

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 28
was added to the Minute Item
No. 28 of the State Lands
Commission at its meeting of 2
to 0 at its 10/26/78
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

28.

10/78
W 40063
Smith

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR PROSPECTING PERMIT

APPLICANT: American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.
11437 West 48th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033

TYPE OF LAND: School land.

AREA AND LOCATION: Section 16, T11N, R14E, SBB&M, San Bernardino
County.

PROPOSAL: To evaluate the potential for minerals
other than oil, gas and geothermal of the
subject State lands. Primary objective
is to determine if molybdenum and related
mineral ores exist in commercial quantities
and if so, propose a plan for their extraction.

METHOD OF EXPLORATION:
The applicant proposes to drill two 1,500-foot
holes to determine the potential mineralization
at depth. A tentative drill site is located
approximately in the center of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$
of the section. Final sites will be selected
after analysis of the preliminary data,
and all data collected will be correlated
with that obtained from some 66 lode claims
which the applicant controls in adjoining
Sections 8, 9 and 17.

- PREREQUISITE TERMS:
1. The State Lands Commission staff, in
accordance with Article 10, Section
2905 (b) of the Cal. Adm. Code, has
conducted an initial study and has
concluded that the project will not
have a significant effect on the environ-
ment. Therefore, in compliance with
subsection (c) of Section 2905, a negative
declaration was prepared and filed
with the State Clearinghouse.
 2. The State Clearinghouse acknowledged
receipt of the negative declaration
and has completed the required review.

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3. In accordance with Chapter 1200, Statutes of 1977, the State Lands Commission must complete and certify a negative declaration within 105 days following receipt of a completed application and approve or deny the project within 1 year. This application was certified complete as of August 25, 1978.

EXHIBIT A. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION STAFF.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION ND# 227 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEQA OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND THE STATE GUIDELINES, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Negative Declaration is prepared pursuant to Section 15083, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6, and is based upon an Initial Study pursuant to Sections 15080 and 15066 thereof.

An application has been received for approval to conduct a mineral exploration program in Section 16, T. 11 N., R. 14 E., S.B.M., some 640 acres in San Bernardino County. Of primary interest is the potential occurrence of an economic deposit of molybdenum. (See attached Exhibit A for location map.)

The applicant proposes to drill two 1500-foot holes to determine the potential mineralization at depth. A tentative drillsite is located approximately in the center of the SW 1/4 of the section. Final sites will be selected after analysis of the preliminary data, and all data collected will be correlated with that obtained from some 66 lode claims which the applicant controls in adjoining Sections 8, 9 and 17. Drillsites will be compact (100 ft. diameter) and will require little preparation in an area that is relatively open and supports sparse vegetation. Preexisting roads will provide adequate access and no permanent facilities will be constructed. The prospecting operations will not create either permanent or adverse environmental effects and will not have any economic effect on the area.

The Initial Study was prepared by the staff of the State Lands Commission augmented by data supplied by the applicant and finalized after solicitation of comments from all known concerned agencies and groups. Mr. N. Nelson Leonard, Chief Archaeologist for the San Bernardino County Museum Association conducted an on-site reconnaissance of the area and reported an apparent lack of cultural resources other than recent mining activity and proposed that should the project reach the development stage a complete archeological survey of the impact area be an element of the environmental impact document.

It is felt that any Environmental Impacts will have only short-term effects and will be temporary and insignificant. No permanent or adverse effects are foreseeable. Therefore it has been determined that the proposed exploration project will not have significant effect on the environment.

INITIAL STUDY

PROSPECTING PERMIT

W 40063

(1) Project and Its Location:

An application has been made to the California State Lands Commission to prospect for metallic minerals, primarily molybdenum, near Summit Spring in Section 16, T. 11 N., R. 14 E., S.B.M., San Bernardino County. Section 16 is located approximately eight miles northeast of Kelso, and is accessible from the highway between Kelso and Cima.

(2) Statement of the Objectives Sought by the Proposed Project:

The project is intended to determine the location of economic mineralization in Section 16. The molybdenum mineralization is thought to be controlled by multiple subparallel faults that trend N. 20 E., 40 S. The applicant proposes to drill two holes to determine the extent and grade of any subsurface mineralization.

(3) General Description of the Project:

The applicant has completed surface reconnaissance, geologic mapping, and collected grab samples from surface rock outcrops. In this stage of the project, the applicant proposes to drill two 1,500 foot holes to determine the molybdenum mineralization potential at depth. One tentative drill site is located approximately in the center of the SW 1/4 of Section 16. The final sites will be selected after analysis of the preliminary data. If the results are favorable, additional drilling may be warranted.

The two hole drilling program will take from four to six weeks with an anticipated production of fifty to seventy feet per day. The drill crew will consist of two men, working one ten hour shift per day on a six day per week schedule. The drill sites will be limited in size to an approximate 100 foot diameter. The land surface has sparse vegetation and is relatively open, so the sites will not require any significant surface preparation. The preexisting network of unimproved roads will provide adequate access to the selected drill sites.

The scope of future mining activity is unknown at this time. If any reserves are proven to exist and mining is anticipated, a separate Environmental Impact Document will be prepared and circulated for that phase of the project.

(4) DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

General Geologic Description:

The Providence Mountains lie within the Mojave Desert geologic province. The northern Providence Mountains trend north-south and have a maximum width of approximately seven miles.

The Providence Mountains contain Pre-Cambrian metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary strata, Tertiary intrusive and volcanic rocks, and Quaternary sand and terrace gravel deposits.

Section 16 is underlain by Pre-Cambrian metamorphic rocks consisting of undifferentiated gneiss, schist, and granite. These rocks contain numerous, minor, normal faults that appear to control the mineralization in this section.

The northern Providence Mountains constitute an easterly tilted block within which faulting is the dominant structural feature. Folding is very minor, and in most cases appears to be related in origin to the faulting. The Providence mountain block is presumed to be pre-Miocene in age, and is not a feature produced by relatively recent faulting. There is no evidence of recent fault movement along the margins of the range.

Mineralization occurs at several locations on both the Northwest and East side of the range. The principal minerals are Au and Ag. The age of mineralization is unknown, but generally thought to be related to the Miocene volcanism. Underground studies in mines along the same fault system in the Providence Mountains suggest that ore deposition there was controlled by faults, and that mineralization followed the major part of the faulting.

(5) ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Section 16 and Summit Springs is typically mountainous, rocky desert terrain. The region is sparsely populated and there is no permanent habitation within at least a five mile radius of Summit Spring. The railroad siding at Kelso, eight miles to the west, is the only permanent community in the area.

Numerous old, abandoned mines and prospects are evident in the vicinity of Summit Spring and on the lower western slope of the Providence Mountains towards Kelso. The structure built near Summit Spring is apparently abandoned and in disrepair. The topography, soil conditions and water supply preclude agricultural activity.

Section 16 contains sparse flora. This area is the southernmost extension in the California desert of numerous elements of the Great Basin flora.

The vegetation observed in the area is:

Communities: creosote bush scrub
Shadsdale scrub
Joshua tree woodland

Plants: Mojave Yucca (Y. baccata)
Mojave Yucca (Y. shidigera)
Joshua tree (Y. brevifolia)
Canyon Live Oak (Quercus Chrysolepis)
Barrel cactus (Ferocactus acanthodes)
Hackberry (Celtis reticulata)
Creosote Bush (Larrea divaricata)

Rare Plants: (Penstemon calcareus)
(P. stephensii)
(Eriogonum Heermannii
var. floccosum.)

Animals observed are:

porcupine (Erethizon dorsatum)
puma (Felis concolor)
Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus)
Desert bighorn (Ovis canadensis Nelsoni)

Birds: Pinyon jay (Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus)
broad tailed hummingbird (Selasphorus platycercus)
Hepatic tanager (Piranga flava)

Reptiles: rattlesnake (Crotalus spp.)
desert rosy boa (Lichanura trivirgata gracia)

Climate:

The Providence Mountains are in the northeastern portion of the arid Mojave Desert. The annual precipitation for the general prospect area varies between four inches to six inches of rain per year. Most of the precipitation that falls has origin in the Pacific maritime air masses.

Approximately 70% of the annual rainfall occurs during the winter months. The general Mojave Desert region has a second period of precipitation that extends from July through October. This precipitation is generally the result of tropical air masses.

Due to the relative absence of clouds, wide ranges of temperature are characteristic of the Mojave Desert. The average relative humidity is less than 60%, typically ranging from 30% to 40%. The general description for the prospecting area would be hot and arid.

(6) Environmental Impact

The occupation of the selected drillsites will have only a minor short term impact and there will be no long term adverse effects on any aspect of the present environment. The small drill rig scheduled for the program will use existing access roads. Water for drilling will be delivered by tank truck. The circulated water will be collected in small, temporary sumps and recirculated when possible. After the drilling is completed, the State will request that the upper fifty feet of the holes be plugged with cement and the sites be restored to the original condition as nearly as practicable.

(7) Any Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented.

No adverse environmental effects are anticipated on the basis of the proposed plan. The small drill rig and several service vehicles will be inconspicuous and will have only a short term imprint on the aesthetics of the area.

(8) Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact:

The drill rig and service vehicles will be limited to size and number compatible with efficient operation. All equipment will be properly maintained to operate on an energy efficient level. Every effort will be made to utilize personnel and machines on a schedule which will promote minimum time for site occupation.

(9) Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

The specific alternative is "No Project". Drilling is essential to make a valid assessment of the mineral potential at depth.

(10) The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long Term Productivity:

The methods utilized to complete this program are such that there will be no cumulative or long range effects which could impact the environment. Until such time as a potential mineral resource has been identified, only short term to negligible impact actions are anticipated.

(11) Any Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it be Implemented:

No irreversible environmental changes will be caused by the proposed program. There will be a small expenditure of fuel energy, no significant road construction and no surface alteration which could propagate future changes.

(12) The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action:

The exploration phase of this project will have no effect on the growth of the area. A separate Environmental Impact Document will be prepared and circulated prior to any mining operation.

(13) Organizations and Persons Consulted:

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Conservation - Division of Mines & Geology
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Native American Heritage Commission
San Bernardino County APCD
San Bernardino County Planning Department
San Bernardino Public Works Agency
South Coast Air Quality Management District
San Manuel Reservation
Twenty-Nine Palms Reservation

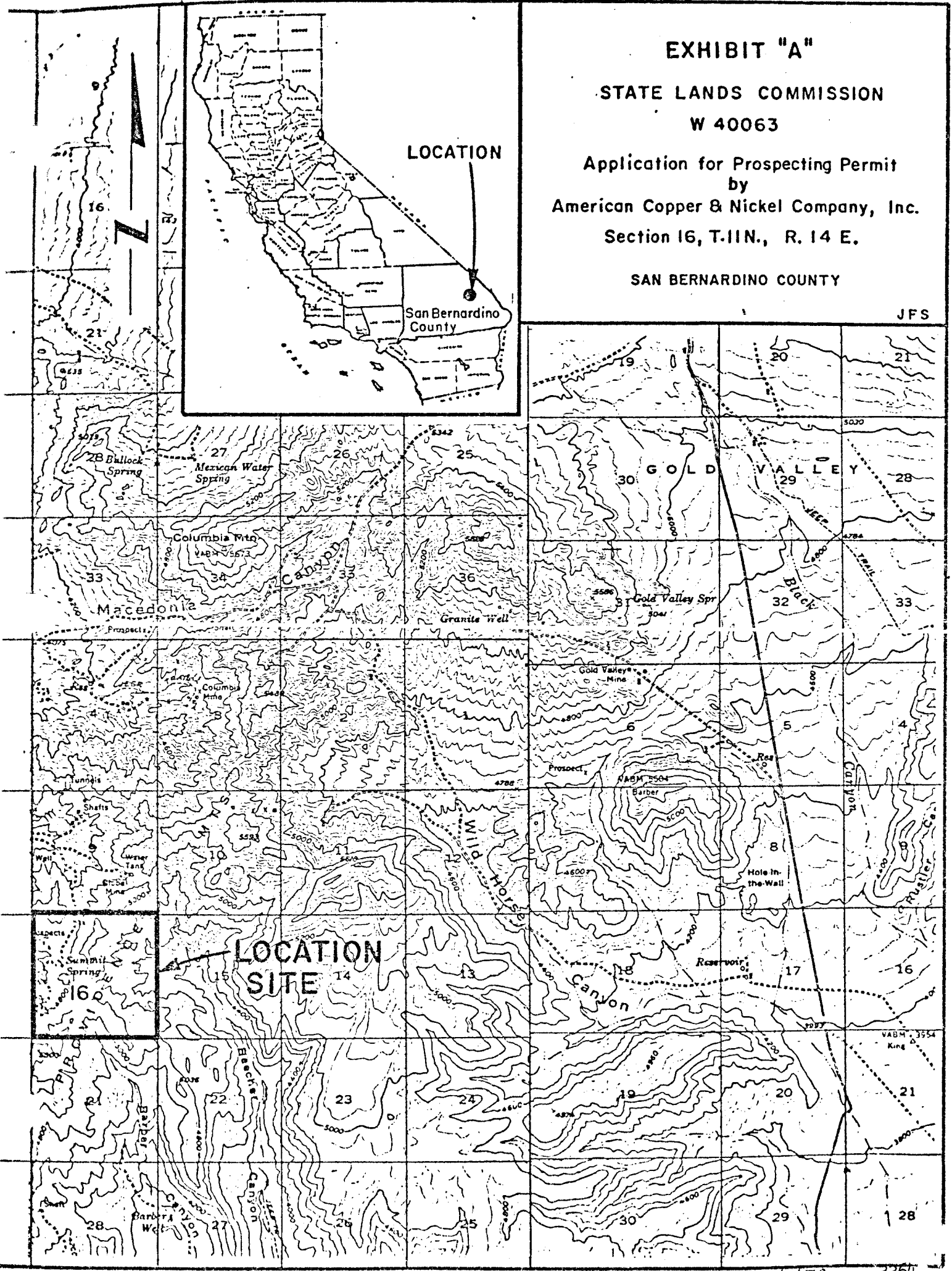
EXHIBIT "A"

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

W 40063

Application for Prospecting Permit
by
American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc.
Section 16, T.11N., R. 14 E.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



LOCATION SITE