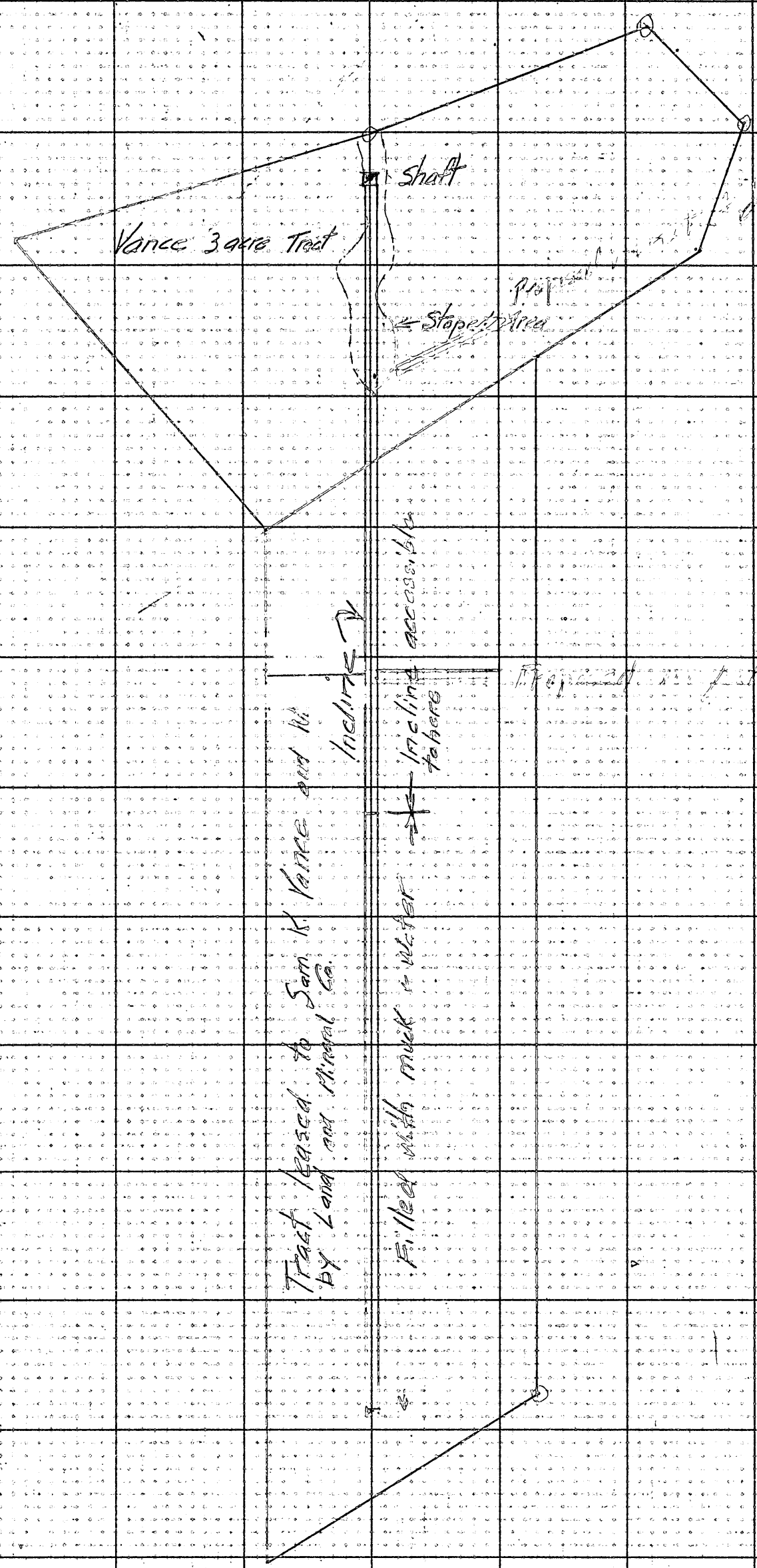
DMEA-4154
BIRCH MINE
Scale = 1" = 100'



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
ROOM 1 POST OFFICE BLDG.
[illegible] TENN.

RECEIVED
SEP 17 1956

September 14, 1956

Mr. Sam K. Vance, President
The Birch Mining Co., Inc.
Plumtree, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154 (Mica)
Birch Mine
Avery County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Vance:

Reference is made to your letter of September 13, concerning the denial of your applications.

Neither the Field Examiners nor the Field Team have the authority to approve or deny an application, therefore I am unable to give any explanation of the reasons for the denial, with which you say you are not satisfied. I am referring your letter to our Washington office, as they may be able to clarify the situation.

May I suggest, however, that the reason for the denial is really contained in the opening sentence of your letter: "We have made several applications for assistance in our operation of the Birch Mine." DMEA is not authorized to assist in the operation or development of mines; our authority includes only exploration.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Laurence
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region V

RAL/mg
cc
Operating Committee (2)
Kiilsgaard
Lynch
Shirley
File

C O P Y
mg 9/14/56

RECEIVED
SEP 17 1956

Plumtree N C
September 13 1956

Mr. Robert A. Laurence
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Room 13 Post Office Building
Knoxville Tennessee.

Dear Mr. Laurence:

We have made several applications for assistance in our operation of the Birch Mine and so far the officials in Washington have rejected this in each instance, claiming that the field men did not give a favorable report and that the mine had been exhausted. This property has been one of the largest producers of high grade strategic mica in North Carolina and since there has been only one deposit removed we cannot understand how any one could determine whether it is exhausted. We know of several instances where there has been considerable assistance given on similiar projects or mines that have yielded large quantities of mica.

We were assured by Mr. Teague on two occassions that he would recommend this project. We would like to know therefore why we have been continuously denied help on this operation as we are not satisfied with the reason given us.

Thanking you for a reply, we are

Very truly yours,

THE BIRCH MINING COMPANY, Inc

/s/ Sam K. Vance
President.

Sam K Vance/vv

JUN 20 1956 600

Mr. Sam K. Vance
President, Birch Mining
Company, Inc.
Plumtree, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-3461 - Mine
Docket No. DMEA-4154 - Mine
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Vance:

Reference is made to your letter of June 11, 1956, concerning our letter of June 1, 1956, denying your application for exploration assistance on the subject property.

You state that we had already advised you in this connection on February 27, and that you do not know of any reason for our latest letter since you have not recently asked for assistance. Our records show that on February 27, 1956, you were advised that your application for exploration assistance received in this office on February 2, 1956, was being referred to the field for a possible examination. Our letter of June 1, 1956, was also in reference to this application.

You further state that the third paragraph of our letter of June 1, indicates there is not sufficient promise of mica on your property to justify Government participation, and that you do not understand how this conclusion was reached because of the considerable production from your property in the past.

Your property has been examined by our field representatives on three different occasions, each examination resulting in a denial of your application. Our decisions were based upon the information available concerning your property. This information indicated that the productive potential of your property was about exhausted, with possibly only unnecessional concentrations of mica remaining, chiefly localized around old stopes. Thus, your property appears to lack target areas of sufficient promise for finding additional mica reserves to warrant Government participation in the proposed work.

In connection with the request in your letter of June 11, 1956, for reconsideration of your application, we are aware that

you have expended considerable money in rehabilitating the old workings on your property, such work having been prosecuted primarily for mining or preparation for mining. However, under our regulations, exploration funds are not available for that purpose. Under the circumstances we feel that your proposed program would not result in making a significant discovery of mica and consequently our denial of your application is re-affirmed.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

FWJohnson:LGHook:gad 6/19/56
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket (2)
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Hook
Mr. Johnson

RECEIVED

JUNE 14, 1956

Plumtree, N. C.
June 11, 1956

C
O
P
Y

United States Department of The Interior
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Washington, 25,D. C.

Atten: Mr. C. O. Mittendorf

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-Mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Mittendorf:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 1st advising us that you were again denying assistance in the development of the above project. You had already advised us of this action on February 27th and we do not know the reason for your latest letter as we had not asked recently for assistance.

In the third paragraph of your letter you state that information indicates that there is not sufficient promise of mica to justify government participation. Frankly, we do not understand how this conclusion could be arrived at as during the period from 1943 to 1948 this mine produced more strategic mica in volume than any other mine we know of. While the government records might not verify this the majority of this mica was mined after Colonial Mica Corp. discontinued the purchase of non-ruby mica and it was sold to private concerns, and since there has been only one drift located we feel reasonably sure that there should be one or two more if these deposits hold true to the Charles Ridge, Landers and others nearby, which have yielded considerable quantities of mica on different levels or deposits. The Birch mine has been worked to an approximate depth of 900 feet only and the Charles Ridge Mine which is nearby is again producing large quantities of strategic mica at 1150 feet, therefore, we feel that there is a possibility that this mine will do likewise.

We have spent considerable money and time on our own to develop this property while similar properties in this section had had government participation. We now have in our possession a properly executed Consent to Lien from Land & Mineral Company and we would be pleased to have you reconsider this application.

Thanking you for a reply, we are

THE BIRCH MINING COMPANY Inc

/s/ Sam K. Vance

President

Sam K Vance/vv

JUN 1 1956

Mr. Sam K. Vance, President
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Plumtree, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Vance:

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 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

WGAnderson:mm 5/31/56
Copy to: Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Killingsord, 3222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Hank
Mr. Anderson
Admr. R. File

May 31, 1956

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: Evaluation of Application and Field Examination Report
Docket No. DMRI-4154-mica
Birch Mining Company
(Sam and Vivian Vance)
The Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Denial of application is recommended

Mica: Rum-colored, some up to 4 to 6 inches wide. Small mica is abundant. Generally ruled and bent, some is flat and clear.

Pegmatite:
Two large irregular, lenticular pegmatites, 10 to 20 feet thick, aligned nearly due south and dipping about 27°. Upper one thins out at 300 feet, lower (displaced downward 10 feet in vertical height) at same direction and dip, probably extends 920 feet from adit portal, since workings extend that far, accessible portion being 485 feet from adit portal. Pegmatite thins outward from the pipe-like mass. Conformable to the enclosing biotite schist and hornblende gneiss.

Old Workings:
100-foot shaft and 920 feet of incline accessible for 485 feet and caved old stopes.

Past Production:
About $532,000.00 worth of mica since beginning of World War II.

Applicants' Proposal:
Lateral drifting from the muck filled end of the upper pegmatite, and at the 181 foot point in stoped area for distance of 50 feet to the northeast.

Comments:
Field Team reports low recovery of mica from present mining operations. It appears that the high concentrations of mica in this deposit have been exhausted. Applicants' proposed lateral drifting is in the direction of thining of pegmatite and looks like development rather than exploration.

Recommendation:

The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in the Field Team recommendation to deny the application. The Commodity Members of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey agree.

Walter C. Anderson
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

WCAnderson:ms 5/31/56
Copy to: Mr. Houk
Mr. Anderson
Admr. R. File

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

RECEIVED
MAY 28 1956

May 25, 1956

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: W. F. Dietrich, Chief
Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-4154 (mica)

Applicant: Birch Mining Co.

Name and Location of Property: Birch Mine, Mitchell Co., N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: 3/27/56

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 5/21/56

Field Team Recommendation: Recommend denial of the application.

Comments:

1. The proposed work is in the realm of mining rather than exploration.

2. It is not likely that the pegmatite will thicken down the plunge.

Recommendation: I concur with the field team's recommendation.

Signed

W. F. Dietrich

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1956

May 23, 1956

Re: DMEA 4154
Birch Mining Co.
The Birch Mine
Mitchell Co., N. C.
$9,000.00 - Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of Field Team report.

In an incomplete application the applicant requested assistance in drifting 200 feet, 100 feet to the left and 100 feet to the right, from a heading in an old mine from which a large quantity of mica has been taken and in another part of which mica mining is in progress.

The applicant proposes to work from 2 points in a 980-foot incline which probably followed a mica-bearing 'roll.' The lower part of the incline, from 485 feet down, is filled with muck and water.

As proposed the applicant would probably mine off the incline rather than do exploratory work, but if by chance there is a parallel plunging roll within the 100-foot reach of the proposed drifts, the roll would be discovered. Presumably the examiners consider the existence of such a parallel roll improbable here, but likely at the Little Ray property, DMEA 3048, Mn-2086.

I concur with the recommendation of examiners and the Field Team that the application be denied.

N. E. Nelson

NENelson:iml
G-5/23/56

N. E. Nelson

cc: 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 13 POST OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

RECEIVED
MAY 17 1956

May 15, 1956

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Field Examination Report - DMEA-4154
Birch Mining Company, Inc., Plumtree, N. C.
Birch Mine (mica), Mitchell County, North Carolina

Transmitted are the original and three copies of the subject report. The Field Team agrees with the Field Examiners' recommendation for denial.

V. J. Lynch
Acting Executive Officer

A. R. Taylor, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

mg
Enclosures 4
cc
Lynch
Peyton
Laurence
Operating Committee (3)

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

(date)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RECEIVED
MAY 17 1956

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT
REGION V

On

DMEA-4154, BIRCH MINE (mica)
Mitchell County, N. C.

By

A. R. Taylor and S. C. Bergman, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

and

A. L. Peyton, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

March 27, 1956

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE

_____
(date)

EXAMINATION REPORT BY FIELD TEAM
REGION V

RECEIVED
MAY 17 1956

DMEA-4154, BIRCH MICA MINE (mica)
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Applicant: Birch Mining Company, Inc., Sam K. and Vivian Vance, Plumtree, North Carolina

Summary

The accessible portions of the mine extend 485 ft down an irregular -14° to -37° incline. Two large, lenticular pegmatites have been mined extensively. The recovery of muscovite from mining operations in progress is very low. The indicated potential for lateral work is poor. Proposed lateral work in the stoped areas is mining and development in a direction that indicates a lack of continuity or a thinning. It is recommended that the application be denied.

Introduction

Location and Facilities

The Birch Mine is 3 miles northwest of Spear, Mitchell County, N. C. It is 3.3 airline miles N 69° W from Plumtree, N. C. (Carvers Gap, N. C.-Tenn. TVA Quad., 208 SE, 1/24,000).

Facilities present are a tool and hoist house, a compressor, drill, accessory equipment, and a mine car.

Examination

The mine was examined March 27, 1956 in the company of Mr. Sam Vance and Sam Odom. Three and one-half hours were spent in the examination.

History

The Birch Mine has been worked intermittently since 1900. The first known work was performed at the surface in a pipe-like mica shoot which plunged about 25° southward into the hillside. A shaft (Steven Green) was

sunk, and worked later during and after World War I. It is filled now. In 1920 the 100-foot shaft was worked until the pegmatite pinched to 10-inches in thickness. In 1942 an adit was started, and stopped, in favor of the old shaft. Ira Vance, Jack Keller, and John Ellis, found that the pegmatite thickened downward and contained a rich mica zone. Operations were continued by Ira Vance and W. S. Flynt until 1947. Sales made to the Colonial Mica Corporation in World War II amounted to $271,774.38. Since 1944, according to Flynt, about $260,000 worth has been sold. (DMEA-3481, Birch Mine, Exam. Report, Oct. 6, 1954 : Also Blue Ridge, unpublished Manuscript, J. C. Olson, U.S.G.S.).

Geology

Present Workings

An inclined adit with its portal 75 ft back into the hill from the old portal, extends 485 ft down to muck and water. (the applicant shows the incline to be 920 ft in length). The proposed work at one place puts the work only 30 ft inside the improperly described area at its northern end, and the other area is completely off the area shown in the legal description. It is on the Vance Property.

The incline is narrow, about 4 ft wide and 5 1/2 ft in height, timbered for the first 50 ft. Thereafter, it widens into several large stopes, 2- to 30 ft high, and up to 40 ft wide. The stopes are extensively backfilled. A base line down the center of the track in the haulageway, reading from the portal, is as follows:

Station	Incline Angle	Direction	Incline Dist. Ft.	Approximately. Horiz. Dist. Ft.
0- 25	-20°	S 25° W	25	24
25-88	-19°	S 40 ° W	63	59
88-113	-30°	S 35° W	25	22
113-138	-25°	S 25° W	25	22
138-160	-25°	S 33° W	22	20
160-200	-14°	S	40	38
200-236	-14°	S. 5° E	36	35
236-273	-25°	S 30° E	37	35
273-333	-34°	S 22° E	60	47
333-378	-37°	S 25° E	45	36
Turn off at 353' point--incline "B" (end main incline)				
0-30	low	S 30° W	30	30
30-80	-22°	S 10° E	50	47
80-135	-26°	S 5° E	55	50
(water at 135 feet point)				

At station 300, the upper pegmatite tails out, and another lower pegmatite lens comes in about 10 ft lower vertically.

A stoped area exists at station 115 in cline "B". It trends 25 ft N 30° E at - 20°. This area on both sides of the incline is being mined at present.

Location of Applicant's Proposed Work

The applicant proposes work at the 378-ft point in the muck-filled end of the main incline, and at the 181-ft point in a stoped area about 50 ft in width northeast of the incline.

Pegmatite - Country Rock - Muscovite

Two lenticular pegmatites have been cut through and mined out to a large extent.

T he lower pegmatite, at the 378-ft point is 8 feet thick and is composed of disseminated small quartz and oligoclase crystals up to 4" x 6" in width. The hanging wall strikes N 35° E and dips 30° SE, while the footwall strikes N 40° E and dips 55° SE. Seven rum colored muscovite crystals, 4 to 6 inches wide, occur in a 5-ft square section. Muscovite here is generally ruled and bent, however, some is flat and clear. Small muscovite is abundant. Crystals of muscovite in a pillar at the 353-ft station are aligned with the pitch of the body, and are 2 ft x 1 ft x 4 in., in thickness. The immediate vicinity has been stoped and slabbed.

At the 181-ft point, the other location proposed by the applicant, a large area 50 ft x 15 ft exposes a graphic to coarse textured pegmatite 8 ft thick and barren of strategic muscovite. It is composed of about 15% pink, potash feldspar, 40% soda feldspar, 40% quartz and 5% small (1") disseminated muscovite. Other minerals reported as present (Olson, Blue Ridge Man.) include garnet, apatite, epidote, and thulite.

Olson (Birch Mica Mine, 1943) believes the two pegmatites to be large (10 to 20 feet thick), irregular lenses aligned nearly due south and pitching downward about 27° from the horizontal. He found that where the hanging wall had a shallow dip and the footwall a steep dip, as at the 378-ft point, the body would thicken down the plunge, but the opposite was true generally of a steeply dipping hanging wall. Mining up or down dip will probably disclose the thinning of the pegmatite outward from the pipe-like

mass followed in mining.

The pegmatites are conformable to the country rock, a biotite schist and hornblende gneiss. The gneiss has been altered to biotite schist in a 1-inch to 5 feet zone adjacent to the pegmatite. The foliation curves from N 30° E on the south to N 60 to 70° E at the northern end of the mine, and dips from 30° SE to vertical (average 60°) (Olson, 1943).

Conclusions

This mine is operating from the 485 ft point. Several large areas indicating the irregular nature of the lenticular pegmatites exist along the incline. Work proposed by the applicant is in the realm of mining. Although the pegmatite may thicken down the plunge, it is probable that it will thin laterally (the direction the applicant proposes). It is recommended that the application be denied.

References:

1. Olson, J. C., Blue Ridge Manuscript (unpublished)
2. Olson, J. C., 1943, The Birch Mica Mine (USGS open file
3. DMEA-3481, Birch Mine (mica) Examination Report, Oct. 6, 1954

A. R. Taylor and S. C. Bergman, Geologists
U. S. Geological Survey

and

A. L. Peyton, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

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

FEB 27 1956

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-Mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch 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 dated February 7, 1956, by Mr. W. F. Dietrich, USBM, and Mr. W. F. Williams, USGS, relating to the project are enclosed.

Enclosed is a sketch of the Birch Mine showing the shaft, incline and the applicant's proposed drifting. A careful check should be made to ascertain whether the incline and the 200 feet of proposed drifting are contained within the boundaries of the leased area. Unless additional land is acquired, it appears the target is not sufficiently large to warrant the expenditure of $9000.00 for 200 feet of drifting.

If a contract is recommended, a new Consent to Lien must be obtained, since the one we now have contains a clause under paragraph 5 that is unacceptable.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge
Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

/s/ Robert W. Geehan
Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard
Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures: 5

WCAnderson:ms 2/21/56
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Mr. Anderson

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-Mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch 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 dated February 7, 1956, by Mr. W. F. Dietrich, USBM, and Mr. W. P. Williams, USGS, [redacted], relating to the project are enclosed.

Enclosed is a sketch of the Birch Mine showing the shaft, incline and the applicant's proposed drifting. A careful check should be made to ascertain whether the incline and the 200 feet of proposed drifting are contained within the boundaries of the leased area. Unless additional land is acquired, it appears the target is not sufficiently large to warrant the expenditure of $9000.00 for 200 feet of drifting.

If a contract is recommended, a new Consent to Lien must be obtained, since the one we now have contains a clause under paragraph 5 that is unacceptable.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

Member, Bureau of Mines

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures: 5

600

FEB 27 1956

Mr. Sam K. Vance, President
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Plumtree, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-Mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Vance:

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 you may give the members of the Field Team during the examination will be appreciated.

Regarding the Consent to Lien we now have, please be advised that it is unacceptable because of the added provision under paragraph 5. In the event a project can be approved, before a contract can be executed, it will be necessary to obtain a new Consent to Lien without any changes or added provisions.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

WCAnderson:ms 2/21/56
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Killagaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Mr. Anderson
Field Team, Region V

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 600

Mr. Sam K. Vance, President
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Plumtree, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4154-Mica
Birch Mining Company, Inc.
Birch Mine
Mitchell County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Vance:

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

Another Consent to Lien will be necessary, since the one we now have, contains a clause under paragraph 5 that is unacceptable.

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

Sincerely yours,

Administrator

In this connection, I wish to point out that the Consent to Lien signed by J. Fullen Brown is unacceptable because of the added provision under paragraph 5. In the event that a project can be approved for your property, it will necessary to obtain a new Consent to Lien without any changes or added provisions, before a contract can be executed.

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

RECEIVED
FEB - 8 1956

February 7, 1956

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: Chief, Branch of Ceramic and Fertilizer Materials

Subject: DMEA-4154 (Mica)

Applicant: Birch Mining Co., Inc. (S. & V. Vance)

Name and Location of Property: The Birch Mine, _____, N.C.

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 2/6/56

Comments:

1. No data available in this office on this property.

2. 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.

RECEIVED
FEB - 8 1956

February 7, 1956

Memorandum

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

From: W. P. Williams, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application, DMEA 4154, Birch Mining Company, Inc., Plumtree, North Carolina.

In a brief and incomplete application the applicant proposes to explore for mica by means of 800 feet of drifting at an estimated total cost of $9,000.00.

From a metes and bounds description the property is an elongate tract that contains 4 to 5 acres. The site of the work would be an old mine known as the Birch mine.

The following items are missing from the application:

(1) An adequate description of the land which tells where the property is located.

(2) A copy of a lease or other document under which the property is controlled.

(3) A description of past mining operations on the property, including production and known reserves.

(4) A sketch showing the old workings, and the new proposed work.

(5) A breakdown of the estimated costs of the proposed work.

Perhaps the applicant should be asked to provide more information about his application. The alternative is to refer the application to the Field Team who could obtain the additional information in the course of field examination of the property.

WPWilliams:iml
G-2/7/56
cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file; W. F. Dietrich, 3061

W. P. Williams