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NOV 18 1955

Denial

Mr. F. S. Kendrick, President
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington relative to the above property have been carefully 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 our information indicates that although mercury mineralization occurs on the Adobe Walls Dome property, the probability of disclosing minable mercury ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application for assistance is denied. Such denial, however, is made without prejudice. In the event further work on your part discloses new and more favorable evidence of ore deposition on the property, we shall be pleased to consider a new application, amply supported by geological mapping, sampling, and assaying.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Exploration program, and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

ACTING Administrator

Denial

SFHolt/fec 11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG.
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

November 16, 1955

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57. Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Band Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

The denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information:

1. The applicant, Big Band Mining, Inc., Box 269, Abilene, Texas, requested exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57 for churn drilling, test pitting, shaft sinking, drifting and crosscutting in the Adobe Walls Dome property.

2. The applicant controls, by Mineral Awards from the state of Texas, the following 27 mining claims:

Claim No.	Mineral Award No.	Surveyor's Records Book	Page No.
1.	36840	RMC3	275
2.	36841	"	274
3.	36839	"	276
4.	37267	"	278
5.	37268	"	277
6.	37269	"	276
7.	M-39506	"	281
8.	M-39505	"	280
9.	M-43586	RMC5	51
10.	M-43585	"	50
11.	M-43584	"	49
12.	M-43583	"	48
13.	M-43582	"	47
14.	M-43581	"	46
15.	M-43580	"	45
16.	M-43579	"	44
17.	M-43578	"	43
18.	M-43577	"	42
19.	M-43576	"	41
20.	M-43575	"	40

21.	M-43574	RMC5	39
22.	M-43573	"	38
23.	M-43572	"	37
24.	M-43571	"	36
25.	M-43570	"	35
26.	M-43569	"	33
27.	M-43568	"	34

situated in Sec. 6, Blk G-11, Jas. H. Miller Sur., and Sec. 4, Blk T.J., S. F. 11493, Brewster County, Texas.

3. The proposed program is to explore the property by 17,450 feet of churn drilling in an unspecified number of holes at undesignated locations, 300 linear feet of 4 feet by 5 feet test pits, and shafts, drifts and crosscuts, of unspecified lengths, at undesignated locations.

4. Although scattered mercury mineralization is found in parts of the area intended to be explored, little evidence is furnished by the applicant to indicate that minable deposits of mercury ore might be discovered by the proposed work.

5. The Field Team concludes that there is little probability of making a significant discovery, and recommends denial. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

6. If the applicant furnishes detailed cost estimates for a sound exploration program, together with detailed maps showing results of additional systematic prospecting and sampling, and other data essential to clearly indicate a reasonable probability of making a significant discovery, a new application for exploration assistance should be considered.

SPHelt:foc
11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Operating Committee

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

400

NOV 18 1955

3787

Hon. Omar Burleson
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burleson:

On September 22, 1955, Mr. Phillips of your office requested that you be informed when we had completed action on an application for exploration assistance submitted by Big Bend Mining, Inc. (F. S. Hendrick, President), Box 269, Abilene, Texas, our Docket No. DMRA 3787 - Mercury, Adobe Walls Dome, Brewster County, Texas.

After a field examination of the referenced property and consideration of all available data, we have concluded that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by the applicant's proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation in an exploration project. We regret to advise you, therefore, that this application has been denied.

For your information, a copy of our letter of denial to Big Bend Mining, Inc., is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

ACTING Administrator

SPMOLT:foc
11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Operating Comm.

Enclosure

FT. REG. IV
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS
Congressional File (400)

400

RECEIVED
OCT 21 1955

October 20, 1955

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: J. W. Pennington, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of Field Team Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA 3707 (mercury) $134,400, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Box 26, Abilene, Texas, Adobe Walls Prospect, Brewster County, Texas

The proposed exploration program of the applicant, estimated to cost $134,400, is indefinite and lacks supporting geologic evidence.

For these reasons, I agree with the recommendation of the Field Team that the application should be denied without prejudice to the property.

However, the area is favorable for mercury exploration and perhaps an acceptable program will be submitted in the future.

J. W. Pennington

J. W. Pennington

JWPennington/vr

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals
J. W. Pennington
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F i l e s

400

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

October 3, 1955

Copy retained 400

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

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

Subject: Review of Field Team Report, DMEA 3787, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Adobe Walls prospect, Brewster County, Texas (Mercury).

The examining team recommends that DMEA application 3787 be denied without prejudice. The report is not very forceful in rejecting the property. Cognizance is given to the favorable geologic conditions and the presence of cinnabar on the property. The Field Team then concludes that denial should be made because the property is about 12 miles from the nearest mine in the Terlingua District and only a small amount of cinnabar has been found on the property.

The last are, to me, dubious concepts where active, aggressive minerals exploration is concerned.

I visited the Adobe Walls dome in 1953 in company with Mr. L. C. Whittiker, presently representative of the applicant. I was greatly impressed with the geologic similarity of the dome with mercury deposits in the Terlingua district 12 miles to the south. Some of the favorable geologic conditions are:

1) A domical uplift indicating the presence of a deep-seated igneous intrusive mass.

2) Many faults and fractures.

3) Collapsed 'sink' structures that localize ore deposits in the Terlingua District.

4) The same ore host as in the Terlingua District, the Georgetown limestone, capped with the impervious Del Rio clay.

5) Calcite veins that contain cinnabar.

The Adobe Walls dome seems to me to be a good place to explore for mercury ore. I think an exploration project would have a good chance of finding ore. A discovery of ore on the property would extend the Terlingua District a dozen miles to the north.

If the applicant has no clear-cut ideas as to how he wishes to proceed in an exploration project, and if he has not presented his proposals on a suitable geologic map then, perhaps, the application should be denied without prejudice.

I urge that serious consideration be given by DMEA to any future exploration applications on the Adobe Walls dome.

W. P. Williams

WPWilliams:iml
G-10/3/55

cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
H. M. Meyer, 3623

400

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

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1955

P. O. Box #431
Joplin, Missouri

September 23, 1955

WEM

Memorandum

To: DMEA Operating Committee, Interior Bldg., Wash. 25, D. C.

From: C. C. Knox, Region IV Field Team Executive, Joplin, Mo.

Subject: Field Team Examination Report
Application Docket DMEA-3787 (mercury-uranium)
Big Bend Mining, Inc., Box 269, Abilene, Texas
$134,440 exploration project proposal
Adobe Walls Dome prospects, Brewster County, Texas

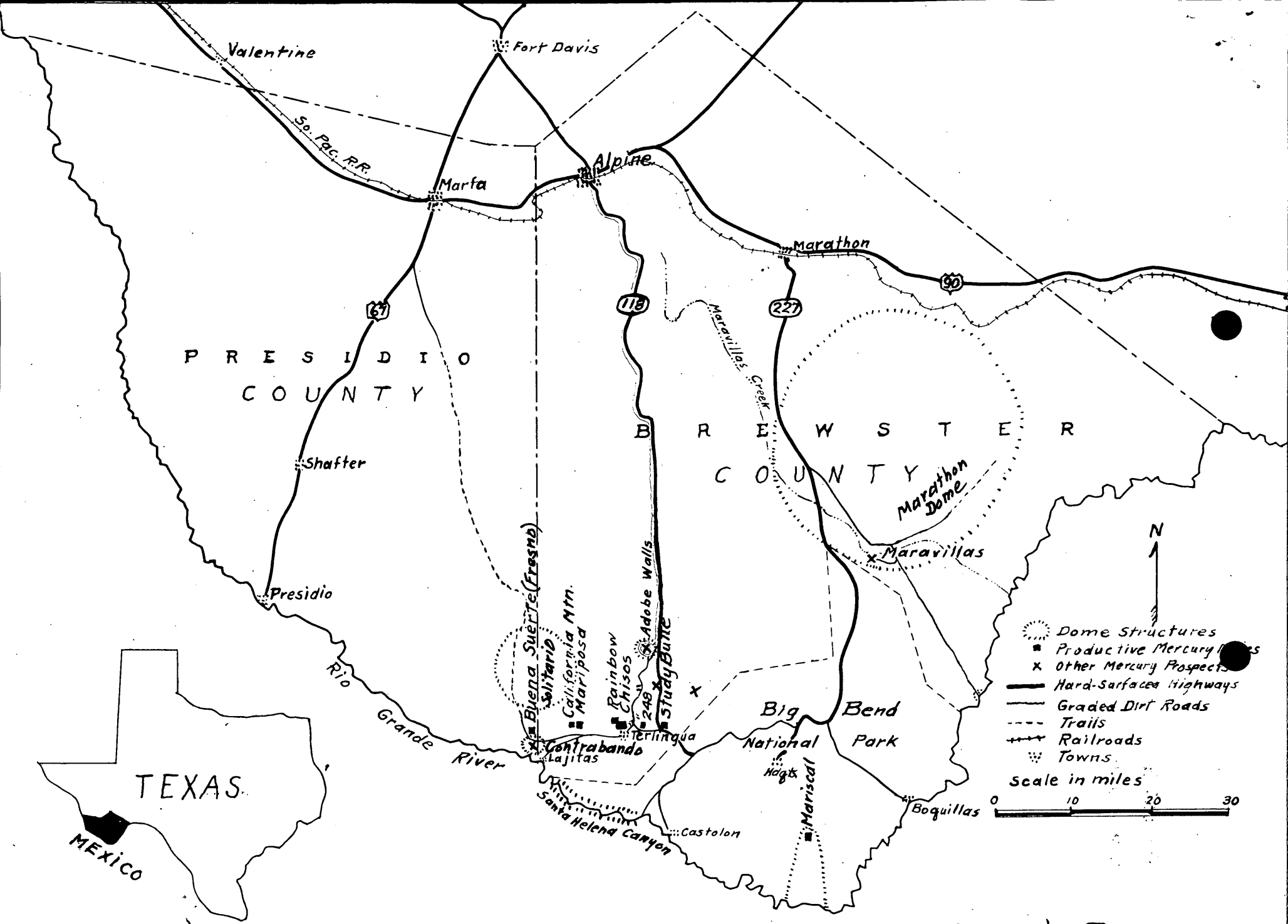
Summary, conclusions, and recommendations:

The geologic report by Donald R. MacLaren, USGS, Denver, covering his examination of the Applicant's prospects in June, 1955, ~~is appended herein~~. I concur with his findings and recommendations therein for denial of the application proposal.

During the first half of August the Applicant extended an access road and bulldozed two preliminary prospect trenches for annual assessment work at an indicated breccia pipe structure on one of the southernmost Adobe Walls claims. Therefore, when in the Terlingua district on another assignment, I also examined all the Applicant's Adobe Walls prospect briefly in the forenoon of August 19, accompanied by Mr. George F. Fry and Mr. L. C. Whittiker, the Applicant's representatives. They failed to show, however, that the new trenches enhanced the meager evidence presented with the application. That area as well as the several other large favorable-appearing roughly circular areas of clay and other rocks which seem to indicate breccia pipe structures on the Applicant's claims, remains virtually unprospected.

Obviously since finding the mercury minerals on Adobe Walls Dome four years ago, only desultory prospecting has been done, unguided by any detailed geologic mapping and unaccompanied by proper sampling and adequate recording of any other significant data that might have been revealed. The sporadic-appearing traces of mercury

9-30-55



Location of Mercury Mines and Prospects in the Big Bend Region of Texas

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SEP 2 6 1955

and uranium minerals, evidenced in two of the shallow prospect shafts in Georgetown limestone outcrops in the northwestern part of the Applicant's claims, together with the Applicant's reported analyses on only two samples therefrom, are considered insufficient to indicate a geologic probability for making a worthwhile discovery there.

Geologically Adobe Walls Dome appears to bear much similarity to numerous structures identified with the Terlingua mercury region of Texas. A centralized roughly pentahedral upthrust block, about one mile across, bounded by vertical faults, is featured, however, on Adobe Walls Dome. The upper Georgetown limestone strata, generally found to have been most receptive to mercury ore deposition in the Terlingua district mines to the southward, are exposed by erosion in large areas, especially in the north and west parts of that upthrust block. The Applicant has failed to show any significant mercury-bearing float to indicate that appreciable ore deposition might have occurred there.

Therefore, I concur with MacLaren in recommending that this application proposal be denied without prejudice to the property. It should be considered again, however, if an application is presented in the future with a conservative-appearing exploration project proposal, well-founded on adequate detailed geologic mapping, results of additional systematic prospecting and sampling, and other essential information to clearly indicate a reasonable probability for making a significant discovery there.

Property, location, accessibility, and availability of operating facilities:

The Applicant's 27 mining claims in section 6, Block G-11, Jas. H. Miller Sur., and in section 4, Block T.J.S.F. 11493, Brewster County, Texas, practically cover Adobe Walls Dome, about twelve miles north of hitherto productive mines in the Terlingua mercury district. All the claims are on land of the State of Texas which granted the 27 Mineral Awards as set forth in the application.

Adobe Walls Dome is reached by traveling the newly oiled State Highway 118 from Alpine about 73 miles southward and thence on the rough access road three miles westward to the claims, generally accessible by jeep the year around.

The claims are on rough rocky terrain, sparsely covered by some desert vegetation. Relief ranges from 3,300 to 3,700 f.a.s. The climate is generally mild to hot and the occasional rains likely would not effect any prospecting or mining that might be done there.

No facilities exist on the claims and there are no power lines in this region. The Applicant tentatively planned to obtain water from a well two miles north of the claims and arrange for use of a rancher's cabin there as a project camp. No local labor supply remains since all mining in the region was abandoned at the close of World War II. Some mining supplies are available in Alpine but El Paso, 225 miles to the west, is the principal supply center.

The Adobe Walls prospect workings consist of only the few shallow shafts, pits, and bulldozer trenches mentioned in the application; no ore reserves are evidenced and no production has been obtained.

On my previous visit to Adobe Walls with Mr. L. C. Whittiker in June, 1951, he just had bulldozed an access road to the top of the dome and two shallow prospect trenches at site No. 4, indicated on the Applicant's map. No mercury or other ore minerals were megascopically indicated but I selected a composite sample from those trenches, including some dark-colored gossan-like material at the contact between limestone and clay, for the Rolla laboratory of the Bureau of Mines. It reported that the sample contained no significant radioactivity but by the willemite screen test, a relatively "high" mercury content was indicated, presumably on the order of at least 0.10 percent.

During the next two years Mr. Whittiker sunk a 12-foot shaft in the clay and breccia-like material at site No. 4 and attempted to core drill three four-inch holes near the sites designated as Nos. 10 and 11 on the Applicant's map. The drilling was unsuccessful and all three holes had to be abandoned at very shallow depths due to adverse ground conditions. The greatest depth attained reportedly was only 75 feet in one of the holes. He stated that in all the work up until then the only visible cinnabar found was in calcite at 10 feet in depth in the northernmost drill hole. He then leased the claims to a uranium prospector who did the rest of the prospect excavating by 1954, and revealed the sporadic-appearing traces of mercury and uranium minerals now visable in the two shallow prospect shafts in Georgetown limestone at site 11. In addition to some examination work during the past year by Mr. George F. Fry and Mr. L. C. Whittiker, in connection with preparing the Application, the Applicant corporation only has extended the access road southward and bulldozed two preliminary prospect trenches for annual assessment work at the site designated as No. 15 on its map, accomplished just prior to my recent visit there on August 19.

The Applicant:

The applicant corporation is a newly formed subsidiary of the Kendrick Oil Co. of Abilene, Texas, understood to be a very

successful, financially responsible, oil field exploration, development, and production concern, but not heretofore engaging in any metalliferous mining venture. Mr. P. S. Kendrick, President and principal owner of the Kendrick Oil Co. and also the applicant corporation, designed Mr. L. C. Whittiker to be the supervisor of the exploration project proposed in the application.

Mr. Whittiker's experience includes that as a roofing contractor and wholesale distributor, a dealer in second-hand machinery and other oil field and mining supplies, and more recently in association with Mr. George F. Fry, operations of Oklahoma oil leases, in all of which endeavors he obviously has been quite successful. Primarily as a hobby, Mr. Whittiker has spent much time since 1940 prospecting in southwestern Texas, conversing with geologists, and becoming well-versed on pertinent geologic publications. Obviously lacking the necessary practical experience on systematic prospecting and exploration, however, he would require close consultation with a competent mining engineer or geologist to properly conduct the Applicant's proposed project.

The Applicant's exploration proposal:

The exploration program as proposed in the application essential would consist of 17,450 feet of churn drilling to complete an unspecified number of exploratory holes at undesignated locations, and 300 linear feet of 4 x 5-foot test pits, shafts, and exploratory drifts or cross cuts, likewise unspecified and undesignated, over all to cost an estimated $134,440.

One or two holes were to be churn drilled as deep as 1,000 feet to investigate the mercury-bearing possibilities of the upper Edwards limestone strata and the basal cretaceous sand-conglomerate below. Such an investigation would be unprecedented in the Texas mercury region. The proposal evidently was based on theories informally advanced by some of the geologists studying the region during the past five years, including Dr. W. N. McAnulty, Professor of Geology, Sul Ross College, Alpine, Texas. They theorized that only the basal cretaceous sand-conglomerate beds have sufficient porosity to have affected the wide-spread distribution of cinnabar, and associated bitumen in some of the many occurrences which have been found in this vast region extending from the Fresno mine (Docket DMA-2202X) in Presidio County on the west, 40 miles eastward to the Maravillas prospect (Docket DMA-1514X) on Marathon Dome, and at least 50 miles north to south from Adobe Walls Dome far into Chihuahua, Mexico. They further theorized that wherever faulting and dissolution actions prepared structural escapes, the upward migrating mercury mineralization might have formed important ore deposits in the hitherto unexplored

upper Edwards limestone strata in trap or umbrella-like structures formed by the overlying impervious Kiamichi marl, just as the known, stratigraphically higher, Texas mercury deposits were formed mostly in the upper Georgetown strata, immediately beneath the seal of Del Rio clay.

I explained to the Applicant's representatives that the Government acting through DMEA, could not participate in costs of exploratory drilling based entirely on a geologic hypothesis, however logical it might appear. I further explained that while results of more or less detailed geologic examinations and mapping accomplished before the close of World War II, are available on most of the Terlingua mercury properties, including their Contrabando Dome (Docket DMEA-3776), no such Governmental investigative work ever has been done at Adobe Walls. Therefore, I suggested that the Applicant should do all such work there in sufficient detail to fully justify an exploration program. I pointed out that systematic additional surface prospecting was needed to permit detailed geologic mapping on an adequate scale, especially in the immediate areas of proposed exploration sites in some of which indicated "sink" structures appear to be at least 400 feet across. Sufficient mercury-bearing material should be revealed by the prospects on the "rim" zones of the "sinks" and related fractures in the Georgetown limestone to justify concisely located exploratory work.

A copy of The geologic report and sketch maps by MacLaren, USGS, Denver, [redacted] is attached to each of the other 3 copies of this report.

Clinton C. Knox
Clinton C. Knox

CCK/vks
Encl. (2)
cc: DMEA Op. Com. 3
MacLaren
Knox
3787 file

402

3787

9/22/55

Re: DMEA 3776 -Contrabando Dome
and
DMEA 3787 Adobe Walls
Big Bend Mining, Inc.

Mr. Phillips of Congressman Omar Burleson telephoned and talked with Mr. Martin regarding status of above applications, since Mr. Kendricks had called the Congressman for assistance in expediting matter.

Mr. Martin explained that contract being worked on for DMEA 3776; that a denial probable for DMEA 3787 due to lack of information. Also said a wire had today been sent to FT asking them to contact applicant re getting a 3rd party guarantee or surety bond in lieu of Owner's Consent to Lien.

Mr. Martin promised to notify Congressman when a contract was approved and sent out.

ls

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1955

P. O. Box #431
Joplin, Missouri

September 23, 1955

Memorandum

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From: C. C. Knox, Region IV Field Team Executive, Joplin, Mo. WSM

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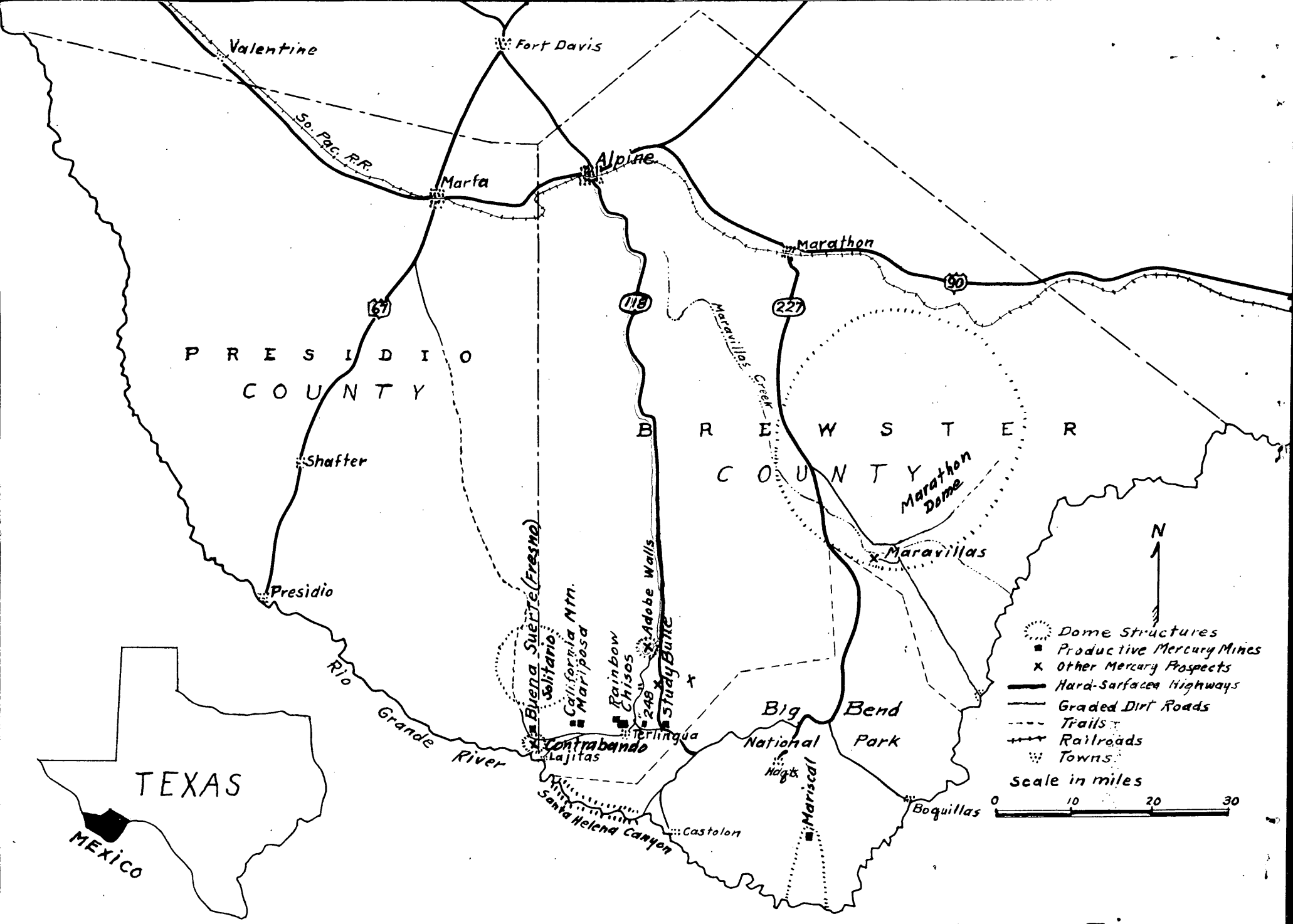

Location of Mercury Mines and Prospects in the Big Bend Region of Texas

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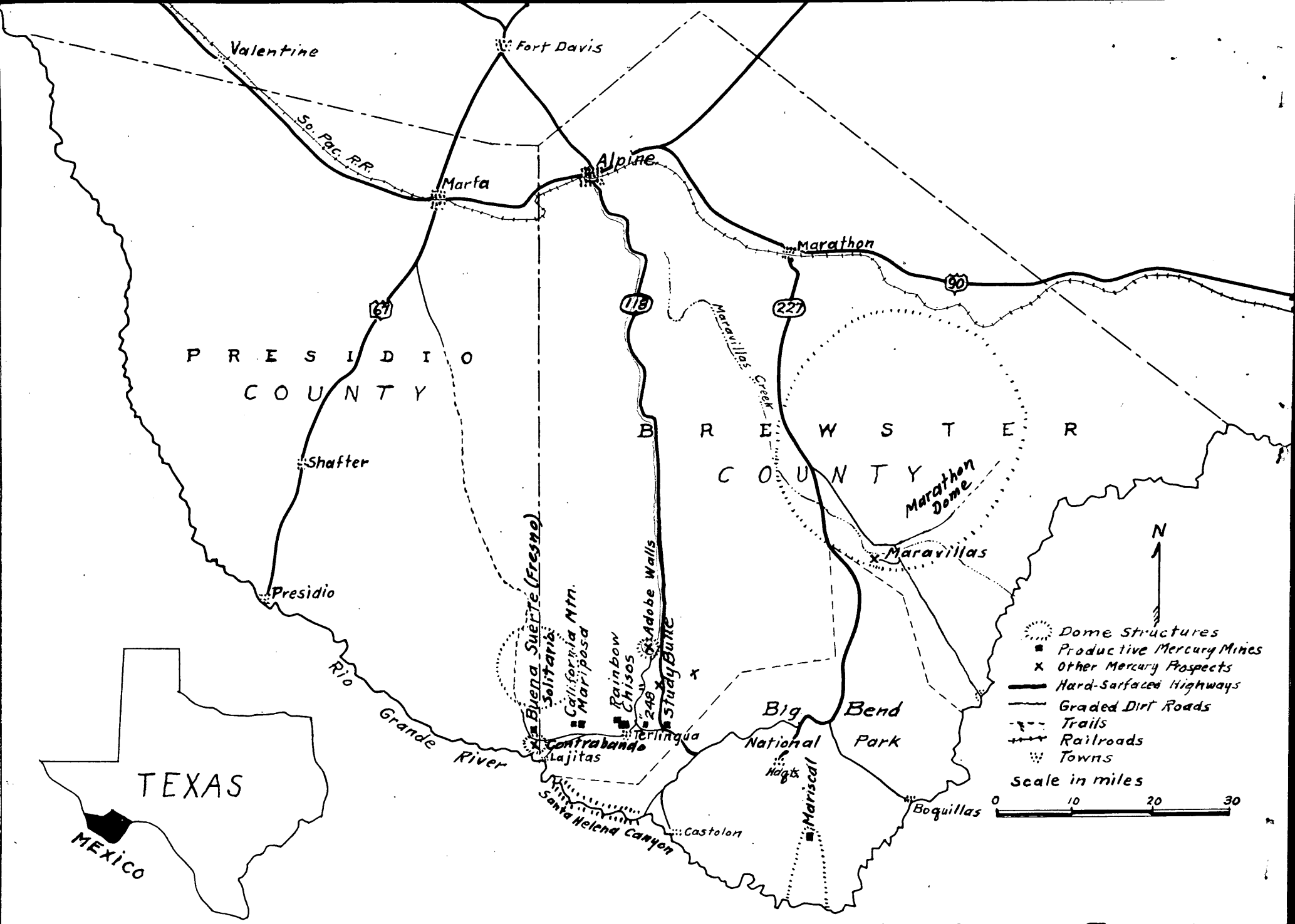

Location of Mercury Mines and Prospects in the Big Bend Region of Texas

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1955

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 7, 1955

Memorandum

To: All Employees of the Department

From: Administrative Assistant Secretary

Subject: Honor Awards Convocation, Interior Auditorium, September 12, 1955, 2 p.m.

The Department will hold its sixteenth honor awards convocation in the Interior Auditorium on Monday, September 12, at 2 p.m., at which time 18 Distinguished Service Awards will be presented.

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SEP 28 1956

and uranium minerals, evidenced in two of the shallow prospect shafts in Georgetown limestone outcrops in the northwestern part of the Applicant's claims, together with the Applicant's reported analyses on only two samples therefrom, are considered insufficient to indicate a geologic probability for making a worthwhile discovery there.

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One or two holes were to be churn drilled as deep as 1,000 feet to investigate the mercury-bearing possibilities of the upper Edwards limestone strata and the basal cretaceous sand-conglomerate below. Such an investigation would be unprecedented in the Texas mercury region. The proposal evidently was based on theories informally advanced by some of the geologists studying the region during the past five years, including Dr. W. N. McAnulty, Professor of Geology, Sul Ross College, Alpine, Texas. They theorized that only the basal cretaceous sand-conglomerate beds have sufficient porosity to have affected the wide-spread distribution of cinnabar, and associated bitumen in some of the many occurrences which have been found in this vast region extending from the Fresno mine (Docket DMA-2202X) in Presidio County on the west, 40 miles eastward to the Maravillas prospect (Docket DMA-1514X) on Marathon Dome, and at least 50 miles north to south from Adobe Walls Dome far into Chihuahua, Mexico. They further theorized that wherever faulting and dissolution actions prepared structural escapes, the upward migrating mercury mineralization might have formed important ore deposits in the hitherto unexplored

upper Edwards limestone strata in trap or umbrella-like structures formed by the overlying impervious Kiamichi marl, just as the known, stratigraphically higher, Texas mercury deposits were found mostly in the upper Georgetown strata, immediately beneath the seal of Del Rio clay.

I explained to the Applicant's representatives that the Government acting through DMEA, could not participate in costs of exploratory drilling based entirely on a geologic hypothesis, however logical it might appear. I further explained that while results of more or less detailed geologic examinations and mapping accomplished before the close of World War II, are available on most of the Terlingua mercury properties, including their Contrabando Dome (Docket DMEA-3776), no such Governmental investigative work ever has been done at Adobe Walls. Therefore, I suggested that the Applicant should do all such work there in sufficient detail to fully justify an exploration program. I pointed out that systematic additional surface prospecting was needed to permit detailed geologic mapping on an adequate scale, especially in the immediate areas of proposed exploration sites in some of which indicated "sink" structures appear to be at least 400 feet across. Sufficient mercury-bearing material should be revealed by the prospects on the "rim" zones of the "sinks" and related fractures in the Georgetown limestone to justify concisely located exploratory work.

The geologic report and sketch maps by MacLaren, USGS, Denver, are appended here.

Clinton C. Knox
Clinton C. Knox

CCK/vks
Encl. (2)
cc: DMEA Op. Com. 3
MacLaren
Knox
3787 file

DIVISION
JUL 25 1955
BUREAU OF MINES
JOPLIN, MO.
RECEIVED
SEP 26 1955

DMEA Docket 3707

GEOLOGY

The geology of the Terlingua district has been described in University of Texas Bulletin 3401 by Sellards and Baker, and by Clyde P. Ross (1934), in AIME Technical Publication No. 335 by C. N. Schuette (1930), and in University of Texas Bulletin 1822 by J. A. Udden (1918). An exploratory drilling program conducted by the U. S. Bureau of Mines at the Chisos and Fresno mines is described in U. S. Bureau of Mines RI 3995 by A. M. Evans and W. M. Traver, Jr. (1947). [redacted] Mr. T. F. Adams, engineer for Brown and Root, Inc., the present owners of the Chisos and Rainbow mines, was consulted and supplied additional helpful information. All these sources of information have been freely used in preparing the following report.

Most of the known mercury mines in the Terlingua district are within an area approximately 15 miles long in an east-west direction, and 4 miles wide, north to south. If deposits in the Mariscal Mountains southeast of Terlingua and others in Mexico are included, the area is about 30 miles long and 20 miles wide.

Rocks in the Terlingua district are limestones, shales, and clays of Cretaceous age. Paleozoic and older sediments that are exposed in the Solitario Dome, about 10 miles to the northwest, probably underlie the Cretaceous rocks. There are many intrusive igneous rocks of Tertiary age, mostly andesite, trachyte, and trachyandesite that form small laccoliths, pipes, dikes and sills. The normal section of the economically important sediments is:

Eagle Ford shale (Boquillas flags)	1,000 feet
Buda limestone	50 - 85 feet
Del Rio clay	100 - 170 feet
Georgetown (Devil's River) limestone	800 - 1,000 feet

The structure is slightly complex due to faults, folds, domes, and collapsed areas. A large anticline plunges southeasterly from the Solitario Dome. In general the dips are moderate, ranging from 1° to 10°, except on the southwest flank of the anticline where they are locally vertical. There are two major fault systems, one striking N. 40° W. parallel to the axis of the anticline, the other striking N. 60° to 80° E. Faulting has resulted in uplifted and depressed blocks, and at least one northwesterly striking graben. Locally, intrusion of small laccoliths and igneous pipes has resulted in doming of the sediments, while the formation of solution cavities in the underlying limestones followed by collapse of the overlying beds has resulted in the formation of depressions and sink holes.

The mercury ore bodies in the district may be generally classified as manto, fissure, and pipe-like breccia deposits. The largest and richest deposits are of the manto type and are found in the upper 100 feet of the Georgetown limestone where mineralizing solutions migrating upwards along the faults were trapped beneath the impervious Del Rio clay. Solution cavities in the limestone along faults are filled by fragments of limestone and clay that have fallen from the roofs and walls of the cavities. Cinnabar and calcite have filled the resulting voids

and cracks as well as some of the pore spaces in the limestone fragments, forming pipe-like breccia deposits. Along the faults, smaller fissure-type ore deposits were formed by the deposition of cinnabar in a calcite gangue. At Study Butte, in the eastern part of the district, the ore occurs in fissures in an igneous sill and in small manto-type deposits between the sill and the overlying shales. At the Chisos and Rainbow mines the ore is mostly in mantos and breccia pipes in the upper 100 feet of the Georgetown limestone, with smaller deposits of the same types in the Buda limestone. Perhaps the best example of the manto-type deposit is at the Mariposa mine in the California Hill area. Here much of the Del Rio clay has been eroded exposing the ore at the surface. At the Fresno mine in the western part of the Terlingua district, there are two ore bodies of the manto type, 6 to 12 feet wide in the upper part of the Georgetown limestone, and one smaller body in the Buda limestone, which outcrops on the surface. Elsewhere in the district small deposits of the Manto and breccia types have been found in the Buda limestone below the Eagle Ford shale. A few deposits have been found in the Austin series which overlies the Eagle Ford shale, but they are small and insignificant.

The Adobe Walls dome is about 13 miles northeasterly from the Chisos mine at Terlingua, and about 11 miles northerly from the Study Butte, the two closest known mines. Sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age have been pushed up into a dome about 2 miles in diameter, probably by the intrusion of an igneous plug or a small laccolith. The central part of the dome (fig. /) is a roughly pentagonal up-thrust

block, about 1 mile across, bounded by vertical faults. On the flanks of the dome erosion has exposed beds of Del Rio clay, Buda limestone, and Eagle Ford shale that dip about 22° away from the upthrust central portion where the beds are nearly horizontal. About three-quarters of the surface of the upthrust portion is Edwards limestone which, in the southeast one-quarter of the area is overlain by a thin section of Del Rio clay. In the west central part of the upthrust portion is a small rounded knob of Buda limestone that overlies Del Rio clay. Several small dikes and plugs ranging in composition from trachyite to trachyandesite have intruded the sedimentary beds in the central part of the dome. Within the central area there are several secondary vertical faults that strike N. 8° E., N 50° E and almost due east. There are also several roughly circular depressed areas some of which probably are the result of collapsed sub-surface solution cavities in the limestone, while others are probably the result of solution of the limestone at the surface. The depressions that appear to be the most likely ones resulting from collapse are those indicated at drill sites 4, 10, 11, and 12; those most likely due to surface erosion are the ones in drill area 15; and the rest are of doubtful origin. Depressed areas within drill sites 10, 11, and 12 are along a fault that strikes about N. 50° E. In drill site 10 there are two pits, 8 to 10 feet deep and a shaft about 25 feet deep. A sample taken by the applicant at a depth of 20 feet in the shaft assayed 0.66 percent Hg. The shaft was not accessible but several small specks of cinnabar associated with calcite were found on the dump. There was no vein apparent at the shaft

collar. Some of the calcite fragments were fairly large and could conceivably have formed in voids between breccia fragments, although no such fragments were identified on the dump. In drill site 11 there are two shallow shafts about 10 feet deep. The applicant took a sample at a depth of about 6 feet in the northernmost shaft that assayed 0.58 percent U_3O_8. Scintillometer readings made by the examiners failed to indicate any appreciable radiation above background in the vicinity of the shaft and only a few isolated flakes of a greenish yellow radioactive mineral (uranophane?) were found in material on the dump. No other evidence of the occurrence of radioactive minerals was found. Sites 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 15 were also visited, but no evidence of cinnabar was seen although the applicant stated and later demonstrated that willemite screen tests gave a mercury cloud from many rock samples taken at each of those sites. Included with the application were two spectrographic analyses of rock samples taken by the applicant at drill sites 4 and 11. The presence of mercury was not detected in either sample. However, L. B. Riley of the Geochemistry and Petrology Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey stated that this does not necessarily preclude the presence of mercury as the lowest amount detectable by ordinary means is 1 percent, while with special equipment as much as 0.1 percent Hg is necessary for detection.

SUMMARY

Mercury ore bodies in the Terlingua district occur as manto and breccia deposits in the Georgetown and Buda limestones and as fissure

deposits in igneous pipes, dikes, and sills, their deposition usually being controlled by northeast trending faults and to a lesser extent by northwest trending faults. At Adobe Walls dome, only in the southeast quarter of the upthrown block and a small area in the west central portion of that block is the Georgetown limestone overlain by the impervious Del Rio clay. In those areas no mineralized faults that might control mineralization were seen. There are three depressed areas along a fault that strikes N. 50° E. in which cinnabar occurs in small amounts. The surface rock at each of these depressions is only a few feet below the top of the Georgetown limestone, one of the best horizons for ore formation in the Terlingua district. Should these depressions indicate underlying breccia pipes that have been strongly mineralized, it seems reasonable to expect much more float containing cinnabar than is actually found. There are other depressions in the area that may be the result of the collapse of sub-surface solution cavities or only the result of surface solution of the limestone. No evidence of cinnabar was seen in any of them.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the presence of favorable structure and host rock and the evidence of mercury at the surface along one northeasterly-striking fault indicate that Adobe Walls dome might merit some cautious exploration, but that the distance from the nearest known ore deposit in the Terlingua district and the limited amount of cinnabar found indicate that the chance of making a significant discovery of mercury

is no better than fair. It is, therefore, recommended that the application be denied without prejudice to the property. Should additional prospecting by the applicant uncover evidence of the existence of a breccia plug, vein, or manto containing cinnabar in reasonable amounts, then a program of exploration by shafting, drifting, cross-cutting, and/or drilling could be considered.

Secretary McKay is scheduled to address the convocation and all employees are urged to be present. The program should not last longer than an hour.

D. Otis Beasley

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8/29/55

Re: DMEA 3787-Mercury

Extract from letter of 8/29/55 by Exec. Officer, Region 4, to Donald R. MacLaren, USGS, Denver, re Knox's trip to inspect properties of Big Bend Mining, Inc. First 2 pages of letter concer DMEA 3776 & is filed in that docket; one paragraph on page 3 concerns DMEA 3787, Adobe Walls property, and is copied below:

"I also went to this applicant's Adobe Walls property, DMEA 3787, during the forenoon before my plane left Alpine that Friday, August 19. They had built a new access road to the site designated No. 15 on the Applicant's map, and done some bulldozer trenching there for annual assessment work. They wanted suggestions on eventually preparing a more comprehensive application which might justify approval. I explained that no geologic mapping had been done on Adobe Walls Dome as was done at Contrabando when the U.S.G.S. map was prepared which is included in the structural Geology of the Terlingua district by Thompson, so it would be up to the Applicant to properly map Adobe Walls in detail. I certainly agree with your recommendations for denial of the present application. Although much work has been done on Adobe Walls since I was there four years ago, little of it constituted systematic prospecting, none of which was sytematically recorded or given proper mention in the application at hand on which I am preparing the report to be submitted to Washington."

IN REPLY REFER TO: 400

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1955

July 22, 1955

Through: E. N. Harshman EWH

Subject: Geologic report for Docket 3787

WJM

Mr. Clinton C. Knox, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV
P. O. Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Copy retained 400

Dear Clint:

Enclosed are the original and three copies of my geologic report on Adobe Walls Dome, Docket 3787. The illustration is being drafted and should be on the way about the middle of next week.

I have recommended denial without prejudice to the property because in the only area where I was shown any mercury the present land surface is not very far below the top of the Georgetown (Devil's River) limestone, one of the most productive horizons in the Terlingua district. Had there been any appreciable deposition of mercury, either in collapsed cavities in the limestone or as veins along the fault, it seems to me that there should be an abundance of residual ore in fragments of float. Very little cinnabar can be found on the surface. However, should future additional prospecting by pits or drill holes, show that this contention is erroneous and that mercury has been deposited in the breccia pipes or veins in possibly ore amounts, then certainly exploration by shafting would be in order. If you feel that DMEA should put down a few shallow test holes and/or shafts within the limits of drill sites 4, 10, 11, and 12, in spite of the long shot chance of finding an ore body, let me have your ideas and I will certainly reconsider my recommendation and try to go along with you.

Sincerely yours,

Don

Donald R. MacLaren

Enclosures

Copy to: DMEA Operating Committee (2)
Kiilsgaard

DRMacLaren:arh

400

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

[redacted]

RECEIVED
JUL 14 1955

P. O. Box #431
Joplin, Missouri

July 12, 1955

Airmail

Mr. Donald R. MacLaren
U.S. Geological Survey, DMEA
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 25
Denver 2, Colorado

Re: DMEA-3770,-3776, and -3787

Dear Don:

With reference to my July 11 letter to you, this is to transmit copies of analyses received from Rolla today on the three samples you submitted June 14.

They do not appear too spectacular. If you require P and Zn-Pb-Cu analyses on the manganese sample, please let me know. Perhaps Mr. Neyland furnished you copies of the settlement sheets on his shipments to Deming.

I assume the L.01 on the second sample is intended to be the U.S.B.M. Chemists designation for less than 0.01 percent Hg.

Judging from my cursory observations and from production reportedly obtained from the so-called Shoemaker prospect on Contrabando Dome, Presidio County, I expect there is some fair mercury mineralization showing there.

Sincerely yours,

Clinton C. Knox
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV

CCK/vks
Encl. (2)
cc: DMEA Op. Com (2)
3770 file
3776 "
3787 "

Copy retained 400

400

BIG BEND MINING, INC.

Box 269

ABILENE, TEXAS

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1955

June 14, 1955

Re: DMEA 3787
Exploration Assistance

Mr. D. R. MacLaren
U. S. Geo. Sur.
Mineral Deposits Branch
Bldg. 25
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. MacLaren:

This will call your attention to several errors in cost figures which we submitted to DMEA on this project. Please make the following corrections:

Under Paragraph 6, Section B, cost of the extra man, as set out in the written report under Para. 5, Section B was not included. This man would be principally occupied in panning and preparing samples for shipping and preservation. Please enter additional cost item for this man under Para. 6, Section B of cost sheet for 2,880 hours at .75 per hour - Total $2,160.00.

Under Paragraph 6, Section D, Line #3 should read as follows: maintaining roads for 18 mos. 60 hours @ 12.50 per hour. It is very questionable whether this figure is adequate but since we cannot predict rainfall, we will leave it as submitted, contingent on the road building being acceptable.

Under Paragraph 6, Section G, please correct the following: Workmen's Compensation $277.35, Employers' Tax $ 22.78, Social Security Tax $ 389.40, making a total of $ 689.53 for insurance instead of $1,019.19.

Please adjust the grand total to $ 136, 270.91 and increase the offer under the short form contract to $ 132,675.34.

Trusting that your recent examination of this property will result in a favorable report for this project, I remain

Yours very truly,

BIG BEND MINING, INC.

By Geo. F. Fry

Geo. F. Fry, Vice-President

GFF:vy
cc: Clinton Knox
4- Robert E. Adams, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

Mines 3787

Copied from MINING WORK, May 1955, Vol. 17 No. 6, Page 102

Experience miners are being sought for the Fresno mercury mine near Terlingua, Brewster County, Texas, where current production of about one flask per day is to be increased. Mercury miners left the district when the mines closed after the war with a severe drop in mercury prices.

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Mr. P. S. Kendrick, President
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3767 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance has been reviewed by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. Clinton G. Knox, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region IV, P. O. Box 431, Joplin, Missouri, for a field examination of the property.

Any assistance that you can give the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

G. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

cc: Docket
Adm. Read. File
FT, Reg. 4
Oper. Comm.
Code 400
Thor Kiilsgaard, USGS
H. M. Meyer, USBM

WSMartin/ls
4/28/55

MAY - 2 1955

400

Mr. Clinton C. Knox, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV
P. O. Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Knox:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance is being referred to your office for a field examination.

Two copies of a relevant memorandum dated April 26, 1955, by E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey, are enclosed for your information. Although Mr. Newcomb recommended that the applicant be requested to submit additional information on previous exploration results, we are making the field referral immediately because we believe from the copy sent to us of Mr. George F. Fry's letter to you of April 19, 1955, that you will be able to obtain such information more expeditiously. It is also probable that you will find it convenient to make the field examination for the subject docket at the same time as the field examination for Docket No. DMEA 3776.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin
ACTING Chairman, Operating Committee

Enclosures

APPROVED:

M. E. Volin
Member, Bureau of Mines

/s/ R. D. Grace
Member, Geological Survey

cc: Docket
FT, Reg. 4
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Oper. Committee
Thor Kiilsgaard, USGS
H. M. Meyer, USBM

WSMartin/ls
4/28/55

IN REPLY REFER TO:

400

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

April 26, 1955

Re: DMEA-3787
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
(Adobe Walls Area)
Brewster Co., Texas
$134,440.57
Mercury-Uranium

Copy retained 400

Memorandum

To: E. W. Ellis, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application

The applicant has proposed a very extensive program of exploration consisting of 17,450 feet of drilling, 125 feet of shaft sinking, 75 feet of drifting and 100 feet of trenching.

Several assay certificates have been submitted, but only two are significant to our consideration, an assay of 0.58 percent U_3O_8 from an unknown quantity of material and another containing 0.66 percent mercury. Further information is needed to more fully appraise the exploration possibilities of the property.

Mr. Knox in his transmittal memorandum of April 21 refers to possible shaft sinking, trenching and diamond drilling which may have been done in 1953. I recommend the applicant be requested to submit additional information on previous exploration results, location of work and description of types of work performed.

E. L. Newcomb

ELNewcomb:hlm
G-4/26/55

Copy to: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3)
Docket file
M. M. Meyer, 2623 Interior

Copy retained 400

400

Cc: - DMEA Operating Committee
Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
P. O. BOX 431
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

P. O. Box #431
Joplin, Missouri

April 21, 1955

dmea 3787

Airmail

Operation's Control and Statistical Div.
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Big Bend Mining, Inc.
DMEA Application for
Adobe Walls mercury exploration, Brewster County, Texas

Dear Sirs:

Under separate cover I am forwarding for reviews and docket number assignment the original and two copies of another application received today from the above-cited corporation. One copy is being retained in the Field Team's file.

I visited this Adobe Walls prospect briefly in 1951 with Mr. L. C. Whittiker, immediately after he had completed the steep and rough access trail and some bulldozer prospecting. The potentialities of that dome structure appeared impressive. I believe that W. P. Williams, while he was the Field Team Executive in 1953, also visited the prospect with Mr. Whittiker. I understand that at least some of the described prospect shaft sinking, trenching, and an attempt at diamond drilling had been done at that time. Preparation of a DMEA application only was being contemplated then.

This application apparently presents a bold sort of exploration approach but such might have to be used if the Texas mercury industry is ever revived.

Sincerely yours,

Clinton C. Knox
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV

CCK/vks

cc: DMEA Op. Com (3)
Mr. Fry, Abilene
Pending Appl. file

JAN 28 1957

Mr. William C. Knox, Executive Officer
Field Team, Region IV
P. O. Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Re: Docket No. [illegible] 3776 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Contrabando Mine
Presidio County, Texas
Contract No. [illegible]
and
Docket No. [illegible] 3777 - Mercury
Adobe Walls Mine
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Knox:

Your memorandum of January 22, 1957, to Mr. Robert King, Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, applies chiefly to the first of the subject projects, but mentions also the Adobe Walls Mine project which was denied by our letter of November 13, 1955, to Mr. C. T. Kendrick, president, Big Bend Mining, Inc.

Enclosed is an extra copy of our same letter for you to send to Mr. King if a complete file is not already available to him.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee

Enclosure:

Frank D. Lamb

Director, Bureau of Mines

N. E. Nelson

Director, Geological Survey

Enclosure

WMartin:loc 1/25/57
cc to: Dockets (3776 & 3777)
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Oper. Comm.
Mr. Wm. IV
Messrs. J. [illegible] Pennington, [illegible]
T. H. Killgoore, [illegible]

another field examination in collaboration on the final report, as your logging of the remaining core should be sufficient.

DOCKET
SURNAME
Martin
Geehan
Nelson
Selfridge

400

NOV 18 1955

Mr. P. S. Kendrick, President
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington relative to the above property have been carefully 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 our information indicates that although mercury mineralization occurs on the Adobe Walls Dome property, the probability of disclosing minable mercury ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. We regret to advise you, under these circumstances, that your application for assistance is denied. Such denial, however, is made without prejudice. In the event further work on your part discloses new and more favorable evidence of ore deposition on the property, we shall be pleased to consider a new application, amply supported by geological mapping, sampling, and assaying.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Exploration program, and for bringing your property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

ACTING Administrator

SPHolt/foc 11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. ~~XXX~~ IV
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS
Hon. Omar Burleson, House of Representatives

DOCKET
SURNAME
400 Martin
Gichon
Nelson
Selfridge

NOV 18 1955

Hon. Omar Burleson
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burleson:

On September 22, 1955, Mr. Phillips of your office requested that you be informed when we had completed action on an application for exploration assistance submitted by Big Bend Mining, Inc. (F. S. Hendrick, President), Box 269, Abilene, Texas, our Docket No. IBEA 3787 - Mercury, Adobe Walls Dome, Brewster County, Texas.

After a field examination of the referenced property and consideration of all available data, we have concluded that the probability of disclosing minable ore reserves by the applicant's proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation in an exploration project. We regret to advise you, therefore, that this application has been denied.

For your information, a copy of our letter of denial to Big Bend Mining, Inc., is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Johnson

ACTING Administrator

SPHOLT:fec
11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Operating Comm.

Enclosure

FT. REG. IV
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS
Congressional File (400)

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

November 16, 1955

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57. Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

The denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information:

1. The applicant, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Box 269, Abilene, Texas, requested exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57 for churn drilling, test pitting, shaft sinking, drifting and crosscutting in the Adobe Walls Dome property.

2. The applicant controls, by Mineral Awards from the state of Texas, the following 27 mining claims:

Claim No.	Mineral Award No.	Surveyor's Records Book	Page No.
1.	36840	RMC3	275
2.	36841	"	274
3.	36839	"	276
4.	37267	"	278
5.	37268	"	277
6.	37269	"	278
7.	M-39506	"	281
8.	M-39505	"	280
9.	M-43586	RMC5	51
10.	M-43585	"	50
11.	M-43584	"	49
12.	M-43583	"	48
13.	M-43582	"	47
14.	M-43581	"	46
15.	M-43580	"	45
16.	M-43579	"	44
17.	M-43578	"	43
18.	M-43577	"	42
19.	M-43576	"	41
20.	M-43575	"	40

21.	M-43574	RMC5	39
22.	M-43573	"	38
23.	M-43572	"	37
24.	M-43571	"	36
25.	M-43570	"	35
26.	M-43569	"	33
27.	M-43568	"	34

situated in Sec. 6, Blk G-11, Jas. H. Miller Sur., and Sec. 4, Blk T.J., S. F. 11493, Brewster County, Texas.

3. The proposed program is to explore the property by 17,450 feet of churn drilling in an unspecified number of holes at undesignated locations, 300 linear feet of 4 foot by 5 foot test pits, and shafts, drifts and crosscuts, of unspecified lengths, at undesignated locations.

4. Although scattered mercury mineralization is found in parts of the area intended to be explored, little evidence is furnished by the applicant to indicate that minable deposits of mercury ore might be discovered by the proposed work.

5. The Field Team concludes that there is little probability of making a significant discovery, and recommends denial. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

6. If the applicant furnishes detailed cost estimates for a sound exploration program, together with detailed maps showing results of additional systematic prospecting and sampling, and other data essential to clearly indicate a reasonable probability of making a significant discovery, a new application for exploration assistance should be considered.

W S Martin

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

400 DOCKET
SURNAME
Martin

November 16, 1955

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator, DMEA

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57. Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

The denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information:

1. The applicant, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Box 269, Abilene, Texas, requested exploration assistance in the amount of $134,440.57 for churn drilling, test pitting, shaft sinking, drifting and crosscutting in the Adobe Walls Dome property.

2. The applicant controls, by Mineral Awards from the state of Texas, the following 27 mining claims:

Claim No.	Mineral Award No.	Surveyor's Records Book	Page No.
1.	36840	RMC3	275
2.	36841	"	274
3.	36839	"	276
4.	37267	"	278
5.	37268	"	277
6.	37269	"	278
7.	M-39506	"	281
8.	M-39505	"	280
9.	M-43586	RMC5	51
10.	M-43585	"	50
11.	M-43584	"	49
12.	M-43583	"	48
13.	M-43582	"	47
14.	M-43581	"	46
15.	M-43580	"	45
16.	M-43579	"	44
17.	M-43578	"	43
18.	M-43577	"	42
19.	M-43576	"	41
20.	M-43575	"	40

21.	M-43574	RMC5	39
22.	M-43573	"	38
23.	M-43572	"	37
24.	M-43571	"	36
25.	M-43570	"	35
26.	M-43569	"	33
27.	M-43568	"	34

situated in Sec. 6, Blk G-11, Jas. H. Miller Sur., and Sec. 4, Blk T.J., S. F. 11493, Brewster County, Texas.

3. The proposed program is to explore the property by 17,450 feet of churn drilling in an unspecified number of holes at undesignated locations, 300 linear feet of 4 feet by 5 feet test pits, and shafts, drifts and crosscuts, of unspecified lengths, at undesignated locations.

4. Although scattered mercury mineralization is found in parts of the area intended to be explored, little evidence is furnished by the applicant to indicate that minable deposits of mercury ore might be discovered by the proposed work.

5. The Field Team concludes that there is little probability of making a significant discovery, and recommends denial. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

6. If the applicant furnishes detailed cost estimates for a sound exploration program, together with detailed maps showing results of additional systematic prospecting and sampling, and other data essential to clearly indicate a reasonable probability of making a significant discovery, a new application for exploration assistance should be considered.

SPHolt:foc
11-16-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Admr. Read. File
Operating Committee

W. S. Martin, Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

Docket

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

RECEIVED
OCT 21 1955

October 20, 1955

WSM

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: J. W. Pennington, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Review of Field Team Examination Report, Docket No. DMEA 3787 (mercury) $134,400, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Box 269 Abilene, Texas, Adobe Walls Prospect, Brewster County, Texas

The proposed exploration program of the applicant, estimated to cost $134,400, is indefinite and lacks supporting geologic evidence.

For these reasons, I agree with the recommendation of the Field Team that the application should be denied without prejudice to the property.

However, the area is favorable for mercury exploration and perhaps an acceptable program will be submitted in the future.

J. W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals
J. W. Pennington
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F i l e s

Copy retained 400

RECEIVED
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JWPennington/vr

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Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
Files

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Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals
J. W. Pennington
Thor Kiilsgaard, U.S.G.S.
F i l e s

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

October 3, 1955

Copy retained 400

WSM

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

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

Subject: Review of Field Team Report, DMEA 3787, Big Bend Mining, Inc., Adobe Walls prospect, Brewster County, Texas (Mercury).

The examining team recommends that DMEA application 3787 be denied without prejudice. The report is not very forceful in rejecting the property. Cognizance is given to the favorable geologic conditions and the presence of cinnabar on the property. The Field Team then concludes that denial should be made because the property is about 12 miles from the nearest mine in the Terlingua District and only a small amount of cinnabar has been found on the property.

The last are, to me, dubious concepts where active, aggressive minerals exploration is concerned.

I visited the Adobe Walls dome in 1953 in company with Mr. L. C. Whittiker, presently representative of the applicant. I was greatly impressed with the geologic similarity of the dome with mercury deposits in the Terlingua district 12 miles to the south. Some of the favorable geologic conditions are:

1) A domical uplift indicating the presence of a deep-seated igneous intrusive mass.

2) Many faults and fractures.

3) Collapsed 'sink' structures that localize ore deposits in the Terlingua District.

4) The same ore host as in the Terlingua District, the Georgetown limestone, capped with the impervious Del Rio clay.

5) Calcite veins that contain cinnabar.

The Adobe Walls dome seems to me to be a good place to explore for mercury ore. I think an exploration project would have a good chance of finding ore. A discovery of ore on the property would extend the Terlingua District a dozen miles to the north.

If the applicant has no clear-cut ideas as to how he wishes to proceed in an exploration project, and if he has not presented his proposals on a suitable geologic map then, perhaps, the application should be denied without prejudice.

I urge that serious consideration be given by DMEA to any future exploration applications on the Adobe Walls dome.

W P Williams

W. P. Williams

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

October 3, 1955

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I urge that serious consideration be given by DMEA to any future exploration applications on the Adobe Walls dome.

W. F. Williams

WFWilliams:iml
G-10/3/55

cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
DMEA (3) ✓
Docket file
N. M. Meyer, 3623

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

October 3, 1955

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

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W. F. Williams

WFWilliams:iml
G-10/3/55

cc: Director's reading, 4212
Branch reading, 4212
BMEA (3) ✓
Docket file
H. M. Meyer, 3623

Docket

3787

9/22/55

Re: DMEA 3776 Contrabando Dome
and
DMEA 3787 Adobe Walls
Big Bend Mining, Inc.

Mr. Phillips of Congressman Omar Burleson's office telephoned and talked with Mr. Martin regarding status of above applications, since Mr. Kendricks had called the Congressman for assistance in expediting matter.

Mr. Martin explained that contract being worked on for DMEA 3776; that a denial probable for DMEA 3787 due to lack of information. Also said a wire had today been sent to FT asking them to contact applicant re getting a 3rd party guarantee or surety bond in lieu of Owner's Consent to Lien.

Mr. Martin promised to notify Congressman when a contract was approved and sent out.

ls

Docket

8/29/55

Re: DMEA 3787-Mercury

Extract from letter of 8/29/55 by Exec. Officer, Region 4, to Donald R. MacLaren, USGS, Denver, re Knox's trip to inspect properties of Big Bend Mining, Inc. First 2 pages of letter concer DMEA 3776 & is filed in that docket; one paragraph on page 3 concerns DMEA 3787, Adobe Walls property, and is copied below:

"I also went to this applicant's Adobe Walls property, DMEA 3787, during the forenoon before my plane left Alpine that Friday, August 19. They had built a new access road to the site designated No. 15 on the Applicant's map, and done some bulldozer trenching there for annual assessment work. They wanted suggestions on eventually preparing a more comprehensive application which might justify approval. I explained that no geologic mapping had been done on Adobe Walls Dome as was done at Contrabando when the U.S.G.S. map was prepared which is included in the structural Geology of the Terlingua district by Thompson, so it would be up to the Applicant to properly map Adobe Walls in detail. I certainly agree with your recommendations for denial of the present application. Although much work has been done on Adobe Walls since I was there four years ago, little of it constituted systematic prospecting, none of which was sytematically recorded or given proper mention in the application at hand on which I am preparing the report to be submitted to Washington."

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1955

July 22, 1955

Through: E. N. Harshman EN.H.

Subject: Geologic report for Docket 3787

Mr. Clinton C. Knox, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV
P. O. Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Copy retained 400

Dear Clint:

Enclosed are the original and three copies of my geologic report on Adobe Walls Dome, Docket 3787. The illustration is being drafted and should be on the way about the middle of next week.

I have recommended denial without prejudice to the property because in the only area where I was shown any mercury the present land surface is not very far below the top of the Georgetown (Devil's River) limestone, one of the most productive horizons in the Terlingua district. Had there been any appreciable deposition of mercury, either in collapsed cavities in the limestone or as veins along the fault, it seems to me that there should be an abundance of residual ore in fragments of float. Very little cinnabar can be found on the surface. However, should future additional prospecting by pits or drill holes, show that this contention is erroneous and that mercury has been deposited in the breccia pipes or veins in possibly ore amounts, then certainly exploration by shafting would be in order. If you feel that DMEA should put down a few shallow test holes and/or shafts within the limits of drill sites 4, 10, 11, and 12, in spite of the long shot chance of finding an ore body, let me have your ideas and I will certainly reconsider my recommendation and try to go along with you.

Sincerely yours,

Don

Donald R. MacLaren

Enclosures

Copy to: DMEA Operating Committee (2)
Killegsard

DRMacLaren:arh

Docket

BIG BEND MINING, INC.

Box 269
ABILENE, TEXAS

RECEIVED
JUN 17 1955

June 14, 1955

Re: DMEA 3787
Exploration Assistance

Mr. D. R. MacLaren
U. S. Geo. Sur.
Mineral Deposits Branch
Bldg. 25
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

Copy retained 400

3787

WGM

Dear Mr. MacLaren:

This will call your attention to several errors in cost figures which we submitted to DMEA on this project. Please make the following corrections:

Under Paragraph 6, Section B, cost of the extra man, as set out in the written report under Para. 5, Section B was not included. This man would be principally occupied in panning and preparing samples for shipping and preservation. Please enter additional cost item for this man under Para. 6, Section B of cost sheet for 2,880 hours at .75 per hour - Total $2,160.00.

Under Paragraph 6, Section D, Line #3 should read as follows: maintaining roads for 18 mos. 60 hours @ 12.50 per hour. It is very questionable whether this figure is adequate but since we cannot predict rainfall, we will leave it as submitted, contingent on the road building being acceptable.

Under Paragraph 6, Section G, please correct the following: Workmen's Compensation $277.35, Employers' Tax $ 22.78, Social Security Tax $ 389.40, making a total of $ 689.53 for insurance instead of $1,019.19.

Please adjust the grand total to $ 136, 270.91 and increase the offer under the short form contract to $ 132,675.34.

Trusting that your recent examination of this property will result in a favorable report for this project, I remain

Yours very truly,

BIG BEND MINING, INC.

By Geo. F. Fry
Geo. F. Fry, Vice-President

GFF:vy
cc: Clinton Knox
4- Robert E. Adams, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

Docket
Umca 3787

Copied from MINING WORK, May 1955, Vol. 17 No. 6, Page 102

Experience miners are being sought for the Fresno mercury mine near Terlingua, Brewster County, Texas, where current production of about one flask per day is to be increased. Mercury miners left the district when the mines closed after the war with a severe drop in mercury prices.

DOCKET
Surname:

Martin
Newcomb
Meyer
Johnson

MAY - 2 1955

Mr. Clinton C. Knox, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV
P. O. Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Knox:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance is being referred to your office for a field examination.

Two copies of a relevant memorandum dated April 26, 1955, by E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey, are enclosed for your information. Although Mr. Newcomb recommended that the applicant be requested to submit additional information on previous exploration results, we are making the field referral immediately because we believe from the copy sent to us of Mr. George F. Fry's letter to you of April 19, 1955, that you will be able to obtain such information more expeditiously. It is also probable that you will find it convenient to make the field examination for the subject docket at the same time as the field examination for Docket No. DMEA 3776.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Martin
ACTING
Chairman, Operating Committee (JHB)

Enclosures

APPROVED:

M. E. Volin (JHB)
Member, Bureau of Mines

/s/ R. D. Trace (JHB)
Member, Geological Survey

cc: Docket
FT, Reg. 4
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Oper. Committee
Thor Kiilsgaard, USGS
H. M. Meyer, USBM

WSMartin/ls
4/28/55

400

DOCKET
Surname:
Martin
Newcomb
Meyer
Trow
Velin
Johnson

MAY - 2 1955

Mr. P. S. Kendrick, President
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3787 - Mercury
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance has been reviewed by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. Clinton C. Knox, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region IV, P. O. Box 431, Joplin, Missouri, for a field examination of the property.

Any assistance that you can give the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

E. O. Mittendorf
by ESF

Administrator

cc: Docket
Adm. Read. File
FT, Reg. 4
Oper. Comm.
Code 400
Thor Kiilsgaard, USGS
H. M. Meyer, USBM

WSMartin/ls
4/28/55

cal

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

April 26, 1955

Re: DMEA-3787
Big Bend Mining, Inc.
(Adobe Walls Area)
Brewster Co., Texas
$134,440.57
Mercury-Uranium

Memorandum

To: E. W. Ellis, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

WSM

Subject: Review of application

The applicant has proposed a very extensive program of exploration consisting of 17,450 feet of drilling, 125 feet of shaft sinking, 75 feet of drifting and 100 feet of trenching.

Several assay certificates have been submitted, but only two are significant to our consideration, an assay of 0.58 percent U_3O_8 from an unknown quantity of material and another containing 0.66 percent mercury. Further information is needed to more fully appraise the exploration possibilities of the property.

Mr. Knox in his transmittal memorandum of April 21 refers to possible shaft sinking, trenching and diamond drilling which may have been done in 1953. I recommend the applicant be requested to submit additional information on previous exploration results, location of work and description of types of work performed.

E. L. Newcomb

E. L. Newcomb

400 file

File in 3787 - Mercury

C
O
P
Y

BIG BEND MINING, INC

Box 269
Abilene, Texas

April 19, 1955

Contrabando Dome
Area 3776
3787
Adobe Walls

Mr. Clinton C. Knox
Box 431
Joplin, Missouri

Dear Mr. Knox:

Attached you will find our application for DMEA assistance on Adobe Walls Dome, Brewster County, Texas. The application consists of geological map, cross section, a list of drill areas numbered, enlarged aerial photograph and answers and statements to all required information on Form MF-103. All information is included in quadruplicate. If anything is lacking or is not clearly explained, please advise and it will receive our immediate attention.

We have today received Docket Number for Contrabando Dome -3776 If a USGS report is necessary sincerely hope you will be able to make the trip.

Yours very truly,

BIG BEND MINING INC.

By: /s/ Geo. F. Fry
George F. Fry, Vice-President

GFF;vy

copy of report
in 3776 file

April 25, 1955
Subject: DMEA 3787
Re: Exploration Assistance

Big Bend Mining, Inc.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Gentlemen:

The receipt of your application dated April 19, 1955 for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA 3787 and referred to the Rare and Miscellaneous Metals Division.

Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this docket number.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Adams, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

60932

April 25, 1955

Memorandum

To: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region IV

From: Chief, Operation's Control and Statistics Division

Subject: Assignment of Docket Number

There is listed below the assigned docket number to an application recently received from Region IV.

DMEA-3787 Big Bend Mining, Inc.

Robert E. Adams,
Chief, Operation's Control
and Statistics Division

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

[redacted]

P. O. Box #431
Joplin, Missouri

April 21, 1955

Airmail

Operation's Control and Statistical Div.
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Big Bend Mining, Inc.
DMEA Application for
Adobe Walls mercury exploration, Brewster County, Texas

Dear Sirs:

Under separate cover I am forwarding for reviews and docket number assignment the original and two copies of another application received today from the above-cited corporation. One copy is being retained in the Field Team's file.

I visited this Adobe Walls prospect briefly in 1951 with Mr. L. C. Whittiker, immediately after he had completed the steep and rough access trail and some bulldozer prospecting. The potentialities of that dome structure appeared impressive. I believe that W. P. Williams, while he was the Field Team Executive in 1953, also visited the prospect with Mr. Whittiker. I understand that at least some of the described prospect shaft sinking, trenching, and an attempt at diamond drilling had been done at that time. Preparation of a DMEA application only was being contemplated then.

This application apparently presents a bold sort of exploration approach but such might have to be used if the Texas mercury industry is ever revived.

Sincerely yours,

Clinton C. Knox

Clinton C. Knox
Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region IV

CCK/vks

cc: DMEA Op. Com (3)
Mr. Fry, Abilene
Pending Appl. file

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

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

RECEIVED
MINERALS TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION

APR 21 1955
BUREAU OF MINES
JOPLIN, MO.

APR 25 1955
Department of the Interior
Minerals Administration
RECEIVED

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. 3787
Metal or Mineral Mercury, Uranium
Date Received 4-25-55
Estimated Cost $134,440.57
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: Big Bend Mining, Inc. Box 269, Abilene, Texas- (b) Texas Corporation (c) P.S. Kendrick, President, 702 Sayles, Abilene, Texas; George F. Fry, Vice-Pres., 7306 Thurston, Dallas, Texas, Phil S. Kendrick, Jr., Sec. & Treas., 702 Sayles, Abilene, Texas.

(*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.

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 Sec. 6, Blk. G-11, Jas. H. Miller Sur. and Sec. 4, Blk. T.J., S.F. 11493, Brewster County, Texas.
See enclosed list of mineral awards to mining claims as shown on geological map.

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. None

(*c*) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise Owner of unpatented mining claims.

(*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. See attached list of mineral award numbers as filed in General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it Not applicable

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice. See attached list of mineral awards and surveyor's records.

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. See attached description.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades. None

(*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. See attached description.

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

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

5. *The exploration project.*—(*a*) State the mineral or minerals for which you wish to explore Quicksilver and uranium

(*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. See attached statement.

(*c*) The work will start within 30 days and be completed within 18 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. See attached statement.

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: Att.stmt.

(*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.). See attached statement.

(*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. See attached statement.

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

(*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. See attached statement.

(*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. ~~Xxxxxx~~ Not applicable.

(*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. att. stmt.

(*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. See attached statement.

(*h*) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above. None

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)? Yes

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

[x] 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 April 19, 1955

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
(Applicant)

By [signature] President

[signature] Vice-President

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

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JOPLIN, MO.

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Re: Paragraph 3, Form MF103 - Section F

Legal Description of Mining Claims: Adobe Walls Dome, Brewster County, Texas

Mineral Award No.	Surveyor's Records Book	Page
1. 36840	RMC3	275
2. 36841	"	274
3. 36839	"	276
4. 37267	"	278
5. 37268	"	277
6. 37269	"	278
7. M-39506	"	281
8. M-39505	"	280
9. M-43586	RMC5	51
10. M-43585	"	50
11. M-43584	"	49
12. M-43583	"	48
13. M-43582	"	47
14. M-43581	"	46
15. M-43580	"	45
16. M-43579	"	44
17. M-43578	"	43
18. M-43577	"	42
19. M-43576	"	41
20. M-43575	"	40
21. M-43574	"	39
22. M-43573	"	38
23. M-43572	RMC5	37
24. M-43571	RMC5	36
25. M-43570	"	35
26. M-43569	"	33
27. M-43568	"	34

Mineral Award Numbers as issued by the General Land Office of the State of Texas indicate approval of title by the State to these claims as filed.

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BIG BEND MINING, INC.
BOX 269
ABILENE, TEXAS

Re: Form MF-103, Paragraph 4, Section A

In the past, 5 shallow pits, from 4 to 12 feet deep and one shaft about 20 feet deep were dug on this property. The deeper one on claim named "The Seven Deer" and the remaining 5 on claims #21 as shown on the enclosed map. They were located on or near faults and while visible cinnabar and carnotite shows were encountered, none of these operations were deep enough to be condusive. They are accessable for examining by going about 2 miles on a very rough, washed out prospect road.

Re: Form MF-103, Paragraph 4, Section B

There has been no past and there is no current production, and no known ore reserves.

Re: Form MF-103, Paragraph 4, Section C

Description of Adobe Walls Dome. This prospect is located about 10 miles North of the Terlingua mining district, and about 70 miles South of Alpine, County Seat of Brewster County. It is a subsidiary structure on the East flank of the Soltaria uplift centering on the Brewster, Presidio County line, and as shown on the enclosed geological map and enlargements of original areal photograph numbered 21 88 TM acquired from the air force, is a domal uplift in cretaceous rock. The central part is roughly pentagonal in shape and is faulted on all sides, which probably resulted from the emplacement of an igneous mass below uplifting an area of about a square mile and having vertical relief, up to 1000 feet. This area was fractured in many places and was instruded in some of these planes of weakness by sills small plugs and dykes that appear to be andecite and porphry of medium to fine grain character and of probable tertiary age. The center of the dome is middle cretaceous and is flanked on the down sides of the faults forming the pentagon by upper cretaceous marls and shales. The structure is cut by major and minor Northeast trending faults and these are crossed by Northwest trending faults. Numerous solutions cavities with collapsed roofs occur on the Northeast trending faults. The Devils River limestone (Georgetown Edwards) on all of the uplifted central part of the structure has been subjected to the conditions that formed these cavities, and there are many filled chimneys, pipes and fissures. The three largest solutions cavities as shown on the enclosed map are located as follows:

#1 In the South part of claims named Dyke over an area of several acres covered by a remnant of DelRio clay and flags.

#2 Located on claims named, Carbonate and Trader and involving an area of seven or eight acres, surface rock Austin and Eagle Ford in every possible position.

#3 Located on claims named Jack C. and Danny Boy approximately the same size, surface is apparently Marl and various limestones, showing a high degree of mineralization. The depths of these cavities are unknown at this time but since they were formed by hot alkaline solutions, from below, it may be assumed that some of them will extend well into or completely through the Devils River limestone into basal cretaceous sandstones and conglomerates (Trinity group). Because of the porous characteristics of these formations, they should be excellent host rock for mineral deposition. Since all surface shows of cinnabar passed through this zone in its ~~assemblem~~ from the original source, we believe a test to this formation is very important on this structure A hole drilled to 1000 feet should be sufficient for this test and it would penetrate below the impervious Kimechi Marl a member of the Devils River formation. The Trinity has not previously been tested in this area, therefore, we have set up two 1000 foot holes on the highest structural positions, however, if results from the first test are entirely negative it would not be advisable to drill a second hole to this depth. Tests of surface rock in these cavities have given very excellent and positive indications of quicksilver. Surface mineraliztion as shown by many calcite bodies and abundant gosson material in the Northeast trending faults and parrellel fracture zones plus the shows of cinnabor, carnotite and traces of other minerals as shown by the enclosed ~~map~~ assay and spectrograph reports indicate that these faults were traversed by mineralizing solutions.

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Re: Form MF-103 - Para. #4, Section C (Continued)

Cinnabar and carnotite in encouraging quantities and plainly visible without a glass were encountered in the pits on Claims #21 and the Seven Deer, but no systematic program of sampling and analysis was followed at the time this work was done. The enclosed assay report from Laucks dated 2/18/55 was made from rock taken from the dump of one of these pits in January of this year. Mineral deposition on this structure will probably be bedded and replacement of country rock.

Having all geological requisites present and supported by the positive mineral indications we believe this exploration program will discover commercial ore.

Re: Form MF-103 - Para. #4, Section D

The apex of this structure lies about 2 miles from paved highway #114 and will be readily accessable by rebuilding a badly washed out prospect road for this distance nearest shipping point is Alpine. Material and supplies will be available at El Paso, Texas, 325 miles Northwest, at Alpine and at Odessa about 200 miles North. While Alpine is the nearest residence point of any size, a limited amount of very crude housing may be available at Study Butte.

Re: MF-103 - Para. #4, Section E

Man power, material supplies and equipment are available in any amounts. Drilling water will be hauled about three miles. When mining operations are set up water wells may be drilled adjoining this structure on the West and power will be generated at the mine.

Re: Form MF-103 - Para. #5, Section B

All of the drilling in this project will be either in fault breccia or in solutions cavities. The ratio of down time for moving to the total footage drilled will be rather high because of the shallow depths of most of the holes. Experience has taught that drilling in formations where caving from the walls of the hole is sure to be encountered, will at best, be slow and difficult. In fault breccia and cavities collapsed in from above and filled with rocks of various kinds and sizes along with clay and marls and these having been subjected to oxidation and changes brought on by chemical reactions it will be impossible to make the wall of a hole stand up. When caving occurs suddenly, tools get stuck, resulting in lost time and sometimes lost tools. In this kind of material when a string of drilling tools come in contact with the sloping side of a boulder it produces the effect of a whip stock and drilling time must be slowed until the side of the boulder is drilled off. In these solutions cavities the rock fill is in every conceivable position, consequently, drilling rock that is edged up will result in slower drilling time than would be achieved in natural formations. It may be necessary to start with 15 inch holes and several strings of pipe to prevent greater loss of time and tools due to caving.

Because of the many subsurface caverns, fractures and above mentioned conditions, we believe cable tools will be more efficient and economical and achieve better recovery of samples on this job. Therefore, we plan to use two cable tool rigs, one larger than the other for the deeper holes. Samples will be caught at 3 to 5 foot intervals and at closer intervals when necessary, and examined by panning and the Williamite screen process, and with geiger counter. Cores will be taken where recovery may be achieved, when samples indicate possibilities. The crews will consist of a driller (experienced in this type drilling), a tooldresser and one extra man between the two rigs for water hauling and miscellaneous extra work.

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
BOX 269
ABILENE, TEXAS

Re: MF 103 - Para #5, Section B (Continued)

Sample and core assays and preservation will be systematically followed. The shafting will be carried on by a crew of four men using jack hammers and dynamite and a gasoline powered hoist. All shafts will be sunk on faults and fracture zones, where surface mineraliztion and shows justify. Thorough sampling will be done by the Superintendent, or under his immediate attention. These exploratory shafts will be 4 feet x 5 feet and to depths as indicated by possibilities.

Re: Form MF-103 - Para. 5, Section D

The applicant is a newly formed closely held Texas Corporation. Its President, P. S. Kendrick, has had more than thirty years experience with drilling equipment in Texas oil fields. He has owned and operated many cable tool rigs. The Vice-President, Geo. F. Fry, has had 10 years oil field experience with various types of equipment and considerable mineral prospecting. The man who will be in charge of this operation, L. C. Whittiker, has had 15 years in this area, has used both rotary and cable tools and conducted shafting.

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JOPLIN, MO.

Estimate of Exploratory Cost
Adobe Walls Dome
Brewster County, Texas

Re: Paragraph #6, Form MF-103

(a) Independent Contracts			$ 89 852.50
16850 feet of drilling with spudder @ 4.55		$ 76 667.50	
600 feet of cable tool coring @ 7.60		4 560.00	
125 feet of exploratory shaft (4x5) @35.00		4 375.00	
100 feet of open pit exploration (4x5) @ 20.00		2 000.00	
75 feet of drift or cross cuts @ 30.00		2 250.00	
(b) Supervisor, Geologist and Labor			27 124.50
Supervisor		$ 18 000.00	
Salary 18 months @ 600.00	$ 10 800.00		
Expenses 18 months @ 400.00	7 200.00		
Geologist, 18 months		8 734.50	
27 trips,3 days per trip 81 days @ 75.00	$ 6 075.00		
27 trips, transportation @ 68.50	1 849.50		
81 days, meals, lodging @ 10.00	810.00		
Labor - 2 jackhammer,powder men on road and location work 240 hrs. @ 1.625		390.00	
(c) For building roads, etc.			2 324.38
20 cases of dynamite @ 11.20		$ 224.00	
3000 feet of fuse @ .03		90.00	
500 caps @ .03		15.00	
37.5 gals. gas for compressor @ .27		10.13	
7.5 qts. oil @ .30		2.25	
Tin Horns (drain pipe for roads)		1 983.00	
4 - 18" x 20' @ 2.60 per ft.	$ 208.00		
10 - 36" x 30' @ 4.75 per ft.	1 425.00		
7000 samples sacks @ .05	350.00		
(d) Rental on Equipment			6 091.00
1 - Bulldozer, building access roads to and leveling drill sites, 120 hrs.@12.50 per hr.	$ 1 500.00	$ 2 250.00	
Maintaining roads for 18 months 60 hrs. @ 1.20	750.00		
1 - Air compressor for building roads 120 hrs. @ 1.20		144.00	
1 - Pickup		3 072.00	
18 months @ 100.00	$ 1 800.00		
25,440 miles @ .05	1 272.00		
21,840 miles to Alpine,nearest supply point 78 trips @ 140 miles 3600 miles on lease 360 days @ 10 miles per day			
1 - Williamite screen complete		125.00	
1 - Radiation instrument - core hole Geiger Counter probe and 500 feet of line		500.00	
(f) 1 - 20' x 20' gable shed building for general use			750.00
(g) Miscellaneous			8 298.19
Accounting - 18 months @ 300.00		$ 5 400.00	
Analytical Work		1 879.00	
246 cores @ 3.00 (Mercury)	$ 738.00		
124 cores @ 6.00 (Uranium)	744.00		
2 Spectrographs @ 12.50	25.00		
372 @ 1.00 handling and mailing	372.00		
Insurance		1 019.19	
Workmen's Compensation on 11,190.00	$ 730.70		
Public Liability " "	4.69		
Social Security Tax " 14,190.00	283.80		
TOTAL			$ 134 440.57

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Because of the vast number of unknown factors, the complexities of known drilling problems, the increased flexibility in the use of men and equipment, and the much greater simplicity in the keeping of records, we believe it will be in the interest of both the Government and ourselves to do this job under one contract. We will therefore, agree to do this entire project for $130,845.00. This will include shafting, drifting, and open pit work, for $8,625.00, and drilling and coring or otherwide sampling 17,450 feet of hole as set out in this application.

BIG BEND MINING, [redacted].
BOX 269, ABILENE, TEXAS
RE: MF-103, Para. 4, Section C

C O P Y

CERTIFICATE

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MINERALS TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION
APR 21 1955
BUREAU OF MINES
WIGGINS, MO.

LAUCKS TESTING LABORATORIES
Incorporated

1008 Western Avenue
Seattle 4, Washington

Chemists, Engineers,
samples, inspectors,
assayers, spectrographers

Date: 9/16/52

Laboratory No. 116501

To: Mr. L. C. Whittiker
137 Norma Street
San Angelo, Texas

Report On: Ore

Tests performed and results: Semi-quantitative spectrographic test and fire assay:

				Estimated Quantities
Silicon	Calculated	as	SiO_2	75% to 85%
Magnesium	"	"	MgO	0.3%
Iron	"	"	Fe_2O_3	1% to 2%
Calcium	"	"	CaO	10% to 12%
Carbonate (CO_3--)				Present

Traces Detected:

Lead (Pb)	Copper (Cu)	Cobalt (Co)	Manganese (Mn)
Aluminum (Al)	Nickel (Ni)	Titanium (Ti)	Strontium (Sr)
			Chromium (Cr)

		Value per ton
Gold, Oz. Troy per Ton	Trace	- - -
Silver, Oz. Troy per Ton	0.6	$ 0.54

The rock appears to be a hydrothermal quartz vein rock with calcite present.

The elements shown in the above analysis are present as shown but they may not be recoverable by commercial methods.

Valuation: Silver .90 per oz.

Respectfully submitted,

LAUCKS TESTING LABORATORIES, INC.

by s/s F. P. Owens

C O P Y

A. J. Rowland, Mgr.

Laboratory at 105 S. Santa Fe St.
THE CUSTOM ASSAY OFFICE
Box 811
EL PASO, TEXAS

Thomas Williams,Jr.

12-17-53

Lot	U308
#1	.58

CUSTOM ASSAY OFFICE(initialed)AJR

C O P Y

Certificate

LAUCKS TESTING LABORATORIES

1008 Western Ave.,
Seattle 4, Wash.

To: Mr. L. C. Whittiker
1266 N. 16
Abilene, Texas

Date: 2/18/55
Lab. No. 11769-A

Report on: Ore
Sample Identification Marked: Sample No. 1
Tests performed and results:Mercury (HG) 0.66%

LAUCKS TESTING LABORATORIES INC.
/s/ F. P. Owens

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
BOX 269
ABILENE, TEXAS

C O P Y

Form MF-103 Para 4, Sec. C

JOHN HERMAN LABORATORY
771 San Julian Street
Los Angeles, California

Telephone VAndike 6232

Ore Treatment Tests

Certificate of SPECTROGRAPHIC QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Made for L. C. Whittiker

Date: January 22, 1945.

Element	Estimated Quantity
Calcium	10.0%
Silicon	10.0%
Iron	10.0%
Strontium	1.0%
Aluminum	1.0%
Manganese	0.1%
Magnesium	0.1%
Sodium	0.1%
Potassium	0.1%
Titanium	0.01% to 0.1%
Lead	0.01%
Copper	0.01%
Molybdenum	0.001% to 0.01%
Vanadium	0.001% to 0.01%
Barium	0.0001%
Silver	0.0001%

Seal Estimated Quantities to the nearest factor of Ten

All valid Certificates Bear this seal /s/ John Herman
Chemist

C O P Y

Themas Williams Jr
Manager

EL PASO TESTING LABORATORIES
Chemical and Physical Analyses
Consulting Engineers
Box 1565

El Paso, Texas
July 27, 1951.
Lab. No.7121

Assayed for Mr. L. C. Whittiker
Address Alpine, Texas
Marked Ore Samples received 7/26/51

Gold Ozs. per ton	Silver ozs. per ton	Per Cent Lead	Per Cent Copper
0.01	0.4	0.35	No. 1
0.01	0.5	0.35	No. 2
0.05	1.8	0.40	No. 3

Charges: $7.50

/s/ Geo.L.Dickinson Assayer

****

This is to certify that the foregoing copies are true and correct copies of analytical work as reported by the respective firms.

Date: April 18, 1955

Geo. F. Fry

Elevation Bi Gulch

12 3663.1

3H: 6 2.3

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

~~r. George C. F~~
~~airman, Ope~~
ense Minera
rtment of the Interior
on 25, D. C.

BIG BEND MINING, INC.
Box 269
Abilene, Texas

Drill Areas - Adobe Walls, Brewster County, Texas

Drill Area:

#1	3 holes		3 @ 200'
#2	3 holes		3 @ 150'
#3	2 holes		2 @ 300'
#4	4 holes		4 @ 200'
#5	2 holes		2 @ 150'
#6	2 holes		2 @ 100'
#7	2 holes		2 @ 100'
#8	3 holes		3 @ 200'
#9	7 holes	3 @ 300'	4 @ 500'
#10	4 holes		4 @ 175'
#11	4 holes		4 @ 150'
#12	7 holes	1 @ 1000'	6 @ 600'
#13	3 holes		3 @ 150'
#14	2 holes		2 @ 175'
#15	10 holes	1 @ 1000'	9 @ 300'
#16	2 holes		2 @ 200'
	60 holes	2900'	14,550'

Total feet 17,450

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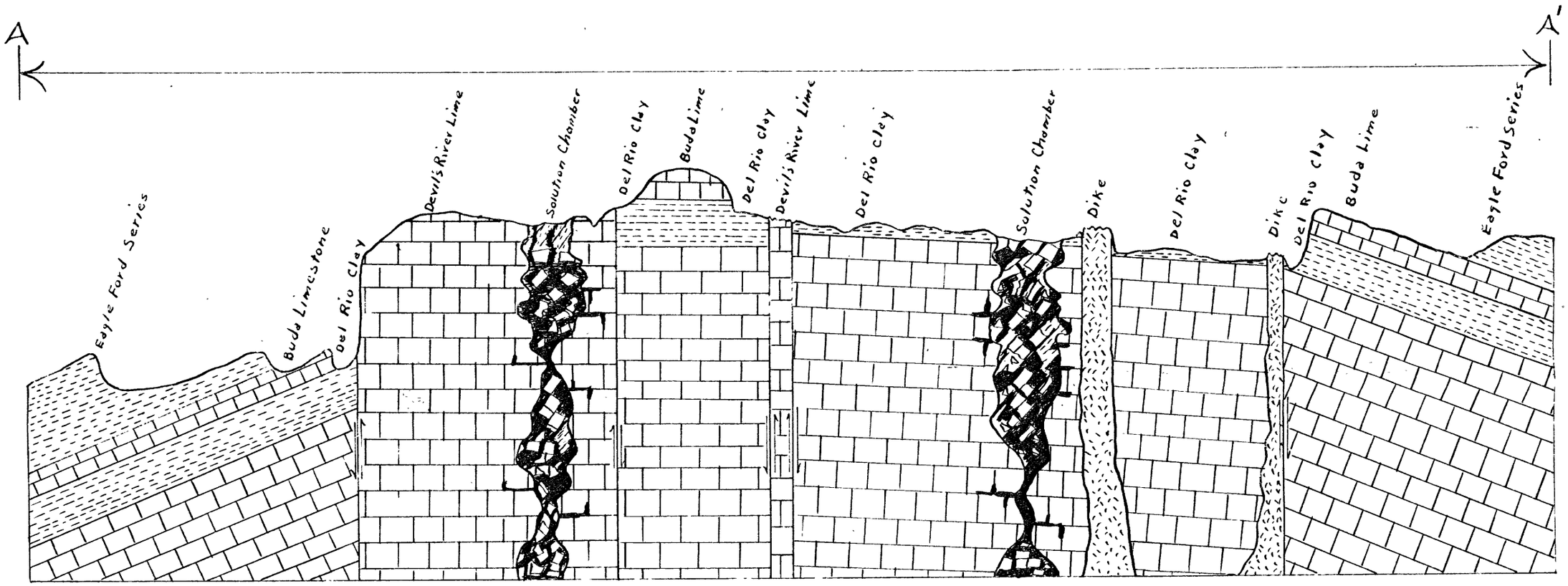

Adobe Walls Dome Cross Section
Horizontal Scale 1" = 1200'
Vertical Scale 1" = 200'
Geologist: Jack F. Grimm

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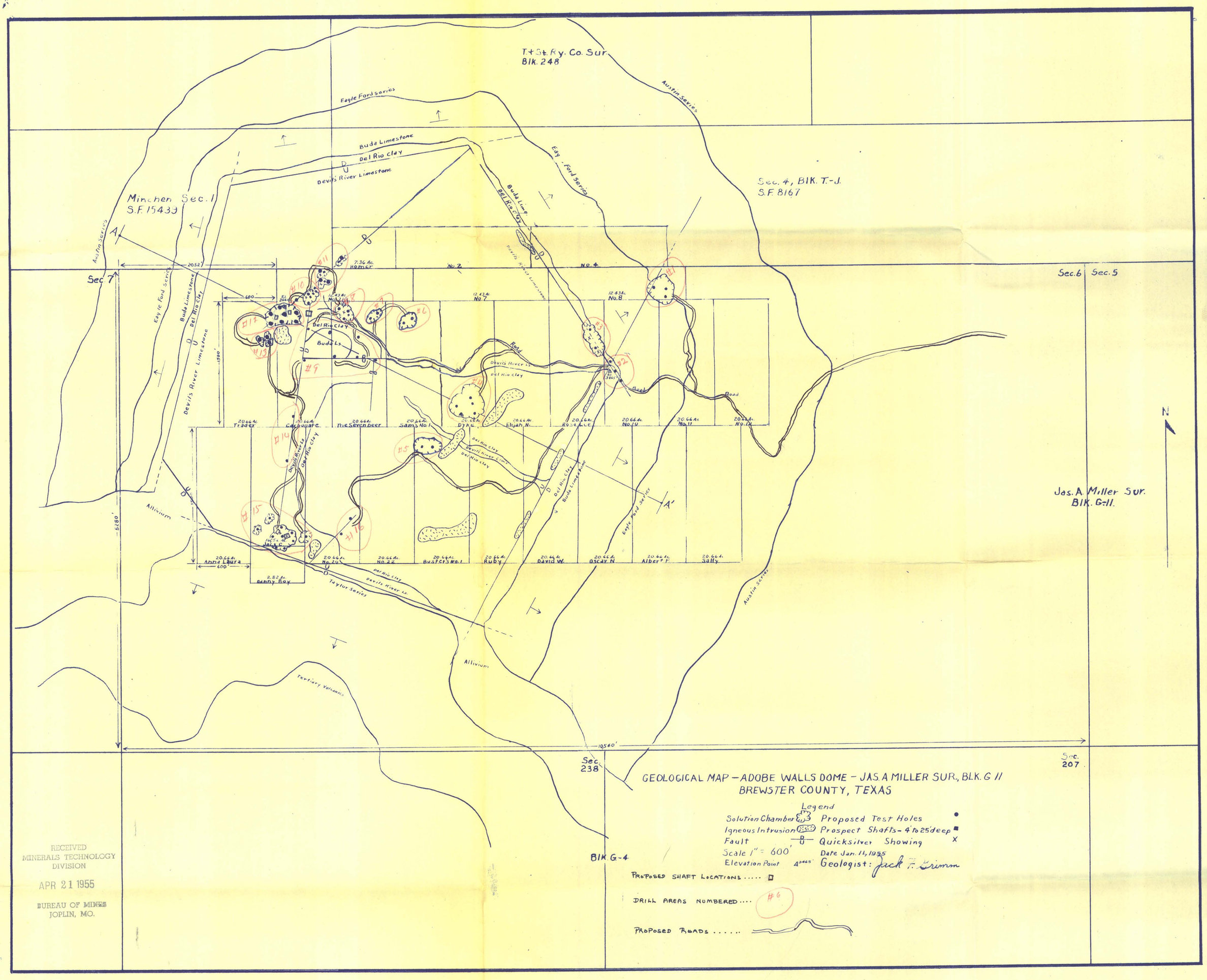

GEOLOGICAL MAP — ADOBE WALLS DOME — JAS. A MILLER SUR., BLK. G 11
BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

Legend

Solution Chamber — Proposed Test Holes •
Igneous Intrusion — Prospect Shafts - 4' to 25' deep ■
Fault — Quicksilver Showing X
Scale 1" = 600'
Date Jan. 14, 1955
Elevation Point 4,345'
Geologist: Jack F. Grimm

PROPOSED SHAFT LOCATIONS ..... □

DRILL AREAS NUMBERED .... #6

PROPOSED ROADS .....

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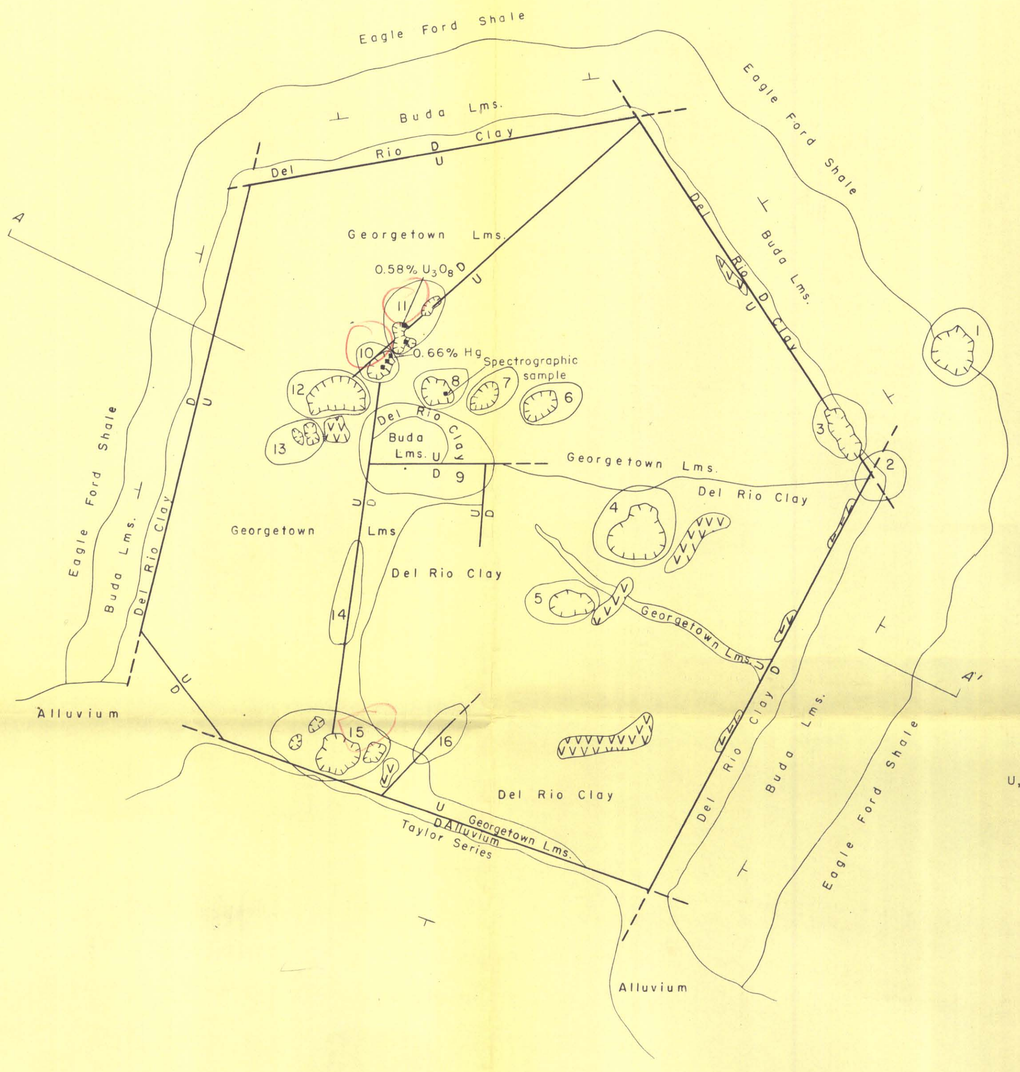
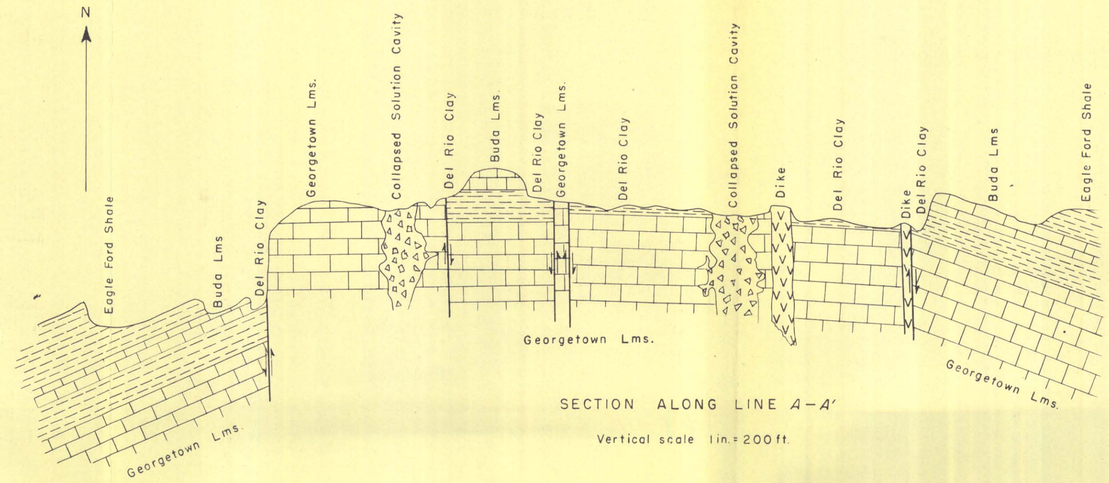




SECTION ALONG LINE A–A'

Vertical scale 1 in. = 200 ft.

EXPLANATION

U/D Fault
U, *upthrown side* D, *downthrown side*

Strike and direction of dip of bed

Shallow pit or shaft

Igneous dikes

Depressed areas

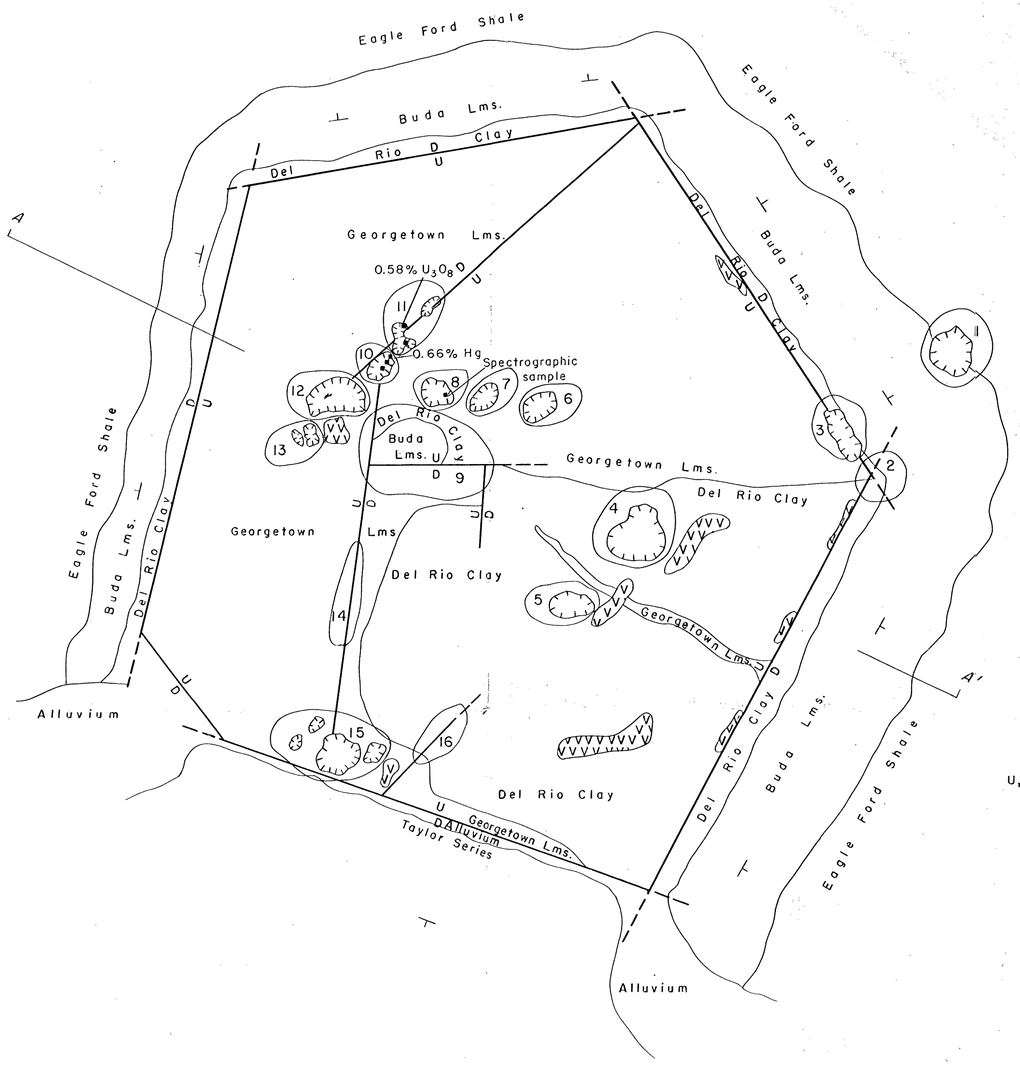
6 Proposed drilling area

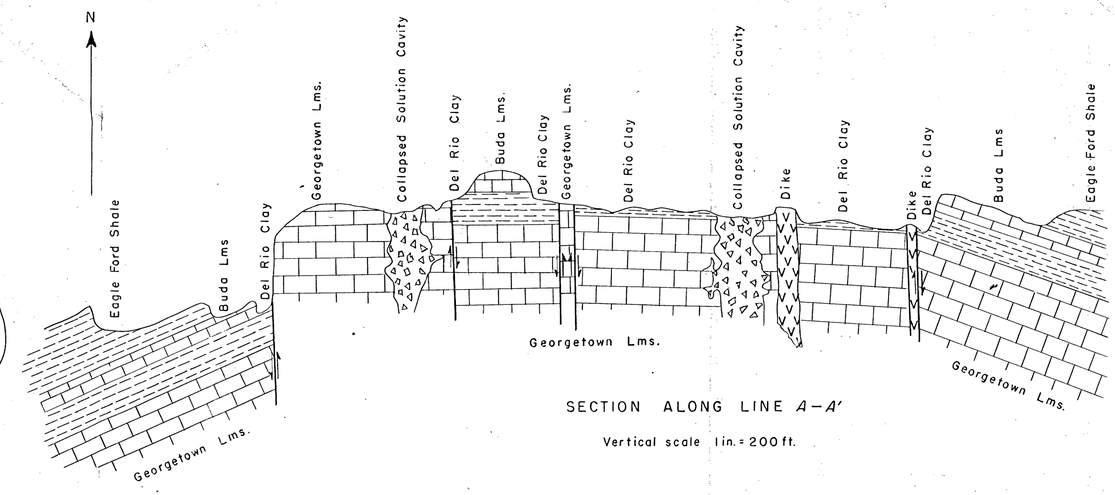
Note: Adopted from map and section supplied by applicant

FIGURE 1 :—PLAN AND SECTION SHOWING GEOLOGY, ADOBE WALLS DOME, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS.

June 1955

600 0 600 Feet





SECTION ALONG LINE A–A'

Vertical scale 1 in. = 200 ft.

EXPLANATION

U/D Fault
U, *upthrown side* D, *downthrown side*

Strike and direction of dip of bed

Shallow pit or shaft

Igneous dikes

Depressed areas

6 Proposed drilling area

Note: Adopted from map and section supplied by applicant

June 1955

FIGURE : —PLAN AND SECTION SHOWING GEOLOGY, ADOBE WALLS DOME, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS.

600 0 600 Feet