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Item 3

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Washington mining district is located on the west side of the Toiyabe Range about 50 km southwest of Austin. Most of the mines and prospects are in several canyons located in T14 and 15N,R42E, in northernmost Nye County.

The recorded production in the district is only approximately \$30,000 (Kleinhampl and Ziony, in press), but the amount of workings suggests that there could be considerable unrecorded production. The district was discovered in the early 1860's, and some of the unrecorded production may be from early mining by Mexicans. There are probably over 1000 meters of workings. The district has been intermittently active in the 1920's and 1940's; some claim staking and churn drilling was done in the late 1970's and early 1980's. There was no activity at the time of examination.

The mineral deposits of the Washington district consist predominantly of two types: silver-lead bearing quartz veins in Paleozoic argillite and carbonate rocks, and tungsten mineralization in tactites. The silver-lead quartz veins are reported to contain argentite(?), argentiferous galena, tetrahedrite, sphalerite, stibnite, pyrite, and arsenopyrite as well as the gangue minerals quartz, calcite, and siderite. The ores are also strongly anomalous in bismuth and cadmium (Kleinhampl and Ziony, in press). The sulfide minerals occur as pods, seams, or shoots in quartz veins which range in thickness from a few centimeters to several meters. The veins locally exhibit a symmetrical zoning from sulfide-rich massive quartz matter near the walls to low-sulfide, drusy quartz- and calcite-bearing material near the center of the vein. Kleinhampl and Ziony (in press) report that ores contain up to 20-30% Pb, 10-20% Zn, 0-2% As, and 8-15 oz/ton Ag. Gold was apparently low in the ores. The veins are partially oxidized near the surface, and supergene silver minerals could have been important in the early period of mining. Veins trend both northeast and northwest in the district. The wallrocks are locally somewhat argillized near the veins. The mineralization is

See also 83-4 for geochemical results.

J. Tingley + P. Smith (1982) Mineral Inventory of Eureka-Shoshone Resource Area: NBMG OFR 82-10. 83-3

most likely pre-Tertiary, and is believed to be related to Mesozoic? plutonic rocks; however, as stibnite is reported from nearby Tertiary volcanic rocks, it is not possible to rule out a Tertiary age.

Tungsten mineralization is reported from the high ridges north of Washington Canyon. Kleinhampl and Ziony (in press) report that the distribution of the tungsten prospects near a granitic pluton suggests that the prospects are reportedly developed in recrystallized limestone. These prospects were not visited during this study.

Selected References:

Hill, J. M. (1915) Some mining districts in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada. U.S.G.S. Bull. 594.

Kleinhampl, F. J. and Ziony, J. I., Geology and mineral deposits of northern Nye County, Nevada: Parts A and B. NBMG Bull. [in press].

Lincoln, F. C. (1923) Mining districts and mineral resources of Nevada. Nevada Newsletter Publishing Co., Reno.