3680 0103 Osgood Range (Humboldt Co. Item 29)

Scheelite mineralization occurs in the northern half of the Osgood Range(1) in tactite bodies formed by the metamorphism of limestone along the contacts of an intrusive granodiorite stock. Although the occurrence of scheelite in the area was known before 1917, very little tungsten was produced until the fall of 1942 when part of the Getchell mill was converted to treat tungsten ores. The tungsten unit was installed jointly by the Union Carbide Nuclear Co. and Getchell Mines, Ind.

Gold and tungsten are the only economically important metals in the district; although zinc, copper, silver, molybdenum, lead and bismuth occur in the tactite in small veins or as replacements in the metamorphosed rocks. Scheelite is the only tungsten mineral which has been recognized in the district, but most of the scheelite has a moderate content of powellite.

Limestone adjoins the igneous rock along about 1/3 of the margin of the stock, and tactite is present along 60 to 70 percent of the limestone-granodiorite contact. The tactite bodies vary greatly in size and in tungsten content. The ore bodies that have been mined ranged in grade from 0.34 to 0.8 percent WO_3.

Mining operations on the 12 deposits that have been worked in the district have been mostly confined to surface pits and glory holes. Production from the Riley mine in 1956, was from underground mining operations in open stopes.

The mines and prospects in the area are briefly discribed as follows:

USBM Unpubl. data, 1963