COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY
DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING
P. O. BOX 4499
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24502
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ORPHANED MINED LAND SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Inventory No.: OR AU 88 29

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

DMM-121 Rev. 8/88
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 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: 36.08
Spring frost free date: 4/17 Fall kill frost date: 10/22
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


(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