

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY
DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING
P. O. BOX 4499
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ORPHANED MINED LAND SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Inventory No.: OR AU 88 29

Name of Mine: Vaucluse Mine - Grimes Mine, Grymes Mine

Mineral Mined: gold County: Orange

Quadrangle: Chancellorsville

Latitude: 38-21-14N Longitude: 077-43-44W

Location: .15 mile along a woods road off west side of state road 667
extended, 1.7 miles by state road 667 NNE of junction with state highway
3 in Wilderness, Virginia

Name of Property Owner: Mineral leased to Richard Runion/Sterling Mining, Inc.

Address: Rt. 4, Box 14, Harrisburg, VA 22801

Telephone: 703-867-5564

Estimated Acreage Involved: 10 acres - reclaimable land

Environmental Hazards: Extreme for mercury contamination

Erosion: none

Highwall: none

Acidic Drainage: none

Acidic Soil Conditions: not applicable

Lack of Vegetation: not applicable

Eyesore: yes

Trash Dump: none

Toxic Materials: mercury from old tailings

Ground Water Contamination: likely

Destruction of Aquatic Habitat: likely

Other: Mercury contamination from the sediment of the
tailings pond is greatest environmental hazard.

Receiving Stream Name: Shotgun Hill Branch to Wilderness Run to
Rapidan River to Rappahannock River

Field pH and appearance: clear on-site - 6.5 pH

Were samples taken? No. Samples in 1988 taken by State Water Control
~~if yes give results~~ Board to ascertain mercury contamination.
Initial studies show large amounts of mercury in sediment.

If available, give groundwater information and potential hazards to:
Likely groundwater contamination from the use of chemicals (mercury)
in the mining process. Large array of underground workings.

Public Health and Safety Hazards: Large open pits, numerous small caved
pits. In 1865 (2) open cuts 80' x 300' x 25' wide had been opened. The
Vaucluse shaft was 220' deep with levels at 50', 110', and 201' feet.
The 110' level contained 275' of workings and the 201' level .876' of
drifts and cross cuts in January of 1936.

Unsafe conditions exist and are severe due to the extent of the shaft,
workings. Mercury is a hazardous waste found at site.

Surrounding site conditions:

How far is mine from main road? .15 mi. nearest community? .15 mi.
Is mine visible from main road? no nearest community? no
Surrounding topography: forested, moderate slopes to flat

Elevation: 300 feet

Any archaeological or historical site(s) nearby? Civil War battlefields, mine itself

Average temperature: 35.3/76.35 Annual rainfall: 36.68

Spring frost free date: 4/17 Fall kill frost date: 10/23

Land use of surrounding area: Forestry, minimal residential in immediate vicinity of mine, but due to location, expected to increase.

Estimated number of homes in general vicinity: three

Soil conditions at site: Piedmont Division, Site has been revegetated in nature. Natural reforestation.

Field pH: 5 pH

General history of minesite: Mine discovered in 1832. Worked through 1935 by various companies. Large operation. See Mineral Resources File No. W000421 of the MYRADS System. A large part of Virginia's gold production in 1833-18-60 probably came from the Vaocluse Mine.

(Supplement information attached?) yes no

1. Topo sheet
2. Road map
3. Mineral Resources file

Is there any hazardous material onsite?: yes

If yes, describe: Mercury contamination due to method of gold extraction in that era.

Is there any marketable material onsite?: yes

If yes, describe: Small amount of ore on-site but all known commercial bodies above 210' level exhausted. Core drillings below this level indicate possibility of gold.

Other Pertinent Information: _____

Several mining companies are studying the site and a permit to mine was requested of the county in June of 1988. The county at this time will not allow mining due to public concerns.

General Plan of Reclamation: Reclamation of the area should include the rerouting of the branch and the reclamation of the tailings pond area by sealing so that the mercury cannot re-enter the surface waters. The re-opening and sealing of all shafts and open cuts hazardous to the public would be done by filling with available material and revegetating.

Estimated Cost of Reclamation

Equipment needed: D-6, D-8 or equivalent, backhoe, seeding equipment,
drill: 200 hours x \$200 per

Total grading cost: \$40,000

Seed requirements: _____

Lime: 2 tons/acre - 20 tons

10-30-10: 1,500/acre - 8 tons

Sericia Lespedeza: 50 lbs. - 500 lbs.

Ky 31 Fescue: 40 lbs. - 400 lbs.

Annual Rye: 10 lbs. - 100 lbs.

Straw: 3,000 lbs - 15 tons

Wood Fiber: 1,000 lbs. - 5 tons

Total seeding cost: \$15,000

Other cost: _____

Geotextile seal - \$5,000

Mobilization - \$2,000

Profit - \$18,600

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$78,600.00





