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

SEP 13 1951

Florida Mines, Inc.
Suite 606
Cafritz Building
Washington 6, D. C.

In reply please refer to
DMA-99

Gentlemen:

The report of our field team on your property indicates that an exploration program involving shaft sinking and drifting is not justified from the present surface indications. We regret that we must deny your application.

Very truly yours,

Tom Lyon

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

TJBallard:ec
Sept. 12, 1951

CC: Adm. Reading File
DMA Docket File
Field Team Region IV
Mr. Holderer

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
SEP 17 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

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

SEP 13 1951

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE
REGION IV
SEP 17 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
DENVER, COLORADO

Memorandum

To: Reports and Records Unit

Through: Director, Supply Division

From: Manganese Branch

Subject: [illegible]-[illegible] Manganese, Electric Mines, Inc.
Suite [illegible], Cafritz Building
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Property: Luna and American groups
of claims largely in Sec. 10, T. [illegible] S.,
R. 7 W. Little Florida Mountain Mining
District, Luna County, New Mexico.

The subject application for an exploration loan to finance a $100,000 project was referred to the field for an examination on July 18, 1951. The field team report indicates that a program of this size is not warranted, and since the applicant is not interested in more surface exploration, it is necessary to deny the application.

Manganese oxides occur in veins in a fanglomerate derived from volcanic rocks.

Other than a small production from the Luna Mine, very little ore has been taken from the claims. Total indicated and inferred ore reserves are about 16,000 tons containing approximately 30 percent manganese.

J.F.B.
JNE

George B. Holderer

George B. Holderer
Chief, Manganese Branch

Attachment

Approved:

Tom Lyon

Director, Supply Division

TJBallard:ec
Sept. 12, 1951

CC: Adm. Reading File
DMA Docket File
Mr. Holderer
Field Team Region IV

Mining Division
Region IV

August 27, 1952

Memorandum

To: Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: Restark DMA-6972, Final Report, Florida Mines, Inc., American and Lone Mountain Groups, Little Florida Mining District, Lemh County, New Mexico

The application of the subject data was for an exploration loan of $70,750 for the purpose of shaft sinking and drifting on the American group of claims. Former surface exploration on the claims by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and private prospecting has shown that the veins are narrow and low in grade.

The examining engineer recommends denial of the application, with which I concur.

W. H. King
for Paul T. Hansen

Surf

Air Mail

August 24, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary, Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Docket [illegible], Final Report, Florida Mines, Inc., American and Luna Management Groups, Little Florida Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico

We are enclosing original and two copies of the above report.

The engineer recommends denial of the application, and we concur with his recommendation.

J. E. [illegible], Jr.

for Ogden Tweto

Enclosures

JHE:oj
cc:DMA Files
Subject
Chron.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

OFFICE OF
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

REGION IV

Air Mail

224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

August 28, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary, Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Docket DMA-859X, Final Report, Florida Mines, Inc., American and Luna Manganese Groups, Little Florida Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico

We are enclosing original and two copies of the above report.

The engineer recommends denial of the application, and we concur with his recommendation.

J. H. East, Jr.

J. H. East, Jr.

Ogden Tweto

for A. H. Koschmann

enclosures

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Mining Division
Region IV

224 NEW CUSTOMHOUSE
DENVER 2, COLORADO

August 27, 1951

Memorandum

To: Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: Docket DMA-859X, Final Report, Florida Mines, Inc., American and Luna Manganese Groups, Little Florida Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico

The application of the subject data was for an exploration loan of $98,750 for the purpose of shaft sinking and drifting on the American group of claims. Former surface exploration on the claims by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and recent trenching has shown that the veins are narrow and low in grade.

The examining engineer recommends denial of the application, with which I concur.

W. H. King

W. H. King
for Paul T. Allsman

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
MINING DIVISION
REGION IV

Arizona-New Mexico Branch
[redacted]
Box 4097
UNIVERSITY STATION

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Mining Division
Date Rec'd.
AUG 22 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

August 21, 1951

Memorandum

To : Paul T. Allsman, Denver, Colorado

From : Chief, Arizona-New Mexico Br., Mining Div., Region IV

Subject: Final Report, DMA Docket 859X, Florida Mines, Inc., American and Luna Manganese Groups, Little Florida Mountains Mining District, Luna County, N. Mex.

Enclosed are original and 7 copies of the above report by John H. Soule' of the Bureau of Mines. No separate geological report will be submitted. Samuel G. Lasky thoroughly examined the district in 1939 and reported his findings in the Geological Survey's bulletin 922 C. As you know, the Bureau of Mines also explored the district fairly thoroughly in 1940 and 1941. A brief report of that work by A. M. Evans is given in Report of Investigations 4536.

Although Soule''s report is fairly brief, I believe it covers the essential points. He seems to think that additional surface trenching might be done to uncover possible ore shoots in the veins but evidently Florida Mines, Inc. does not wish to do any further trenching.

This report has my approval.

Brochure is enclosed.

Walter R. Storms
Walter R. Storms

EC P. T. Allsman (7)
C. A. Anderson
DMA 859X
DF

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OSCAR L. CHAPMAN, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION IV

DMA-859X - Florida Mines, Inc., American and Luna Manganese Groups, Little Florida Mountains Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico

John H. Soule', Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

August 1951

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By John H. Soule'[1]

Early in 1951, Florida Mines Inc. applied to the Defense Minerals Administration for Government assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to explore for manganese in the Little Florida Mountains Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico. The application, Docket DMA-859X, proposed to spend $98,750 for shaft sinking and drifting on the American group of claims. The company had leased the American group and subleased the Luna group.

Manganese oxides occur in veins in a fanglomerate derived from volcanic rocks.

Other than a small production from the Luna mine, very little ore has been taken from the American and Luna claims. Ore reserves are small. A total of 16,000 tons of ore, containing nearly 20 percent manganese, is indicated and inferred. Practically all of these reserves are credited to the Luna mine.

Although much exploratory work has been done on the American and Luna group of claims, most of it has been negative. Areas worthy of exploring may still exist. This work can best be done by trenching and testpitting.

Because of the narrowness and poor mineralization of the vein where the proposed exploration was to be done, such a program cannot be recommended. Additional trenching and testpitting may be feasible but

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1/ Mining engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines

Florida Mines Inc. is uninterested in this type of work at the present time.

FLORIDA MINES, INC.
AMERICAN AND LUNA MANGANESE GROUPS
LITTLE FLORIDA MOUNTAINS MINING DISTRICT
LUNA COUNTY, N. MEX.
DMA DOCKET 859 X

Engineering Report

By John H. Soule'
Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

August 1951

FLORIDA MINES, INC.
AMERICAN AND LUNA MANGANESE GROUPS
LITTLE FLORIDA MOUNTAINS MINING DISTRICT
LUNA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
DMA DOCKET 859X

CONTENTS

Engineering Report	Page
Introduction	1
Acknowledgments	1
Location, topography & physical features	2
History and production	2
Ownership and extent	2
Description of the deposits	3
Minable ore reserves	3
Present status	4
Project proposals	5
Proposed financing	5
Conclusions	6
Recommendations	6

INTRODUCTION

Early in 1951, Florida Mines, Inc. applied for Government assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950 in exploring, developing and beneficiating manganese ores from properties near Deming, New Mexico. The original application, Docket DMA-859X, was amended and re-amended until a final exploratory project costing $98,750 was proposed. This latter proposed work was to be done on the American Group of claims on a northern extension of the Luna vein. The American adjoins the Luna group. The work was to consist of shaft sinking and drifting, plus the purchase of necessary equipment and facilities.

The docket was referred to the field for an examination. The examining engineer visited the property on August 13, 1951. The results of this examination are the basis of this report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgment is due to Edmund Newton, vice-president and general manager of the Florida Mines, Inc., for accompanying the examining engineer around the property. Acknowledgment also is made of the following publications from which information was extracted: U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 922-C by Samuel G. Lasky; U. S. Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 4536 by A. M Evans; and Report of Investigations 3620 by F. D. DeVaney, M. M. Fine and S. M. Shelton.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Luna and American groups of unpatented mining claims are situated largely in Sec. 18, T. 24 S., R. 7 W., in the Little Florida Mountains Mining District, Luna County, New Mexico. The mines are about 9 miles southeast of the city of Deming, N. Mex. They may be reached from that city by good roads.

The topography varies from gently sloping in the east to very rugged in the west with the major mines being located near the break. The mean altitude is about 4,500 feet above sea level.

Vegetation consists of grasses, cacti and various desert shrubs. There is no timber for mining purposes. The mean annual precipitation is about nine inches, chiefly as summer thunder showers. The water table stands at an altitude of a little over 4,000 feet, as shown in the Luna shaft, where a moderate flow was encountered.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The first claims on the manganese deposits were located in 1918 and production has been sporadic since that time. The total manganese production is estimated at 24,000 tons, much of which was derived from the Manganese Valley mine. The production from the Luna and American claims has been small, probably less than 2,000 tons.

OWNERSHIP AND EXTENT

The American Group of claims consists of 29 unpatented claims and fractions owned by Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Gratton of El Paso, Texas, and leased to the Florida Mines, Inc. The Luna mine is located on

on the Lona May and Jessie group (also called the Luna group) of 14 unpatented claims. The Luna mine is leased by Lawrence Yacomo, who seems to have some arrangement or sublease with Florida Mines, Inc. In addition, the company has leased about 10 acres of land in Deming near the Government stockpile (site of the old Gratton mill) for a millsite. This land also is owned by Gratton.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITS

The manganese deposits are all in veins in fanglomerate derived from volcanic rocks. The veins are relatively narrow, but often have considerable length. The productive veins generally dip steeply to the east. According to S. G. Lasky, 1/ about one-half of the developed portion of the Luna vein is ore. More recent work on this vein indicates much barren or non-minable portions to the north, which may account for the limited lateral development of the Luna mine.

The ore consists of psilomelane, manganite and wad.

MINABLE ORE RESERVES

Ore reserves were taken from the confidential section of the report by A. M. Evans, 2/ who supervised the Bureau of Mines development project on the manganese deposits of the area in 1940 and 1941.

1/ Lasky, S. G., Manganese Deposits in the Little Florida Mountains, Luna County, New Mexico. U.S. Geol. Surv. Bull. 922C, 1940.

2/ Evans, A. M., Investigation of Manganese Deposits, Little Florida Mountains Mining District, Luna County, N. Mex. U. S. Bur. of Mines R. I. 4536, Aug. 1949.

These estimates for the Luna mine are tabulated as follows:

	Tons	Tons Manganese
Indicated	12,778	2,486
Inferred	2,713	544
Total	15,491	3,040

In addition, Evans calculated a quantity of mill tailings and sub-marginal ore which made a total of 25,305 tons of ore containing 16.5 percent manganese. How much of the reserves were depleted by mining during 1942 and 1943 is unknown.

Evans computed considerable reserves on the Manganese Valley mine which is not owned or leased by Florida Mines, Inc.

The American claims upon which the Florida Mines, Inc. planned to do the exploratory work contain very small reserves which Evans did not calculate because of the small irregular hature of the ore shoots. Recent uncovering of the Luna vein on the American No. 29 claim shows no additional ore reserves.

Therefore, the total minable ore on the property controlled by the Florida Mines, Inc. (Luna mine included) is about 16,000 tons of ore containing nearly 20 percent manganese.

There is considerable of the Luna and American property that has not been explored, but recent trenching on part of the property failed to disclose any new ore bodies.

PRESENT STATUS

The American claims now are inactive but the Florida Mines, Inc. soon plan to rehabilitate one shaft and hope to produce ore by means of a sublease or contract.

Lawrence Yacomo has re-equipped the Luna mine and is producing ore to be treated by the new mill of Florida Mines, Inc.

Florida Mines, Inc. is at present concentrating its effort in constructing a mill at Deming which seems about half complete. The mill will use jigs, although additional equipment may be installed later for more efficient beneficiation of the ores.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Florida Mines, Inc. planned to sink a 100-foot shaft on a north extension of the Luna vein on the American No. 29 claim. Drifting from this shaft was planned, and if successful, a second 100-feet of shaft and attendant drifting was proposed. This project was to cost $98,750. However, bulldozed trenching on this portion of the vein gave discouraging results, so a shaft can not be recommended.

At present t ere is a considerable area on the American claims that may contain other veins of manganese ore. However, considerable bulldozed trenching has failed to disclose any mineable ore. The efforts of the old-timers in sinking test pits on the most worthwhile spots can not be discounted in that they covered most of the possibilities. All in all, exploration on the American group of claims does not seem favorable and if exploration is undertaken at this time, it should consist onlyuof trenching and testpitting.

PROPOSED FINANCING

The proposed project was to cost $98,750 of which 75 percent was to be furnished by the Government and 25 percent by Florida Mines, Inc.

CONCLUSIONS

The American group of claims contains veins of manganese minerals which are only slightly developed. These veins show small irregular ore shoots from which some small production has been derived. Undeveloped portions of the veins, where visible for inspection, indicate that exploration probably would not be worthwhile. Considerable trenching has failed to locate new areas for development although such areas may exist. The vein where the applicant proposed to do the exploratory work outlined in the loan application proved to be narrow and too scantily mineralized to warrant this work.

The Luna group of claims, other than the Luna mine now operating, may contain hidden ore deposits. Prospecting or exploration on this group should be undertaken by preliminary trenching and test pitting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The sinking of a shaft and drifting on the extension of the Luna vein, as proposed in Docket [illegible]-8594, cannot be recommended because of the vein narrowness and the scanty mineralization. Some trenching and test pitting could be recommended on the American, as well as the Luna group of claims, but Edmund Newton, Vice-president and General Manager, seems to feel that his company is not interested in any trenching and test pitting at the present time.