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Talk by Ebbley, general manager of MidContinent Uranium at Rocky Mountain Mineral Conference, Denver, Sept. 1966.

Sunshine Mining Co. has 2/3 interest; MidContinent 1/3.

16 to 1 Mine

Essentailly a new mine; adit driven 1000 feet to vein which was previously delineated by surface exposures and drilling (5 holes). Adit encountered 400 feet of basalt, then 600 feet of alternating basalt and andesite; considerable water (now 500 gal./min.) encountered at 600 feet. Drift then driven in hangingwall parallel to vein, and crosscuts driven at intervals across vein. There are about 700 feet of backs above the workings. Vein strikes N. 60° E. and dips 75° E. and consists of white quartz, banded light and dark quartz, calcite, and narrow sulfide streaks. The values are mainly in the quartz and are native silver and argentite. The wallrock is brecciated Tertiary volcanic rocks. Vein is at least 1000 feet long and up to 40 feet wide. In the adit it is 31 feet wide, with 15 oz. Ag over 13 feet.

The limits of the ore are not delineated either down dip or along the strike. "Known" reserves are 450,000 tons averaging 0.6 oz. Au and 15.3 oz. Ag having an average width of 13.5 feet and a strike length on the adit level of 550 feet. (Low grade ore occurs over a much greater width).

It is proposed to mine the deposit by shrinkage stoping using mucking machine drawpoints. 6000 feet of additional workings would be needed including 2 lower levels connected to the adit level by a 400-foot winze. Cost to date has been $300,000. Additional costs to complete development in the mine are estimated at $655,000; mining could actually begin before this sum was expended. A cyanide mill to treat the ore is estimated to cost $650,000. Total costs (including mining) would be $13.60/ton.

Mohawk (Argentite) Mine

Has produced in the past. Consists of one major vein 6 to 30 feet wide and 1100 feet long in Tertiary volcanic rocks. Vein consists of massive quartz, banded quartz containing some barite and carbonate, banded mangano-siderite, and locally abundant barite. Diamond drilling done was disappointing but inconclusive.

Nivloc (Desert Silver)

Produced from 1937 to 1943.
680,000 tons of "mill-grade ore" left.
Mine workings badly caved - they still hope to open mine.
Veins strike N. 40° E., dip 70° W.

John Schultz