cost and Progress Report showing the various types of work performed during the reporting period and the fixed unit costs incurred for each type of work; and (3) a Narrative Report of the work

performed during the reporting period including adequate engineering-geological maps or sketches, drill hole logs and locations, and assay reports on samples taken concurrently with advance in mineralized ground. (Forms for reporting under (1) and (2) above will be provided by the Government.)

(c) *Final report.*—Upon completion of the work or termination of the Government's obligation to contribute to costs, the Operator shall furnish the Government with five copies of a final report (in addition to the final progress report and voucher). This final report shall include a geological and engineering evaluation of the results of the work performed under the contract with an estimate of the ore reserves resulting from such work, complete assay data, adequate geological and engineering maps or sketches, and a summary of the work performed and the unit costs thereof.

(d) *Report of sales.*—The Operator shall provide the Government with suitable accounting and documentary evidence covering all production to which the Government's percentage royalty relates, such as copies of smelter or concentrator settlement sheets, and certified accounts of production and sale or other disposition of production.

(e) *Compliance with requirements.*—If in the opinion of the Government any of the Operator's reports, records, or accounts are insufficient or incomplete, or if the Operator fails to make them, the Government may procure the making or completion of such with suitable attachments as an expense of the work to which the Operator shall contribute. The Government may withhold approval and payment of any vouchers relating to insufficient or incomplete reports, records or accounts.

ARTICLE 7. *Repayment by Operator.*—(a) *Certification.*—If the Government considers that a discovery or development from which production may be made has resulted from the work, the Government, at any time not later than six months after a sufficient final report and final account (see Article 6) has been rendered, may so certify in writing to the Operator. Such certification shall describe broadly or indicate the nature of the discovery or development.

(b) *Royalty on production.*—The Operator, as principal if the Operator is the producer, or as surety if the Operator is not the producer, shall pay to the Government a royalty on all minerals mined or produced from the land, as follows: (1) regardless of any certification of discovery or development, from the date of the contract until the lapse of the time within which the Government may make such certification, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government without interest is fully repaid, whichever occurs first; or (2) if the Government makes a certification of discovery or development, within a period of ten years from the date of the contract, or until the total net amount contributed by the Government without interest is fully repaid, whichever occurs first.

(c) *Basis for computation.*—The Government's royalty shall be a percentage of the gross proceeds (including any bonuses, premiums, allowances, or other benefits) from the production sold, in the form sold (ore, concentrates, metal, or equivalent), at the point of delivery (the f. o. b. point); *except,* that charges of *the buyer* arising in the regular course of business, and shown as deductions on the buyer's settlement sheets, on account of the cost of treatment processes performed by *the buyer,* sampling and assaying to determine the value of the production sold, and freight paid by *the buyer* to a carrier (not the Operator), shall be allowed as deductions in arriving at the "gross proceeds" as that term is used herein. Any costs of treatment processes, sampling or assaying, or transportation, performed or paid by the Operator or by anyone other than the buyer, are not deductible in arriving at the "gross proceeds" as that term is here used. The term "treatment processes," as here used, means those processes (such as milling, concentrating, smelting, refining, or equivalent) applied to the crude ore or other production after it is extracted from the ground, to put it into a commercially marketable form; excluding fabricating or manufacturing.

(d) *Unsold production.*—If any production (ore, concentrates, metal, or equivalent), after the lapse of six months from the date the ore was extracted from the ground, remains neither sold nor used by the Operator in integrated manufacturing or fabricating operations (for instance, if it is stockpiled), the Government, at its option, as long as it so remains, may require the computation and payment of its royalty on the value of such production in the form (ore, concentrates, metal, or equivalent) it is in when the Government elects to require computation and payment. If any production is used by the Operator in integrated manufacturing or fabricating operations before the Government makes its election, the Government's royalty on such production shall be computed on the value thereof in the form in which and at the time when it is so used. "Value" as here used means what is or would be gross income from mining operations for percentage depletion purposes in Federal income tax determination, or the market value, whichever is greater.

(e) *Percentages of royalty.*—The percentages of the Government's royalty shall be as follows:

One and one-half (1½) percent of amounts ("gross proceeds" or "value") not in excess of eight dollars ($8.00) per ton of production in the form in which sold, held, or used, plus one-half (½) percent for each additional full fifty cents ($0.50) by which such amounts exceed eight dollars ($8.00) per ton, but not in excess of five (5) percent of such amounts.

(For instance: the royalty on an amount of five dollars ($5.00) per ton would be one and one-half (1½) percent; on an amount of ten dollars ($10.00) per ton, three and one-half (3½) percent.)

(f) *Time for computation and payment.*—The Government's royalty shall be computed and paid currently upon each lot sold, held, or used in integrated operations, as the case may be, as above provided in this article.

(g) *Lien for payment.*—To secure the payment of its percentage royalty, there is hereby granted to the Government a lien upon the land or the Operator's interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom, until the royalty claim is extinguished by lapse of time or is fully paid.

(h) *Notice to purchasers.*—The Operator shall give notice of the Government's claim for royalty to any purchaser of the production, and shall authorize and direct such purchaser to pay the royalty directly to the Government and to furnish the Government with copies of the settlement sheets. If the records of any production and sales or other disposition of production, whether the production is by the Operator or by others, are not made available to the Government, the amount of the royalty may be estimated by the Administrator, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, or his successor, and his estimate thereof shall be final and binding upon the Operator.

(i) *No obligation to produce.*—Nothing in this contract is to be construed as imposing any obligation on the Operator or the Operator's successor in interest to engage in any production operations.

(j) *Government not obligated to buy.*—Nothing in this contract shall be construed as imposing any obligation on the Government to purchase any minerals mined or produced from the land.

ARTICLE 8. *Termination of the Government's obligations.*—(a) If in the opinion of the Government operations at any time have failed to achieve anticipated results that indicate the probability of making a worthwhile discovery, and in the opinion of the Government further operations are not justified, the Government may give the Operator written notice thereof, and thereupon the Government shall be free of all obligation to pay on account of units of work not then performed, and the Operator shall be free of all further obligation to prosecute the work other than such as may be necessary and incidental to winding up, reporting, and accounting.

(b) If in the opinion of the Government the Operator is in any manner in default under the terms of the contract, the Government may give the Operator written notice of such default with a specification of reasonable time within which the default must be cured; and if the Operator fails to cure such default as required, thereupon the Government shall be relieved of all obligation to pay on account of units of work not performed when the notice was given, and the Operator shall be free of all obligation to prosecute the work other than such as may be necessary and incidental to winding up, reporting, and accounting. The remedy provided for the Government in this paragraph "(b)" is in addition to any other remedy provided in this contract, and in addition to any other remedy the law may provide for breach of contract.

(c) The giving of any notice by the Government under the provisions of this Article 8 shall not affect the Government's rights as provided for in the contract with respect to a percentage royalty, and such rights shall be fully preserved.

ARTICLE 9. *Notices to be given by the Government* may be delivered to the Operator, or may be sent by registered mail addressed to the Operator at his mailing address stated in this contract. If mailed, notices are deemed to have been delivered five days after the date of mailing.

ARTICLE 10. *Officials not to benefit.*—No member of or delegate to Congress or resident commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

ARTICLE 11. *Changes and added provisions.*—

Executed in sextuplicate the day and year first above written.

[redacted]

(Operator)

By Ellert Watson

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By C. Whittenbury

Administrator, Defense Mineral Exploration Administration

Robert Hoffland

"Appd. Sol. Off."

Hoch

Martin

I, ..., certify that I am the ..... secretary of the corporation named as Operator herein; that ..... who signed this contract on behalf of the Operator, was then ..... of said corporation; that said contract was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and is within the scope of its corporate powers.

.....

[CORPORATE SEAL]

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—70618-1

EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
ELBERT WATSON
DOCKET NO. DMEA-3615

ANNEX I

The land referred to in Article 2 of the Contract form is described as follows:

Begin on a chestnut, an old corner and runs N 40 E 14 poles to a double maple, Watson's corner; thence with Watson's line E 56 poles to a chestnut; Then up wtn. northerly 40 poles to stake in road; then with road general westerly direction to stake in old line; thence South 25 deg. west with old line 15 poles to Beg., and containing 20 acres.

EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
ELBERT MATRON
DOCKET NO. DMEA-3615

EXHIBIT "A"

Description of the Work

The work shall be performed in two successive stages, as follows:

Stage I

With a D-4 bulldozer or equivalent, cut a trench 15 feet wide and 6 feet deep along the strike of the pegmatite for a distance of not more than 100 feet.

The approximate location of the trench is shown on the sketch entitled, "Sketch of Sam Aldridge Mine - DMEA-3615 Mica," attached hereto and made a part hereof.

If the Government is of the opinion that the results of Stage I warrant it, and it grants prior approval, Stage II shall be performed.

Stage II

1. Construct the following:

   A powder storage magazine, minimum dimensions 4 feet by 3 feet by 2½ feet.

   An exploder magazine, minimum dimensions 2 feet by 1½ feet by 1 foot.

The powder and exploder magazines shall be boxed on all sides; shall be made from 2-inch hard wood or 3-inch soft wood; and shall be braced at the corners. No metal shall be exposed; and the lids shall be securely locked with the equivalent of a 5-tumbler lock.

2. Sink a 65-foot, two compartment shaft in the pegmatite at a point agreed upon between the Government and the Operator. The shaft shall have minimum cross-sectional dimensions of 5 feet by 7 feet in the clear of timber.

All work shall be timbered as necessary.

The location, inclination, direction and extent of all work are subject to approval of the Government.

Fixed Unit Costs

Stage I

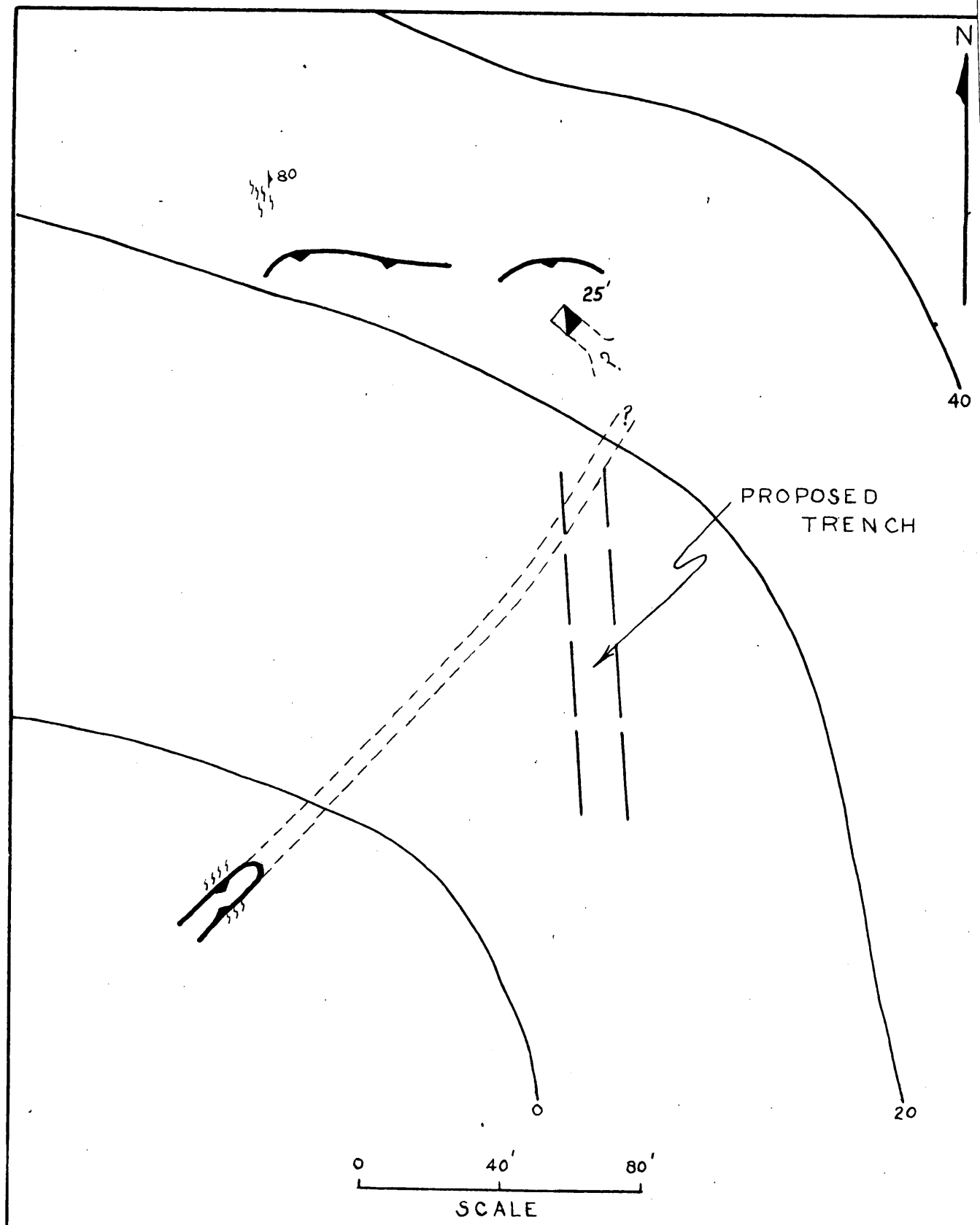
Bulldoze 15 hrs. @ $10.00/hr.	$ 150.00

Stage II

Construct:

Powder Magazine 1/	25.00
Exploder Magazine 1/	12.00
Sink 65 feet of shaft @ $45.00/ft.	2,925.00
Estimated Total Cost of Stage II	$2,962.00
Estimated Total Cost of Project	$3,112.00
Government Participation @ 75%	$2,334.00

1/ The completed work constitutes the unit.



SKETCH OF BEN ALDRIDGE
~~BEN ALDRICH MINE~~
AVERY CO., N.C.

DMEA-3615 (mica)

FEB 14 1955

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAR 28 1955

600

FEB 27 1956

Mr. Elbert Watson
Route 2
Newland, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMA-3615 - Mica
Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina
Contract No. AEC-772

Dear Mr. Watson:

Reference is made to your terminated exploration contract with the Government.

We sincerely regret that the work performed did not result in a certification of discovery or development under the provisions of the contract. In the absence of such certification the Government retains no claim or lien against the property subject to the contract or any future production therefrom. We, therefore, are closing our books and records on this project. Your attention, however, is called to the provisions of the contract which require the Operator to keep and preserve certain records for the period indicated.

Your interest in the DMA exploration program and participation therein are fully appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

G. O. Mittenzwei

Administrator

JHopkins:pk 8/1/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Mr. Chambers
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

Project Summary Report

By: James Hopkins February 23, 1956

1. Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Mica
   Contract No. Idm-E772
   Ben Aldridge Mine
   Avery County, North Carolina

   Operator: Elbert Watson
   Route 3, Newland, North Carolina

   Operator's property rights: Owner of Ben Aldridge Mine

2. Contract: Dated March 14, 1955
   a. Work Authorized:

   Stage I

Bulldozing 15 hrs @ 10.00/hr	$ 150.00

   Stage II

Buildings	37.00
Shaft sinking 65 feet @ 45.00/ft	2,925.00
Total estimated cost	$3,112.00

   b. Amendments: None

   c. Work completed:

Bulldozing 15 hrs @ 10.00/hr	$ 150.00

   Work began April 1, 1955
   Work terminated April 7, 1955

3. Audit: Report of Review dated May 24, 1955

Total cost as billed by Contractor	$ 150.00
Total accepted cost	$ 150.00
Government participation @ 75%	$ 112.50

4. Certification of discovery: None issued

5. Comments:
   This project was established to explore a pegmatite that is reported to have been worked to a depth of 42 feet.
   Existing dumps indicate that very little stoping was done.

Past production was sold to Colonial Mica Corp, and was valued at $4,600.00

Field Team recommended stripping along strike for a distance of 100 feet, and t en to sink a 65 foot shaft at best location and drift 85 feet on the pegmatite.

The stripping was completed but the pegmatite was not promising and did not warrant additional work. The Field Team recommended termination by mutual agreement. The Operator disagreed with Field Team and would not sign the mutual agreement. A unilateral termination agreement was then issued by the Field Team.

The Field Team recommended that no certification of discovery be issued.

The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concur in this recommendation

The Mica Commodity members of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey also concur in the recommendation.

James Hopkins, Mining Engineer

JHopkins: pk 8/1/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Mr. Houk
Mr. Hopkins

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1955

July 8, 1955

Re: DMEA 3615, Idm-E772
Elbert Watson
Ben Alridge Mine
Avery Co., N. C.
$3,112.00 - Mica

Memorandum

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Final Report of Field Team.

I concur with the recommendation of the Field Team that no certificate of discovery be issued.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:iml
G-7/8/55

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

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

RECEIVED
JUL - 6 1955

July 5, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA - 3615 (mica)

Applicant: E. Watson

Name and Location of Property: Ben Airidge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Contract Number: Idm-E 772

Date of Field Team Report: June 23, 1955

Date Rec'd by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: June 30, 1955

Field Team Recommendation: No certification of discovery

Comments:

1. Possibility for discovery of a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica is considered poor.

2. Expenditures - Total approved $3,112.00
Total cost 150.00
Gov't. share of the cost 112.50
Value of production during operation None

Recommendation:

I concur with the field team's recommendation of no discovery.

(Signed)

W. F. Dietrich

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~

COPY

Room 13, Post Office Bldg.
Knoxville 2, Tenn.

June 24, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington, D. C.

From: Field Team, DMEA, Region V, Knoxville, Tennessee

Subject: Final Reports DMEA-3615, Idm-E772 (mica)
Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge Mine, Avery County, North Carolina

Enclosed are four copies each of the Operator's and Field Team's reports on the subject contract, which was terminated upon completion of Stage I only.

Certification is not recommended.

/s/ Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer

/s/ V. J. Lynch, Member
Bureau of Mines

Enclosures 8

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
7-1-55
(date)

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1955

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FINAL REPORT BY FIELD TEAM
DMEA REGION V

On
DMEA-3615, BEN ALRIDGE MINE (mica)
Plumtree, Avery County, N. C.

By

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

and

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

June 23, 1955

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
7-1-55
(date)

FINAL REPORT

On

DMEA-3615, BEN ALRIDGE MINE (mica)
Contract Idm-E772

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1955

Operator: Elbert Watson, Route 3, Newland, North Carolina

Location: On the south slope of Deep Gap Mountain, 3.04 airline miles N. 52° W. of Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina

Trenching under Stage I of this contract failed to reveal pegmatite containing any appreciable amount of mica. Further work was not undertaken. No certification of discovery should be issued. Additional exploratory work is not warranted.

Two crosscutting trenches each about 50' x 15' x 6' deep were bulldozed under Stage I of the contract. As this failed to reveal pegmatite considered promising enough to proceed with Stage II, the contract was terminated by unilateral agreement effective April 7, 1955. The Operator at his expense cleaned out the old caved adit and made it assessible.

A pegmatite about 4 feet thick is exposed in the trenches and the old adit. It strikes about N. 70° E. and dips 40° SE and is conformable to the enclosing hornblende gneiss. The body consists of plagioclase, quartz, green muscovite, biotite, garnet, and sulphides, in order of abundance. No zoning is apparent except a concentration of biotite along the hanging wall. The west end of the body has been displaced by a fault (see attached sketch map).

Muscovite is very sparse and is of small sizes; otherwise, it is flat, hard, and clear. None was recovered from the trenching. In the opinion of the field examiners, mica is not abundant enough to sustain an economic operation.

No reserves were revealed by the work done under the contract.

Expenditures:

(a)	Total approved	$3,112.00
(b)	Total cost of project	150.00
(c)	Government's share of cost	112.50
(d)	Government's share unexpended	2,221.50
(e)	Value of production during operation	None

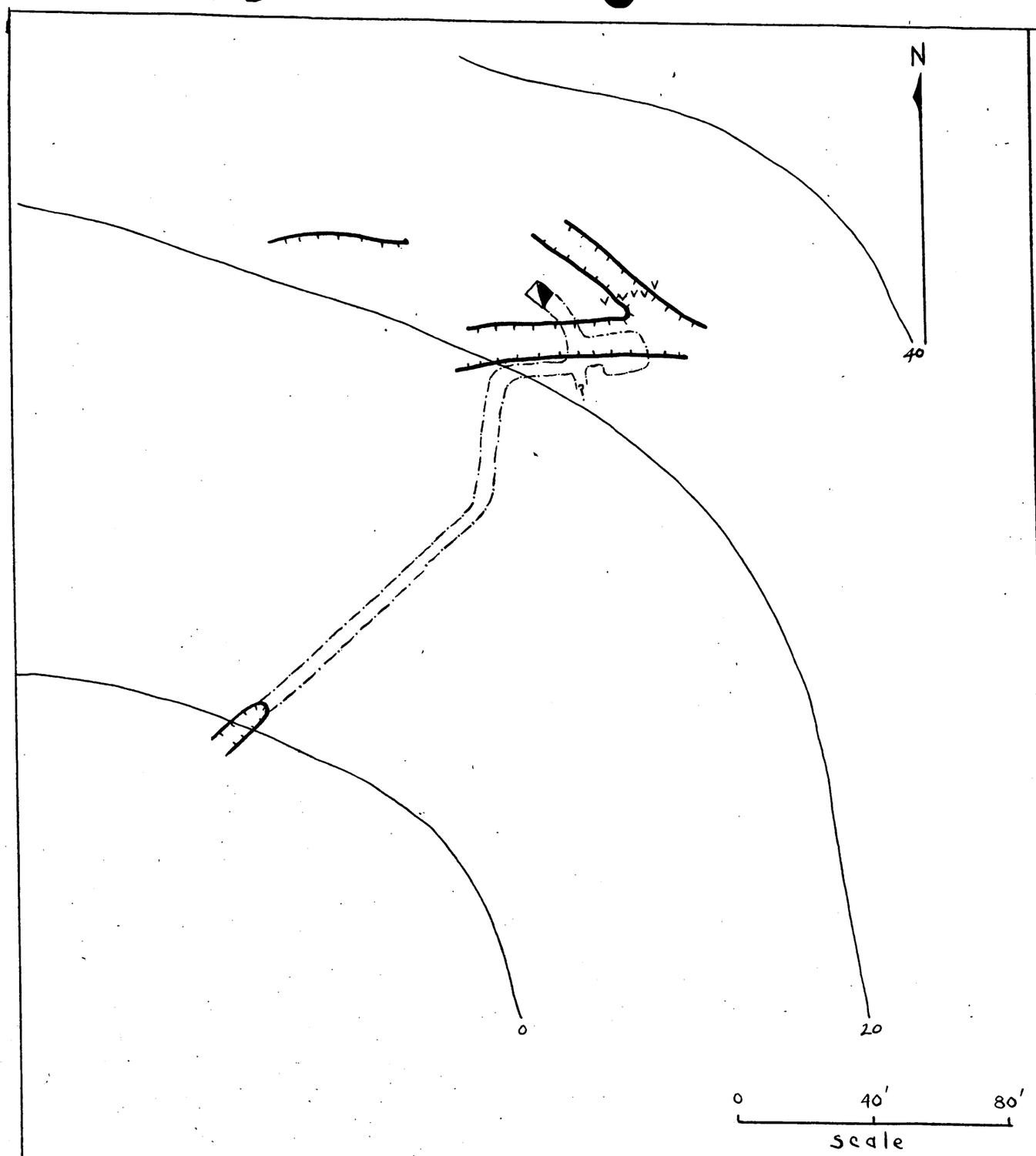
The work was conducted in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

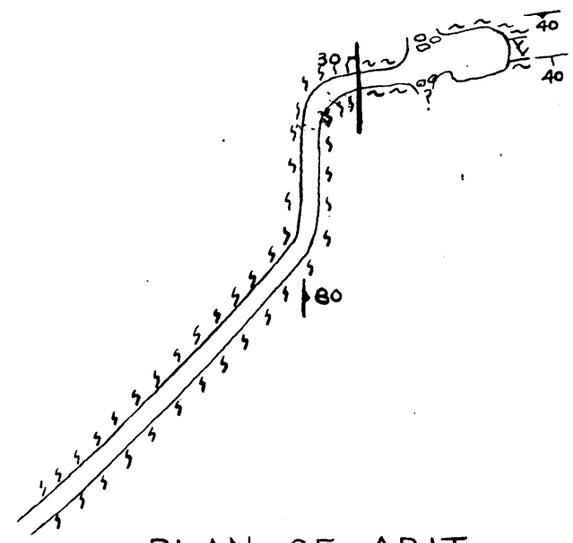
No equipment was purchased under the contract.

June 23, 1955

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

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





PLAN OF ADIT

LEGEND

- ~~ hornblende gneiss
- vv pegmatite
- — contact
- ||||| cut
- / strike & dip of contact
- / strike & dip of foliation
- -·- outline of underground works
- ⊥ fault showing dip of fault plane
- ▪ shaft
- oo muck

SKETCH OF
BEN ALDRIDGE MINE
AVERY CO., N.C.

DMEA-3615 (mica)
April 6, 1955

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1955

June 24, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington, D. C.

From: Field Team, DMEA, Region V, Knoxville, Tennessee

Subject: Final Reports DMEA-3615, Idm-E772 (mica)
Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge mine, Avery County, North Carolina

Enclosed are four copies each of the Operator's and Field Team's reports on the subject contract, which was terminated upon completion of Stage I only.

Certification is not recommended.

Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer

V. J. Lynch, Member
Bureau of Mines

RAL/mc
Enclosures 8
cc - Operating Committee
Lynch
Shirley
Files

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1955

Spruce Pine, N. C.
May 13, 1955

Mr. Robert A. Laurence, Executive Officer
D. M. E. A., Region VII, P.O. Bldg.
Knoxville, Tennessee

Re: DMEA-3615- Idm-E 772
Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, N. C.

Dear Mr. Laurence:

The following will serve as a final report of work done at the Ben Aldridge Mine.

We began work on April 1 on this project, and completed work on April 5. Fifteen hours bulldozing work was completed as called for in the first stage of the contract. After this work was done, the field team visited the mine and recommended that no further work be done. They requested cancellation of the contract as the prospect showed no promise of a discovery.

We would like to thank the field team for their assistance on this project. If further details are needed, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Elbert Watson

Elbert Watson

P/b

600

JUN 13 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Miss Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina
Contract No. Idm-K772

Dear Mr. Laurence:

Reference is made to your memorandum, dated May 31, 1955, regarding the Termination Agreement sent to the Operator of the subject contract May 2, 1955, for his signature.

Since this agreement has not been signed and returned, we suggest that you send a unilateral termination notice to the Operator using Form No. 4 in DMEA Circular 33 as a guide.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard

Member, Geological Survey

JHopkins:gad 6/10/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Houk

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
ROOM 13 POST OFFICE BLDG
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

RECEIVED
JUN - 2 1955

May 31, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Washington 25, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA, Region V

Subject: Termination Agreement - DMEA-3615, Idm-772 (Idaho)
Elbert Watson
Don Aldridge Mine

Termination agreement for this contract was sent to the Operator on May 2, for signature. He has not returned them, and apparently will refuse to sign, as he thinks we should proceed with Stage II. We have declined to give approval for Stage II, as the results of Stage I indicate that no further work is warranted.

In such a case, should we send a unilateral termination agreement, or just assume that withholding approval for Stage II automatically terminates the contract?

The Operator has submitted a final report.

Robert A. Laurence

RAL/mg
cc - Mr. P. T. Allsman
Mr. V. J. Lynch
Mr. L. E. Shirley
Files
Operating Committee

Form MF-104 (Rev.)
(April 1952)

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1036.5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

PAID ON VOUCHER & SCHEDULE
OF PAYMENTS Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED

OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT AND VOUCHER

Month of April, 195 5 Docket No. DMEA 3615 Contract No. Idm-B 772
Operator's Name Elbert Watson Minerals Mica
Address Route 3, Newland, N. C.
Contract Amount, $ 3112.00 Government Participation: 75 % Amount, $ 2334.00

ITEMS OF COSTS	FOR OPERATOR'S USE			FOR GOVERNMENT USE ONLY		
	Monthly Total	Totals Previously Reported	Totals To Date	Approved Monthly Total	Approved Totals Previously Reported	Approved Totals To Date
(1) Independent Short Form Contracts:						
Drilling						
15 hr. Bulldozing @ 10.00 hr.	150.00	-	150.00			
Crosscutting						
Drifting						
(2) Labor and Supervision:						
Labor						
Supervision						
Technical Services						
(3) Operating Mat'ls. and Supplies:						
Timber						
Explosives						
Pipe						
Track						
(4) Operating Equipment:						
Rental						
Purchase						
Depreciation						
(5) Initial Rehabilitation and Repairs						
(6) New Bldgs., Improvements, etc.						
(7) Miscellaneous:						
Repairs to Equipment						
Sampling and Analysis						
Payroll Taxes						
Liability Insurance						
(8) Contingencies (specify):						
TOTALS	150.00		150.00	150.00	—	150.00

I certify that the above bill is correct and just and that payment therefor has not been received.
Date 5-13 *Payee Elbert Watson
Per Elbert Watson Title Operator

*When a voucher is signed or receipted in the name of a company or corporation, the name of the person writing the company or corporate name, as well as the capacity in which he signs, must appear. For example: "John Doe Company, per John Smith, Secretary," or "Treasurer," as the case may be.

NOTE.—Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

(Instructions on reverse)

Pursuant to authority vested in me, I certify that this account is correct and proper for payment in the amount of:

$ 112.50

Signature Helen R. Miller
(Authorized Certifying Officer)

Date 5-19-53 Vou. No.
(See other side)

1 at St. S 411
C 415
37.50

(For Government use only)

CERTIFICATION BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the contractor submitting this voucher is operating a Defense Minerals Exploration Administration project under Contract No. Idm-E 772 in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Signature Lawrence E. Shirley Title Mining Engr. U.S.B.M. Date May 16, 1955

APPROVAL BY DMEA EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR ALTERNATE:

Signature W. M. Beck Title ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER DMEA REGION 4 Date MAY 17 1955

MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATOR

The Operator (Contractor) of an exploration project is required to make a monthly report to the Government through the Regional Executive Officer. This report consists of three parts as follows:

(a) *Form MF-104—Operator's Monthly Report and Voucher.*—This form details expenditures and constitutes a voucher for reimbursing the Operator for the Government's share of costs;

(b) *Form MF-104A—Operator's Unit Cost and Progress Report.*—This is a statistical report of expenditures which shows costs for the various types of operation; and

(c) *Narrative.*—A concise narrative description of progress made, results accomplished, and any unusual difficulties encountered must be furnished as an attachment to this Report and Voucher. Wherever possible, the narrative is to be illustrated with maps or sketches showing formations penetrated and location and assays of samples taken as well as advances in workings. In the case of diamond drilling or churn drilling, the location and inclination of holes is to be shown on a map; logs and assays also are to be submitted.

The Monthly Report of Operator should be prepared in an original and four copies all of which must be sent to the Executive Officer of the Region not later than the 15th of the month following.

Preparation of Form MF-104—Operator's Monthly Report and Voucher.—All the applicable spaces in Form MF-104 should be filled in by the Operator, and the Operator or his agent should sign the certification in the lower left corner of the form.

The items of costs are arranged in the order they appear in Article 6 (a) of Form MF-200 (Revised February 1952), however, this form is readily adaptable for use in reporting activities under other contract forms.

Under Item (1) delete words "Short Form" if the contract is a sub-contract under Form MF-200; and delete word "Independent" if the contract reported is on Form MF-200 (A). Also, report work paid for on a unit basis under contract Form MF-200 as though it were performed under an independent contract.

Under Item (2) include labor, supervision and technical services incurred for the exploratory operations. Do not include labor, supervision and technical services used for work performed under items (5) and (6).

Under Item (3) include the costs of material and supplies used in the project other than that used under items (5) and (6).

Under Item (4) appear the three types of operating equipment expenditures, that is, rental, purchase and depreciation. The expenditures made for renting equipment belonging to a third party will be reported under "Rental". The amount paid or duly obligated for payment for the purchase of equipment will be reported under "Purchase". The amount of expenditures due the Operator to reimburse him for depreciation of equipment owned will be reported under "Depreciation".

Item (5) comprises costs of labor, supervision, technical services, materials, etc., which are used in the initial rehabilitation and repair of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and equipment. These costs, therefore, should not be reported under items (2) and (3).

Item (6) includes the labor, supervision, technical services, materials, etc., used in the installation or construction of new buildings, fixed improvements, etc., necessary for the project. These costs, therefore, should not be reported under items (2) and (3).

Item (7) covers miscellaneous types of expenditure such as payroll taxes, liability insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, repairs to equipment and sampling and analysis. Only that part of payroll taxes, liability insurance and workmen's compensation which are paid by the operator should be reported under item (7). The share paid by the employee as a payroll deduction is to be included under item (2) as labor costs.

Item (8) includes any unforeseen costs not included in the other seven categories.

The original of Form MF-104 when submitted for reimbursable expenses incurred under contract Form MF-200 must be supported by original documentation or by certified copies of purchase orders, payrolls or transcripts of payrolls, unless such documentation has been waived by the Regional Executive Officer. This certification may be stated thus, "Certified True Copy (or Transcript)", followed by appropriate signature. If the Executive Officer of the Region determines that a contract under Form MF-200 should have an "on-site" audit, that is, a Government auditor should make an audit of the Operator's books and records of account, the Operator need not support his monthly voucher with original or certified documents except in cases of equipment purchases whose individual costs exceed $50.00. In these cases the original or a certified copy of the purchase order or invoice should be attached to the Monthly Voucher. N. B.—Only the *original* of Form MF-104 is required to be documented. The four copies of Form MF-104 are not to be thus supported.

Form MF-104 submitted for reimbursement under fixed price contracts on Form MF-200 (A), however, are not required to be supported by documentation of any kind. The Operator will submit his claim under item (1) of Form MF-104 by deleting as stated above the word "Independent" and by showing the number of feet or other units immediately after the appropriate descriptive word, such as, drilling, bulldozing, crosscutting, drifting, etc., and giving the "Monthly Total" amount due. "Totals Previously Reported", and "Totals to Date" columns should also be filled in.

Form MF-104A
(April 1952)

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1151.2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
MAY 23 1955

OPERATOR'S UNIT COST AND PROGRESS REPORT

Month of April 195 5 Docket No. DMEA 3615 Contract No. Idm-5772

Operator's Name Elbert Watson Minerals Mica

Address Route 3, Hayland, N. C.

OPERATION	UNIT	COSTS THIS MONTH	UNITS THIS MONTH	COSTS TO DATE	UNITS TO DATE	UNIT COSTS TO DATE	AUTHORIZED BY CONTRACT	
							Units	Unit Costs
Drifting								
Crosscutting								
Raising								
Shafts								
Winzes								
Drilling: Core								
Churn								
Auger								
Stripping								
Trenching								
Test Pits								
Roads and Trails								
15 Bulldozing @ 10.00	Hr.	150.00		150.00	15	10.00	15	10.00
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED COSTS		150.00		150.00				TOTAL COSTS AUTHORIZED BY CONTRACT
Operating Equipment Purchased								
Initial Rehabilitation and Repairs								
New Buildings, Improvements, etc.								
TOTAL COSTS		150.00		150.00				

The undersigned company, and the official executing this certification on its behalf, hereby certify that the information contained in this report is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Date 5-13-55 Operator Elbert Watson

Per Elbert Watson Title Operator

→ NOTE.—Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

REMARKS:

(Instructions on reverse)

(For Government use only)

Laurence E. Shirley - May 16, 1955
U.S.B.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation of Form MF–104A—Operator's Unit Cost and Progress Report.—Applicable places on Form 104A should be filled in by the Operator. The purpose of this form is twofold as follows: (1) to furnish the supervising engineers and other administrators with statistical information necessary to better determine the progress of the project; and (2) to furnish more permanent information on mining costs for future use. The more important phases of operation on which permanent information is desired have been outlined in the form. There are blank lines, however, for those unusual phases which may need to be reported for a particular project. It will be necessary for the Operator to distribute his costs among the applicable phases reported with the exception of three items the costs of which are not to be distributed by the Operator. These three items are: "Operating Equipment Purchased", "Initial Rehabilitation and Repairs", and "New Buildings, Improvements, etc." The reason for not distributing these items on a monthly basis is doubtless clear to the Operator, since such distribution might well overstate the cost for any one month or period short of the entire contract period.

Form MF–104A has been designed to tie in with Form MF–104 for both monthly and cumulative costs. The "Total Costs" on Form MF–104A for each month should equal the monthly "Total Costs" as reported on Form MF–104. This is also true of the "Total Costs To Date".

In preparing Form MF–104A, it will be necessary frequently to distribute certain costs over a number of items. For instance, supervisory and engineering costs may have to be distributed over several phases, such as, drifting, crosscutting, raising, etc., provided that these items were reported active for the month. Such distributions should be made on the basis of time spent on the various phases, on man days of labor charged to such phases, or on some other equitable basis. "Operating Equipment", "Initial Rehabilitation and Repairs", and "New Buildings Improvements, etc.", will be distributed to the several phases of the project by the Washington Office of DMEA at the close of the project if determined necessary. The last two columns headed "Authorized by Contract" will be filled in by the Operator if such information is found in the contract. This information is usually a part of Exhibit "A" of the contract. A space for remarks has been provided for the use of the Operator to call attention to any unusual circumstances causing excessive or disproportionate unit costs.

GPO 872894

OPERATOR'S

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

April, 1955

DMEA-3615

Idm-E772

Work Accomplished:

We moved in bulldozer and bulldozed a total of 15 hrs. at site recommended by field team. Field team visited site after dozing was done, and did not feel that it was wise to continue working, and the contract was then cancelled.

Daily Notes:

April 1 - Did about 4 hours bulldozing. 'Dozer broke down and operator had to discontinue work.

April 5 - Completed bulldozing work called for by contract. No further work done at request of field team.

600

APR 2 2 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Mica
Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina
Contract No. Idm-8772

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Reference is made to your memorandum dated April 13, 1955, regarding your request for permission to terminate the subject contract by mutual agreement because the exposures made by Stage I of the project indicate that Stage II is not warranted.

Approval is granted to terminate the subject contract in accordance with the provisions of DMEA Circular No. 53, June 30, 1954, employing the Form No. 6, "Termination Agreement (all contract forms-MF-200, MF-200A)".

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges

Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard

Member, Geological Survey

JHopkins:ad 4/21/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

Hopkins

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

April 13, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Team, DMEA - Region 5, Knoxville, Tennessee

Subject: DMEA-3615, Idm-E772 (mica) Elbert Watson, Newland, N. C.
Request for Permission to Terminate

Enclosed are 4 copies of the latest interim report on the subject contract.

Stage II has not been approved, as exposures made by Stage I indicate that it is not warranted.

Therefore, we request permission to terminate by mutual agreement, effective April 7, 1955. Certification will not be recommended.

Robert A. Laurence
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DMEA REGION V

V. J. Lynch, Member
DMEA Field Team,
U. S. Bureau of Mines

RAL/mm
cc:

Lynch
Shirley
Files

INTERIM REPORT

DMEA-3615, Idm-E772 (mica) BEN ALDRIDGE MINE

Operator: Elbert Watson, R#3, Newland, N. C.

Location: On the south slope of Deep Gap Mountain, 3.04 airline miles N. 52° W. of Plumtree, Avery County, N. C.

Stage I of this contract has been completed. The work was done on April 4-6, 1955. Two trenches each about 50' x 15' x 6' were bulldozed across the projected trace of the pegmatite outcrop. The northern trench which trends N. 30° W. exposed a north-south trending mica-barren pegmatite which is about 2 feet thick. A second trench which trends east-west and was made about 40 feet to the south did not reveal any pegmatite.

An existing adit whose portal was partially caved and which was flooded was opened and drained by the Operator at the request of the Field Examiners. The adit crosscuts the country rock in a northeast direction for 125 feet at which point a pegmatite is intercepted. The body was then followed eastward by a drift for a distance of about 45 feet. Limited steping operations have been conducted from this drift. The pegmatite strikes N. 70° E. and dips 35-40° to the southeast. It has a maximum thickness of about 5 feet and thins rapidly to the northeast; the southwest end is terminated by a fault which strikes north-south and dips about 30° to the west. This fault may account for the partial failure of the trenching to expose the pegmatite. The body is conformable to the enclosing hornblende gneiss and shows no apparent zoning. Muscovite of strategic size is very sparse in the pegmatite.

It is the opinion of the field examiners that the low percentage of mica would result in an uneconomical operation; thus, it is recommended that the contract be terminated by mutual agreement.

Date of Exam: April 4 and 6, 1955.

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

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

600

MAR 14 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Mica
Elbert Watson
Sam Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Please find herewith the original and five copies of a contract covering the subject exploration project which have been signed by the Government with register number and effective date as shown.

If the contract meets with your approval present it to the Operator for his approval and signature. Please explain to the Operator that the contract, when executed, is a firm commitment under the terms of which he is obligated to complete the work outlined at the agreed unit cost. If any part of this contract does not have either your approval or that of the Operator and cannot be amended within your delegated authority, then the original and all copies of the contract are to be returned to this office, together with the proposed changes for consideration.

Please note that the contract does not include Stage III, drifting, as recommended by the Field Team. This may be authorized at a later date if it is justified by the results obtained in Stage II.

After execution of the contract, the copies are to be distributed in the usual manner. Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey, dated February 18, 1955, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated February 24, 1955, are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard
Member, Geological Survey

ACTING

W. S. Martin
Chairman, Operating Committee

JHopkins:ad 3/10/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

Enclosures 10

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 11, 1955

Memorandum

To: Chairman, Operating Committee

From: Jay L. Chambers, Chief (Signed) J. L. Chambers
Contract Administration and Audit Division

Subject: Attached Proposed Mica Contract, DMEA-3615

Apparently no one in DMEA knows what the per footage costs of shafts, drifting, and crosscutting are in the mica area in North Carolina. We do know that we have consistently reduced the agreed unit cost of many items in that region.

It appears to me that for the sake of getting more information on the real cost that some of these mica projects should be let on a maximum cost basis. I know that one objection to such contract has been that it throws a burden of accounting on the operator. That is not necessarily true. The Contract Administration and Audit Division does not require a set of accounts. All the operator need to do is to save his invoices and payrolls and the payroll may be any kind of receipt or listing the operator may use. Actually, if he merely saved his canceled checks it would be sufficient. Surely he gets either a receipt or a canceled check for paying out money.

The attached proposed contract would be an ideal example for a maximum cost type.

Attachment

JLChambers/wb
March 11, 1955

Copy to: Docket
Admr. Reading File
Mr. Houk
Mr. Chambers

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 11, 1955

Memorandum

To: Chairman, Operating Committee

From: Jay L. Chambers, Chief (Signed) J. L. Chambers
Contract Administration and Audit Division

Subject: Attached Proposed Mica Contract, DMEA-3615

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The attached proposed contract would be an ideal example for a maximum cost type.

Attachment

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

February 24, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-3615 (mica)

Applicant: Elbert Watson

Name and Location of Property: Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Date of Field Team Report: February 11, 1955

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceram. & Fert. Mat.: February 17, 1955

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Approval of contract.

Comments:

1. Dump mica is of strategic quality.

2. Proposed exploration outlined by the field team is consistent with good engineering practices and estimated costs are in line with other DMEA projects.

3. Total estimated costs are in the amount of $5,913.

Recommendation:

I concur in the field team's recommendation to approve exploration project in the amount of $5,913.

SIGNED

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 18, 1955

Re: DMEA-3615
Elbert Watson
(Ben Aldridge Mine)
Avery Co., N. C.
$5,913 - Mica

Memorandum

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Team examination report

The Field Team has recommended exploration assistance should be granted for a project which will consist of 100 feet of trenching and the sinking of a 65-foot shaft.

A pegmatite varying from 2 - 5 feet in thickness is reported to have been worked to a depth of 43 feet. The old workings are inaccessible, but the small size of the dumps suggests that very little stoping has been done in the mine.

Past production which was reported to have been sold during World War II to the Colonial Mica Corporation may have been worth about $4,600. However, mica sold to Colonial Mica was ruby mica and mica found on the dumps is green mica. It is quite possible the applicant's property is not the Benn Aldridge mine which is recorded in the old Colonial Mica files.

Inasmuch as the mica on the dumps is of strategic quality, there is some justification for further exploration. However, a two-stage project should be planned for the property. Stage I would consist of trenching and the Stage II shaft sinking would be allowed only if favorable evidence is exposed by the trenching phase of the project.

I recommend a two-stage program be approved.

E. L. Newcomb

Copy to: DMEA (3)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 1 ASH POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
FEB 14 1955

February 11, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington, D. C.

From: Acting Executive Officer, DMEA - Region V. Knoxville

Subject: Field Examination Report on DMEA-3615, Elbert Watson (mica)

Transmitted are four copies of the subject report with six extra copies of the map attached. The Field Team concurs with the field examiners that an exploration contract should be issued on this project as set forth in the report.

Wm. A. Beck, Acting Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region V.

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

ZM.

cc:

Allsman
Lynch
Shirley
Files

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
Received
FEB 14 1955

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT BY FIELD TEAM, REGION V

On

DMEA-3615, BEN ALDRIDGE MINE(mica)
Avery County, N. C.

BY

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

February 2, 1955

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
On

DMEA-3615, BEN ALDRIDGE MINE (mica)

Applicant: Elbert Watson, Route # 3, Newland, North Carolina

Only limited work has been accomplished at this deposit. Mica of strategic grade occurs in the dump and the mineral assemblage suggests that additional reserves of mica may occur in the deposit. Exploration assistance is recommended.

This deposit was examined on February 2, 1955. Mr. Elbert Watson accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Ben Aldridge Mine is along the west side of a south-flowing tributary of Henson Creek, along the south slope of Deep Gap Mountain, 3.04 airline miles N. 52° W. of Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina. Access is possible most of the time by jeep.

The applicant has had mica mining experience and appears to be competent to conduct the proposed work. The area he owns is adequate to provide sufficient working and dumping space.

Openings at this place consist of a shallow stripped area northwest of a 25-foot shaft, a 175-foot crosscutting adit which intersects the bottom of the shaft, and a reported 18' winze from the adit. The shaft is full of muck and the adit is slumped near the portal and is flooded, thus inaccessible.

All rock below the 10-foot level is unweathered. The country rock is a medium coarse hornblende gneiss which trends north-south and dips 30-45° E.

The pegmatite is reported to vary from 2 to 5 feet in thickness. It is conformable in strike to the enclosing rock, but has a dip of 60-70° E.

Dump material consists of coarse plagioclase, quartz, green muscovite, scattered and clusters of red garnet, and disseminated sulphides, listed in order of abundance. There is no information available regarding the concentration of mica in the pegmatite.

Dump mica is all small, but of strategic quality. It is hard, clear, flat, green-colored, and free splitting.

This mine was operated by the applicant during World War II; at that time he drove the 175-foot crosscutting adit, using hand drilling throughout. He reports he sold $4,000-5000 worth of mica to the Colonial Mica Corporation from this deposit. Microfilm records available to the examiners show that

843.52 pounds of mica were sold for $4,597.03 to the Colonial Mica Corp., from the Benn Aldridge Mine; however, the mica was classified as ruby. This may or may not be the subject mine.

This mine has been worked down dip to a reported depth of 43 feet. The dumps are small, indicating that little stoping has been done. The examiners believe the deposit affords a good possibility for the discovery of a worthwhile mica deposit.

We recommend the following exploration program: Strip pegmatite along strike for a distance of 100 feet, 6 feet deep, and 15 feet wide; construct powder and exploder magazines (building which can be used for toolhouse is on property); and sink 65-foot incline on pegmatite at best location; drive 85 feet of drifts from 60-foot level of shaft.

Estimated Cost:

Strip pegmatite (trench 100' x 6' x 15')		
Bulldozer, 15 hrs. @ $10/hr.		$ 150.00
Powder magazine		25.00
Exploder magazine		13.00
Sink 65-foot, 2-compartment shaft, timbered where necessary (40 shifts)		
Labor:		
1- miner @ $1.50/hr.	$480.00	
1-Hoistman @ $1.25/hr.	400.00	
1-Laborer @ $1.00/hr.	320.00	
Equipment (rental)		
Compressor, drill, & pump @ $240/Mo.	480.00	
Hoist @ $50/Mo.	100.00	
Supplies:		
Explosives	200.00	
Gasoline and oil	130.00	
Drill steel	100.00	
Timber, 2000 b. f. @ $65/M	130.00	
Pipe	100.00	
Small tools	100.00	
Miscellaneous	150.00	
Insurance, Social Security, etc.	235.00	$ 2,925.00
Drive 80 feet of drifts on pegmatite (40 shifts)		
Labor:		
1 - miner @ $1.50/hr.	480.00	
1 - Hoistman @ $1.25/hr.	400.00	

Labor cont'd

2 - laborers @ $1.00/hr.	$640.00	

Equipment (rental)

Compressor, pump, drill and jackleg @ $250/Mo.	500.00	
Hoist @ $50/Mo.	100.00	

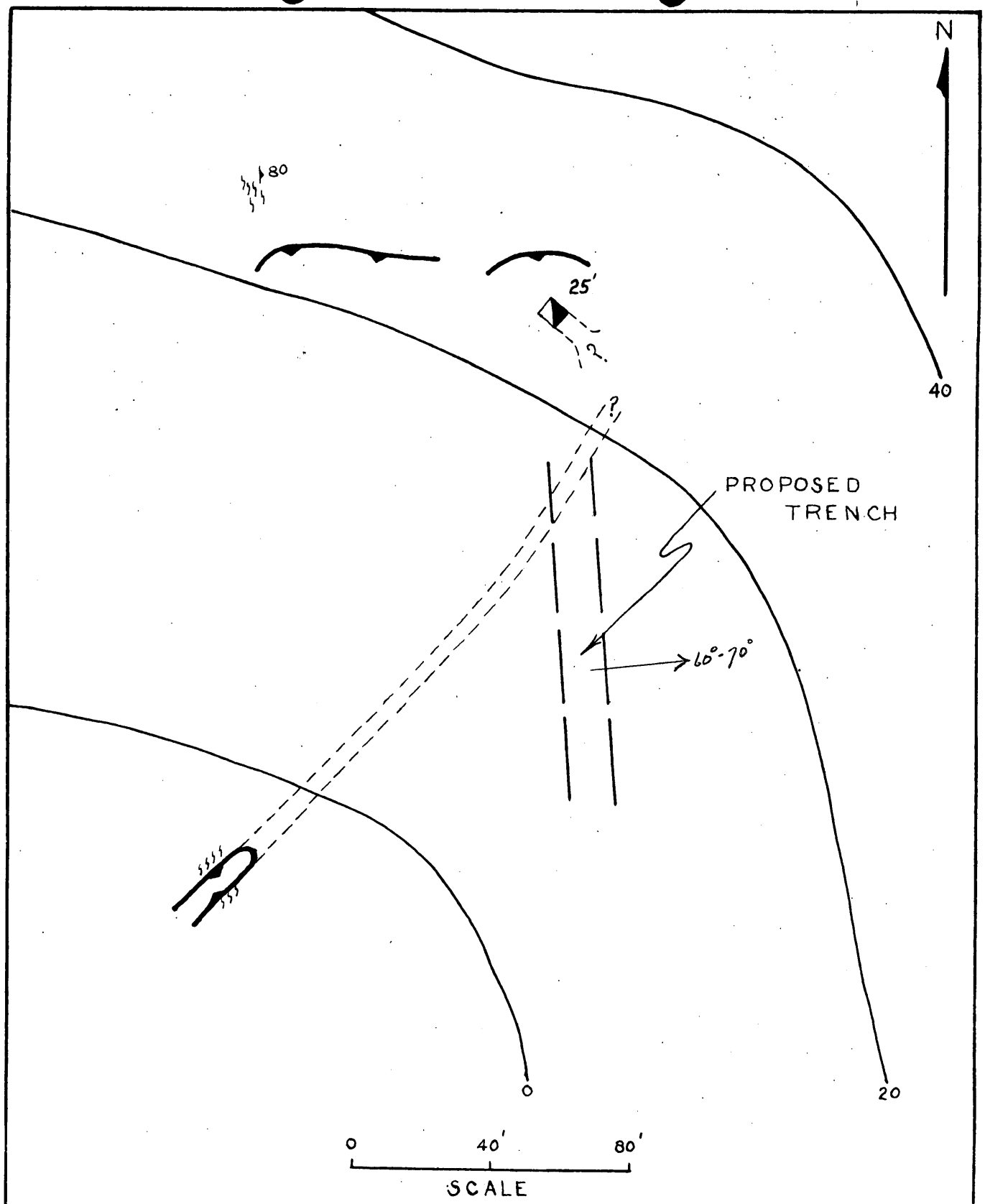
Supplies

Explosives	240.00	
Gasoline and oil	150.00	
Drill steel	125.00	
Pipe	100.00	
Small tools	100.00	
Miscellaneous	135.00	
Insurance, social security, etc.	150.00	$2,800.00

Estimated Total Cost of Project $5,913.00

Examined- February 2, 1955.

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



SKETCH OF
BEN ALDRICH MINE
AVERY CO., N.C.

DMEA-3615 (mica)

To: Files

From: James Hopkins

Subject: Evaluation of application and field reconnaissance report.

Docket No DMEA 3415

Elbert Watson

Ben Aldridge Mine

Avery County North Carolina

This is an old mine - worked to a depth of 43 feet - with an apparent small amount of stoping. Reported to have produced $4000-$5000 worth of mica

Mica:

Mica of sheet jig grade occurs in the dump. It is hard clear flat green-colored and fine splitting. No openings are accessible and no information is available regarding the concentration of mica in the pegmatite.

Pegmatite: Little information is available. The report states that "it is reported to vary from 2 to 5 feet in thickness." It is conformable in strike with the enclosing rock but dips 60°-70° E while the country rock dips 38° to 45° E

Old Workings:

A shallow stripped area, a 35-foot shaft, a 175-ft cross cutting adit and a mine reported to be 18-feet deep on the pegmatite in the adit constitute the work that has been done. The shallow open cut alone is accessible

The rock is weathered down to the 10-foot level. The dumps are small, indicating little stoping. All work apparently on North end of pegmatite.

Method:

The method proposed is to strip the south end of pegmatite for 100 feet to a depth of 6 feet. If results are favorable then to sink a shaft 65 feet and drift 80 feet on the pegmatite.

This procedure is sound if shaft and drift appear to be justified.

Economics:

A Ben Allenton mine is reliably reported to have sold 843.52 pounds of ruby mica for $4,597.03. This may or may not have been the subject mine.

Recommendations:

A two step project consisting of stripping to be followed by shaft sinking (if justified) is recommended by O.S.G.S. Commodity Division. I concur in this recommendation.

Bu. of Mines comments not received

600

JAN 17 1955

Mr. Elbert Watson
Route # 3
Newland, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Mica
Elbert Watson
Sam Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Watson:

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 V, Room 13, Post Office Building, Knoxville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

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. Wilkendorf

Administrator

JHopkins:ad 1/14/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

JAN 17 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3615 - Mica
Elbert Watson
Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery 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 December 28, 1954, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated January 11, 1955, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures 4

JHopkins:ad 1/14/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

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

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1955

January 11, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-3615 (mica)

Applicant: Elbert Watson

Name and Location of Property: Ben Aldridge Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceram. & Fert. Mat.: Dec. 23, 1954

Comments:

1. From limited information presented, it is difficult to determine if an exploration program is justified or if proposed plan is the logical plan.

2. It appears a field examination is necessary to determine the feasibility of a project.

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.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Department of the Interior
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
DEC 29 1954

December 28, 1954

Re: DMEA-3615
Elbert Watson
(Ben Aldridge Mine)
Avery Co., N. C.
$5,480 - Mica

Memorandum

To: L. G. Houk, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application

The application contains no data which suggests the proposed work is warranted.

We do not have any information on this property in our files.

Many of the recent mica applications from this region have been very poorly prepared. In most cases, a field referral has been practically a routine matter. I believe we all will grant that a complete geologic map with appropriate descriptive material is an impossible task for most of the applicants in the mica districts of this area; however, I believe we are justified in requesting a map, description of the property and its geology which has been prepared to the maximum ability of the applicant.

This present application does not meet even these minimum standards. I would have no objection to a request by DMEA for more information and a more complete application from the applicant before a field referral is made.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:edf

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