

*Harmer*  
Docket copy

PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

By: Stephen P. Holt

November 25, 1960

1. Docket DMEA-2448 (Mercury)  
Contract Idm-1544

Property - Mt. Diablo Quicksilver Mine  
Contra Costa County, California

Operator - John L. Jones and John E. Johnson  
Assignees of Ronnie B. Smith, Jene Harper, and  
James F. Dunnigan

Operator's Property Rights -

The Operator controlled, by assignment of a mining lease from the owners, Mt. Diablo Quicksilver Company, Ltd., Clayton, California, patented land described as: the NE $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 29, T. 1 N., R. 1 E., M.D.B. and M., Contra Costa County, California, excepting a certain area described in Annex II and shown on map, USGS Bull. 922, Plate 6, attached to the contract. Owner's Consent to Lien and Assignment of Contract accompany the contract.

2. Contract: Dated June 5, 1953, on Long Form, MF-200 (Revised Feb. 1952).

Work Authorized:

1. Level shaft site, erect headframe and ore pocket, install hoist, build tram from headframe to dump.
2. Sink 2-compartment timbered shaft 330 feet.
3. At depth approximately 300 feet below shaft collar, crosscut approximately 200 feet southerly through vein structure on hanging-wall side of fault, and from sides of crosscut drift in opposite directions along fault a total of approximately 425 feet.
4. Sample and assay vein material encountered. Estimated 125 samples to be assayed for mercury.

Estimated Total Cost of Project	\$73,571.00
Government Participation @ 75%	\$55,178.25

Amendments -

- No. 1, dated July 14, 1953, extended the starting date from July 20 to August 15, 1953.
- No. 2, dated April 22, 1954, authorized use of funds originally intended for crosscutting and drifting, for pumping and water treatment.
- No. 3, dated November 19, 1954, corrected the effective date of Amendment No. 2 from April 22, 1954, to February 18, 1954, the day on which the mine workings were flooded.

Work under the contract started August 15, 1953, was interrupted by flooding of the mine on February 18, 1954, and again by a fatal accident March 4, 1954. All work was discontinued and the Operator surrendered its lease on March 11, 1954. Cordero Mining Company leased the property in November 1954, and conducted further exploration work without assistance from the Government. Cordero's operations were not successful, and that company discontinued work at the property early in 1956.

Work Completed -

Crosscutting and drifting, 120 feet  
Shaft sinking, 324 feet

Total Accepted Cost of the Contract	\$44,340.04
Government participation @ 75%	\$33,255.03

2-A. Reports -

The final report of the Field Team, dated January 30, 1957, was received February 5, 1957. No Operator's final report was submitted and the Field Team recommended that the requirement for such a report be waived.

3. Audits -

Audit Certificate, dated May 18, 1956, showed:

Total cost billed by contractor		\$53,330.59
Exceptions during this audit	\$6,009.79	
Less additional costs allowed by this audit	19.24	5,990.55
Total Accepted Cost		\$47,340.04
Less salvage value of project property		3,000.00
Net Total Accepted Cost		\$44,340.04
Government Contribution @ 75%		\$33,255.03

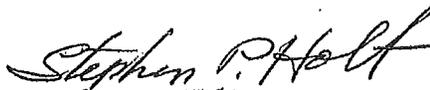
4. Certification -

No certification of discovery or development was issued. The contract was terminated by a Termination Agreement dated November 30, 1956, effective as of March 31, 1954.

5. Comments --

The purpose of the project was to explore the downward continuation of a mineralized zone exposed in the Mill Workings of the Mt. Diablo Quicksilver mine, where mercury ore occurs as fracture fillings and disseminations of cinnabar and metacinnabarite in a tabular body of silica-carbonate rock in massive poorly-bedded silicified sandstone and graywacke, with lesser amounts of sheared shale and thin-bedded chert, all of the Franciscan group of Jurassic (?) age, which are cut by a few lenticular bodies of serpentine, probably post-Pliocene in age.

The work of the project, interrupted by the flooding of the mine and other causes, did not attain its objective, and no reserves of mercury ore were discovered by project work.

  
Stephen P. Holt

SPHolt/gla

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cc to: Director's Reading File  
Docket  
Chron