

September 22, 1943

Mining Division
Room 1419
Tempo R Building
Serial Number Section

Registered

Cougar-Independence Mining Company
Granite
Oregon

Attn. Mr. Frank Goffey

Gentlemen:

On the recommendation of the Metallic Section, we are
cancelling Serial Number 33-22 for your operations.

Please return the Certificate for the above-mentioned
Serial Number to this office, attention Mr. Robert F. Hunt, Chief,
Serial Number Section.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Knoisen
Director,
Mining Division

AJ:hs

cc: Mr. Earl K. Nixon ✓
Mr. A. M. Dixon

RECEIVED
SEP 28 1943

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

July 29, 1943

Air Mail

Cougar-Independence Mining Company
Granite
Oregon

Mining Division
Serial Number Section
Room 1419, Tempo B

Ref: Order P-56
Serial Number 33-22
Cougar-Independence Mine

Gentlemen:

According to our records your Cougar-Independence Mine appears to be inactive. Therefore, unless we hear from you within 15 days from the date of this letter, with full justification to the contrary, we shall cancel the above-named Serial Number on the ground that it is no longer required.

If, however, you wish to have the Serial Number continued, your letter should include brief statements of the following information:

1. Serial Number, name and location of mine.
2. Name and address of operator.
3. Tonnage and grade of ore developed.
4. The number of men employed.
5. Average daily tonnage of ore produced and shipped.
6. The daily capacity of the mill, if any.
7. Ore milled and concentrates produced and shipped per month.
8. Average assay and analysis of crude ore and of concentrates produced at the present time.
9. Copies of recent smelter settlement sheets.
10. Prospect for sustained or increased production.
11. Seasonal and other interruptions anticipated, with dates.
12. Other facts or conditions that tend to justify the further extension of your Serial Number.

Address your letter to the attention of Mr. Robert F. Iabt,
Chief, Serial Number Section.

Yours very truly,

cc: Mr. A. M. Dixon
Mr. Karl K. Nixon ✓

A. E. Knoixen
Director,
Mining Division

JH/ae

AUG 8 1943

U. S. MINERAL AIDS.

May 28, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Shoemaker Building
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

Attached is copy of letter received this morning
from Wilbur A. Nelson and pertaining to your priority.

Cordially yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

EKN: jr

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 22, 1942

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mining Branch

Room 2334
Social Security Building

Mr. Earl K. Nixon
Emergency Coordinator of Mines
for Oregon
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

In accordance with your letter of May 16th, we will issue a Serial Number under Mine Preference Rating Order No. P-56 to the firm of Isgrig & Lilley, Shoemaker Building, Baker, Oregon, for their operation known as The Potato Patch.

Sincerely yours,



Wilbur A. Nelson
Administrator of
Mining Branch

W.A.N.



RECEIVED
MAY 28 1942

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL IND.

1

May 16, 1942

AIRMAIL

Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson, Administrator
Mining Branch, Priorities Division
War Production Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The point of this letter is to request that you grant a priorities serial number for mining chromite to the firm of Isgrig & Lilley, whose address is Shoemaker Building, Baker, Oregon. The name of the property where production is beginning is "The Potato Patch."

This group is actively engaged in developing and producing on one of the three properties they control in the John Day district of central Oregon. They are now employing about half a dozen men, but within the next few days are making arrangements to take on between twenty and thirty men to work two shifts. They have their road in, have developed their ore, and are beginning to ship to the Federal stockpile at Seneca. They expect to supply between twenty five and fifty tons per day of 40% plus lump chromite. It appears that their requirements for priorities on equipment and repairs will not be large as they are fairly well supplied, but they may be in need of minor repairs within the next couple of weeks.

It is my recommendation that you grant a serial number for this strategic mineral operation.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

EH:ac

May 26, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Shoemaker Bldg.,
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

I recommended your firm for a priorities serial number in my letter to Dr. Nelson dated May 16th. Have just written an additional letter, sending it airmail, asking that the matter be expedited.

I can advise you that I am now informed that R.F.C. is disposed to reduce the specifications on chromite to 35%. Formal announcement will be made as soon as I have details of prices, etc.

Cordially yours,

Oregon Emergency Coordinator of
Mines

EKN:ac

March 2, 1942

Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson
Administrator of Mine Priorities
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The record of the Cougar Independence Mining Company,
mine serial number 33-22, should be revised so that
the name of Mr. Frank Coffey is on record as the
individual who would make rated purchases, replacing
the name of Galen T. Vandel.

Very truly yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FVL:EKN:jr

671 Redondo Avenue,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 25, 1942

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Emergency Coordinator of Mines,
Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Enclosed please find the delayed report of Monthly Purchases for January which shows nothing to report. I am aware that this should have been forwarded on the 10th even though the rating was not applied for purchases during the month of January.

On January 15th, as you no doubt know, the major part of the Cougar-Independence operations were suspended with only a small crew at present engaged in extracting oxidized shipping ore. After making arrangements for the reduction of operation to the small crew I reported to the Columbia Steel Casting Company and will be their representative located in Salt Lake City. As I have been on the road considerably the enclosed report did not reach me until sometime after the 10th of February.

This will also advise that the registration of the Mine Serial Number should be in the Name of Mr. Frank Coffey as he will be doing the small amount of purchasing in the future months.

With kindest regards, I am,

encl.

Yours very truly,

Gailen T. Vandell
Gailen T. Vandell

RECEIVED
MAR 2 - 1942

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

December 30, 1941

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Shoemaker Building
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

Thank you very much for your letter dated December 29, and I hope that your project of lining up chromite and chromite deposits will be successful. This Department would want to do everything possible to assist you.

Until you get organized and are really operating, I would suggest that you do not apply for a mine serial number. If you wish to order single pieces of equipment, such as the compressor you mentioned, I suggest that you fill out Form PD-1, enclosed, and either send it in to Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson, Administrator of Mine Priorities, Washington, D. C., or send it to us and we will forward it to Dr. Nelson.

If you apply for a mine serial number before you have a number of employees and are actually developing or mining, I am afraid the Administrator of Mine Priorities would turn down a request for a serial number. The Administrator is becoming more and more strict in the matter of qualifying a mine operation under Order P-56, and if he should turn you down now, it might be more difficult to get a second application through. The fact that you would be mining chromite, of course, would be a sufficient reason for being allowed a serial number, and when you get to the point when you are actually mining or preparing to mine, I do not think there will be any difficulty in your getting one.

We have no information on the marketability of chrome ore running less than 40% Cr₂O₃. That is the minimum quantity given in specifications by Metals Reserve Company (government agency) and also in such specifications as I have seen from the U. S. Vanadium Company, Rustless Mining Company, and Ohio Ferro Alloys Company. It is possible, however, that these companies would buy a lower grade ore at probably a rather sharp reduction in price. Under present conditions, we feel quite sure that the government would not buy it.

With my very best new year's greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

FWL:KHN:jr

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

RECEIVED
DEC 30 1941
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

December 29, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We are lining up some chrome property in Grant County, which we feel will come within the present requirements for chrome ore.

I am addressing you at this time in the hopes that you can obtain a priority rating for us, which we may need for the purpose of purchasing supplies and which we understand is handled through your office. We would do this mining under the name of ISGRIG & LILLEY.

We have already purchased a R.D. 7 and Bulldozer and have an option on a compressor, but it may be necessary that we obtain a priority number before being able to purchase the compressor.

We are really going ahead on this project, Mr. Nixon, and hope to be successful in tying up some additional properties and this will be necessary if we are to warrant the purchase of this equipment. However, we thought it best to go ahead with this purchase so that the owners of the properties in Grant County would feel that we are in earnest.

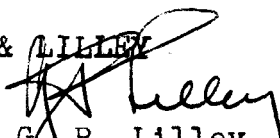
We are also wondering if you have any information whereby ore of a lower content than 40% will have any market value. We assure you that we will appreciate any information you may be able to give us along these lines.

With best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 1942, we are,

Yours very truly,

ISGRIG & LILLEY

By


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

December 11, 1941

Mr. Gailen T. Vandel, General Superintendent
Cougar-Independence Mining Company
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

Your letter dated December 9, with enclosure of report of purchases on Form P-119, has been received.

Referring to the inquiry in the last paragraph of your letter, we have had no definite rulings on such questions other than that of reporting when no rated purchases were made. In that case, the Priorities Office has stated that a monthly report should be submitted whether or not rated purchases were made.

In your case, I should feel that the safe policy to pursue would be to make the statement of purchases made that would have required a preference rating had you had no serial number at the time, noting the fact that they were made with the understanding that the supplier would receive your statement of rating when you received your serial number.

Sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN:jr

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE MINING CO.

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

December 9th, 1941

BUSINESS OFFICE:
SHOEMAKER BUILDING

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Emergency Coordinator of Mines,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Enclosed please find Monthly Report of Purchases showing material purchased with application of the A-8 Rating.

Our Mine Serial Number was received a few days after your letter of November 17th advising us that same had been issued. We appreciate your efforts in speeding up the issuance of this Serial Number.

During the Month of October, prior to receipt of the Mine Serial Number, we made application of the A-8 Rating with several suppliers and advised them that when same was available they would be furnished with the number. This has been done and the number entered on copies of such orders here at our office. If the supplier uses these for replacing inventories will it be necessary for us to file a Monthly Report of Purchases, at this late date, for the Month of October?

With kindest regards,

encl.

Sincerely yours,

Cougar Independence Mining Co

By: Gailen T. Vandell
Gailen T. Vandell

DEC 11 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Cougar Independence

November 17, 1941

Mr. G. T. Vandel, General Superintendent
Granite
Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

We are in receipt of a letter from the Administrator of Mine Priorities under date of November 10, stating that a mine serial number, 33-22, was issued to the Cougar Independence on that date.

Trusting that it will reach you promptly, I am

Sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN: jr

November 14, 1941

Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson
Administrator of Mine Priorities
First Floor, Wing 1
Temporary Building E
Sixth Street and Adams Drive, S.W.
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Cougar Independence Mining Company

Dear Dr. Nelson:

To date, the subject company has not received a serial number for mine priorities from your office.

We certified this company to you on our lists of September 20 and October 20 and several others on our list have received serial numbers but not the Cougar Independence. May we ask that you assign this company a serial number at your earliest convenience and notify them to that effect?

I might say that they are one of our substantial operators, have been a going and producing mine for some years, and they are now considerably embarrassed by the lack of a priority rating.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

EKN:jr

November 14, 1941

Mr. Galen T. Vandel, General Superintendent
Cougar Independence Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

We are again writing this date to Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson, Priorities Administrator in Washington, giving him a sharp punch on the question of his failure so far to assign you a serial number. The letter goes air mail and we expect a prompt reply.

If nothing develops after sufficient time to have heard from him has elapsed, we suggest that you should wire him direct. We have already advised him that we have certified you on two lists and he has all of the information necessary for his purposes. It must be merely a slip on his part.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

EKN: jr

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE MINING CO.

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

BUSINESS OFFICE:
SHOEMAKER BUILDING

RECEIVED
NOV 14 1941
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

November 13, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Dept of Geology and Mining Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Some time past I wrote you with regard to our serial number and received an answer from Mr. Libbey. At that time he advised that we should receive our serial number within the next few days and if we did not to inform you.

At this writing we have heard nothing further in regard to the serial number and as all the manufacturers and suppliers are asking for this number prior to application for the A Rating, it is, no doubt, going to cause us some difficulty in the near future if same is not received.

Would appreciate any information you might have as to the cause for delay in receipt of this serial number or if it would be advisable for us to wire Washington D.C. direct.

Yours very truly,

COUGAR INDEPENDENCE MINING COMPANY

By

G T Vandell

Gailen T. Vandell.

GTV:R

November 4, 1941

Mr. Gailen T. Vandel, Gen. Supt.
Cougar-Independence Mining Co.
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

Mr. Nixon is away from the office, and I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 31st.

The name of the Cougar-Independence Mining Co. was sent in to the Administrator of Mine Priorities in Washington on October 20th by airmail, and you should have received your serial number by this time.

However, I am sending another airmail letter today requesting that if your serial number has not already been sent, that they give the matter immediate attention. It is my understanding that until you receive the serial number, it would do no good to endorse purchase orders with the preference rating A-8.

If you do not receive the mine serial number within the next few days, please inform us.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
for Mines

FWL:EKN:ac

November 4, 1941

AIRMAIL

Dr. Wilbur A. Nelson,
Administrator of Mine Priorities,
Social Security Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Nelson:

We are in receipt of a letter from the Cougar-Independence Mining Co., Granite, Oregon, signed by Gailen T. Vandel, General Superintendent, stating that this company has not yet received a serial number, and that they are greatly in need of it in order to obtain necessary operating materials.

This company is one of the important gold lode mines in the State, is shipping concentrates regularly to a smelter, and we trust that if you have not already done so you will send their serial number on as promptly as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN:ac

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE MINING CO.

Granite ~~BAKER~~, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

BUSINESS OFFICE:
SHOEMAKER BUILDING

October 31, 1941

RECEIVED
NOV 4 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We would appreciate any information that you might have at the present time regarding application of the A-8 Preference Rating for obtaining needed materials for our operation until such a time as the Serial Number for this mine is issued.

Several of the "suppliers" with whom we have been purchasing materials advise that our purchase orders should be endorsed for application of the A-8 Preference Rating with our Serial Number. Until the Serial Number is issued is there any advantage in endorsing our purchase orders omitting, of course, the mention of a Serial Number?

We realize that you are no doubt receiving many inquiries regarding the issuance of these Serial Numbers and for information as to application of A-8 priority rating which has no doubt added considerable work to your office but would appreciate, at your convenience, any information that you might give us.

Yours very truly,

COUGAR INDEPENDENCE MINING CO.,

By: *Gailen T. Vandel*
Gailen T. Vandel
General Superintendent

November 17, 1942

Mr. G. T. Vandell
Bandon
Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandell:

Please refer to your letter dated November 14 concerning reports of rated purchases made on Form PD-119. A form letter was made up and sent out by this office to all companies who seemed to be delinquent in making such monthly reports. I, of course, was familiar with the fact that the Mine Serial Number of Cougar Independence had been cancelled, but through some error the letter was sent to the Company, nevertheless. I am sorry that you were bothered with the matter.

Kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

EKN:PWL:ff

4

Bandon, Oregon
Nov. 14, 1942

Earl K. Nixon,
Oregon Emergency Coordinator Of Mines.
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of October 7th, which has been forwarded to me at this late date, regarding the Reports on Form PD-119 unreported by the Cougar Independence Mining Company, I wish to advise as follows;

In a previous letter to your office, I explained that the above named Mining Company had ceased operations in January of this year and that I was no more connected with the organization. The person to whom any correspondence should be addressed regarding the business of the Mine is Mr. Frank Coffee, Baker, Oregon.

Trusting the above information will help clear your records, I remain

Yours very truly,


G. T. Vandell

GTV/dlr

RECEIVED
NOV 17 1942

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE MINING CO.

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

BUSINESS OFFICE:
SHOEMAKER BUILDING

October 16, 1941

RECEIVED
OCT 20 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Earl K. Nixon,
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

We have for acknowledgment your letter
of October 9th re preference rating for mines
and the following information is herewith given:

NAME: Cougar Independence Mining Co
G. T. Vandel, General Superintendent

EMPLOYEES: Average - 65

TONNAGE: " - 2000 tons per month gold ore
milled - considerable development work
conducted at mine.

Y ours very truly,

Cougar Independence Mining Co.

By

Gailen T. Vandel
Gailen T. Vandel

Friday the 10th

Dear Mr Nixon:- The Lilley - Daging trucks and equipment left for Doe Flat this A.M. Also crew from Baker.

Last report from Cameron the trucks saw get thru to the Chrome either this P.M. or tomorrow. Jack L. Ben D.F. and Bart are all on their way so they are all sort of 'buses'. I knew you would be interested.

Sincerely
Rene Bartlett

Mr Nixon is away

Note - John Allen

Charge to the account of

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

WANT A REPLY?
"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
Included without charge.

July 22, 1942

PRESCOTT LILLEY
BAKER, OREGON

GRANTS PASS STOCKPILE NOW ACCEPTING ONE SEVEN AM TO TEN PM.

EARL K. NIXON, TECH. CONSULT.
WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

EKN:ac

Chg. to
GEORGE A. WILKINSON, CHIEF
WOODROW WILSON

Send Government Cheaper Rate--straight message

COUGAR - INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

S:
OREGON
GRAN

June 1st, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

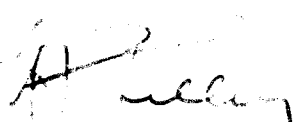
Thanks for your letter of May 28th, together with copy of letter received by you from Mr. Wilbur A. Nelson, with reference to our priority number.

Greatly appreciate your help in securing this, which by the way has not yet been received, and thanking you for your efforts in our behalf, we are,

Yours very truly,

ISGRIG and LILLEY

By


G. P. Lilley.

· GPL:R

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1942
STATE OF OREGON
& COUNTY OF WASHINGTON



RECEIVED
MAY 25 1942

May 23rd, 1942.

Metals Reserve Company,
Washington, D. C.

Attention Mr. H. DeWitt Smith

Gentlemen:

We are writing you at this time after having spent a considerable amount of money in an effort to open up chrome properties from which we could ship chrome ore containing 40% chrome.

During the first half of this month we were able to get out 18,300 lbs of ore, which we are satisfied will run better than 40%. This was delivered to your stock pile at Seneca, Oregon. During this period, when we were sorting out this 18,300 lbs, we had to discard several times as much ore which would run between 30 and 40%. You can see from this that this requires considerable sorting and involves a considerable expense, which would not be necessary if you were able to accept ore running between 30 and 40%.

In view of these circumstances, we were obliged to quit work on this property and have now moved our equipment to another property in an effort to open up another ore body. We are afraid, however, that the same conditions are going to exist on this property and doubtless exist on other properties which other people may be endeavoring to open up.

Would it not be possible for you to lower your requirements to 30%, especially in view of the fact that mining costs in this State are greatly in excess of conditions existing during the last war period, when chrome shipments were made from Grant County.

In the first place, you are requiring that your purchases be made on the basis of long tons, which gives you slightly better than a 10% advantage in your purchases. From the records that we have been able to investigate, the payments you are making are still less per unit than the payments which were made during the last war and when the requirements of long ton shipments are taken into consideration, as compared with short ton shipments during the last war, the difference in mining costs, which the miner must absorb, is considerable.

Metals Reserve Company

May 23rd, 1942

On top of this, present costs involve payment of Social Security taxes, Unemployment taxes and a much higher State Accident rate than was in effect when previous shipments were made.

We are enumerating these handicaps, which are going to discourage any operator from making shipments of chrome ore, in the hopes that you will see the advantage of making some changes in your set up. These handicaps, as enumerated above, are from our actual experience.

We still feel that we can do our part in the war program by getting out some chrome ore, but at the same time we want you to see the conditions under which we have to work and not handicap us as at present.

Sincerely hoping that you will give these thoughts some serious consideration, we are,

Yours very truly,

ISBIS and LILLEY

b.

G. P. Lilley

GPL:R

Earl

Have you heard anything re - our priorities

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

May 4, 1942.

Mr. John Elliott Allen,
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear John:

Thanks a lot for your letter and the information you sent regarding the chrome properties in the Grants Pass region.

Jack Isgrig is over in Grant County and we have started work on what is known as the "potato patch" and I sent the information on these properties on over to him, with the request that he return it either to me or direct to you. It may be a few days before we get this back to you, but you may be certain that it will be taken care of and returned as soon as possible.

Thanking you most kindly for your cooperation,
I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GFL:R

RECEIVED
MAY 5 - 1942
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

~~322 S. W. OAK STREET~~

PORTLAND, OREGON
702 WOODLARK BUILDING

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The point of this letter is to request that you grant a priorities serial number for mining chromite to the firm of Isyig & Lilley, whose address is Shoemaker Building, Baker, Oregon. The name of the property where production is beginning is "The Potato Patch."

This group is actively engaged in developing and producing on one of the three properties they control in the John Day district of central Oregon. They are now employing about half a dozen men, but within the next few days are making arrangements to take on between twenty and thirty men to work two shifts. They have their road in, have developed their ore, and are beginning to ship to the Federal stockpile at Seneca. They expect to supply between twenty five and fifty tons per day of 40% plus lump chromite. It appears that their requirements for priorities on equipment and repairs will not be large as they are fairly well supplied, but they may be in need of minor repairs within the next couple of weeks.

It is my recommendation that you grant a serial number for this strategic mineral operation.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

EKN:ac

COUGAR - INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

April 24, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Very pleased to receive your letter of April 22nd, even though you do not have anything definite regarding changes in policy.

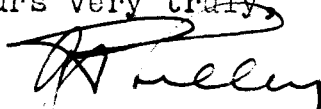
For your information, we, Isgrig & Lilley, expect to put a cat and bulldozer to work on what is known as the "potato patch" near John Day on Monday of next week. This should develop from our estimates 4,000 or 5,000 tons of approximately 45% chrome, but we will know more about this when we get started.

We have hesitated in starting work on any of the hard rock properties for the reason that we cannot see where the chrome can be graded out to 40% and better at present prices. However, we are going to keep working in an effort to develop some plan for taking care of such operation.

It would seem that there should be some way of handling 30% to 40% materials and if this is possible a real tonnage can be developed in Grant County. We have exhausted ourselves in trying to put over this idea, but still believe that a program such as this will be necessary and the sooner it is decided on the better it will be for all. We are all anxious to do our part in this ~~work~~ program and anything that you can do toward having these specifications changed will be greatly appreciated.

With very kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

RECEIVED
APR 25 1942

GPL:R

April 29, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Shoemaker Building
Baker, Oregon

Dear Prescott:

Earl has asked me to write you concerning the Bridge Creek and Doe Flat chromite properties.

I am sending under separate cover a report made during the last war on the former by the U. S. Bureau of Mines. I should like you to know that I do not agree with these tonnage estimates, feeling that they are unduly optimistic.

I spent two days on the property, mapped each individual deposit (which are also listed in the U.S.G.S. report loaned you) in considerable detail, and arrived at the conclusion that the ore occurrences were very small and localized with one or two exceptions (the Violet in particular) which are composed of rather low-grade ore. This detailed report, of course, was made for Rustless and is in their files. It might be that Ralph Mason, their representative at Grants Pass (808 Orchard Street) would make these reports available to you since Rustless is not interested in the property, or at least was not when I talked with them last.

The Doe Flat property consists of two pretty good-sized kidneys of marginal grade ore which may yield several thousand tons. Of course they are inaccessible (I think 3 miles of road is necessary).

To my knowledge no geophysical work was done on the Bridge Creek deposit as we believed it not worth while.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

John Eliot Allen
Geologist

JEA:fr

*Additional material
sent 4-30-42*

April 28, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Shoemaker Building
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

This is in reply to your letter of April 27th in which you ask for information on the Bridge Creek chrome property that belongs to Harry Sorde of Galice.

We have a U.S.G.S. bulletin on this which we are loaning you and ask that you return it within a few days as it is our office copy. Am asking John Allen to forward you any additional information that he has that might interest you. This will include copy of a report or two made in 1918 on this property by the U.S.B.M.

I might say that about a month ago I recommended to the W.P.B. that an access road be built into the Swede Basin chrome for the purpose of developing this mineral.

I was unable to verify in a 'phone conversation with Washington yesterday that the Rustless Steel Corp.'s plans to build at The Dalles are definite. Have asked that they advise me by wire. If they do build a plant it seems to me that they will certainly be able to use sub-grade chromite from central Oregon.

Very truly yours,

Earl K. Nixon, Tech. Consult.
Materials Div.

EKN:ac

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

April 27, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Jack Isgrig just returned yesterday from Southern Oregon, where he obtained a ten day option on the Harry Sorde Bridge Creek property. Jack advises me that you have some geo-physical maps on this property and thinks that John O. Allen also has some reports on it. Will you be kind enough to send these to us by return mail?

We believe you also have some reports in your office on Bartlett's Doe Flat country and would also like copies of these reports if they are available.

We are starting work today on the "potato patch" property at John Day and hope to be producing within the next couple of days.

Noted by the paper that the Rustless Steel were going to construct a plant at The Dalles. Have you any information on this? Can you tell us whether or not they will be able to accept chrome of a lower content than 40%? Any information you can pass along to us on this will be appreciated.

With kind regards, we are,

Yours very truly,

ISGRIG & LILLEY

By

G. P. Lilley
G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

RECEIVED
APR 28 1942

STANDARD
& INDUSTRIAL PAPER CO.

See my reply & send copy to John

April 22, 1942

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

I have not been advised of any changes that have been made in the chrome purchase set-up, at least from Washington. I received the information second-hand that the R.F.C. has changed, or is prepared to change, its rules of required owner endorsement on government loans. In other words, lessees may receive development mining loans without the loan becoming a lien on the property. However, that must be verified.

No action has been taken, I understand, on the question of lowering chromic oxide content or changing specifications on grades of chromite ore that may be sold to the government.

I understand that the mechanics of purchasing ore in small lots is being satisfactorily worked out, and the R.F.C. engineers at Seneca and elsewhere are now sampling ore that is being brought in. It should not be long then before reimbursement may be expected from Portland.

I have just returned from three weeks' absence and have been out of touch with things. Very likely I shall have some further information from Washington in another week on some of the matters that would interest you. In that event, I shall be pleased to communicate with you.

Cordially yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Tech. Cons. Matls. Div.

EKN: jr

March 31, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

Mr. Nixon will be away from the office for a matter of two weeks. On his return your letter dated March 30 will be placed before him.

Insofar as my knowledge goes, no late changes have been made in the chrome buying program for the purchase of small lots of chromite.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

FWL:jr

COUGAR - INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

March 30, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

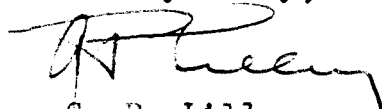
Dear Mr. Nixon:

Have you any additional information
relative to any contemplated changes in the chrome
set up?

Would greatly appreciate anything that
you can pass along to us.

With very kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1942
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

SCHMITZ
OF WM. POLLMAN
LILLEY

Chrome Contract
Lilley.

BAKER, OREGON

February 10, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Willard Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We have had an application in with the Metals Reserve Company for a contract on 1,000 tons of chrome ore and they have asked for further information, which I have attempted to give them, as per copy of letters enclosed, going forward to Mr. H. DeWitt Smith today.

Sincerely hope that you will be successful in your talks with the Federal Agencies to put over the solution of all the problems presented at the Grants Pass meeting and which are so well known to all of us. If we can give you any help from here, please call upon us by phone or wire, as we are very anxious to give all the help that is possible. We, however, feel that this meeting is in good hands with your good self and no one has a better picture of these problems than yourself.

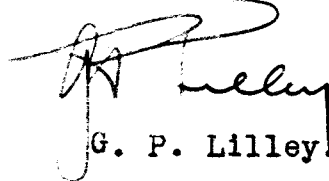
In the likelihood that anything definite is decided on at your meeting, would appreciate a collect wire advising as to the results.

With every good wish that you are successful in your talks with the Federal Agencies and with kindest personal regards, we are,

Yours very truly,

ISGRIG and LILLEY

By


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

February 10, 1942.

Mr. H. Dewitt Smith,
Metals Reserve Company,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

With further reference to our application for a contract to supply 1,000 tons of chrome ore, wish to advise that we would like this application made out in the names of J. B. Isgrig and G. P. Lilley, doing business as ISGRIG and LILLEY.

Both Isgrig and Lilley were partners in the Cougar Independence Lessees, who have operated the Cougar gold property near Granite, Oregon, for some three years, during which period this property was reopened, an eighty ton flotation mill installed and an average of 2100 tons per month mined and milled. This is one of the very few successful gold operations during the past decade in this part of the country and was carried on through our own efforts and with our own finances.

For credit references can refer you to First National Bank of Baker, Oregon; American Cyanamid Corporation, Azusa, California; Denver Equipment Company, Denver, Colorado; Ingersoll Rand Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; and any further references you may require, as we have never failed to take our discount and have always paid our bills promptly.

Might add that we have never mined any chrome ore, but with the equipment we have on hand and can secure, we feel certain that we can make a very satisfactory operation out of any properties we take over.

We have three properties tied up in the vicinity of John Day, Oregon, from which our sampling shows that the ore to be mined from these properties will run 42% or over. We also have one property definitely tied up near Grants Pass, Oregon, and are awaiting further information on the chrome program before tying up several properties which we have promised to us.

We feel that we would have no trouble in supplying 1,000 tons or more on the properties we now have tied up in Grant County, but would like to have the privilege of having this ore accepted at Seneca, Oregon, or better yet, to have

Mr. H. DeWitt Smith

- 2 -

February 10, 1942.

same sampled and accepted at the property before being trucked to Seneca, Oregon.

If any other information is necessary before issuing contract, kindly advise us so that we can give you such additional information as required.

Yours very truly,

ISORIG and LILLEY

By

G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

February 10, 1942.

Mr. H. DeWitt Smith,
Metals Reserve Company,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am enclosing letter supplementing our application for contract on 1,000 tons of chrome ore. I hope that you will find this satisfactory.

I hope you will understand that we would not be interested in starting out on a program if we did not feel that we were going to be able to work out satisfactory arrangements with you for mining a considerable amount in addition to this 1,000 tons. Our thought in making application for this 1,000 tons was merely to get something started as soon as weather conditions would permit our going to work.

Was very sorry that illness prevented my being able to go to Grants Pass for the meeting with Mr. John Norton. However, Mr. Isgrig was present at this meeting in our interests and had an opportunity of explaining the problems confronting us to Mr. Norton.

It is my understanding that Mr. Nixon is going to have a meeting with you on the 17th of this month, at which time we sincerely hope you will be able to get a true picture of the various problems confronting the mining of chrome ore in this State and Northern California.

Again wish to emphasize the fact that we consider it almost necessary to have a program outlined by you whereby chrome ore may be marketed through your agency on a sliding scale for percentage of Cr_2O_3 starting with 30% and as a suggestion for prices, I offer the following for your consideration:

Cr_2O_3 %	Price Per Unit	Cr_2O_3 %	Price Per Unit
30	\$0.85	40	\$1.30
31	0.90	41	1.325
32	0.95	42	1.35
33	1.00	43	1.375
34	1.05	44	1.40
35	1.10	45	1.425
36	1.15	46	1.45
37	1.20	47	1.475
38	1.25	48 and upward ..	1.50
39	1.275		

Mr. H. DeWitt Smith

- 2 -

February 10, 1942.

In offering this as a suggestion, please bear in mind, Mr. Smith, that I am taking into consideration the fact that in almost every outcropping we have examined, it will be necessary to build a road into the property before any actual mining can be undertaken, which in itself is a very heavy expense and must be done before any tonnage can be developed.

Also wish to again bring to your attention the fact that we have examined far more properties where the chrome content is from 30 to 40% than we have properties where the chrome content is 40% and above.

While we will readily confess that we are not fully acquainted with your requirements for chrome, still we are working under the impression that you desire as large a tonnage as possible, mined as quickly as possible, and it is with this thought in mind that we have offered the schedule shown above.

We might add that while the writer has not talked with Mr. Nixon and asked that his name be used as a reference, still I am of the opinion that Mr. Nixon would not object to your contacting him as to our ability to finance chrome operations and getting out as large a tonnage as is possible in short order, so would suggest that you inquire from Mr. Nixon, when you see him, as to our ability along these lines.

Thanking you most kindly for your earnest consideration, I am,

Yours very truly,

G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

January 28, 1942

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Shoemaker Building
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

The meeting of chrome miners with Mr. John E. Norton of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from Washington, is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Monday, February 2nd, at the Redwoods Hotel in Grants Pass. I suspect I shall meet Norton here and go down with him on the train Sunday evening.

Sincerely yours,

Director

ENN:jb

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

January 24, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Department of Geology,
Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

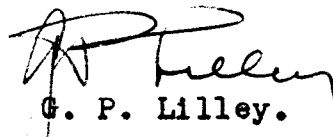
Dear Mr. Nixon:

Will you be kind enough to advise me as to whether or not there has been any change from February 2nd set as the date for the chrome meeting at Grants Pass?

I returned the bulletin which you loaned me and want you to know that I appreciated reading this over.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

RECEIVED
JAN 24 1942
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

11

COUGAR - INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

January 29, 1942.

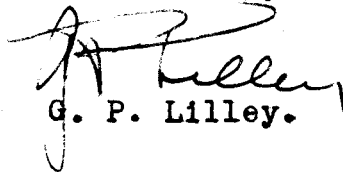
Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Thanks for your letter of January 28th,
which arrived in the morning's mail.

Will be in Portland Sunday to take
Sunday night's train for Grants Pass and will,
no doubt, see you at that time.

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

RECEIVED
JAN 30 1942
STATE DEPT. OF
& MINERAL INDUSTRIES

COUGAR - INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

January 12, 1942.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

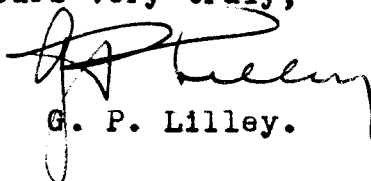
Dear Mr. Nixon:

Expect to leave here Wednesday night and arrive in Portland Thursday morning, at which time I would like to have an opportunity of going over the chrome situation with you.

Do not want you to stay in Portland if you have other plans, such as you mentioned in our recent phone conversation, when you advised you might be up in Baker this week. However, if you are in Portland I will see you at that time, but if you do come to Baker, will you please get in touch with Mr. J. B. Isgrig, who you can locate through my office.


With very kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

RECEIVED
JAN 13 1942
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.



COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

May 23rd, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology & Mine Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

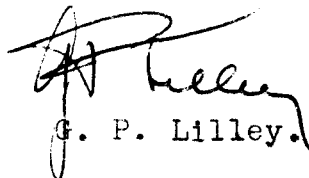
I want you to know that I appreciate your letter of May 19th, together with the information you sent therewith from Mr. H. R. Masters.

I really do not anticipate that I will be able to do anything on this antimony project, but I thought it best to obtain all information beforehand in order to know just how it would work out.

We most certainly will send you all information we obtain from the U. S. Bureau of Mines with reference to the tests they have been running. We rather hope to receive these before the first of the month and we will send them to you as soon as possible.

Thanking you most kindly for your interest in these matters, I am,

Yours very truly,


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R



May 19, 1941

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

I have just received a letter from Mr. H. K. Masters, Consultant on Antimony, copy of which is attached hereto. I suggest that you communicate directly with Mr. Masters or with any of the list of purchasers he suggests.

Would be particularly interested in following up any attention you give to this antimony situation because we naturally are interested in its production in Oregon.

Would also be interested in knowing the result of the metallurgical work done by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, details of which you will probably receive shortly. A copy of these results may not be forwarded to this office, so we will have to depend on you. I make this request because in a former case, the Bureau did some work about three years ago on samples collected from some of the dumps in the Cracker Creek Area and Mr. Burch of our Board was not pleased with the results, because they did not seem to have been carried out to the full extent desired. I did not jump the Bureau about it as our sample was not from under-ground, but vowed that I would in any future case. If they did not do a complete and thorough job in this case, I would naturally like to know about it.

Cordially yours,

Director

EKN:ac

May 10, 1941

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

Attached is copy of letter we have just received from Davis at Salt Lake about the metallurgical work on the Cougar-Independence ores. The letter is self-explanatory.

I am very much in hopes that the Bureau has reached a conclusion that will be of benefit to you.

Cordially yours,

Director

EKN:ac

cc Gailen T. Vandel

May 8, 1941

Mr. G. P. Lilley
Cougar-Independence Lessees
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lilley:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 30th. Am writing to find out the position the Government takes as regards purchase of Antimony ores. Will advise you as soon as I have any information. As to chromite, the best bet I can think of at the moment is the U. S. Vanadium Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The Electro Metallurgical Corporation, another subsidiary of Union Carbide, is prepared to build an electric furnace plant in Portland for the reduction of various ores and the manufacture of ferro-alloys.

However, the ore end of the business is being taken care of by the U. S. Vanadium, whose address is 114 Sansome Street, San Francisco, attention of Mr. A. P. Certelyou. Suggest that you get in touch with them.

Very truly yours,

Director

EKN:ac

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

April 30, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
2527 S. E. Market St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We are figuring on the possibility of getting out some antimony ore with a small amount of gold content and we are wondering what arrangements can be made with the Government for the purchase of this.

Also have in mind a chrome proposition, which we will know about in a few days and would like to know where chrome can be sold and at what price.

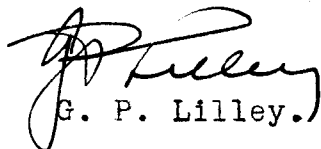
If you can give us this information, it will be greatly appreciated.

With very kindest regards from all the boys, we are,

Yours very truly,

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES,

By


G. P. Lilley.)

GPL:R

N

April 18, 1941

Mr. P. M. Ambrose, Metallurgist
Metallurgical Division
United States Bureau of Mines
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

The following is in reply to your letter of April 10th in regard to a sample of sulphide concentrates which apparently you have been unable to locate. These concentrates were shipped for testing purposes on January 21st and addressed to

"U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines
Intermountain Experiment Station
Salt Lake City, Utah
Metallurgical Division
Attention: C. W. Davis"

This was in agreement with instructions received from the Bureau of Mines.

We will appreciate any information that may be forthcoming on the results of testing of this material.

Yours very truly,

Director

EKN:ac

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

April 17, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We have for acknowledgment your letter of April 15th, with special reference to the concentrates which we shipped to the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

For your information, these concentrates were shipped on January 21st and we note by the bill of lading that they were consigned to

"U. S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Mines
Intermountain Experiment Station
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Metallurgical Division
Attention C. W. Davis"


On January 22nd we wrote to Salt Lake City and we are enclosing a copy of our letter of that date.

They surely must have received this shipment and no doubt have done some work before this date, so any information you can obtain for us will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

COUGAR INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

By


G. P. Lilley.

GPL:R

Encl.

RECEIVED
APR 18 1941

STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF MINES

January 22nd, 1941.

U. S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Mines
Intermountain Experiment Station
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Attention: C. W. Davis

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing Bill of Lading covering shipment of the sack of concentrate samples which are shipped to you in accordance with your instructions to our Mr. G. T. Vandel. The freight charges on this shipment are prepaid, as you will note by the Bill of Lading.

Yours very truly,

COUGAR INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

By G. P. LILLEY

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

With reference to your letter of April 2, inquiring what progress has been made in the testing of a sample of sulphide concentrates from the Cougar-Independence Lessees, of Baker, Oregon--mine address, Granite, Oregon:

In this connection it will be appreciated if you will provide us with further information in regard to this sample--contents, address to which forwarded, and date of shipment--as we have been unable to identify the particular sample to which you refer.

Very truly yours,

P. M. Ambrose
P. M. Ambrose, Metallurgist,
Metallurgical Division.

RECORDED
APR 14 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

April 15, 1941

Mr. G. T. Vandel, Superintendent
Cougar-Independence Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

Some months ago, you filled out and forwarded to the Bureau of Mines blanks in connection with a representative sample of concentrates which I understood you sent along later, all in connection with a series of tests to be made on the ore by the Bureau of Mines.

In writing about the results to date, I have just received a letter from Mr. Ambrose of the Bureau. Copy of Ambrose's letter is attached. Evidently they can not identify the sample.

Am I wrong in thinking that the sample was duly forwarded by you? I was so certain that you had sent it. Will you inform me on this matter so that I can take the matter up immediately with the Bureau of Mines?

Yours very truly,

Director

SKH:ac
ccG.P.Lilley

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE: SHOEMAKER BUILDING
BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS:
GRANITE, OREGON

March 31, 1941.

Mr. Earl Nixon,
c/o Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries,
329 S.W. Oak St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

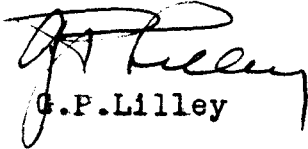
In compliance with the request of the Federal Bureau of Mines, obtained through your cooperation, we shipped a sample of our concentrates for testing purposes.

We have never been advised of results of these tests and we are wondering if it would be possible for you to obtain these results for us. If so, we can assure you that your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES,

By


G.P. Lilley

GPL:R

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE, SHOEMAKER BUILDING

OPERATIONS
GRANITE, ORE.

BAKER, OREGON

December 2, 1940

DEC 7 1940

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Enclosed herewith please find the three United States Bureau of Mines Forms No. 284 carefully filled out which you forwarded in your letter of October 8th. Further information, as indicated on the forms, is given in this letter.

ORE RESERVES:- Mr. McGinnis advises that at the LaBellevue Mine they have between 12,000 and 15,000 tons of ore blocked out on one and two sides and an estimated 30,000 tons of possible ore. Their mill capacity is about 45 tons per 24 hours.

Mr. Allen states that they have no blocked out ore at the present time but are developing by drifting and that mining is still being conducted from the same stope that was being worked when you visited their operation. He expressed his interest in the proposed cyanidation tests on concentrates of the district and his willingness to cooperate in any way that he could to further this work.

At the Cougar Mine, of the Cougar-Independence Group, operated by the Cougar-Independence Lessees, no tonnage on proven ore can be given at the present time as development is being carried forward by drifting and shaft sinking. Perhaps the best criterion of ore expected from this development work is to consider the tonnage extracted to date from the mine above the lowest levels in the ore zones. It is believed conservatively estimated that the orebody, in which the incline shaft is being sunk, has produced 30,000 tons in a vertical distance of 250 feet below the outcrop. With the knowledge we have of this orebody it would be reasonably fair to estimate that 30,000 tons of ore will be developed below the lowest exposed level of this date, assuming only a 150 foot downward extension.

In addition to this major orebody there has been opened up to the north a section of the vein

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE, SHOEMAKER BUILDING

BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS
GRANITE, ORE.

that has produced an estimated 15,000 tons of ore. A possible 15,000 tons may be estimated for the downward extension of this orebody. As indications are excellent for an extension of these sections of the vein known to be productive it is believed conservative to estimate a total of 45,000 tons of possible ore. In some cases this is blocked out on two sides but the greater percentage only on one side.

It may further be said that aside from the two known productive zones of the mine there are others sections of the vein, both to the North and South, which, when developed, will produce considerable tonnage.

No figure can be given as to possible or probable ore in the Independence mine at the present writing.

CONCENTRATE SAMPLE:- The writer advised, in his letter of November 18th, that it would be impossible to furnish a representative concentrate sample before January, 1940. Since that date mining was conducted for approximately one week on ore that is considered to have produced a concentrate representative of that obtained from the Cougar Mine. During this interval a concentrate sample was taken daily from the mill filter and about 300 pounds is now available for cyanidation tests.

CHARACTER OF CONCENTRATES FROM DISTRICT:-
Generally speaking the concentrate produced in the flotation plant from ore mined at the Cougar Mine is composed of pyrite, (marcasite ?), arsenopyrite, carbonaceous material and insoluble. Minor amounts of lead and zinc have been reported. Gold silver ratios vary between 2 : 1 and 1 : 1 depending on the location from which the ore is extracted.

Laboratory tests on ore from the Independence Mine indicate considerably more silver than gold with a ratio of as much as 1 gold : 16 silver. Hand specimens from the mine oftentimes contain an appreciable amount of sphalerite. However, the greater percentage of sulfide contained is probably pyrite.

In appearance, the concentrates produced at the Buffola and LaBellevue Mines are similar to that produced from the Cougar Ore. However, it is reported that the sulfide content of the LaBellevue ore is much greater than that of the Cougar. Also,

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BAKER, OREGON

OPERATIONS
GRANITE, ORE.

it is understood that the Buffola and LaBellevue ores contain more sphalerite.

Although separate tests would necessarily have to be made on the concentrates from the different mines it is believed that cyanidation tests made on the Cougar Mine concentrate would apply in a general way to the others in the district, which opinion was previously expressed by yourself when discussing the problem.

While no roasting and cyanidation tests have been made in our laboratory we have done considerable laboratory and mill flotation experimental work for the purpose of improving recovery and grade of concentrate. If any of these data would be of benefit in connection with the proposed cyanidation tests we would furnish same upon request.

We would be particularly interested in obtaining the results of any microscopic work that might be conducted in connection with the roasting and cyanidation tests by the Bureau of Mines as a further understanding of the minerals contained, size distribution, character of middling, etc. would be of much assistance to us in further improving our metallurgy.

encls.
cc/ G.P.Lilly
Baker, Oregon

Yours very truly,

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

By: Gailen T. Vandell
Gailen T. Vandell

November 25, 1940

Mr. Gaile T. Vandel, Superintendent
Cougar-Independence Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

Thanks for your letter of November 18th.

I shall look forward to hearing from you further and hope that you will enclose the filled-out Bureau of Mines' forms one of these days so that we can be all set to forward the representative samples when you are in a position to take them.

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Director

COUGAR-INDEPENDENCE LESSEES

BUSINESS OFFICE, SHOEMAKER BUILDING

OPERATIONS
GRANITE, ORE.

BAKER, OREGON

November 18, 1940

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Thanks for your letters of October 2nd and 8th respectively with enclosed forms from U. S. Bureau of Mines and copy of Mr. Leaver's letter which were received some time past. I must apologize for my delay in answering and it has not been prompted by lack of interest or appreciation on our part for your effort in our behalf. As a matter of fact, during the past month or more, my duties have been more than usual with extra construction, machinery installations and preparations for shaft sinking.

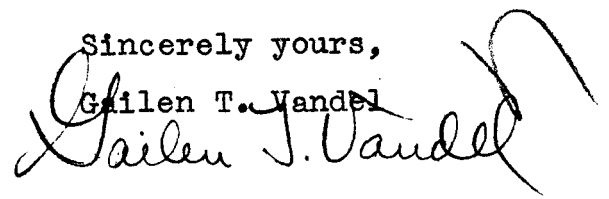
The Bureau of Mines forms have not been forwarded to date as mining, for more than a month, has been conducted on the smaller, north ore-body to a large extent. The concentrate produced from this ore is not representative of that produced from the major ore-body in the area of the shaft now being sunk. Therefore, it would have been and now is impossible to furnish a representative concentrate sample for roasting and cyanidation tests. Sinking is progressing daily and we estimate that mining can be started on the lower level sometime near the first of the year at which time a representative concentrate sample can be furnished.

Recently we have installed in the mill a new 4-cell, Denver Sub "A" Flotation machine to replace the 3-cell Fagregren Cleaner that was in service when you visited the plant. This should give better metallurgical results and the concentrate produced from the major ore-body of the Cougar mine should be just about the maximum that can be produced with the present flowsheet.

To date I have not talked with Mr. Allen but have contacted Mr. McGinnis re ore reserves. Within the next few days I will talk with Mr. Allen and following that will forward the forms and letter, those date available at the time. We enjoyed your visit to camp and the many suggestions you made in an effort to be of assistance to us and wish to extend an invitation to visit camp again in the near future. With kindest regards from Mr. Isgrig and myself, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Gailen T. Vandell



November 19, 1940

Mr. Gailen T. Vandel
General Superintendent
Cougar Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

We wrote you under date of October 8th enclosing certain blanks to be filled out by you and returned. I have heard nothing from you since.

Doubtless you have been very busy getting ready for winter and in sinking the new winse.

I am anxious to get the Bureau of Mines to work on these samples of concentrate if you care to fill out the blanks and send them to us. Otherwise, would you kindly return them so that we can take up the matter with Mr. Allen or Mr. McGinnis? These gentlemen, with whom I talked on the same trip on which I stayed over night with you, expressed much interest in the possibility of roasting of these concentrates.

I don't know when I shall get over to Baker again but, when I do, I hope to see you if it works out so that I can.

With best wishes to you and your "gang", I am

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Director

October 8, 1940

Mr. Gallen T. Vandell
General Superintendent
Cougar Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandell:

In reply to my letter to Edmund S. Leaver of the United States Bureau of Mines, we received a letter from him—a copy of which is attached—together with blanks in triplicate to cover submission of samples.

Will you kindly fill these blanks out carefully and return them to this office for forwarding to the Director of the United States Bureau of Mines?

In your answering the question about ore reserves, I suggest that you divide these into known and probable at your own property, and also get some indication on this score from Mr. Allen of the Buffalo and Mr. McGinnis of the LaBellevue, if you can do it. I explained to each of them that I was going to try to arrange for roasting tests and they will know in general what the score is. You might write a letter to accompany the filled-out form stating that, whereas the sample to be forwarded will be from the Cougar and that although separate tests, of course, would have to be made on ores of the other properties, the results of tests on the Cougar concentrates would apply in a general way to the problem of the district. Note in your letter and on the form that complete roasting tests followed by cyanidation tests are desired.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm
encl.2

Director

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P
Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Rare and Precious Metals Experiment Station

Metallurgical Division

Heno, Nevada

September 30, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Your letter of September 26 in which you inquire if arrangements could be made for testing samples of sulphide ores from three individual properties in eastern Oregon to see if it can be successfully roasted in a similar manner as the Getchell ore is being treated is to hand.

Attached please find a set of our form 284. This application should be executed and forwarded by you to The Director, Bureau of Mines, Washington. I would suggest that the most representative ore of the district be described in this application.

After the Director has passed on the application and referred it to the Metallurgical Division, the Chief Engineer will advise you regarding the size of samples and the Bureau Station that will undertake the work.

Cordially yours,

(Signed): EDMUND S. LEAVER

Edmund S. Leaver
Supervising Engineer

C O P Y

OCT 2 1940
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
RARE AND PRECIOUS METALS EXPERIMENT STATION

METALLURGICAL DIVISION

RENO, NEVADA

September 30, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

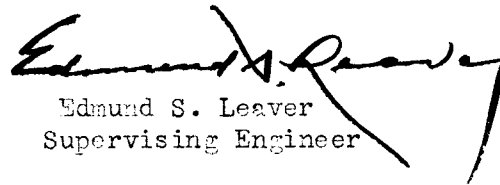
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Attached please find a set of our form 284. This application should be executed and forwarded by you to The Director, Bureau of Mines, Washington. I would suggest that the most representative ore of the district be described in this application.

After the Director has passed on the application and referred it to the Metallurgical Division, the Chief Engineer will advise you regarding the size of samples and the Bureau Station that will undertake the work.

Cordially yours,


Edmund S. Leaver
Supervising Engineer

October 2, 1940

Mr. Gaiken T. Vandel
General Superintendent
Cougar Mine
Granite, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vandel:

Just a note to thank you and to recall a very pleasant experience recently at the Cougar Mine. Please convey my regards also to Mr. Isgrig.

I have written to the United States Bureau of Mines, asking them to advise me promptly if they are prepared to accept for test purposes a substantial representative sample of sulphide concentrates for purposes of roasting tests and, if they are prepared to carry out the tests in question, to advise me as to the required quantity of concentrates. I will advise you as soon as I receive a reply to this request.

Last night I had a chance to have a good talk with "Pop" Wilmot who has been developing the Argonaut Mine for the past year. I learned that "Pop" had a series of roasting tests carried out on the Argonaut concentrates to see if they were amenable to roasting and cyanidation. The answer was not too satisfactory, as the recovery was only 73-85%. Don't know whether your ore would be similar or not but would keep my fingers crossed on the basis of Mr. Wilmot's results.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

EKH:vm

Director