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

224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

October 22, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary, Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Final Report, DMA Docket 1543X, C on's and Levenson's Lead-Tin Mine, Socorro County, New Mexico

Enclosed herewith are the original and two copies of the report on the subject docket.

We concur with the conclusions and recommendations of the examining team that the exploration loan of $22,490 be denied.

The brochure is enclosed.

for Paul Wallman
J. H. East, Jr.

A. H. Koschmann
A. H. Koschmann

Enclosures

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Mining Division
Region IV

October 22, 1951

Memorandum

To: DMA Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: Final Report, DMA Docket 1543X, Coon's and Levenson's Lead-Tin Mine, Socorro County, New Mexico

There was not any definite program of exploration and details were lacking on the estimated cost of the project.

The property is owned by the Santa Fe Railroad, which refuse to sign a subordination.

There are no measured ore reserves, but the area contains pockets of high-grade galena of small tonnage. Inferred reserves of low average grade might be large, but their exploration and subsequent exploitation could only be handled by a well financed company.

The examining engineer recommends denial of the loan, with which we concur.

Paul T. Allsman

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

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

MINING DIVISION
REGION IV

TUCSON, ARIZONA

October 17, 1951

Memorandum

To : Paul T. Allsman, Denver, Colorado

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

Subject : Final report, DMA Docket 1543X, Coon's and Levenson's Lead-Tin Mine, Socorro County, N. Mex.

Enclosed are original and 7 copies of the above report by Grant R. Rubly of the Bureau of Mines. A separate report on geology will not be submitted by the Geological Survey.

This report has my approval.

Brochure is enclosed.

Walter R. Storms

Walter R. Storms

CC P. T. Allsman (7)
C. A. Anderson
DMA-1543X
DF

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION OF FIELD TEAM
REGION IV

DMA-1543X, Coon's and Levenson's Lead-Tin Mine

Socorro County, New Mexico

Grant R. Rubly, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

October 1951

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By Grant R. Rubly[1]

On May 26, 1951, Bert Coon and Lester S. Levenson filed an application with the Defense Minerals Administration for aid for an exploration project pursuant to Mineral Order 5 under the Defense Production Act of 1950. The application was docketed as DMA-1543X and was for tin and lead. The reviewing committee in Washington had no information upon which to judge the geologic merit of the proposal, therefore it was forwarded to the Field Team, Region IV, Defense Minerals Administration, for a field examination. The property was visited by the writer with Bert Coon on September 12, 1951. It is situated about 53 miles by road northwest of Socorro, N. Mex.

The applicant estimated the cost of the project at $22,490, of which the Government was to participate to the extent of 90 percent on the basis of the tin supposed to be contained in the deposits. As there was no evidence of the presence of tin on the property, the applicants were requested to express their willingness to participate on a 50-50 basis for exploring for lead. In a letter dated July 8, 1951, Coon and Levenson agreed to this proposal.

Cattle raising has been the chief source of income from this area but even that is disappearing with the dwindling water supplies. Some prospecting and a small amount of mining has been done in the past. A shipment of 19.9 tons of sorted ore and hand-jigged

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1/ Mining Engineer, Bureau of Mines

concentrates made recently by Coon assayed 14.45 percent lead. This ore was shipped to a smelter in El Paso, Texas, and netted $27.01 per ton of ore before freight charges and mining. Freight charges, including a 3 percent transportation tax, amounted to $11.42 per dry ton, which, considering the 250 mile truck haul, is quite low.

The ore deposits occur in limestone beds striking northerly and dipping gently to the west. The limestone is presumably of Pennsylvanian age. Cutting across these beds are numerous fractures ranging from hairline to several feet in thickness. These fractures strike north and dip steeply to the west. The vein minerals are siderite, calcite, barite and galena. It is only where these fractures widen out that the barite and galena occur in visible quantities although mineralization also appears to follow favorable beds in the limestone. High-grade pockets of galena occur here and there but the average value of the deposit probably is low.

The large areal extent of the limestone and a known thickness of several hundred feet would develop large tonnages of rock. Should the average lead content of the ore be favorable, then there is the possibility of developing a large low-grade lead mine amenable to open pit operations. While probably not economical under present conditions this area may be a future source of lead. A great deal of work would be required to properly evaluate the deposits.

The applicant has been searching out and mining some of the higher grade lead pockets. The property is essentially undeveloped and prospecting has been confined to haphazard surface scratching. The proposed exploration program would be a continuation of present methods with the idea of mining and shipping any galena that might be found.

As the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co., the owners of the property, will not sign the subordination agreement, it is recommended that the application for aid for an exploration project be denied. However, even if the company would sign the agreement, the deposit is not one that the applicants could mine economically.

It is suggested, that as this area might contain a very large low-grade lead deposit, a more detailed geological study should be made at some future time.

DMA-1543X, COON'S AND LEVENSON'S LEAD-TIN MINE
SOCORRO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Engineering Report

By Grant R. Rubly, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

October 1951

frj

DMA-1343X, COON'S AND LEVENSON'S LEAD-TIN MINE
SOCORRO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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INTRODUCTION

On May 26, 1951, Bert Coon and Lester S. Levenson filed an application with the Defense Minerals Administration for aid for an exploration project (tin-lead) pursuant to Mineral Order 5 under the Defense Production Act of 1950. The application was docketed as DMA-1543X. The reviewing committee in Washington had no information upon which to judge the geologic merit of the proposal, therefore it was forwarded to the Field Team, Region IV, Defense Minerals Administration, for a field examination. The property, which is situated about 53 miles northwest of Socorro, N. Mex, was visited with Bert Coon on September 12, 1951.

The applicant estimated the cost of the project at $22,490 of which the Government was to participate to the extent of 90 percent on the basis of the supposed tin in the deposits. As there was no evidence of the presence of tin on the property, the applicants were requested to express their willingness to participate on a 50-50 basis for exploring for lead. In a letter dated July 8, 1951, Coon and Levenson agreed to this proposal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer is indebted to Bert Coon for guidance to the property and for other assistance and courtesies extended during the course of the examination.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The area which the applicants wish to explore is located in the SW¼, Sec. 1 and the NW¼, Sec. 12, T. 3 N., R. 4 W., Socorro County, N. Mex. It is best reached by traveling north from Socorro on paved U. S. Highway 85 a distance of 26.4 miles, thence westward over a poor dirt road for 20.7 miles. At that point an even poorer road takes off to the right. A crude camp is located about 6 miles northwesterly from the turn-off point.

The area contains low ranges of hills and broad valleys. Topographical relief is less than a few hundred feet.

The climate is typical of the plateau desert of New Mexico. Rainfall is probably about 10 inches per year. Native grasses, cacti, and low brush grow in the area.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The history of mining activity in this district is extremely vague. Scattered test pits and trenches point to sporadic digging over a long period of time. Cattle ranching had been the chief source of revenue but even that is disappearing with the dwindling water supplies.

The only recorded production from the prospect is a shipment which Coon made in August 1951. This shipment consisted of sorted ore and some concentrates produced by a crude hand-operated jig. The total of 19.9 tons assayed 14.45 percent lead per ton with no credit for gold or silver. The net smelter return was $27.01 per ton of ore,

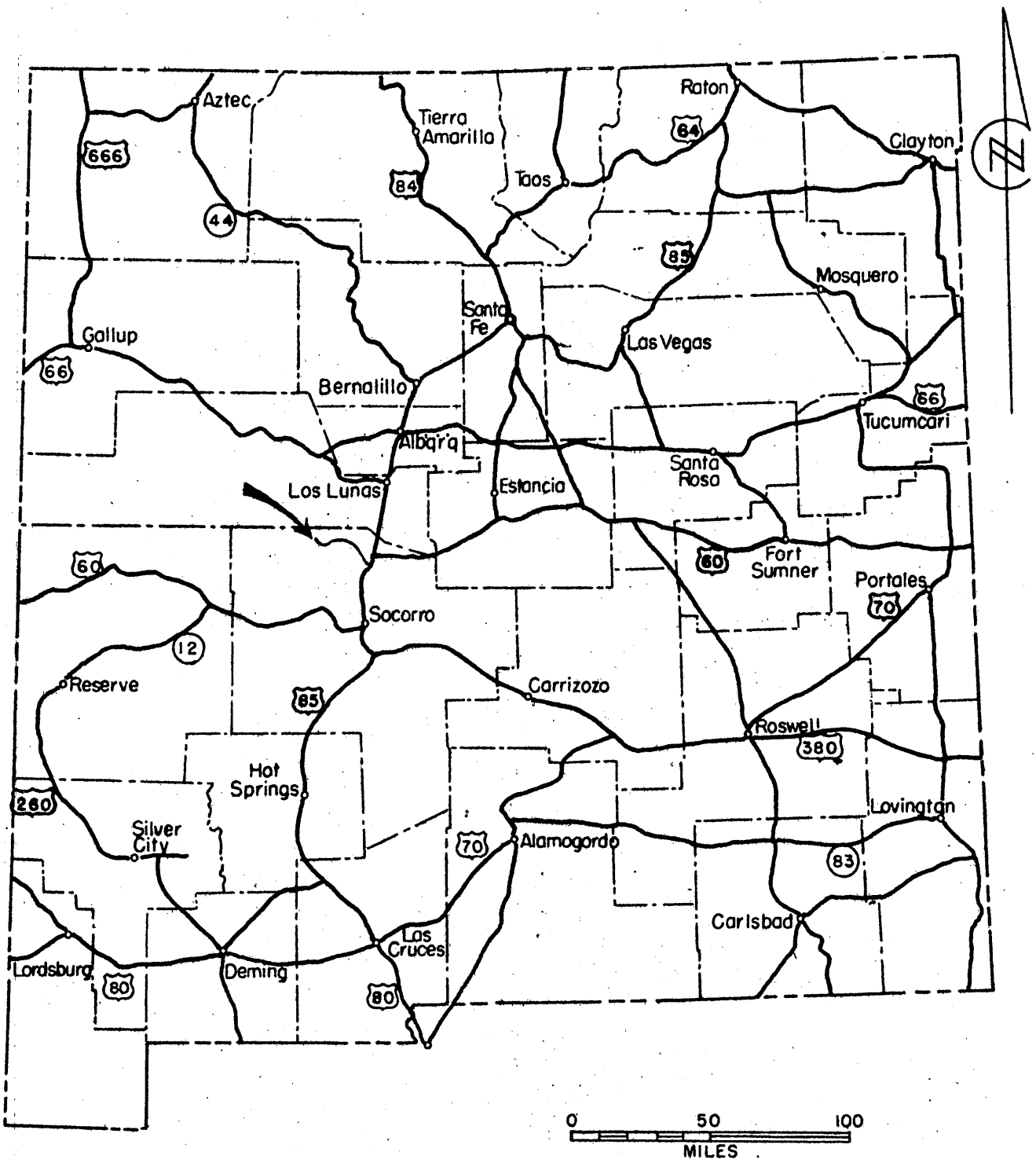

Fig. 1, Location Map, Coon's Lead Lease
Socorro County, New Mexico

DMA - 1543 X

before charges for freight and mining. Freight charges, including a 3 percent transportation tax, amounted to $11.42 per dry ton, making the ore worth $15.59 per ton at the mine. The ore was trucked 250 miles from the mine to the smelter in El Paso, Texas.

OWNERSHIP AND EXTENT

Bert Coon has leased the SW¼, Sec. 1 and the NW¼, Sec. 12, T. 3 N., R. 3 W. from the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company. A photostatic copy of a duly executed lode mining lease was attached to the application. However, there was no Landlord's Subordination Agreement. A letter was sent to the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co. from the Tucson, Ariz., office of the Bureau of Mines to determine the policy of the company in regard to the subordination agreement. C. B. McClelland, Land Commissioner for the company, under date of October 1, 1951, replied in part:

"While we would like to help Mr. Coon all we can, we do not feel that the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company could assume the liabilities which we would assume if we completed the subordination agreement, Form MF-202, and we have no way in which we can assume the liabilities contracted by others."

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITS

Limestone beds of northerly strike, dipping gently to the west, cover most of the area. These formations are presumably of Pennsylvanian age. Brachiopods, crinoids, and possibly some bryozoa were recognized.

Cutting across these beds are numerous fractures ranging from hairline to several feet in thickness. These fractures strike north, and dip steeply to the west. The vein minerals are siderite, calcite, barite, and galena. It is only where the fractures widen out that galena and barite occur. Mineralization is in the larger fractures but also appears to follow favorable beds in the limestone. Barite is the predominent mineral in the larger fractures. High-grade pockets of galena occur here and there but the average value of the deposit probably is low.

The large areal extent of the limestone, together with a known thickness of several hundred feet, would develop large tonnages of rock. Should the average lead content of the rock be favorable then there is a possibility of developing a large low-grade lead mine amenable to open pit operations. While probably not economical under present conditions this area may be a future source of lead. A large amount of work would be required to properly evaluate the deposit.

No tin minerals were seen nor are any known to exist in the area.

ORE RESERVES

There are no measured ore reserves. The area contains pockets of high-grade galena of small tonnage. As pointed out in the above item, inferred reserves of low-grade lead ore could be quite large.

PRESENT STATUS

The applicant has been searching out and mining by trenching some of the higher grade lead pockets. In addition to the 2 quarter sections now under lease, Coon was trying to obtain the NW¼, Sec. 1, the SW¼, Sec. 12 and the W½, Sec.13. This strip of land roughly parallels and contains the eastern exposure of the limestone beds. There are other workings reported in these sections. Outside of one trench about 20 feet long with a face of about 8 feet, and a shallow shaft 10 feet deep, the work consists of surface scratchings in likely-looking veins.

PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The applicant has no definite program of exploration. Essentially what the program would amount to is a continuation of present operations; that is, searching the outcrops for likely-looking areas with the hope of uncovering ore that could be hand-sorted or jigged, and shipped to the smelter. This is basically a mining program although some exploration work would be accomplished. The scope of an exploration project suitable for this area is beyond the financial capacity of the applicant.

ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT

The applicant has estimated the cost of the project at $22,490 of which the Government would participate to the extent of $11,245. The break-down of this estimate is quite sketchy but there is no need for elaboration.

CONCLUSIONS

The limestones cropping out in the area contain numerous seams and fractures striking north and dipping steeply to the west. These fractures have been filled with siderite, calcite, barite, and galena. Only the wider fractures contain barite and galena. The galena is not uniformly distributed in the veins but occurs in high grade pockets.

While the average lead content of the rock is not known it is probably low. The limestone containing the lead veins covers an area of several square miles and is several hundred feet thick. Should the average grade of the rock be high enough, then a deposit of lead ore amenable to open-pit operations could be developed. Before such a deposit could be propertly evaluated an extensive prospecting campaign would have to be undertaken. Such a program is out of reach of the meagre resources of the applicants.

The applicants' proposed program is exploratory in a certain sense. However, the main purpose would be to find and mine galena in order to ship it to a smelter. In this aspect the program becomes one of development.

The factor which has the greatest bearing on the project is that of the subordinating agreement. The Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co. will not sign such an agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the application for aid for an exploration project be denied because the applicant cannot obtain a subordinating agreement, and that even if he could, the deposit is not one that he could mine economically.

It is recommended also that this area be kept in mind as a possible low-grade lead deposit and that when conditions warrant, a more comprehensive study be made.

NOV 9 1951

Re: DMA-1543

Messrs. Bert Coon and
Lester S. Levenson
P. O. Box 351
Socorro, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Your application for an exploration loan of $22,490 on property in Socorro County, New Mexico, has been reviewed by the Defense Minerals Administration. We have a field report available to us, which was made on your property at our request.

The lead mineralization on your property is too low in grade to allow economical mining on a commercial scale. The field examination indicated that significant minable reserves cannot be expected to be found by further exploration. Also the Santa Fe Railroad Company, as owner of the property, is unwilling to sign the subordination agreements which the Government requires before a project can be approved. I regret, therefore, that we must deny your application for an exploration loan.

We wish to thank you for bringing this property to our attention.

Very truly yours,

(signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON

Acting Administrator

WOM
J.F.S.

EINewcomb:emp
G 11-6-51

Copies to: J. N. East, Jr. Region IV (2)
Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA
O. M. Bishop
Directors r. files 4214 GSA
Br. r. files 4214 GSA
Administrators r. file
DMA docket files

Routed

Re: DMA-1543
Bert Coon and Lester S. Levenson
Socorro, New Mexico
Exploration loan, $22,490
Lead

Memorandum

To: Reports and Records Unit
Administrative Management Div.

From: Lead-Zinc Branch

Through: Acting Administrator

Subject: Denial of application

The subject property has been examined and the field team has recommended a denial of the application.

The applicants have no definite program of exploration for their property. Their original request was for 90 per cent Government participation on a loan involving lead and tin. No evidence of tin was found on the property so the field team suggested a matching funds loan for lead. The applicants agreed to this change in their application.

A prominent set of mineralized fractures in Pennsylvanian (?) limestone is the main objective for exploration. Visable lead mineralization is largely confined to the wider parts of fractures and to some extent along bedding. The field examination indicated that the average grade of the deposit is too low for profitable mining by the applicants. The applicants' conception of exploration is a continuation of their present methods which involve mining and shipping any ore they find near the surface.

As the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company, the owners of the property, will not sign any subordination agreements, the proposal could not be considered for approval even if it were geologically favorable.

We concur with the field team and recommend a denial of the application for an exploration loan.

Returned herewith are:

1 Field team report
3 Forms DF-103
1 Lease

(signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON
Acting Administrator

O. M. Bishop
Directors r. files 4214 GSA
Br. r. files 4214 GSA
Administrators r. files
DMA docket files

EINewcomb:emp
G 11-6-51
Copies to: J. H. East, Jr.
Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA
Region IV (2)

routed

22A New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

October 22, 1952

Memorandum

To: Executive Secretary, Defense Minerals Administration

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: Final Report, DMA Docket 1535, C.-on's and Lovemann's Lead-Tin Mine, Socorro County, New Mexico

Enclosed herewith are the original and two copies of the report on the subject docket.

We concur with the conclusions and recommendations of the examining team that the exploration loan of $25,490 be denied.

The brochure is enclosed.

Paul Willman
J. H. Hat, Jr.

A. H. Koschmann
I. L. Koschmann

Enclosures

WDM:oj
cc: DMA subject and chron.
AHKoschmann

NTE

Mining Division
Region IV

October 22, 1951

Memorandum

To: DMA Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Mining Division, Region IV

Subject: Final Report, DMA Docket 15,XX, Conn's and Levenson's Lead-Tin Mine, Socorro County, New Mexico

There was not any definite program of exploration and details were lacking on the estimated cost of the project.

The property is owned by the Santa Fe Railroad, which refuses to sign a subordination.

There are no measured ore reserves, but the area contains pockets of high-grade galena of small tonnage. Inferred reserves of low average grade might be large, but their exploration and subsequent exploitation could only be handled by a well financed company.

The examining engineer recommends denial of the loan, with which we concur.

Paul T. Allmann

WDM:oj
cc: DMA subject and chron.
AHKoschmann

MINING DIVISION
REGION IV

September 25, 1951

Mining Division
Date Rec'd
SEP 27 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company
Land Department
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Mr. Bert Coon has made application for Government aid in exploring the lead deposits he has leased from the Santa Fe railroad in the SW¼ sec. 1 and NW¼ sec. 12, T. 3 N., R. 4 W., Socorro County, N. Mex. In order to process this application a Landlord's Subordination Agreement (Form MF-202) must be completed and submitted.

To expedite matters we would like to have a statement from you regarding your stand on this agreement.

Very truly yours,

Walter R. Storms, Chief
Arizona-New Mexico Branch

CC P. T. Allsman
DMA-1543X

DFd

WRStorms:frj

MINING DIVISION
REGION IV

September 15, 1951

Mining Division
Date Rec'd
SEP 27 1951
BUREAU OF MINES
Denver, Colorado

Re: DMA
Docket 1543X

Mr. Bert Coon,
P.O. Box 651
Socorro, N. Mex.

Dear Mr. Coon:

In order to proceed with processing your application for aid (DMA Docket 1543X) in exploring your lead mine it will be necessary to have completed forms MF-202, Landlords Subordination Agreement. Will you kindly have these forwarded to our Tucson office as soon as possible?

Sincerely yours,

Walter R. Storms, Chief
Arizona-New Mexico Branch

CC P. T. Allsman
DMA 1543X
DF

WRStorms:frj

Mining Division
Date Rec'd.

SEP 6 1951

MINING DIVISION BUREAU OF MINES
REGION IV Denver, Colorado September 4, 1951

Re: DMA Docket 1543

Mr. Bert Coon
Box 651
Socorro, N. MEx.

My dear Mr. Coon:

With reference to your application for aid in exploring your Lead-Tin mine, DMA Docket 1543, our engineer, Mr. Grant R. Rubly, will be able to meet you in Socorro, on Friday morning, Sept. 14, 1951. Kindly notify us at once if this arrangement meets with your approval and state where he is to meet you.

Sincerely yours,

Walter R. Storms, Chief
Arizona-New Mexico Branch

CC P. T. Allsman
C. A. Anderson
J. H. Soule'
DMA-1543
DF

WRStorms:frj

August 2, 1951

Memorandum

To: W. R. Storms (with Brochure)

(Through Chief, Mining Division)

C. A. Andersen

From: DMA Field Team, Region IV

Subject: DMA Docket 1543X, Bert Geon and Lester S. Levenson, Applicant, Lead-Tin Mine (Not Named) Socorro County, New Mexico

Enclosed is the subject brochure with application for an exploration project at an estimated cost of $22,490. Information submitted with the application is insufficient to judge the geologic probability of discovery. At the present stage, only a geological examination will be required.

F. T. Allemen, Alternate

A. H. Koschmann

Enclosures

ld

cc: DMA
Koschmann

July 24, 1951

Re: DPA-1543X

Messrs. Bert Coon and
Lester E. Stevenson
P. O. Box 551
Socorro, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Your application (Docket DPA-1543X) for an exploration loan under the provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950 has been reviewed by the Lead-Zinc Branch of the Defense Minerals Administration. Before final decision can be taken on your request, it will be necessary to obtain additional information on your property. Your application, therefore, has been referred to Mr. J. H. East, Jr., Executive Officer, DMA Field Team, 224 New Customhouse, Denver 2, Colorado, with the request that the needed information be supplied to us.

Very truly yours,

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

ETMcKnight:emp
G 7-24-51
Copies to: J. H. East, Jr. Region IV (2)
Chief, Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA
R. N. Mote
Reports & Records
Directors r. file 4214 GSA
Br. r. file 4214 GSA
Files

July 24, 1951

Re: 04-1543X
Sort Coon Lester S. Levenson
Exploration Loan, [illegible],490
Lead

Mr. J. S. East, Jr.
Executive Officer, DMA Field Team
Region IV
224 New Customhouse
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Mr. East:

The original application covered by this docket requested 90% participation on the part of the Government on the grounds that the property was said to contain tin. As the evidence was insufficient as to the tin occurrence an inquiry was sent to the applicant to see if he cared to have his loan considered on a 50-50 basis for lead. His reply of July 3 accepted the 50-50 participation.

We have no information here on which to judge the geologic merit of this proposal. Hence, the application is being referred to the field for advice. If the project appears to have merit from a geologic standpoint, the engineering phases of the application should be considered.

Very truly yours,

RTMcKnight:mp G 7-24-51
Chairman
Coordinating Committee

for Bureau of Mines

for Geological Survey

Copies to: Chief, Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 420A GSA
R. H. Mote
Reports & Records
Directors r. file 421A GSA
Br. r. file 421A GSA

Files

1951

June 19, 1951

Re: Docket DMA-1543X

DMA

Messrs. Bert Coon and Lester S. Levenson
Box 651
Socorro, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Your application for a participating loan to explore a property in Socorro County has been reviewed by the Non-Metallics and Lead-Zinc Branches of the Defense Minerals Administration.

You request 90% Government participation on the basis of tin content of the deposit. However, the evidence that the property contains tin is insufficient to warrant the higher contribution offered by the Government for tin exploration.

Government participation on lead exploration is 50%, with the applicant advancing the other half. If you should care to have the application considered for an exploration loan on lead, will you please indicate your willingness to provide your share of the funds needed to carry out the proposed exploration. The amount you would need to furnish for the exploration you have proposed is $11,245.00. A field examination would have to be made before the Government loan could be approved.

Very truly yours,

Tom Lyon

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

Noted

ETMcKNIGHT:emp
G 6/18/51
Copies to: J. H. East, Jr. Region IV (2)
Chief, Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA
R. H. Mote
L. F. Strobel
Directors r. file 4214 GSA
Br. r. file 4214 GSA
Files