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STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

802 EAST H STREET
GRANTS PASS, OREGON

October 22, 1938

RECEIVED
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STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. A. M. Swartley, Mining Engineer,
State Department of Geology & Mineral Inds.,
704 Lewis Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Re: Umpqua Mining Company

Dear Mr. Swartley:

Last week while visiting the Tiller District I run on to some property held by the Umpqua Mining Company which I am informed received a permit to sell stock in 1933 or 34. I was thinking you probably could get information on this property from the State Corporation Commissioner.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

STATE ASSAY LABORATORY

J. E. Morrison

J. E. Morrison, Mining Geologist.

May 24, 1943

AIRMAIL

Mining Division
Serial Number Section
Room 1419
Tempo "R"

Associated Metals, Inc.
611 American Bank Building
Seattle, Washington

Gentlemen:

Serial Number 33-105-T under Order P-56 has been assigned for operation of the Buena Vista Mine, Douglas County, Oregon.

It is recommended, because of the present status of your operation, that purchases of new equipment be restricted to cases of necessity. The Quarterly Quota assigned your operation for repair parts will be limited to \$250. Under these circumstances we suggest that you purchase used equipment wherever possible, and that requests for ratings for the purchase of new equipment be made only after you have exhausted all the possibilities of obtaining second-hand equipment.

It is requested that you address a letter to this office to the attention of the Serial Number Section on or about August 15, 1943 outlining what progress has been made as of that date stating your daily tonnage, average analysis of the ore then being produced, the number of men employed, and a statement of the products sold. You may add any other information that you consider valuable in justifying this operation beyond that date.

Based upon the facts contained in this letter and your desire to continue or suspend operations, a decision will be made whether or not to extend this Serial Number beyond that time.

Yours very truly,

A. S. Kneizen
Director,
Mining Division

RPL:ema
cc: Carl K. Nixon
cc: A. E. Nixon
cc: Fred Chase

RECEIVED
JUN 1 1943

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Portland, Oregon
Sept 3rd 1940.

Mr Ray Treasher,
400 East 1st St.
Grants Pass,
Oregon.

Dear Mr Treasher:

At the request of the owners,
Umpqua Mining Co, (Geo H. Atkinson Receiver),
1524 Yeon Bldg, Portland, Oregon owner of the
Umpqua Group,
P. A. Nichols, Orient Washington, owner of
the Maud S. Group,
and Robert A. Shircliff, Tillamook, Oregon,
owner of the James R. Group, I am
mailing to you this mail under ^{Enclosed} ~~separate~~
cover, a rough sketch of the said groups
of mining claims. This sketch has been
made rather hurriedly from a recent compass
check upon the lines of the Maud S. Group, and
from memory, of a fairly accurate transit
survey of the Umpqua group, made by myself
in '33, the original maps and drawings of which

have unfortunately disappeared. However the information given on the sketch being mailed to you, for all practical purposes, is substantially correct.

^{other} I am presuming you already have whatever ₁ information you require for your records, but if I can be of further service to you in the matter I shall be glad to comply with your requests.

I might add that during the past year the former 30 ton Gould type furnace and condensing equipment has been completely revised and rebuilt, by Tiller Development Co, under an operators contract with the receiver for Yonipqua Mining Co, and a recent test run has shown it to be thoroughly efficient as compared with other plants of this type.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Hobson

Supervising Eng. Tiller Dev. Co

1318 S.W. Alder St.

Portland, Oregon.

1/encd.

September 5th, 1940.

Mr. Frank E. Hobson,
1318 S. W. Alder St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Hobson:

The claim map of the Buena Vista, Maud S., and James R. claim-groups will be a valuable addition to our records for these properties, and I wish to thank you for your courtesy in forwarding it to us.

Our Department is attempting to assemble data pertinent to each mining property in the State so that the information will be available when needed. Material includes such as ownership and history of the property; exact location by township, range, and quarter-section; a detailed description of the development; informative facts about the operation and the geology; etc.

If you have data on the flow-sheet of the retort, with size and make of equipment, and maps of the underground workings, we should like to make arrangements to secure copies. Our Portland office, 702 Woodlark Bldg., phone BR 2276, will be glad to cooperate with you in securing the information.

Thank you again for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist.

Fred J. Rosenberg
Consulting Mining Engineer
Postal Building
Portland, Oregon

January 2, 1942

Mr. Fred Rosenberg
411 Postal Building
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your instructions, Mr. Belden and I examined the Buena Vista property on December 29th and 30th. One and one-half days were spent in examination of the underground workings and inspection of surface plant and equipment. Snow conditions prevented examination of areal geology and surface workings. Mr. Hobson and Mr. Atkinson accompanied us on the examination. Mr. Hobson, an engineer who has previously reported on the property, guided us through the workings and, in general, did much to facilitate the examination. In conducting the examination we were governed by your instructions to secure all preliminary data necessary for the formulation of definite conclusions as to the relative possibilities of the property and justification for a more thorough formal examination. The essential features of the property, as ascertained during the course of the examination, are described herewith together with our conclusions. The location, climatic conditions, and general regional geology have been fully described by Engineers Haas and Neubauer, and are not set forth herein. They are not factors which greatly condition the subsequent conclusions.

History and production

The discovery claim was staked in 1918. Development has been intermittent. At the time of Wells and Waters visit to the property in 1930, as described in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 850, 850 feet of development had been completed. According to Wells and Waters a few flasks of mercury had been produced up to that time. Subsequently additional development has been carried on, principally in the lower levels. During the thirties the property was operated by leasers at one time and it is reported they gathered out a small tonnage of high grade ore, and recovered a few flasks of mercury in small retorts. The property has been idle since 1937 with the exception of a period in 1940 when after completion of remodeling of the reduction plant a fair tonnage of ore was mined and run through the plant. It is reported that only one flask of mercury was recovered from a run of 300 tons. Obviously total production from the property has been small, and may best be described as a few flasks of mercury.

Development

The property is developed on three levels over a vertical distance of 65 feet. A 300 foot adit- X-cut connects the lower level with the surface. This level is developed by approximately 300 feet of drift along the lode zone. Raises connect through to intermediate, and to the upper level which is a drift in from the surface. The mine is well ventilated. Caves on both the intermediate and upper levels prevented complete inspection of these levels. The amount of drifting on these levels was not determined, but does not extend laterally any farther than that on the lower level. The lower adit X-cut and level are well timbered and in good shape with the exception of the S. W. end where the drift is caved. Surface development in the form of open cuts and trenches above the upper tunnel was not inspected because of a snow covering.

Geology

The topography in the immediate vicinity of the property is fairly rugged although not precipitous. A heavy mantle of overburden and vegetative material masks the areal geology and a few outcroppings are visible. Because of snow and overburden it was necessary to obtain information on the geology entirely from underground workings. The lower level adit X-cut intersects a series of fine-grained, dark-black volcanic flows with intercalated conglomeratic material between flows. Hitherto this fine-grained rock occurring with the conglomerate has been identified as a carbonaceous sandstone. The presence of small phenocrysts

of olivine and general appearance of crystallinity suggest instead an aphanitic, olivine basalt. If these are volcanic flows they doubtless may be correlated with the Unpqua formation of Eocene age. The flows and conglomerates appear to dip about 45 degrees toward the north. This formation ends abruptly against a vertical fault. The fault strikes N. 65 E. and is associated with a 10 - 15 ft. wide andesitic dike or sill in which the cinnabar ore occurs. The relations are shown on the attached geological sketch of the lower level and adit X-cut. A 12 to 18 inch seam of clayey gouge marks the contact of the fault with the flows and conglomerate on the north. Sympathetic shearing and fracturing of the andesite contemporaneous to the main fault seam is a pronounced feature. The andesite has been subjected to intense hydrothermal alteration, and is locally bleached white and softened to a clay-like material. The andesite is in contact with a volcanic breccia or agglomerate on the southeast wall. The contact is sharp and shows little evidence of movement.

The ore occurs entirely in the andesite dike-like formation. The cinnabar is present with pyrite as narrow seams in bands of crustified chalcedonic quartz 1/4" to 5 inches in width. The main band generally lies next to the gouge seam in the fault. Transverse seams vertical in attitude cross the dike and are said to always be associated with the best ore pockets. It is probable that these transverse ore seams were joints in the andesite, and became small gash openings due to movements on the fault, with subsequent deposition of ore. Very little evidence of brecciation of the andesite and cementation by chalcedonic quartz was observed. Anastomosing seams of calcite parallel to the fault walls are present in the andesite, but do not appear to be associated with the later silicious, cinnabar seams.

The evidence as observed underground does not suggest that intense brecciation of the andesite and widespread replacement and cementation by silicious ore solutions bearing cinnabar occurred during the period of ore deposition. Instead, it suggests that the cinnabar was formed merely during a minor phase of a period of intense hydrothermal alteration associated with the fault, and such deposition of cinnabar ore was limited to localized transverse and parallel joints and fractures in the andesite. Structural elements are lacking to support the inference that more favorable conditions for widespread brecciation and formation of a favorable host environment for cinnabar ore deposition are present at unexplored horizons in the dike and fault structure.

Sampling

Periodic sampling in the development workings was for the most part prevented by tight lagging. On the whole, the portions of the andesite dike that were accessible to observation were completely barren in appearance, and showed little justification for sampling. A sample taken over 36 inches over supposedly good ore 24 feet southwest from the main raise on the intermediate level assayed 1.41b. One taken at the northeast end of the Blacksmith level drift over 30 inches of andesite and volcanic breccia assayed 0.00 lb.

Surface Plant and Equipment

As a complete inventory of equipment is made a part of this report, we will comment only on the reduction plant, which is a Gould installation with a rated capacity of 20 tons per 24 hours.

The plant is conveniently situated to handle ore from the lower level and withall is a very neat installation. Separate power units serve each mechanical step in the flow sheet and with the exception of some rust accumulated during its long shutdown is apparently in perfect condition.

Conclusions

Careful examination of the underground workings of the Buena Vista mine, now accessible to observation, has failed to disclose the existence of commercial ore in quantity; nor of geologic evidence to indicate the existence of ore bodies not revealed by the present underground development. The fact that the surface workings were not accessible to inspection because of snow does not, in the writer's judgment, detract from the negative results of the underground examination. Thorough evaluation and analysis of all data, obtained from local sources of information bearing on ore probabilities as shown by surface workings, made in the light of the known reliability of such sources of information as learned by the underground inspection gives very little encouragement to the hope that more favorable indications of ore are present along the strike of the lode not developed by underground workings. A study of the history likewise contributes to the negative prospect character of the property. Production has been small and it is doubtful if any appreciable tonnage of mill ore has ever been extracted. The cumulative effect of all existing evidence is decidedly negative, and no justificatory evidence was found to warrant a more detailed and complete examination.

Respectfully submitted,

H. F. Anderson
Mining Geologist

HFA:r