from NBMG OFR 83-9
See also 83-10 for
geochemical results.

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Item 3

SCRAPER SPRINGS AREA

4230 0001

The Scraper Springs area is located about 10 miles northeast of the Midas district and is roughly halfway between Midas and the Burner Hills in portions of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17, T40N, R47E. Until recently, the only mineral activity in the area was centered around an occurrence of zunyite which was found on the summit north of Scraper Springs. The zunyite, discovered by Coats of the U.S.G.S. while mapping in the area in 1979, was investigated in 1980 by the U.S.B.M. as a potential source of refractory material. The presence of zunyite, a complex hydroxy-fluoro-chloro aluminum silicate mineral indicative of advanced argillic alteration, later caused some interest to be generated in the area for precious metals exploration.

Rocks in the Scraper Springs area consist of a sequence of andesites, rhyodacites, and tuffs which have been, in some areas, pervasively propylitized and, locally, silicified. Coats (1979) believes that these rocks may be correlative with similar rocks which form hosts for the silver ore bodies at the Cornucopia mining district.

At the zunyite locality, zunyite occurs in a hydrothermally altered breccia in andesite and tuff. The breccia zone is well exposed along a ridge for 900 feet and is traceable for an additional 1200 feet along strike. Thicknesses ranging from 12 to 62 feet have been reported (McMahan and Pierce, 1981). Drilling in late 1981 by the U.S.B.M. on the zunyite occurrence did not confirm the presence of sufficient refractory material to be commercially

important. Some pyrite was, however, encountered in the drilling but not specifically analyzed for metallic elements. Other zones of hydrothermal alteration were outlined by the U.S.B.M. both north and south of the original zunyite discovery area. To the north, hydrothermally altered andesite breccia containing alunite was found along a N45°E structure. To the south, in the southwest quarter of Section 15, T40N,R47E, another hydrothermally altered zone is described along a N25°E structure in andesite breccia. Also to the south of the zunyite location, about one mile along the road leading to the northwest from the old corral at Scraper Springs, an old prospect exposes brecciated, iron-stained rhyolite along a fairly strong east-west structure. Hairline quartz veinlets lace the rock, and trace amounts of an unidentified blue-black metallic mineral are present. Stibnite has been reported in a quartz vein near this location, and it is possible that the fine-grained mineral is also stibnite.

At the time this area was examined in August 1982, U.S. Steel Company had recently staked a large block of claims covering the area from Scraper Springs to the north toward the zunyite.

Selected References

Coats, R. R., Consul, J., and Neil, S. T. (1979) Massive zunyite rock from western Elko County, Nevada: U.S.G.S. open-file report 79-764.

Hope, R. A., and Coats, R. R. (1976) Preliminary geologic map of Elko County, Nevada: U.S.G.S. open-file report 76-779, sheet 1.

McMahan, A. B., and Pierce, P. A. (1981) Zunyite resource in Eklo County, Nevada: U.S.B.M. unpublished report, Western Field Operations Center.