DMEA Form 1

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
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DMEA Docket No. 4474

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Docket Copy
Surname:
Hopkins
Houk
Kiilsgaard
Schmidt
Selfridge
Hoffman

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

NOV 23 1956

The Big Mine Mining Company
C/O Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4474-Mica
The Big Mine Mining Company
Lewie Aldridge, Frank Phillips,
and Waites Avery
The Big Mine
Avery 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 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. Wheeler
Administrator (by CSF)

JHopkins:gad 11/9/56
Copy to: Admr. R. File
Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk

R.S.S.

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

November 9, 1956

Memorandum

To: Administrator

From: L. G. Houk, Chief, Nonmetallic Minerals Division

Subject: A denial of exploration assistance and summary report.

By: James Hopkins

1. Docket No. DMEA-4474-Mica
Property: Big Mine, Avery County, North Carolina
Application: Dated September 20, 1956
Work proposed:

Construct Toolhouse, Powder and Cap Magazines	$115.00
Sink 100 feet of shaft @ $50.00	5,000.00
Drive 150 feet of drifts @ $45.00	6,750.00
	$11,865.00

Contract: None. Application denied.

2. Comments:

The Field Team found that this property had previously been explored under the name of the Powder Mill Mine (Docket No. DMEA-1900X), Contract No. Idm-E176, and with the present applicant, Mr. Lewie Aldridge.

In a final report dated September 19, 1952, examiners K. H. Teague, Geologist, USGS, and A. L. Peyton, Mining Engineer, USBM, concluded that the deposit was sufficiently explored and that an economic deposit of strategic muscovite did not exist at the site.

In addition to facts mentioned in the previous project report, it was noted that the pegmatite was notably quartz-deficient and contains entirely too much biotite to be desirable in a sheet muscovite deposit. The mica seen in the recent examination is of rather poor overall quality, being badly stained, bent, cracked and commonly intergrown with biotite.

Under Contract Idm-E176, the following work was performed:

Surface excavation	$800.00
40 feet of shaft	2,202.42
	$3,002.42

The Field Team recommends denial of the application.
The Nonmetallic Minerals Division concurs in the denial.
The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines also concur in the denial.

James Hopkins
Nonmetallic Minerals Division

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

CONSENT TO LIEN

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina, described ~~as follows:~~ 1/

In Lease (copy Attached) registered in th office of Register of Deeds of Avery County N. C. in Book 52 on page 542 on the 19th. day of September, 1956.

_____,

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the contract;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims, liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

None

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

2/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to repay the Government.

3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 195 6

Eugene A. Shaw [Seal]

Gwendolyn A. Phillips [Seal]

William E. Phillips [Seal]

I, _____ certify that I am the _____ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _____ who signed this agreement was then _____ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.

Joe C. Vance

Walter Ayers

Lotus V. Ayers [Corporate Seal]

Corinna A. Aldridge

Lorine Aldridge

Interior—Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 87113

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~In Lease (copy Attached) registered in th office of Register of Deeds of Avery County N. C. in Book 52 on page 542 on the 19th. day of September, 1956.~~ described as follows:1/

_____,

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the contract;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims, liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

_____

_____

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

2/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to repay the Government.

3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 1956.

Buena L. Vance [Seal]

Mellicia D. Phillips [Seal]

Gwendolyn A. Phillips [Seal]

~~I, _____ certify that I am the _____ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _____ who signed this agreement was then _____ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.~~

Joel C. Vance (SEAL)

Walter Avery (SEAL)

[Corporate Seal]

Lotus V. Avery (SEAL)

Corinna A. Aldridge (SEAL)

Lennie A. Aldridge (SEAL)

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator
Docket No. DMEA-
Contract No. Idm-E
Contract Date

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina, described as ~~follows:1/~~

In Lease (copy Attached) registered in th office of Register of Deeds of Avery County N. C. in Book 52 on page 542 on the 19th. day of September, 1956.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the contract;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims; liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

None

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

2/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to repay the Government.

3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: _____

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 195 6

Buena A Vance [Seal]

Gwendolyn A Phillips [Seal]

William A Reeves [Seal]

I, _____ certify that I am the _____ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _____ who signed this agreement was then _____ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.

Joel C. Vance

Walter Avery

[Corporate Seal]

Lotus V. Avery

Emma A. Aldridge

Lewis Aldridge

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina, described as ~~follows:1/~~

In Lease (copy Attached) registered in the office of Register of Deeds of Avery County N. C. in Book 52 on page 342 on the 19th. day of September, 1956.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the contract;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims, liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

None

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

2/ Mining or production from the land is not required, and in the absence of production there is no obligation to repay the Government.

3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None None

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 195 6

Eugene A. Vance [Seal]

Gwendolyn R. Phillips [Seal]

Mellon A. Meagin [Seal]

I, ~~(Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that~~ certify that I am the ~~who signed this agreement was then (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers~~

Joe C. Vance (SEAL)

Lisa Avery (SEAL)

[illegible] (SEAL)

Lotis V. Avery (SEAL)

Corinna A. Aldridge (SEAL)

Louise Aldridge (SEAL)

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator
Docket No. DMEA-
Contract No. Idm-E
Contract Date

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of Avery, State of North Carolina, described as follows 1/:

In Lease (copy attached) registered in the office of Register of Deeds of Avery County N. C. in Book 92 on page 92 on the 19th. day of September, 1956.

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby--

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

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None

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

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3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 1956

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

I, _____ certify that I am the _____ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _____ who signed this agreement was then _____ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.

(SEAL)

(SEAL)

[Corporate Seal]

(SEAL)

(SEAL)

(SEAL)

MF-203
Revised March 24, 1955

For Government's Use Only
EXPLORATION PROJECT CONTRACT
Operator _____
Docket No. DMEA- _____
Contract No. Idm-E _____
Contract Date _____

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

CONSENT TO LIEN

To the United States of America:

Referring to that certain land in the County of [illegible], State of [illegible], described as follows:1/

[illegible] in the office of [illegible] of [illegible] of [illegible] County [illegible] on the [illegible] day of [illegible], 1956.

_____,

which is the subject of a proposed exploration project contract, hereinafter called the "contract," with the United States of America, hereinafter called the "Government;" in consideration of the contract and as an inducement to the Government to enter into it, the undersigned hereby—

1. Undertakes and agrees that property in which the Government may acquire an interest or equity under the contract may be dismantled, severed from the land, and removed, as may be provided in the contract; and the Government's interest and equity in such property shall be prior and superior to any adverse right or claim of the undersigned;

2. Grants to the Government a lien upon all of the undersigned's right, title, and interest in the land and upon any production of minerals therefrom to secure the payment to the Government of a percentage royalty on production as may be provided for by the contract;2/ and represents and undertakes that there are no claims, liens, or encumbrances upon the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land prior to that hereby granted to the Government other than the following:3/

[illegible]

3. Undertakes and agrees neither to commit any act nor assert any claim in conflict with the provisions of this Consent to Lien; and to give advance notice of the Government's rights under this Consent to Lien to any subsequent transferee, mortgagee, encumbrancer, or lessee of any of the undersigned's right, title, or interest in the land; and

1/ Either (a) insert the legal description of the land, or (b) strike out the words "as follows" and insert "in a lease [or contract, deed, or other document] dated _____, and recorded in book _____ page _____ official records of said county." If (b) is used, the book and page of recordation cannot be dispensed with. If the space provided is insufficient, use an Annex, and refer to the Annex in the space.

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3/ Write "none" if that is the case. Do not leave lines blank.

4. Consents to all amendments and assignments of the contract without notice thereof, and agrees that this Consent to Lien shall extend and apply thereto.

5. Added provision: None None

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 1956

_______________ [Seal]

_______________ [Seal]

_______________ [Seal]

~~I, _______________ certify that I am the _______________ (Secretary, etc.) of the corporation named herein; that _______________ who signed this agreement was then _______________ (President or Vice-President, etc.) of said corporation; that said agreement was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and was within the scope of its corporate powers.~~

_______________ (SEAL)

_______________ (SEAL)

[XCorporateXSealX]

_______________ (SEAL)

_______________ (SEAL)

_______________ (SEAL)

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

RECEIVED NOV 19 1956 D.M.E.A.

November 19, 1956

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

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

Subject: DMEA-4474 (mica)

Applicant: Lewis Aldridge, Frank Phillips and Waites Avery

Name and Location of Property: Big Mine, Avery County, N. C.

Date of Field Team Report: 10/30/56

Date Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 11/6/56

Field Team Recommendation: Recommend denial of application.

Comments:

1. This prospect was previously explored under the name of Powdermill Mine and examined under DMEA application 1900X.
2. Field examiners report on DMEA 1900X concluded that economic deposit of strategic mica did not exist.
3. Present examination substantiates results of previous examination.

Recommendation:

I concur with the field examiners recommendation for denial.

W. F. Dietrich

W. F. Dietrich

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 1025 P.O. OFFICE BLDG.
KNOXVILLE 2, TENN.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED NOV 1 1956 D.M.E.A.

October 30, 1956

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA - Washington

From: Field Examiners, DMEA - Region V - Knoxville, Tenn.

Subject: Big Mine, Avery County, N. C. (mica) DMEA-4474
Applicants: Lewie Aldridge, Frank Phillips and Waites Avery.

The subject application was examined October 17, 1956 in the company of Messrs. Frank Phillips and Waites Avery. After returning to the office it was found that the property had previously been explored under the name of the Powdermill Mine (DMEA-1900X) and with the present applicant, Mr. Lewie Aldridge.

In a final report dated 9/19/52, examiners Teague and Peyton concluded that the deposit was sufficiently explored and that an economic deposit of strategic muscovite did not exist at the site. This was the conclusion reached by the present examiners after inspecting the site. The applicants wished to explore a narrow block of ground immediately west of DMEA-1900. Pit number 2 and immediately east of reportedly deep and extensive old stopes along strike to the west (see attached map)

In addition to facts mentioned in the previous project report, it was noted that the pegmatite was notably quartz-deficient and contains entirely too much biotite to be desirable in a sheet muscovite deposit. The mica seen is of rather poor overall quality, being badly stained, bent, cracked, and commonly intergrown with biotite.

On the basis of the present examination substantiating in full the results of exploration under DMEA-1900X, it is recommended that the application be denied.

S. C. Bergman, Geologist
Geological Survey

V. J. Lynch, Mining Engineer
Bureau of Mines

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
11-5-56
(date)

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

November 6, 1956

Re: DMEA 4474
Lewis Aldridge, et al.
Big Mine
Avery Co., N. C.
$11,865.00 - Mica

RECEIVED NOV 7 1956 D.M.E.A.

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of Field Team Report.

The applicants requested assistance in doing further work on a pegmatite on which much work has been done and some production obtained. Work was done on the pegmatite in 1951-52 by Aldridge with DMEA assistance (DMEA 1900X). At that time the mine was known as the Powdermill Mine. The applicants forgot to mention the fact that at least one of them had been interested in the previous work on the property, the results of which were unfavorable.

The proposed work would explore the pegmatite just west of the other work. The examiners conclude the pegmatite has been well tested, further work is not warranted and recommend denial of the application.

I concur with the recommendation.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

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

DOCKET COPY
Surname:
Houk
Kilsgaard
Bishop
Selfridge

OCT - 8 1956

The Big Mine Mining Company
c/o Mr. Lewis Aldridge
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4474-mica
The Big Mine Mining Company
Lewis Aldridge, Frank Phillips,
and Waites Avery
The Big Mine
Avery 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 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.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

LGHouks:ms 10/5/56
Copy to: Docket
Operating Committee
Field Team, Region V
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Admr. R. File

R.C.K.

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

DOCKET COPY
Surname:
Houk Selfridge

OCT - 8 1956

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

Re: Docket No. DMEA-4474-mica
The Big Mine Mining Company
Lewis Aldridge, Frank Phillips,
and Waites Avery
The Big Mine
Avery 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 September 25 and October 1, 1956, by Mr. N. E. Nelson, USGS, and Mr. W. F. Dietrich, USBM, respectively, relating to the project are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Approved:

O. M. Bishop

Member, Bureau of Mines

Thor H. Kiilsgaard

Member, Geological Survey

Enclosures: 4

LGHouk:ms 10/5/56
Copy to: Docket
Operating Committee
Mr. Kiilsgaard, 5222
Mr. Dietrich, 3061
Mr. Houk
Admr. R. File

R.C.L.

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

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OCT - 2 1956

October 1, 1956

Memorandum

To: Nonmetallic Minerals Division
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

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

Subject: DMEA-4474 (mica)

Applicant: F. Phillips, L. Aldridge, & W. Avery

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

Date Application Rec'd. by Br. of Ceramic & Fertilizer Materials: 9/24/56

Comments:

1. Applicant states there has been limited production from this property but there is no information available in this office on this property.

2. This deposit appears to have possibilities for the development of strategic mica.

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

W. F. Dietrich

Attachment

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

September 25, 1956

Re: DMEA 4474
Lewis Aldridge, et al.
Big Mine,
Mitchell Co., N. C.
$11,865.00 - Mica

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: Review of application

The applicants, a partnership, request assistance in exploring a pegmatite on the outcrop of which bulldozing has recently been done and $132.00 worth of mica recovered. Previous work consists of a shaft and bulldozing.

No data are given concerning the pegmatite. The proposed work consists of a 100-foot shaft and 150 feet of drifting. Some work may be warranted.

Referral of the application to the Field Team is recommended.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

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SEP 26 1956

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

September 24, 1956

Mr. Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine,
North Carolina

Subject: DMEA-4474
Re: Exploration Assistance
The Big Mine

Dear Mr. Aldridge

Your application for exploration assistance, dated September 20, 1956 submitted to our office at Knoxville, has been assigned Docket Number DMEA-4474 and referred to the Nonmetallic Minerals Division in the Washington office. Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this Docket Number.

Sincerely yours,

Allen S. Dakan, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

Copy to:
Code 600

3571

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

Form Approved
Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.2.

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

Not to be filled in by applicant

Docket No. 4474
Metal or Mineral Mica
Date Received 9-24-56
Estimated Cost $ 11,865
Participation (Government %)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Name of applicant.*—(*a*) State here your full legal name, in the form in which you will wish to contract, and your mailing address: THE BIG MINE mining co - Sec Attached
c/o LEWIE ALDRIDGE, SPRUCE PINE, N. C.
PARTNERSHIP: LEWIE ALDRIDGE, SPRUCE PINE, N. C., FRANK PHILLIPS, SPRUCE PINE, N.C., & WAITES AVERY, PLUMTREE, N. C.

(*b*) If other than an individual, add to your name above whether a corporation, partnership, etc., and the name of the State in which incorporated or otherwise organized.

(*c*) If a corporation, add to above statement, titles, names and addresses of officers.

(*d*) If a partnership, add to the above statement the names and addresses of all partners.

2. *General.*—Read DMEA Order 1, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects," before completing this application. Submit this application and all accompanying papers in quadruplicate (four copies), with your name and address on each sheet of the application and on all accompanying papers. Where sufficient space is not provided on the form for all required information, state it on an accompanying paper, with a reference in each case to the instruction to which it refers by number. Comply with all applicable instructions; or, if not applicable, so state. File the application with Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest field executive officer thereof.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON ATTACHED PAPERS

3. *Applicant's property rights.*—(*a*) State the legal description of the land upon which you wish to explore, including all land which you possess or control that may be benefited by the exploration, and excluding any land or interest in land which is not to be included in the exploration project contract

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known.

(*c*) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise

(*d*) If you are not the owner, submit with this application a copy of the lease, contract, or other document under which you control the property.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice.

4. *Physical description.*—(*a*) Describe in detail any mining or exploration operations which have been or now are being conducted upon the land, including existing mine workings and production facilities. State your interest, if any, in such operations. Also describe accessibility of mine workings for examination purposes.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades.

(*c*) Describe the geologic features of the property, including mineralization, type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.), and your reasons for wishing to explore. Illustrate with maps or sketches. Send with your application (but not necessarily as a part of it) any geologic or engineering report, assay maps, or other technologic information you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you.

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points.

(*e*) State the availability of manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water, and power.

5. *The exploration proj*—(*a*) State the mineral or minerals for whi ou wish to explore .....

.....

(*b*) Describe fully the proposed work, including a map or sketch of the property showing a plan (and cross sections if needed) of any present mine workings, and the location of the proposed exploration work as related to such features as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc.

(*c*) The work will start within ..... days and be completed within ..... months from the date of an exploration project contract.

(*d*) State the operating experience and background of the applicant with relation to the ability to carry out such exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations.

6. *Estimate of costs.*—Furnish a detailed estimate of the costs of the proposed work (you will have to use a separate sheet), under the following headings. Add the totals under all headings to give the estimated total cost of the project:

(*a*) *Independent contracts.*—(Note.—If the applicant does not intend to let any of the work to contractors, write "none" after this item. To the extent that the work is to be contracted, do not repeat the cost of the contract-work in subsequent items.) State the cost of any proposed independent contracts for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in terms of units of work (such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved, etc.).

(*b*) *Labor, supervision, consultants.*—Include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes and rates of wages, salaries or fees for necessary labor, supervision and engineering and geological consultants.

(*c*) *Operating materials and supplies.*—Furnish an itemized list, including items of equipment costing less than $50 each, and power, water and fuel.

(*d*) *Operating equipment.*—Furnish an itemized list of any operating equipment to be rented, purchased, or which is owned and will be furnished by the Operator, with the estimated rental, purchase price, or suggested use-allowance based on present value, as the case may be.

(*e*) *Rehabilitation and repairs.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary initial rehabilitation or repairs of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and movable operating equipment, now owned by the Operator and which will be devoted to the exploration project.

(*f*) *New buildings, improvements, installations.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary buildings, fixed improvements, or installations to be purchased, installed or constructed for the benefit of the exploration project.

(*g*) *Miscellaneous.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of repairs to and maintenance of operating equipment (not including initial rehabilitation or repairs of the Operator's equipment), analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employers' liability insurance, and payroll taxes.

(*h*) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above.

NOTE.—No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. (*a*) Are you prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 7, DMEA No. 1)?

(*b*) How do you propose to furnish your share of the costs?

☐ Money ☐ Use of equipment owned by you ☐ Other

Explain in detail on acompanying paper.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated Sept. 20, 1956

(Applicant)

By Lewis Aldridge

Walter Owens

Frank W. Phillips

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.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—66551-1

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON FORM MF-103

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

1-(a) The Big Mine Mining Co.
c/o Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, N. C.

Partnership: Lewie Aldridge
Spruce Pine, N.C.
Waites Avery
Plumtree, N. C.
Frank Phillips
Spruce Pine, N. C.

2- General

3- (a) See copy of lease attached.

(b) The Big Mine

(c) Lessee

(d) Lease attached

(e) None

(f) Not applicable

4- (a) There has been some bulldozing and a shaft cut. We did the last bulldozing work but we hit hard rock and it will have to be drilled. The mine is on a mountain but there is a good jeep road into the mine.

(b) There has been som work by indivuals at different times and when we bulldozed the top surface we recovered around $132.00 worth of mica which was sold to the Mica Depot in Spruce Pine, N. C. There is a large deposit of mica pegmatite which contains a good grade of green mica.

(c) The pegmatite lies in a hard rock formation which will require drilling and blasting. There is every indication of a large mica deposit and that iswhy we wish to explore this farther. We have no maps available to us.

(d) The mine is on Powder Mill Creek and there is a hard surface road within ½ mile to the mine and then there is a good jeep road from the hard surface road to the mine. The mine is around 3 miles north of Plumtree, N. C. and around 15 miles north of Spruce Pine,, N. C. the

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the market and supply point for mines and miners.

(e) Manpower, material, supply, equipment, water and power are all available.

5- (a) Mica

(b) We propose to cut a shaft 100 feet in the center of the pegmatite then drift from bottom of shaft in the pegmatite 75 feet north and 75 feet south.

(c) Start within 10 days complete in 6 months.

(d) All three partners are experienced miners and each one is now operating other mines. Waites Avery will personally supervise the operations and will be helped by Lewie Aldridge and Frank Phillips in all operation descisions.

6- (a) The proposed exploration contract will be an independent contract to be done in terms of a cost of unit basis and will consist of the following:

Tool House	75.00
Powder Magazine	25.00
Exploder Magazine	15.00
100 feet of shaft @ $50.00	5000.00
150 feet of drift @ 45.00	6750.00
Total cost of project	$11,865.00

(b,c,d,) Not applicable

(f) Ask for in (a).

(g,h,) Not Applicable.

7- (a) Yes

(b) Money

Certification of the above signed on Form MF-103 herewith attached.

MINING LEASE

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1956

State of North Carolina AVERY County:

This indenture made this 23 day of JUNE, 1956

between Buena Avery Vance, husband Joe C. Vance, W. Waites Avery, wife Lotus V. Avery, Corinna Avery Aldridge, Husband Lewie Aldridge all of Avery County, N. C. and ~~xx~~ Guendolyn Avery Phillips, Husband William S. Phillips of Pickens County, S. C. Heirs at la., of W. W. Avery, know as lessors and Waites Avery, Lewie Aldridge and Frank Phillips County and State of North Carolina as party of the first part, and known as lessor, and

of Avery County County and State of North Carolina, party of the second part and known as lessee.

WITNESSETH, That the part of the first part in consideration of One Dollar in hand received and hereby acknowledged by the lessor, and in consideration of the agreements hereinafter contained, on the part of the party of the second part to be performed, hereby bargains, leases and grants to the party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns, for the period of five years from the date of this agreement, the following described real property, for mining purposes, in the County and State first above written to wit: A mine known as the Big Mine located in Roaring Creek Township on Powder Mill Mountain on a boundry of land know as the W.W. Avery Heirs Land and being described as follows: Beginning at an iron stake on the side of the Ridge 300 feet east of the Big Mine working and runs north 350 feet to a stake, thence west 600 feet to a stake, thence south 700 feet to a stake, thence east 600 feet to a stake, thence north 350 feet to the beginning. It being the intention of this lease to describe an area of land with the Big Mine located in the center.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands to him, for mining purposes, the said lessee and his heirs and assigns for the aforesaid period of five years in compliance with the condition of this instrument, for the purpose and with the right to dig, quarry, search, explore for, obtain, and remove any kind of minerals, metals or fossils, and particularly mica, and to conduct the same to any extent the said party of the second part, the lessee, may desire. And it is hereby agreed between the parties to this agreement that the party of the second part is to have the use of any unoccupied buildings on said lands for mining purposes, and that he shall have the right to erect such buildings as he needs to carry on such mining operations during the period of this lease, and that the party of the second part shall keep the same in as good condition as when received, unavoidable accidents excepted. And it is also agreed by the party of the second part that no unnecessary damage is to be done to the lands herein leased during the period of this lease and the continuance of said lease, but the said party of the second part shall have the right to take from said lands leased to the party of the second part any wood or timber the party of the second part may need to carry on said mining operations or which may be needed to carry on the addition to existing buildings or to erect new buildings or sheds on said lands. (Timber of high or special market value is excepted and shall not be used by the lessee.) And it is hereby agreed that the party of the second part, the lessee, is to have the right-of-way of ingress and egress to said mines or land upon which exploration is being conducted.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the party of the second part, the lessee hereby agrees to pay to the said part of the first part, or his or their heirs or assigns, a rental royalty of 1/8th. of all mica taken and sold; 50¢ per ton of all Feldspar taken and sold; and the prevailing Royalty on all other ~~xxxxx~~ minerals taken and sold from said mines which shall be for the use of the said lands for the aforesaid period of five years. The said amounts shall be payable on the computation of selling bills on the tenth day of each month covering sales made during the previous month. Any minerals other than those set forth above which may be taken and sold shall be paid for and at the usual royalty rate of the minerals taken.

AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, shall have the option to renew this lease and to extend the period of its running for an additional five years from the date of its present termination. The option shall be exercised by giving formal written notice to the party of the first part or by the continuation of any mining operation then being conducted. The lessor reserve the right to use the land, or convey the same not conflicting with this lease, but under any conveyance the terms of this lease must be recognized by the grantee, purchaser, or assigns thereof. And it is agreed that the lessee may assign this mining lease or any part thereof and that he may sublease.

~~AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED That the lessee, the party of the second part, his heirs or assigns, is hereby given an option to purchase all the right, title and interest, legal and equitable, to and in the real estate described and set forth in this lease for a total purchase price of _____, said purchase price to be paid in full within three years from the date of this instrument, and it is agreed that all rental royalties paid to the party of the first part shall apply toward and be a part of the total purchase price above set forth, and that at such time that the total purchase price is paid in the form of notes or a lump sum payment or a combination of both, the party of the first part will execute a special warranty deed to the party of the second part, and that a tender of the remaining purchase price at any time within the next three years shall entitle the party of the second part to specific performance of this option contract.~~

It is further agreed

~~BUT IT IS EXPRESSLY AGREED that unless mineral or fossil material of practical value for mining purposes shall be found within a period of two years from the date of this instrument, the lease may be terminated by the lessee at any time thereafter on thirty days notice to the lessor.~~ The lessee agrees that during the period of this lease or the continuance of this lease work in said mines or exploration for new mines within the area leased shall not cease longer than ninety days at any one time, unavoidable accidents excepted.

WITNESS our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Witness:

Buena A Vance (Seal)

Joe C. Vance (Seal)

W. Waites Avery (Seal)

Lotus V. Avery (Seal)

Corinna A. Aldridge (SEAL)

Lewie Aldridge (SEAL)

Gwendolyn A. Phillips (SEAL)

William S. Phillips (SEAL)

W. Waites Avery (SEAL)

Lewie Aldridge (SEAL)

Frank W. Phillips (SEAL)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY

Personally came before me this day Buena Avery Vance, Joe C. Vance, W. Waites Avery, Lotus Vance Avery, Corinna Avery Aldridge, Lewie Aldridge, ~~Gwendolyn Avery Phillips and~~ all to me well known to be apart of the persons who signed the foregoing Lease and who acknowledged the due execution of said instrument by themselves for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this the 15 day of Aug 1956.

Gurney D. Bunney
Notary Public

My Commission Expires the 26 day of November 1956

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF _____

Personally came before me this day Gwendolyn Avery Phillips and William S. Phillips both to me well known to be apart of the persons who signed the foregoing Lease and who acknowledged the due execution of said instrument by themselves for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this the 28 day of June 1956.

Guy W. Middleton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires pleasure of the Gov. the _____ day of _____ 195

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY

Personally came before me this day W. Waites Avery, Lewie Aldridge, Frank Phillips all to me well known to be a part of the persons who signed the foregoing Lease and who acknowledged the due execution of ~~said~~ instrument by themselves for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this the 15 day of Aug 1956

Gurney D. Bunney
Notary Public

My Commission Expires the 11-21-1956 day of _____ 195

Registered in the Office of the
Register of Deeds of Avery County
on Sept. 19, 1956 in Book 52 on
page 542.

Sketch of Big Mine.

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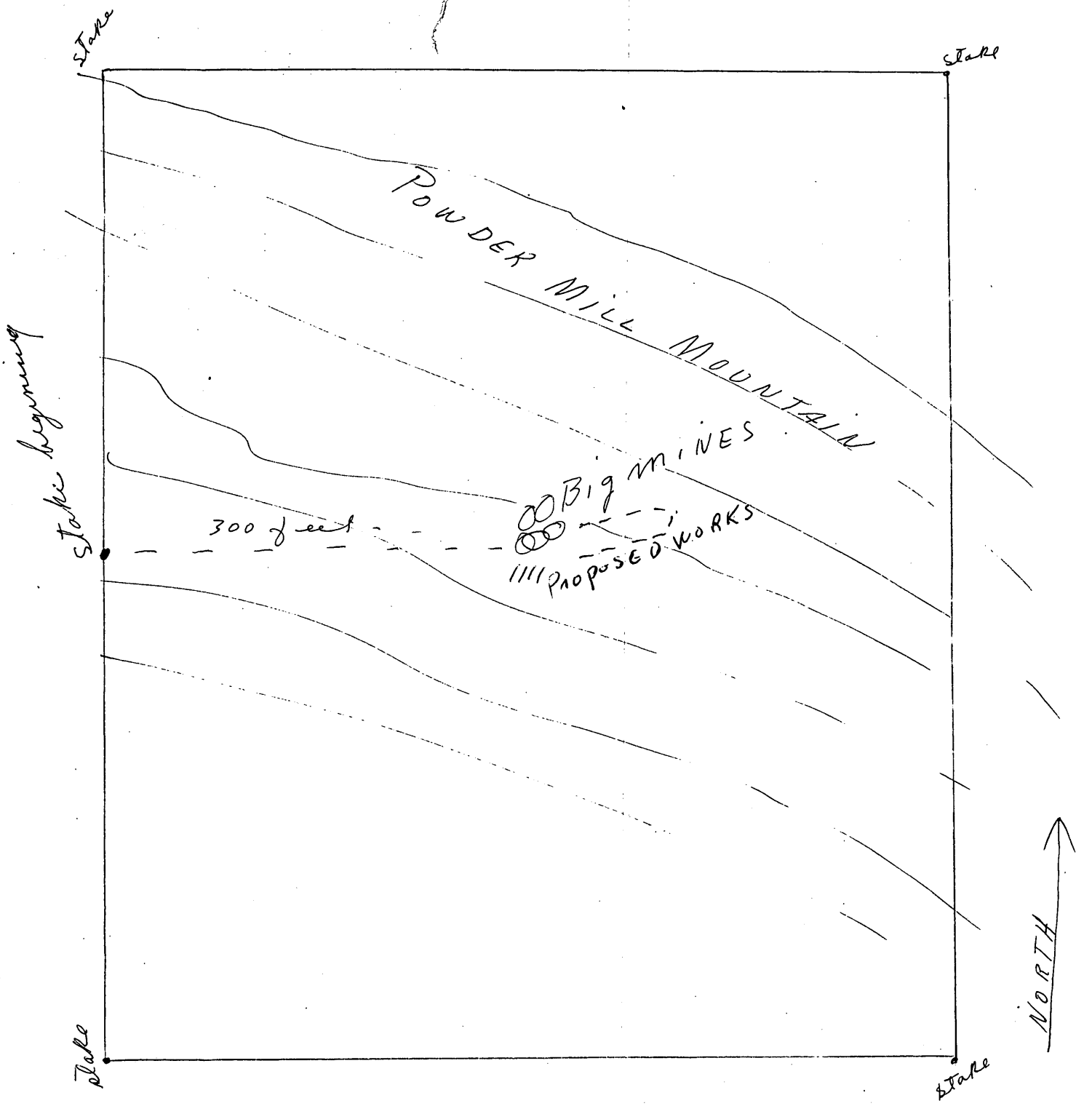
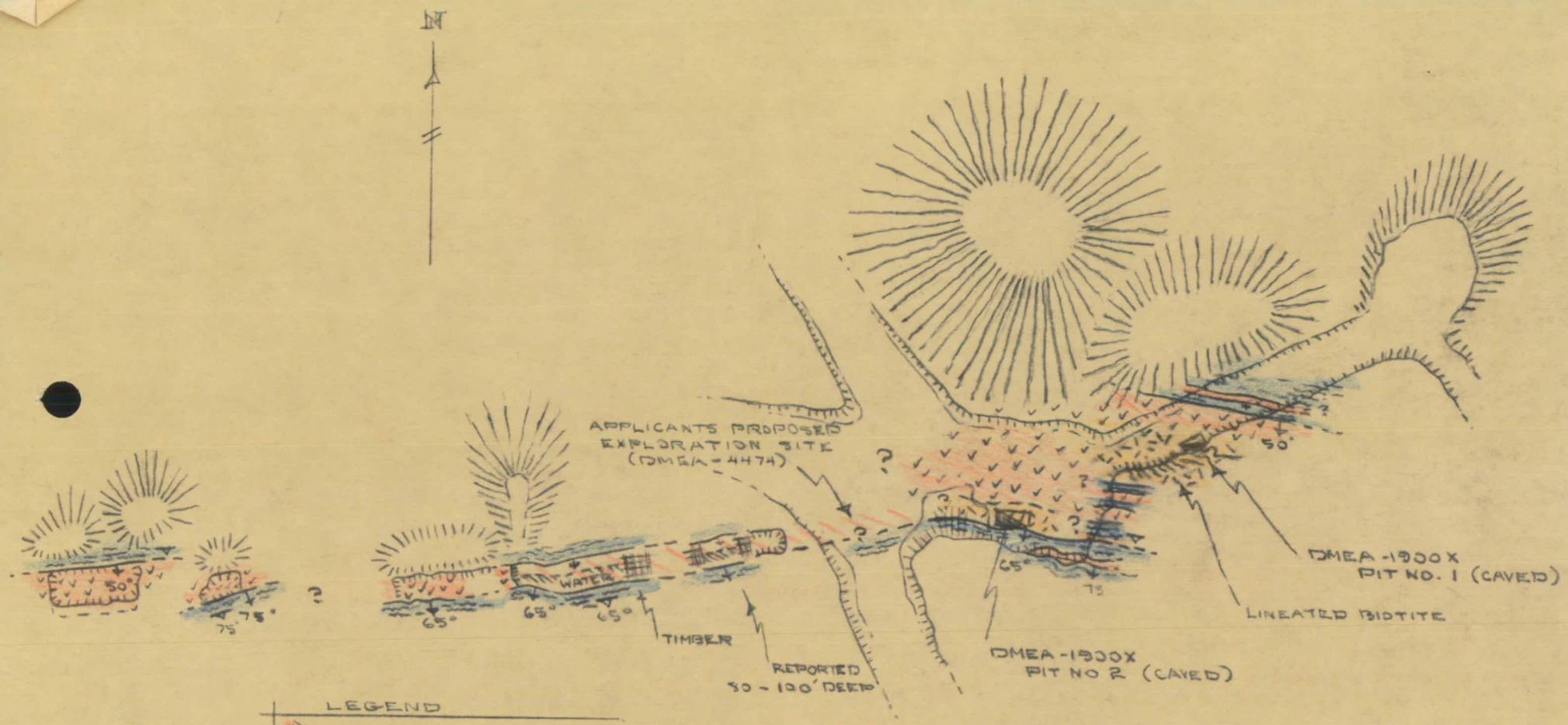
SEP 24 1956





LEGEND

- PLAG.-POTASH PEGMATITE
- PLAG.-BIOTITE PEGMATITE
- BIOTITE-HORNBLENDE GNEISS
- EXCAVATION
- TIMBER MAT
- DUMP
- SHAFT OR TEST PIT

THE BIG MINE (DMEA-4474)
THE POWDERMILL MINE (DMEA-1900X)

AVERY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE: 1" = 40'

SCB 10/56

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NOV 1 1956
D.M.E.A.

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Standard Form No. 65 (Rev. 1/46)

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