

2480 0020

PROPERTY NAME: Silver Cloud Mine

OTHER NAMES:

MINERAL COMMODITY(IES): Hg

TYPE OF DEPOSIT: Opalite (blanket)

ACCESSIBILITY:

OWNERSHIP:

PRODUCTION:

HISTORY:

County: Elko

Mining District: Ivanhoe

AMS Sheet: McDermitt

Quad Sheet: Rock Creek Ranch 7-1/2

Sec. 26, T 37N, R 47E

Coordinate (UTM):

UTM North 4 5 4 4 5 0 0 m
EST East 0 5 3 1 4 0 0 m
Zone 11

DEVELOPMENT: Open pit and several adits. Some drill holes which were done in the last few years.

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF EXAMINATION: None

GEOLOGY: Bailey and Phoenix (1944) describe the geology, interpreted structure, and extent of the mineralization. The rocks in the open pit consist of massive opalite (opal and chalcedony) overlain by a unit of interbedded opalite bands (8-15 cm) and bedded ash (up to 30 cm beds). Both the ash and the opalite beds are finely laminated. The opalite beds appear to exhibit soft-sediment deformational features, and probable mud cracks at one locality. The beds are gently folded and dip at a low angle to the south. Folding observed in the pit may be a result of differential compaction of tuff over massive opalite. Cinnabar occurs in fine bands (as thin as 1 mm) in the banded opalite; the mercury-rich bands are separated by mercury-absent bands, which are also as thin as 1 mm.

The most likely origin of this deposit is a sub-lacustrine hot spring, which periodically emits silica-rich waters. The opalite beds are formed from this process. Mercury emission and deposition was also probably episodic, as indicated by the fine bands of cinnabar-rich opalite. Calomel? occurs as surface-coatings locally.

REMARKS: Photo G823-12 is a close-up of finely-banded ore. Photo 1e is of the wall of the pit, showing the interbedded opalite and tuff beds.

Sample 1559 - Opalite with cinnabar and metacinnabar.

REFERENCES:

EXAMINER: L. J. Garside

DATE VISITED: 18 Aug 82

See Also —

1. Map Tube # 3 in Km. 311. (Plan & sections of Silver Cloud Mine)
2. " " # 4 " (Ecologic map of Silver Cloud Mine)

US Steel .5my Oz, Hot Spring Am, High Silver in depth