600

MAR 2 9 1955

Messrs. Bill Buchanan and
Lewis Grindstaff
Route #3
Bakersville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3677 - Mica
Bill Buchanan and Lewis Grindstaff
Mask Thomas Mine
Mitchell 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,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

JHopkins:gad 3/25/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Killagnard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

by: James Hopkins

1. Docket No DMEA 3677 (mica)

Property: Mack Thomas Mine
Mitchell County, N.C.

Applicant: Bill Buchanan and Lewis Grindstaff
Route No 3.
Bakersville, North Carolina

Application: Form MF 103 received February 9, 1975

Work proposed

Shaft sinking	60 feet	$3943.00
Drifting	60 feet	

Break down

Labor	$2160.00
Buildings	175.00
Power	13.00
Supplies	1045.00
Reports	250.00
Contingencies	300.00
Total	$3943.00

No Contract - Application denied

2. Comments:

Workings extend over a distance of 300. None are accessible. They consist of considerable recent bulldozer stripping, one 25-ft shaft several old caved pits and a 45-ft shaft with an unknown amount of drifting

Two pegmatites less than 4 feet thick occur along a zone of fractured and contorted mica schist that has been converted to vermiculite schist. Mica is in small size and not abundant - is green colored, hard free splitting, wavy and mineral stained.

Work has been conducted at 3 different periods. Production of a reported $400 worth of mica

The examiners conclude that the exposures for inspection at this place do not suggest the presence of a worth while mica deposit They recommend that the application be denied. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines concur in the denial. The Nonmetallic Minerals Division also concurs in the denial.

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

March 23, 1955

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-3677 (mica)

Applicant: Bill Buchanan and Lewis Grindstaff

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

Date of Field Team Report: March 8, 1955

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: March 15, 1955

Field Team Recommendation:

1. Denial of the application.

Comments:

1. Two pegmatite dikes are exposed.
2. Mica is not abundant and is small in size.
3. No worthwhile deposit appears to exist.

Recommendation:

I concur with the field team recommendation to deny this application.

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 16, 1955

Re: DMEA-3677
B. Buchanan and
L. Grindstaff
(Mack Thomas Mine)
Mitchell Co., N. C.
$3,943 - 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 the application be denied.

There have been several attempts made to operate a mine on this property. Some of these have been successful, including work which was done during World War II. The old workings are inaccessible, but recent stripping has failed to disclose favorable evidence of strategic mica. The small size of the pegmatite bodies containing very limited amounts of mica do not represent favorable exploration targets.

I concur with the field examiners' conclusions and recommend this application be denied.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-3/16/55

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

Hopkins

COPY

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

March 8, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

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

Subject: Field Examination Reports:
DMEA-3631, Marie & Jennie Vaughn (mica-uranium) Georgia
DMEA-3677, Bill Buchanan & Lewis Grindstaff (mica) N. C.
DMEA-3696, Confederate States Mining Co. (mica-beryl) Ga.

Enclosed are four copies each of the subject examination reports.

We agree with the field examiners' recommendations for denial of all three applications.

These examinations were made without field referral, when our field examiners were in the area on other inspections.

Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer
DMEA Region V

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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MAR 9

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT, REGION V

ON

DMEA-3677, MACK THOMAS MINE (mica)
Mitchell County, North Carolina

BY

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

and

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

February 17, 1955

DEFENSE EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT

FEB 17 1955

ON

DMEA-3677, MACK THOMAS MINE (mica)

Applicants: Bill Buchanan and Lewis Grindstaff, Route # 3, Bakersville, N. C.

Exposures available for inspection at this place do not suggest the presence of a worth while mica deposit. The examiners recommend that the application be denied.

The deposit was examined February 17, 1955. Mr. Bill Buchanan accompanied the examiners on the inspection which required two hours.

The Mack Thomas Mine is 1000 feet west of N. C. Highway No. 80, and one mile airline due south of Bakersville, Mitchell County, N. C. Access is possible by jeep at all times.

Workings consist of considerable recent bulldozer stripping - especially along the northeast end, one recent 25-foot shaft, a caved 40-foot shaft sunk in 1943 with an unknown amount of drifting, and several old caved pits near the southwest end. No openings are at present accessible, and at only two places is pegmatite exposed. Workings extend over a distance of approximately 300 feet.

It appears that at least two pegmatites occur. They are not continuous on strike and apparently pinch and swell. Where exposed the pegmatites are emplaced along a zone of fractured and contorted mica schist which has been converted to vermiculite schist in the zone of weathering. The pegmatites are mixed with wall rock and have a streaked appearence. Dump material consists mainly of glassy quartz and potash feldspar. The pegmatite appear to trend about N. 80° E., dipping 65-70° SE. Both are less than 4 feet thick.

Mica is not abundant. It is green colored, hard, free splitting, wavy, and mineral stained. Apparently all is in small sizes.

Work has been conducted at this place at three different periods. The recent work resulted in the production of a reported $400 worth of mica. Work during World War II was unprofitable. Nothing is know of the earliest work.

The examiners do not believe that a worthwhile deposit of strategic mica occurs. Also the last two attempts to work the deposit were unprofitable. Denial is recommended.

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

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

MAR 7 - 1955

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

Subject: Docket No. DMEA-3677 - Mica
Bill Buchanan and Louis Grindstaff
Hank Thomas Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Please review the subject application and arrange for a field examination if you deem it necessary. If a project is recommended please show location of proposed work with relation to the nearest property line or corner.

Copies of memoranda from the Geological Survey, dated February 14, 1955, and from the Bureau of Mines, dated February 24, 1955, 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

JHopkins:ad 3/2/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Zillsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

600

MAR 7 - 1955

Messrs. Bill Buchanan and
Louis Grindstaff
Route #3
Bakersville, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. [illegible]-3677 - Mica
Bill Buchanan and Louis Grindstaff
Hank Thomas Mine
Mitchell 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 V, Room 73, Post Office Building, Nashville 2, Tennessee, for further consideration and possibly a field examination.

We are enclosing 7 copies of Camp's Comment to Idea Forms which should be completed by J. A. Buchanan and Bill Buchanan, and forwarded to this office.

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

Enclosures 7

Telephoned 3/2/55
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Killingsworth, DMEA
Mr. Dhotwick, DMEA
Mr. Hank

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-3677 (mica)

Applicant: Bill Buchanan & Lewis Grindstaff

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

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceram. & Fert. Mat.: Feb. 11, 1955

Comments:

1. No record of any sales to GSA from Mack Thomas Mine, as stated in 4(a).

2. Proposed exploration is not explicit and the estimate of expenditures should be made on a unit-cost basis.

3. Although it would be desirable for the applicant to furnish more complete information, it appears that a visit by an examiner would furnish more useful data.

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Administration
RECEIVED
FEB 15 1955

February 14, 1955

Re: DMEA-3677
Bill Buchanan and
Lewis Grindstaff
Mack Thomas mine
Mitchell Co., N. C.
$3,943 - Mica

Memorandum

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

From: D. A. Brobst, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application

A project is proposed to sink a new 60 foot shaft on the property and then drift 30 feet along the pegmatite in two directions. The cost of the proposal amounts to $3,943 and is to be completed in three months. Some mica has been mined on the property during World War II. The mine is shown as #103 on plate 1 of U.S.G.S. Bull. 936A. There is no information about the geology of the pegmatite on the application, and there is none in the Survey files. Before further judgements can be made, the Field Team will have to examine property.

D. A. Brobst

DABrobst:hlm
G-2/14/55

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