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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES AZMILS DATA

PRIMARY NAME: BUCKEYE HILLS MICA

ALTERNATE NAMES:

MARICOPA COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 15A

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 1 S RANGE 3 W SECTION 20 QUARTER S2
LATITUDE: N 33DEG 19MIN 19SEC LONGITUDE: W 112DEG 34MIN 57SEC
TOPO MAP NAME: BUCKEYE - 7.5 MIN

CURRENT STATUS: UNKNOWN

COMMODITY:
MICA

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

USGS BUCKEYE QUAD
ADMMR INDUSTRIAL MIN. RESOURCES REPORT P 38
MOORE R T AZBM BULL 180 P 398
ADDITIONAL WORKINGS SEC 29, 32, T1S R3W
ADMMR BUCKEYE HILLS MICA FILE
ADMMR "U" FILE MARICOPA MCA-1



BUCKEYE HILLS
SERICITE MINE DIST
(ALSO SMALL SILVER AGGREGATES)

BUCKEYE 7 1/2 TOPO
DIS, R3W Sec 20, 21
27-29

Eagle Mtn

VABM
Buckeye

JEOP TRAIL

20

22

29

28

27

32

34

5

4

3

1089

Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources

INFORMATION FROM MINE CARDS IN MUSEUM

ARIZONA

Maricopa Co.

MM-9372 Sericite

MM-9373 Sericite

Buckeye

Buckeye Mica Mine

MILS # 15A

D-1000

Buckeye Hill Mica Mine

BUCKEYE HILLS MICA

KAP WR 1/2/87: Discussed the requirements for affidavits of labor for mining claims with Tim Whitney of Murco Wall Products, Buckeye. The affidavits for their Buckeye Hills Mica (file) Maricopa County claims had been lost in the mail coming from their corporate office in Fort Worth, Texas. The necessity of having the document both recorded at the county and filed with the BLM on time. He was going to recreate the documents over the phone and hand carry them to the recorder and BLM. Work consisted of maintenance type improvements.

Visited with Hal Susie of Phoenix BLM regarding opening pit rights on unpatented claims; Hal said an open pit operation on an unpatented claim was legal and that Buckeye Mica had in his opinion grounds for a suit against the State Hiway Dept. for building a road arbitrarily thru their pit area.
GW - WR 4/27/73

Called Mr. Smith, Buckeye Mica Company regarding purchase of property. He said it was for sale and would prefer the tentative buyer visiting the plant and quarry. A Mr. Pierson, Day Mines Company, Wallace, Idaho called regarding the Buckeye Mica. GW WR 6/11/73

KP 5/12/82: In the company of Nyal Niemuth visited the Buckeye Mica Mine area. The properties are reportedly owned by Murco Wall Products Inc., 228 Arizona Eastern, Buckeye, Arizona 85236. Phone (602) 386-5781. The mine has produced mica for the Buckeye Mica Plant in the past, but is not currently active.

KP 4/8/83: During a visit with Tim Whitney of Murco Wall Products at the Buckeye Mica Plant he explained they are now obtaining a portion of their mica requirements from their Buckeye Mica Mine. A separate report on the current activities has been written. ^{Heub}

KAP WR 11/30/84: Tim Whitney, Manager of Murco Wall Products in Buckeye reported they have started wet grinding sericite mica from the Buckeye Hills Mica Mine (f) in a ceramic lined ball mill at the Buckeye Mica Mill (f). Grinding is done with porcelain balls. Ground mica pulp passing a 325 mesh screen goes to settling tanks and then a centrifuge before being dried in a small screw conveyor using natural gas fired space heaters. The centrifuge discharges mica to the "dryer" at about 30-40% moisture and the drying is not very successful.

KAP WR 10/11/85: Murco Wall Products has temporarily shut down their Buckeye Hills Mica Mine (file) Maricopa County. Their general manager, Tim Whitney is currently spending most of his time developing new markets for the company's products in the Rocky Mountain States. They plan to eventually again mine mica, but as they put it ... "They'll do it right the next time."

Interview with H. G. Smith and Son of Buckeye Mica Co. 6/4/64

Buckeye Mica is currently selling three sizes of Mica or 65, 80 and 325 mesh. Small orders amounting to 100 tons for 325 mesh are on hand. a surge stock pile of several hundred tons of ore is now built up at the mill. The market is steady. Smith stated that he figures on 20-25 per cent net so as to take care of contingencies and market shifts. The mine is currently operating under contracts with three sets of lessees. This method has not proven too good so the Smiths may take over the mining later on. The grade is sometimes not too satisfactory, it being difficult to obtain contractors with know-how as to selective mining. H. G. Smith said he had helped to build Dee Cantwell's Mica mill north of Morrystown. Smith also emphasized that demands may vary considerably month by month. He plans to try out a new type of grinding machine in order to more cheaply produce the 325 mesh. Mica it seems is very abrasive on grinding machines. Smith said he would buy clean white Mica at \$32 to 35 per ton, depending on its purity.

Lewis A. Smith 6/4/64

H. G. Smith said that the mica is being mined by 3 separate lessees: Robert Franklin, A. Elders and Arthur Duncan. The contract calls for delivery to the mill (4 mile haul). Currently sales are running near the 400 ton mark for a month.

Interviewed McLeod at Buckeye Mica Mill, he has about 4 miners mining Lemons property. Buckeye plant being enlarged. FTJ WR 2/6/70

The Buckeye Mica Company continued to operate both the quarry and grinding plant with shut downs for the installation of a centrifuge for drying the wet-ground product. It is now anticipated a drying kiln will be necessary to finish the process. GW QR 2nd $\frac{1}{4}$ '71-'72 Oct.-Dec.

Active Mine List - Oct. 1972 - Empl. 6-8

Stopped at the Buckeye Mica Company plant and although the older Smith was in Phoenix, the young Mr. Smith was really "up in arms" because the State Hiway Department has recently cut a new road right thru their present working pit area. This was done without their previous knowledge and on a week-end when no one was at the pit. They have 2 patented and 55 unpatented claims in Sec. 20, 21 and 29, T1S R3W. He said there was a rumor that Sec. 20 and 21, T1S R3W was to be taken into the green belt. Mr. Avery, the owner of Buckeye Mica Company is upset and threatens to move the plant to Nevada where he claims working conditions are more favorable GW - WR 4/29/73

Smith is running about 300 tons per month. He stated that he could use a pair of contract miners to extract the mica from beds in schist. The excessive floods in California caused such havoc with mine roads in the mica producing area, as a consequence many users in California have contacted Smith for mica to compensate for their short supply. Smith will continue to supply his regular customers until such time as he is sure they will not drop the temporary orders as soon as the California mines are reopened. His regular people have increased their orders to meet some of the emergency demands, and this has reduced Smith's warehouse stocks to practically nil. Three contract miners were mentioned.

Memo - Interview with H. G. Smith and Son. - 12/4/62 - LAS

Buckeye Mica is now shipping 400-450 tons per month of ground mica. Most of this is used for insulation and roofing paper, and ranges from 20 to 65 mesh. A smaller quantity goes into 325 mesh material and is used in paint. Smith mainly ships to smaller users as the equipment required to accomodate larger users would cost \$125,000. Three contractors are mining the mica.

Interview with H. G. Smith, Buckeye, 2/5/63

Memo - Lewis A. Smith

Conference with H. G. Smith

The Buckeye Mica Mill is operating at capacity for one shaft. The mine has been supplying more mica of late than was the case in April. Three contract miners are now working at the mine.

Smith stated that he would pay \$30 - #@ per ton for scrap mica (cleaned).

Memo - Lewis A. Smith 6/4/63

Conference with H. G. SMith and son 10/1/63

Buckeye Mica is operating at normal capacity, the demand holding well. There are 4 sets of contract miners at the mine (2 each) and the supply of raw mica at the mill is satisfactory. H. G. Smith will leave shortly for California where he will supervise the eraction of a mill. Four men (including the Smiths) are working at the mill.

Memo LAS 10/1/63

BUCKEYE MICA

MARICOPA COUNTY

Roll
H. G. Smith reported that the mica demand (paint) was excellent and he was working 4 men, besides his son and himself, to try and fill orders. The mica mining is still contracted. The main bottleneck appears to be how much mica can be delivered from the mine. One set of contractors is working now and it is hoped that a second set can be obtained soon.

Taken from Sept. 11, 1958 Report LAS

P. 4
A conference with H.G. Smith of Buckeye Mica, revealed that he is handling 250 to 300 tons of mica per month and that his product is almost exclusively being used in the roofing industry. This grade ranges from 18 to 24 mesh. He stated that the paint mica specifications now required 500 to 700 mesh and very low moisture. At the price offered he could not afford to produce paint mica. Four men are employed at the mine and two in the mill.

LEWIS A. SMITH - 1-15-1959

Roll
A conference was held with H.G. Smith and his son. The plan 300 tons of mica, ranging from 30 to 325 mesh. The market i Smith is desirous of getting better miners or contractors, s output. He also wishes to get cleaner mill heads.

LEWIS A. SMITH - Sept. 6, 1959

Roll
The Buckeye Mica is currently running 3 shifts and producing about 350 tons of ground mica per month. The market, according to H.G. Smith, is again picking up after the usual "Income Tax" lag in March and April.

LEWIS A. SMITH - Weekly Report - May 6, 1960

Date Printed: 08/22/94

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

VERBAL INFORMATION SUMMARY

Information from: **Tim Whitney, General Manager**

Company: **Murco Wall Products**

Address:

City, State ZIP: **Buckeye, Arizona 85326**

Phone: **386-5781**

MINE: **Buckeye Hills Mica Mine**

ADMMR Mine File: **Buckeye Hills Mica**

County: **Maricopa**

AzMILS Number: **15A**

SUMMARY

Tim Whitney explained that he has been contacted by Pluess Staufer regarding Murco's Buckeye Hills Mica Mine. They are interested in seeing the deposit after receiving samples from Paul Pomp. Tim believes Pluess Staufer is interested in developing a mica operation in the southwest.

Tim reported that Buckeye Mica Company, the owner of the deposit before Murco hired Harvey Smith's Del Tierra Engineering to drill the deposit. He said the results of 113 holes was an average grade of 65% mica but that he couldn't remember the total tonnage. Crystalline silica was less than 4% and amorphous silica was less than 12%. Tim said Murco's Houston office has a copy of the report and he thought we (ADMMR) did; we don't. He is going to get a copy for their Buckeye office and promised us a copy.

Ken A. Phillips, Chief Engineer

Date: August 17, 1994

MINE AND PROSPECT FIELD VISIT DATA SUMMARY

Sheet 1 of 2

COMMODITIES MICA (Sericite)

MILS ID No. 16 MILS OK Date May 12, 1982

ENGINEER Nyal Niemuth, Ken Phillips

INFORMATION FROM: Nyal Niemuth, Ken Phillips

PROPERTY SUMMARY

I. MINE NAME Buckeye Mica Mine OTHER POSSIBLE NAMES
INCLUDING ANY CLAIM NAMES NOTED

II. LOCATION: T 1S R 3W SEC(S) 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 MINE DISTRICT
ELEV. -1,000' COUNTY Maricopa TOPO QUAD. Buckeye
DIRECTIONS As on topo.

MAP ATTACHED yes

III. OWNERSHIP: NAME Murco Wall Products PHONE 386-5781
ADDRESS: 228 Arizona Eastern, Buckeye, Arizona 85236
COMPANY NAME IF ANY: Murco Wall Products
PERTINENT PEOPLE Tim Whitney, General Manager

IV. PROPERTY AND HOLDINGS: unpatented mining claims

V. PAST PRODUCTION - NOTED, KNOWN, PROBABLE, UNKNOWN, NONE Noted - Considerable
over past years from numerous pits

IV. CURRENT STATUS: idle

IV. WORKINGS: numerous small production trenches and cuts. Limited number of short
slusher drifts

IV. GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY: DEPOSIT TYPE: Sericite Mica
individual occurrences < 200' LENGTH: 2 - 20' WIDTH: 2 - 20' VEIN STRIKE N NE

HOST ROCK: Sericite Schist

ECONOMIC MINERALS: Sericite Mica

COMMENTS: Sericite mineralization is parallel to and associated with small
< 2' pegmatite dike swarms generally concordant with the schist.

IX. EQUIPMENT ON SIGHT:

Mine

X. SAMPLING: NOTE TYPE IF ANY, DRILLING? _____

XI. REFERENCES AND REMARKS _____

MINE: Buckeye Mica Plant

COUNTY: Maricopa

Date: April 6, 1983

Engineer: Ken A. Phillips

KAP

Files: Buckeye Mica Plant (file)

Buckeye Hills Mica (file)

Discussed non metallic minerals marketing and mica with Tim Whitney of Murco Wall Products at the Buckeye Mica Plant (file) in Buckeye.

Murco Wall Products purchased the plant and the Buckeye Hill Mica mine (file) about two years ago. They are using the plant to mix materials to produce wall joint compound. Mineral materials used in the product include ground high white calcite and ground mica. All of the calcite and most of the mica is purchased. A small amount of their mica requirements are obtained from the Buckeye Hills Mica mine which they own and operate.

Their current requirements are for about 125 tons of ground high white limestone (or marble) weekly and about 100 tons of ground mica weekly. Both products must be 100% minus 100 mesh and about 60% minus 325 mesh. Mr. Whitney explained they would like to produce their total limestone and mica requirements from their own mines. They don't have a limestone property.

They feel their Buckeye Hill Mica mine could fill their total mica requirements for a while. However, their current grinding circuit at the mica plant has a maximum capacity of about 200 pounds per hour. The grinding circuit consists of a tube mill run dry, a hammer mill and an air collision mill. They are investigating different and larger milling systems. Mining at the Buckeye Hill Mica mine is done intermittently as required to maintain a supply of feed to the mill.

Sericite mica is mined from lenses and pods in gneisses by open cut and trench methods. Individual lenses seldom exceed 20 feet by 200 feet and are typically mined to a maximum depth of 50 feet. After one has been exhausted another must be found and developed. Although difficult sounding, the mine area has produced mica for many, many years. The crude mica, which requires no beneficiation, is mined and delivered to the plant at a cost of less than \$20 per ton.

Mr. Whitney explained his firm is interested in acquiring a local source of high white calcite limestone or similar high white mineral filler. Although they would prefer a captive source, they would consider purchasing crude material once they have installed new grinding facilities.

SUBJECT: Murco Wall Products Inc.
Date: May 12, 1982
Engineers: Ken A. Phillips and Nyal Miemuth

Plant visit on May 12, 1982 and field interview with Tim Whitney, General Manager.

Address: Murco Wall Products Inc.
228 Arizona Eastern
Buckeye, Arizona 85236
Phone (602) 386-5781

Employees: six

Murco Wall Products purchased the Buckeye Mica Plant (Hugh Smith's old plant) and have partially remodeled it to mix and package wall board joint compound. They also pop polystyrene and grind it for acoustical ceiling material.

All raw materials are purchased at the present, ground calcium carbonate (limestone or marble) from Lucerne Valley, California (probably Furnance Creek formation) and mica from the Carolines at a shipping of \$100/ton.

They plan to start mining and grinding their own mica within the next two months. They plan to mine sericite mica from numerous cuts and trenches in the Buckeye Hills. Grinding is planned using a large (2+' diameter) rotating plate pulverizer. (Sort of a super large "Bico" lab pulverizer.)

Along with their purchase of the old Buckeye Mica plant were the Buckeye Mica claims and the Elder claims and mill.

Once they start grinding their own mica they may be interested in purchasing custom ore.

Foot

DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ARIZONA
FIELD ENGINEERS REPORT

Mine Buckeye Mica

Date September 5, 1961

District Webb District, Maricopa Co.

Engineer Lewis A. Smith

Subject: Mill visit & interview with H.G. Smith

The Buckeye mill and mine are active. The mill is running 1 shift with 5 men (including the Smiths) and is producing 35, 65 and 325 mesh. The mine employs 5 men periodically. The mica is a fine textured, silky, smooth, white sericite in schist form. According to Smith the veins, or beds, are currently several feet wide. Smith stated that at present the market is good. Shipping 350 ton more or less per month.

Article 9-1762 - 13 men working

Balt

STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
MINERAL BUILDING, FAIRGROUNDS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



November 3, 1959

MEMORANDUM

Buckeye Mica - Buckeye

Conference with H. G. Smith

The mill is now on a three-shift basis and is producing over 300 tons per month of mica ground to 150 mesh. This product is almost exclusively going into insulation industries and is bagged.

The mine is being worked by four miners under the Buckeye Mica Co and 2 contractors, or 6 men in all. The company is furnishing 14 tons per day and the contractors 2 tons. The mica is almost entirely of the sericite type. Two "veins" are being exploited, the major one being about 18 feet wide and is clean but for occasional small lenses of quartz or opalite.

According to Mr. Smith, it does not pay them to produce much 325 mesh material for paint filler. This industry prefers material ground to between 525 and 700 mesh. Smith stated that they could not make this pay.

LEWIS A. SMITH, Field Engineer.

C
O
P
Y

Main

DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ARIZONA

FIELD ENGINEERS REPORT

Mill:

~~xxxx~~ Buckeye Mica

Date 7-1-58

District Buckeye District, Maricopa Co.

Engineer Lewis A. Smith

Subject: Study of Mill products

A conference with Mr. H.G. Smith (and his son), revealed that they have now more or less centralized on three products: -

- (1) 50 mesh (minus)
- (2) 100 mesh (minus)
- (3) 325 mesh (minus)

He stated that mining of mica in the Buckeye ores is a small operator job. Caterpillars are out because they cause too much dilution. The beds of sericite schist are usually narrow but clean and make a fine mill feed if properly extracted. Several good beds, in the past, were ruined by miners being too ambitious.

He said that he ran tests with electrostatic machines but the mica stuck to the tables because of static electricity and had to be cleaned off. A new airjet machine, now on the market, does a very good job of "blowing" the mica out leaving the waste behind. The Buckeye Mill is now doing dry grinding entirely.

Letter and copy of report mailed July 17, 1958

Rec'd

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
Mineral Building, Fairgrounds
Phoenix, Arizona

1. Information from: John Lemons
Address: Phoenix
2. Mine: _____ 3. No. of Claims - Patented 1
Unpatented 1
4. Location: West side of south end of Sierra Petrillas - 3 miles airline SSW of
Pellegrino Dam.
5. Sec 9 Tp 35 Range 511 6. Mining District _____
7. Owner: Lemons Brothers
8. Address: _____
9. Operating Co.: _____
10. Address: _____
11. President: _____ 12. Gen. Mgr.: _____
13. Principal Metals: Copper 14. No. Employed: _____
15. Mill, Type & Capacity: _____
16. Present Operations: (a) Down (b) Assessment work (c) Exploration
(d) Production (e) Rate _____ tpd.
17. New Work Planned: _____
18. Misc. Notes: Mr. Lemons brought some pieces of granite and
granite gneiss (?) to the office. Two larger pieces were said by
him to run about 2 1/2% of copper with gold and silver values.
Chrysocolla sparingly present and cuprite and chalcocite very
possibly present to account for the grade. - chalcocite much like other
cuprite. Considerable limonite. He said there was a large area over
which similar material extended on the north side of the prominent
hill in the section. A good size of dimensions feet believe he said
the showings covered some 600 x 300 feet with a prominent,
probably gossan, ridge. An epidote dike cuts off one end - not
mineralized on the other side.

Date: 12/28/67

(Signature)

F. P. Knight

(Field Engineer)