0160 0037

Washoe Co.-general

NM-30-12
Pumiceous Rhyolite, Perlite

Item 50
(6 of 18)

Mining District: TRUCKEE RIVER CANYON AREA
(Pumiceous Rhyolite, Perlite)

T. 19-20 N., R. 21-22 E.
Washoe County, Nevada
USGS Spanish Springs Valley 15-min. quadrangle (1957)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Several pumiceous rhyolite deposits and one perlite deposit are located on the north side of the Truckee River Canyon east of Sparks and west of Clark in the Pah Rah Range. The pumiceous rhyolite deposits are located in sections 2, 4, and 8, T. 19 N., R. 21 E., section 25, T. 20 N., R. 21 E., and in section 30, T. 20 N., R. 22 E. The perlite deposit is located near the south boarder of section 30, T. 20 N., R. 22 E. There has been some production from the property in section 4 (1). The perlite deposit was the only site examined by the writers.

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The rhyolite deposits are contemporaneous with the Coal Valley Formation and are included with the Washington Hill Rhyolite of Pliocene age. The rhyolite occurs as intrusive plugs or extrusive domes. The pumiceous rhyolites are gray and typically exhibit flow banding. Devitrification is variable and the material reportedly contains abundant microscopic vesicles. Bonham (1) reports that the specific gravity of these pumiceous rhyolite deposits exceeds that of material now being produced from active quarries in Washoe and Storey Counties.

The perlite deposit is dense, friable, and light gray in color. Pieces of rounded obsidian (Apache tears) 1/8 to 1/4-inch in diameter, compose about 15 percent of the rock. The perlite deposit has been explored by numerous bulldozer trenches.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Inasmuch as there are several quarries in Washoe and Storey Counties that are presently producing pumiceous rhyolite of apparently superior quality, it is doubtful that the deposits in the Truckee River Canyon will be exploited in the immediate future. Rapid urban growth, however, could appreciably alter this picture and development may be only a few years off. Future mining operations, if any, will be conducted from open pits.

Regarding the perlite deposit, Bonham (op.cit) states that "perlite must be kept in relatively coarse sizes, without excessive minus 100-mesh material, to meet the specifications for expanded product. For this reason the obsidian masses cannot be removed by screening and the perlite probably is not suitable for expander feed."

Bennett, Dec. 1972

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The following list identifies some of the claimants in area NW-30-12:

1. MUSTANG Group
   Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission Inc.
   PO Box 5956, Reno
   1970-1972
   (8 lode and placer claims)

2. MISSION Group
   Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission Inc.
   PO Box 5956, Reno
   1972
   (3 placer claims)

3. SNOWBALL Group
   May 1952
   (2 lode claims)

4. BOND STREET #4
   R. R. LeVitt et.al.
   PO Box 131
   Carson City
   Dec. 1952
   (placer claim)

5. CINDRELLA #1 APEX
   Arthur B. Chapman et.al.
   146 Relstoi, Reno
   Sept. 1956
   (1 lode claim)

6. NEVADA DIAMOND
   R. A. Allen et.al.
   Jul. 1957
   (160 a placer claims)

7. TIGER BELL, GOLD EAGLE Group
   Olive McCloy et.al.
   317 N 12th, Sparks
   Aug. 1972
   (9 lode claims)

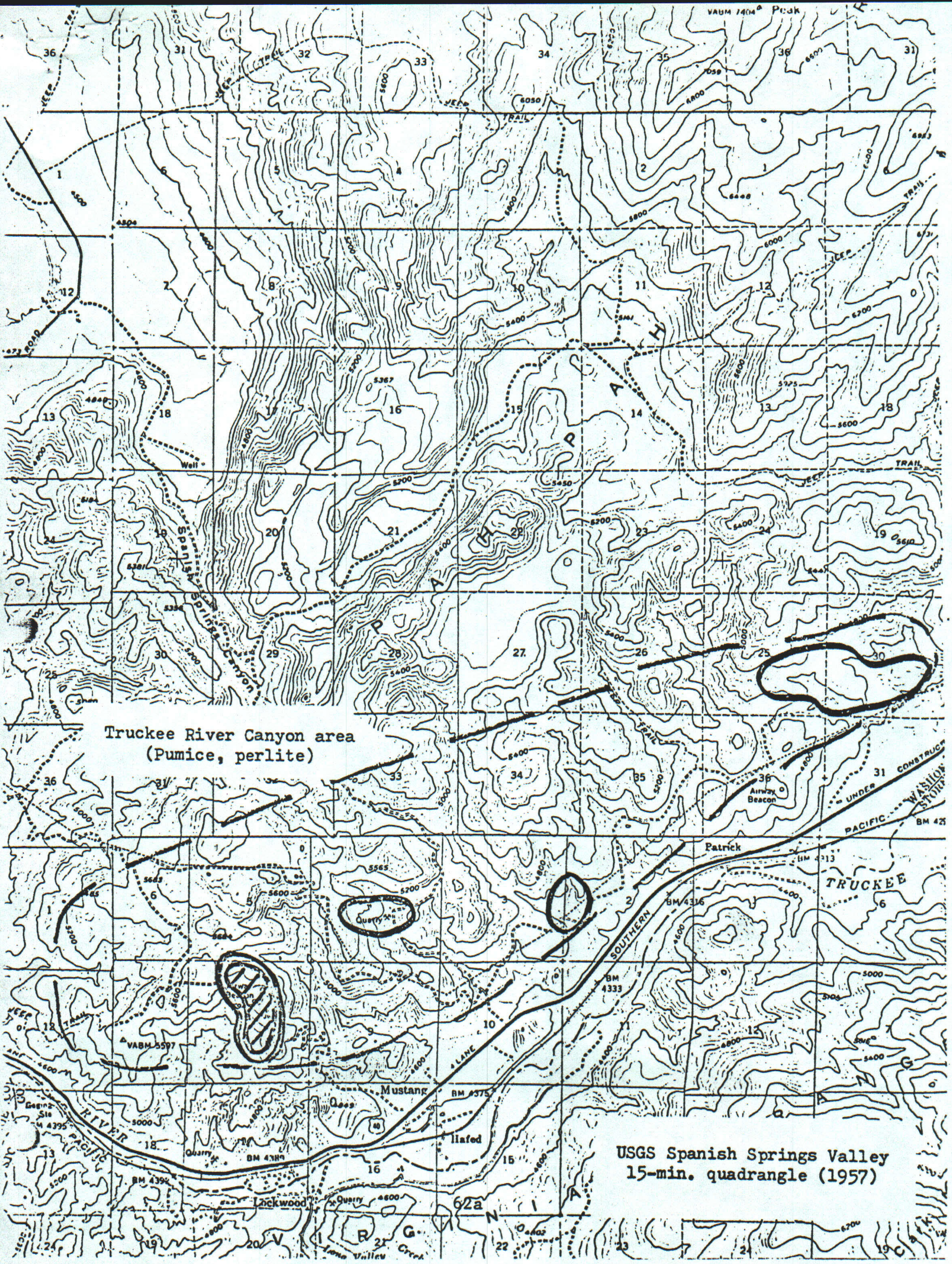
SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev. Bur Mines Bull. 70, 1969. (Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)

FIELD EXAMINATION

Bennett (Perlite only), Nov. 1972

Bennett, Dec. 1972


Truckee River Canyon area
(Pumice, perlite)
USGS Spanish Springs Valley
15-min. quadrangle (1957)
Spanish Springs Canyon
PAH RAH
Patrick
TRUCKEE
Airway Beacon
Mustang
Ilafed
Lockwood
Quarry
VIRGINIA
SOUTHERN PACIFIC
RIVER
JEEP TRAIL
Well

Washoe Co. - general

Item 89

Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis

of the

Pyramid Resource Area

Carson City District
Nevada and California

by

R. E. Bennett and H. W. Mallery

1973

see Washoe County - general file for the complete introduction to this report (0160 0035)