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Pershing Co. - general  
Item 40

U. S. Geological Survey,  
Reno, Nevada  
August 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM  
on the  
HILLTOP TUNGSTEN PROPERTY, PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA  
by  
Charles W. Chesterman

ABSTRACT

The Hilltop tungsten property is near the central part of the Lava Beds, Pershing County, Nevada. The property, consisting of 5 unpatented mining claims, is held by John W. Garrett of Gerlach, Nevada and E. K. Corbet of Hawthorne, Nevada. Mr. V. J. Dow of Sparks, Nevada has recently leased the property and plans to explore the northern taconite zone as well as to drift westward under the taconite zone at the 35 foot shaft. Twenty tons of ore were shipped to the Toulon Mill. The ore was milled and the mill returns averaged about 0.5% of  $WO_3$ . A fair tonnage of ore which might average between 0.5% and 0.75% of  $WO_3$  may be produced from that area around the shaft. The taconite zone at the north edge of the property might also produce a small tonnage of tungsten ore. However, not enough exploration has been done to warrant an estimate as to the probable tonnage and grade of ore which might be expected in the northern taconite zone.

INTRODUCTION

The writer and M.R. Klepper accompanied by Mr. Garrett visited the property during the early part of July 1943. A geological sketch map of the area around the mine workings was made using as a base a compass-pace survey. The surface workings were examined with the ultra-violet lamp at night. The property is not mentioned by Hess and Larsen in U.S.G.S. Bulletin No. 726 or by W. C. Smith in his field notes of 1940.

LOCATION

The Hilltop tungsten property is near the summit of a small hill in the central part of the Lava Beds, Pershing County, Nevada about 25 miles southeast of Trego, a small section station on the Western Pacific Railroad.

The road which leads from Trego to the property is narrow and ungraded. About 18 miles southeast of Trego the road joins another road which leads to Rabbit-hole.

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OWNERSHIP

The property comprises 5 unpatented mining claims owned by John W. Garrett, of Gerlach, Nevada and E. K. Corbet of Hawthorne, Nevada. Prior to August 1943 the property was in lease to Mr. J. Hobson of Reno, Nevada.

During August 1943 Mr. V. J. Dow of Sparks, Nevada leased the property; he intends to explore the northern taciite zone and to continue the adit in the southern taciite zone beneath the shaft.

PRODUCTION

During February 1942, 20 tons of ore from the shaft and adjoining open cut were custom milled at Toulon with a recovery of 0.5% of WO<sub>3</sub>.

MINE EQUIPMENT AND WORKINGS

Workings on the Hilltop tungsten property include an adit with two short crosscuts, a prominent open cut, a 35 foot inclined shaft, several pits and trenches, and several short shallow cuts.

The mining equipment consists of one gasoline-driven single-stage air compressor, one jack hammer, an assortment of drill steel with detachable bits, one ore car, air and water line, and a meagerly equipped blacksmith shop.

GEOLOGY

The area including the property is underlain principally by monzonite which seems to have completely surrounded several bodies of meta-morphic rocks made up of slate, schist, and taciite. The monzonite-metamorphic contact where observed was steep. The depth to which taciite continues is unknown, but probably shallow.

The strike of the metamorphic rocks is in general N. 70° W. and the dip is northwest at angles of 62° to 74°.

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NORTHWEST(?)

CAN NOT DIP SAME DIRECTION AS STRIKE !!

TACTITE DEPOSITS

Two separate taciite zones have been explored on this property. The better explored southern zone, is exposed in the adit, in several trenches, and in the shaft. The northern taciite zone has been exposed by only one cut.

Both taciite zones lie parallel to the bedding of the slate and schist. The taciite is composed of dark silicates such as garnet and epidote.

The southern taciite zone, exposed by a shaft and adit, is broken into two parts by a body of monzonite. This zone is about 17 feet wide at the shaft and about 18 feet wide at the portal of the adit where it includes narrow bands of schist. The northern taciite zone, about 4-1/2 feet wide, is bounded on the south by monzonite and on the north by a biotite schist. The length of this zone is unknown, but is probably short, for croppings of monzonite occur along the

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strike of the zone within 50 feet in either direction from the out.  
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RESERVES

Ore reserves at the Hilltop property are 600 to 1000 tons averaging 0.5 to 0.75% of  $WO_3$ . Of this reserve, 160 tons are measurable, broken ore, and the remainder is inferred ore.

Broken ore. Ore amounting to 150 tons has been mined from the first crosscut in the adit. Of this ore, 50 tons average about 1.0% of  $WO_3$ , and the remaining 100 tons average about 0.5% of  $WO_3$ . At the shaft, on the dump, are 10 tons of 0.75% ore.

Inferred ore. In the adit between the crosscut and the surface are 150 tons of inferred ore with a grade of 0.5% of  $WO_3$ . In the shaft and adjoining open cut are 350 tons of inferred ore with a grade of 0.75% of  $WO_3$ .

The north tactite zone is too little developed to warrant any estimate of tonnage. It is limited to 100 feet or less in length, and is probably cut off by monzonite at shallow depth.