

1180 0011
PROPERTY NAME: Pan American Mine
OTHER NAMES:
MINERAL COMMODITY(IES): Ag, Pb, Zn, Cu, Mn, Ba
TYPE OF DEPOSIT: Replacement; bedded, fissure?
ACCESSIBILITY: Main access to property from Bennett Pass Road is locked. No Trespassing & private property signs are posted.
OWNERSHIP: Nerco Exploration Co.
PRODUCTION:
HISTORY: SEE CRIB

County: Lincoln 166 Item 12
Mining District: Comet
AMS Sheet: Caliente
Quad Sheet: Bennett Pass 7 1/2'
Sec. Unsurv. 9, T 1S, R 66E
Coordinate (UTM):
North 4 1 9 4 0 0 0 m
East 0 7 1 0 6 2 0 m
Zone +11

DEVELOPMENT: Two very large, open, N75E - trending adits or shallowly inclined (10°) shafts. Portals are large enough to accommodate large motorized vehicles. Huge dumps, both waste & ore pits. Several old & more modern structures on property. Some smaller workings lie east of Bennett Pass across from main minesite. No current mining activity, but property ~~presently~~ held by Nerco Exploration Co. Some fairly new roadwork in area, but no new drill roads observed. Dumps are remobilized & sorted. Property probably intermittently active depending on prevailing economic conditions.

GEOLOGY: Outcropping shales in vicinity of shafts are generally green-brown in color, finely micaceous & platy in habit. Two large portals were examined; an upper (south portal) & lower north portal) access which are inclined along bedding of replaced limestone of the C M (Combined Metals) Bed of the Cambrian Pioche Shale.

The south portal begins in thin (2-6") beds of regularly bedded, dark grey, finely crystalline "cherty" limestone, probably part of the "Upper Bed" as described by Gemmill, page 1142, in Ore deposits of the U.S. 1933-1967. The bedding is even & undisturbed with an N-S strike & 10-15° dip to E or NE. Some calcite coats fractures. More massive, muddy brown, argillaceous limestones underlie the thin-bedded limestones & are exposed to the south-west along a cut face above the voluminous dumps.

The north portal begins in more massive grey & brown, micaceous & carbonaceous limestone. The adit is slightly inclined along bedding & particularly along a dark grey to black replaced horizon about 10-30' in thickness. Actually, the ore zone is described as channel-like and probably is fissure controlled or represents a reactive "trench" of coarse carbonate detritus deposited in a tidal channel - James Knight (1979). The replacement or alteration is characterized by abundant manganese, in addition to siderite and masses of "bedded" or layered sulfides (Ore type is "low sulfide, manganiferous-siderite type" (Ridge-1970)). Some discoloration (probably from diesel fumes) prevented direct observation of sulfides in horizon. Adit is unsupported & can easily accommodate trucks & other heavy equipment. Both portals are barricaded.

The voluminous dumps at the minesite are mainly composed of manganese-rich, replacement sulfide ore, limestone which shows various degrees of alteration (silicic) &

~~REMARKS~~ replacement & dark grey, finely crystalline limestone waste rock. The sulfide ore is commonly crudely banded with sulfides forming irregular lenses in a dark grey manganiferous siderite gangue. Rock is not silicified but may contain some massive white quartz veins which also carry sulfides. The sulfides in the ore range from fine to medium-coarsely crystalline & consist of intergrown crystals, masses & stringers of pyrite, chalcopyrite, galena, sphalerite, barite (in vugs) & pyrrhotite. Possibly also some specular hematite & ruby silver?. Calcite-siderite veining common in ore & wallrocks. Feoxs definitely less abundant than MnOx.

Some trilobite fragments noted in unaltered limestone.

Samples 1437 - Mn-Ca sulfide ore.

REFERENCES: Ore deposits of the U.S., 1933-1967, Graton-Sales volume, John D. Ridge (ed.), 1968, 1970 James & Knight, 1979, Stratabound Pb-Zn-Ag ores..., RMAG-UGA, 1979 B & R Symposium & GB Field conference.

EXAMINER: Bentz/Smith

DATE VISITED: 8/26/83