

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 22 was approved as Minute Item No. 22 by the State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 5/24/84 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 34  
S 25

22

05/24/84  
W 403174  
Marsh  
PRC 6631

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, SAN BERNARDINO CCJNTY

APPLICANT: American Colloid Company  
P. O. Box 2010  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION: Approval of a Prospecting Permit for two years to prospect for gold and silver and other valuable minerals, other than oil, gas, geothermal resources, sand and gravel, on approximately 658.10 acres of land located in San Bernardino County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, expense deposit of \$100 and an acreage deposit of \$669.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION: Section 36, T18N, R9E., SBB&M, San Bernardino County, 24 miles northeast of Baker.

PROPOSED PROJECT: American Colloid proposes to explore for a bentonite deposit by drilling a maximum of 225 drill holes four inches in diameter to a depth of 75 feet, to discover and delineate any possible orebody.

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A truck mounted auger rig will be used over existing roads; no new roads will be constructed and drill pads will not be needed.

All holes are expected to be dry; no water is to be used in drilling and no water should be intercepted by the holes.

All trash, toxic waste and debris will be removed and properly disposed of upon termination of prospecting activities.

Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit will not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment processed under the regulations of CEQA. If commercial mining operations are proposed, appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared and certified prior to issuing permits.

If any artifacts or cultural features of potential significance are uncovered during the project, work will be stopped in the vicinity of the find and an archaeologist consulted.

TERM:

The primary term of a Prospecting Permit is two years. The Commission may, in its discretion, extend the term for one additional year.

ROYALTY:

Royalty payable under the permit shall be 20 percent of the gross value of the minerals secured from the permit area and sold or otherwise disposed of or held for sale or other disposition.

PREREQUISITE ITEMS:

1. Required statutory filing fee, expense deposit and acreage deposit have been submitted by the applicant.
2. Subject parcel is not known to contain a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.
3. Royalty payable under any preferential lease issued shall be ten percent of the gross revenue, less specific charges, as

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approved by the Commission related to transporting and processing as set forth in said lease.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.

AB 884: 7/22/84.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15025), the staff has prepared and circulated for public review a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR (ND 352) (State Clearinghouse 83072508) pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".
2. Based upon the initial study, the proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074(b)).
3. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon establishing to the satisfaction of the Commission that commercially valuable deposits of minerals have been discovered within the limits of the permit, the applicant would have a preferential right to a lease for a maximum of 160 acres embraced within the permit. Said right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The permit will not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying the lease because of such environmental considerations.
4. Permit shall provide for a performance bond of \$10,000 in favor of the State.

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APPROVALS OBTAINED:

Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6890, the subject permit application has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General as to compliance with applicable provisions of the law.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Site Map.
- C. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION 350, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 83072508 WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. THE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE THIS PROSPECTING PERMIT AND ANY EXTENSION THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT IN ITS DISCRETION FOR THE SAME PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.
4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO AMERICAN COLLOID COR'. FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS, OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, ON SECTION 36, T18N, R9E, S88M, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 668.10 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT SHALL BE 20 PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALY VALUABLE DEPOSITS FOR ANY AND ALL MINERALS EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES FOR SALE OR STOCKPILING SHALL BE TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS REVENUE, LESS SPECIFIC CHARGES, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, RELATED TO TRANSPORTING AND PROCESSING, AS SET FORTH IN SAID LEASE; THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTIES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40374

A parcel of California State school lands in San Bernardino County,  
California, described as follows:

Section 36, T18N, R9E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED MAY 9, 1984, BY BOUNDARY AND TITLE UNIT, LEROY WEED, SUPERVISOR.

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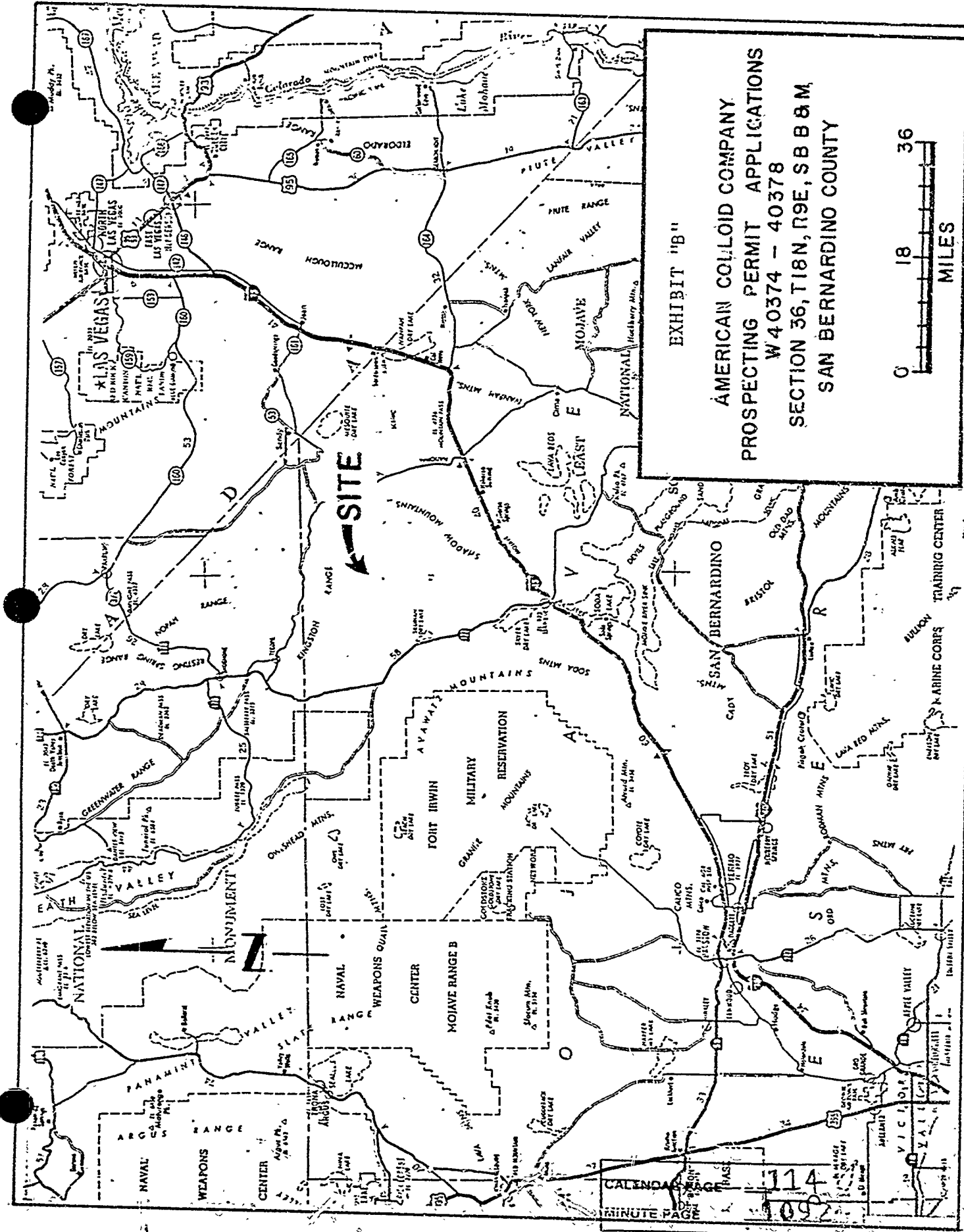


EXHIBIT "B"

AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY  
 PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS  
 W40374 - 40378  
 SECTION 36, T18N, R9E, SB B & M,  
 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



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EXHIBIT "C"  
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 350

File Ref.: W 40371

SCH#: 83072508

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Kingston Wash Area

Project Proponent: American Colloid Company

Project Location: Section 36, T.18 N., R.9 E., S.B.M., approximately 18 miles  
northeasterly of Silver Lake, San Bernardino County.

Project Description: Explore for bentonite by drilling up to 225 - 4" diameter  
holes to 75 foot depth and taking a small sample from each  
hole before refilling, using a 4-wheel drive truck mounted  
rig.

Contact Person: Ted T. Fukushima Telephone: (916)322-7813

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California  
Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code),  
the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California  
Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section  
2901 et seq., Title 2, California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially  
significant effects.

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COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY AND RESPONSE

1. Department of Transportation, District 8.

Comment:

"...a Negative Declaration will be adequate for our purposes."  
(no specific comments)

Response:

None required.

2. Regional Water Quality Control Board. Lahontan Region 6.

Comment:

"...we believe that a Negative Declaration would be acceptable."  
(no specific comments)

Response:

None required.

3. Department of Conservation.

a) Comment:

"...the amount of surface disturbance of all 5 applications will probably exceed the SMARA limits for exemption..." (1 acre)

Response:

The projected surface disturbance of all 5 applications will be about .02 acre and thus does not exceed SMARA limits for exemption.

b) Comment:

"...the amount of surface disturbance can be kept to a minimum by using existing roads and trails whenever possible, dry washes when possible for overland travel but limiting the number of bank crossings, and avoiding driving over larger plants as much as possible.

Response:

Article 24 (c) in the standard prospecting form states that the "permittee shall conduct any operation...in such manner as to not result in unreasonable damage to tree and plant cover, in soil erosion or in degradation of waters..."

END OF COMMENTS

SCH# 83072508

File Ref.: W-40374 -  
40378

INITIAL STUDY  
INTRODUCTION

American Colloid Company has applied to the State Lands Commission for five prospecting permits covering a total of 668 acres in Section 36, Township 18 North, Range 9 East, SRR&M. The project site is located in the Kingston Wash area, forty miles north-east of Baker, San Bernardino County.

The proposed project to explore for a deposit of bentonite and other valuable minerals consists of drilling approximately 225 drill holes, 4 inches diameter by 75 feet deep to discover and delineate any possible orebody.

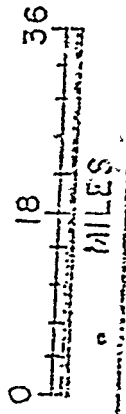
This Initial Study consists of an environmental impact assessment checklist, environmental information form responses and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
August, 1983

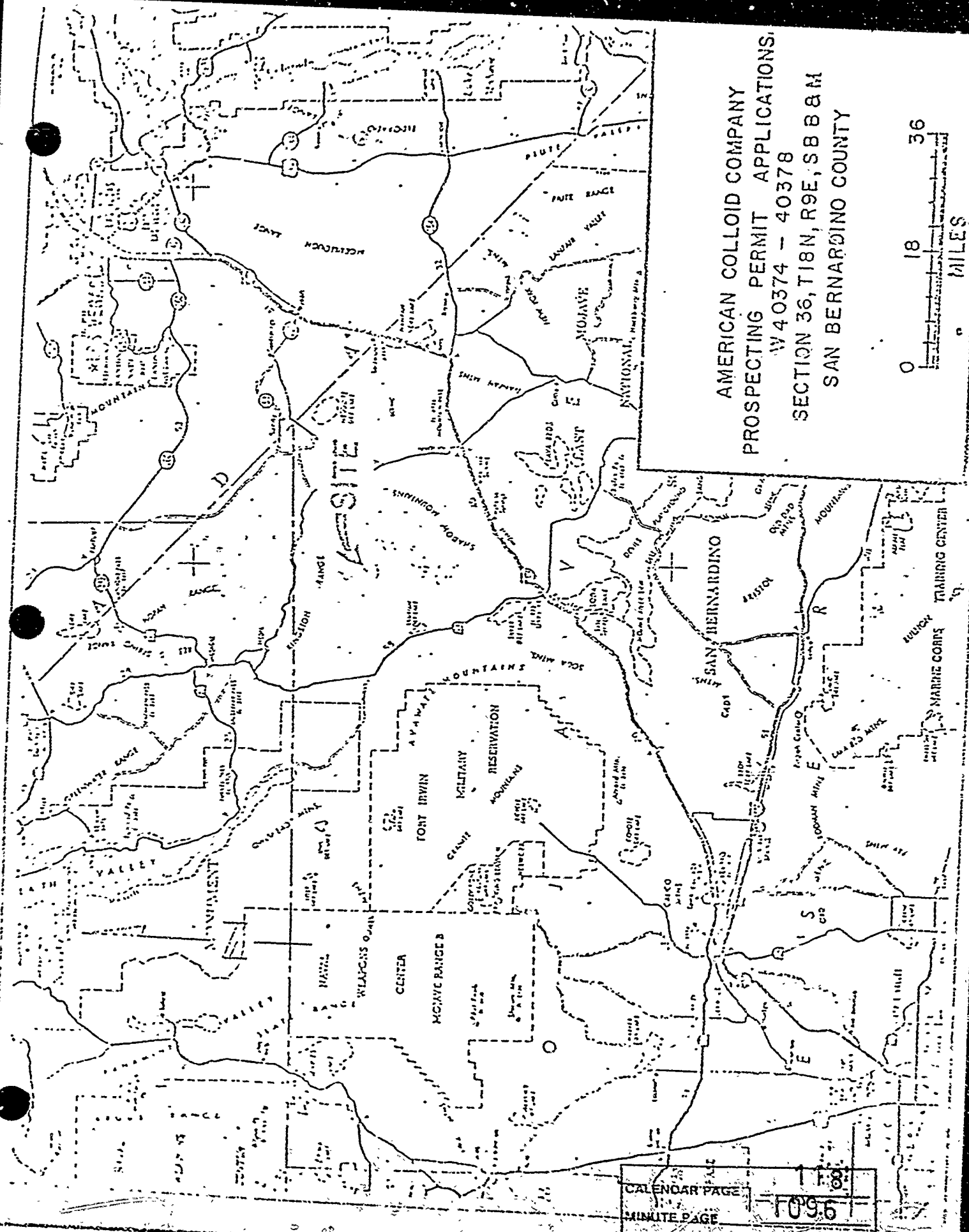
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AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY  
 PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS,  
 W 40374 - 40378  
 SECTION 36, T18N, R9E, SB B & M  
 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I

(to be completed by applicant)  
Form 03 3(11/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant

American Colloid Company

5100 Suffield Court

Skokie, Illinois 60077

312, 966-5720

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Mr. Jonathan L. Reid

Nielsen & Senior

P.O. Box 11808

Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

(801) 532-1900

2. a. Project location: (Please reference to nearest town or community and include county)

The project area is 665 acres of Section 36, Township 18 North, Range 9 East

This area lies approximately 24 miles northeast of Baker and can be reached by traveling 21.4 miles north of Baker on Highway 127, then traveling east 12.6

miles on a dirt road.

b. Assessor's parcel number: 546-311-18

3. Existing zoning of project site: DL-40 (Desert Living, 40-acre minimum subdivision)

4. Existing land use of project site: None

5. Proposed use of site: Prospecting activities.

6. Other permits required: None.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION See Attachment

1. For building construction projects, complete "ATTACHMENT A".

2. For non-building construction projects, describe fully, the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use (e.g. for proposed mineral prospecting permits, include the number of test holes, size of holes, amount of material to be excavated, maximum surface area of disturbance, hole locations, depth of holes, etc. Attach plan, or other drawings as necessary).

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING See Attachment

1. Describe the project site as it exists before the project, including information on topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site; and the use of the structures.
- Describe the surrounding properties, including information on plants and animals and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects, indicate the type of land use (residential, commercial, etc.), intensity of land use (one-family, apartment houses, shops, department stores, etc.), and scale of development (height, frontage, set-back, rear yard, etc.).

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe". (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Will the project involve:	YES	MAYBE	NO
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes, or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. a significant effect on plant or animal life? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. an increase in fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. a large project or a series of projects? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

American Colloid Company

Date: 6 APRIL 1983

Signed By: Royce Klingler  
 Royce Klingler, Executive Vice Pres.

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Attachment I

Environmental Impact Assessment Form - Part I

Form 69.3 (11/82).

B. Project Description

The proposed project will be an exploration program to evaluate the presence and extent of bentonite and other valuable clays on the project area. To accomplish this evaluation, approximately 235 four inch diameter holes will be drilled to a maximum depth of 75 feet. Two four-wheel drive trucks, with Parmanco auger drills mounted on them will be used for this exploration.

At each drill site a pile covering approximately four square feet will result. Once the hole is completed, a sample of approximately one pound of any mineral found will be taken, and then the drill cuttings will be placed back into the hole. A 2" X 4" numbered stake will be placed into the top of the hole to show its location. The total amount of disturbance should be approximately 840 square feet, or 0.02 acre.

A survey crew, using a pickup, will survey in the drill stakes to tie them to establish corners. Once this surveying is completed, laboratory analysis of the sample will be conducted and maps of the hole location will be prepared.

C. Environmental Setting

1. The project site is sparsely vegetated, high desert. It consists of lowlands which are desert washes, and rock-covered uplands. The lowlands have relative stable soil due to a covering of rocks - desert pavement - although the lowest areas are rearranged by runoff during and after precipitation events. The soil on the uplands is interspersed among the rocks, and as such has little potential for erosion. Three vegetation transects were run on the area, yielding the following averages: vegetative cover - 5.7%; litter - 0.8%; rocks - 52%; and, bare ground - 36.4%. There are two types of trees that occur in the washes: Desert catalpa (Chilopsis linearis), and Catclaw acacia (Acacia greggii). The Acacia trees are frequently overrun by mistletoe (Phoradendron californicum). Several shrub types are present on the site. Among them are: Desert holly (Atriplex hymenelytra); Creosote bush (Larrea divaricata); Bad sagebrush (Artemisia spinescens); Rayless oncolia (Encelia frutescens); and, Sticky-leaved rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus). Common forbs present on the site are: Desert trumpet (Eriogonum inflatum); Desert gold poppy (Eschscholzia glyptosperma); Wolly plantain (Plantago insularis); Scalegud (Anisocoma aulis); and, Mountain jointfir (Ephedra viridis).

Very little wildlife was observed during the four days spent on the site. Several small lizards as well as one 12-inch long lizard were observed. Also, one tarantula was observed.

There are no known cultural, historical or scenic aspects on the site. There are no known existing structures on the site.

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2. The land surrounding the project site is very similar to that described above in terms of plants, animals, cultural, historic or scenic aspects. The only difference is that there is a trailer and some outbuildings and some prospecting activity in Section 30 of Township 18 North, Range 10 East, approximately one-half mile northeast of the northeast corner of this State Section.

D. Environmental Impact Assessment

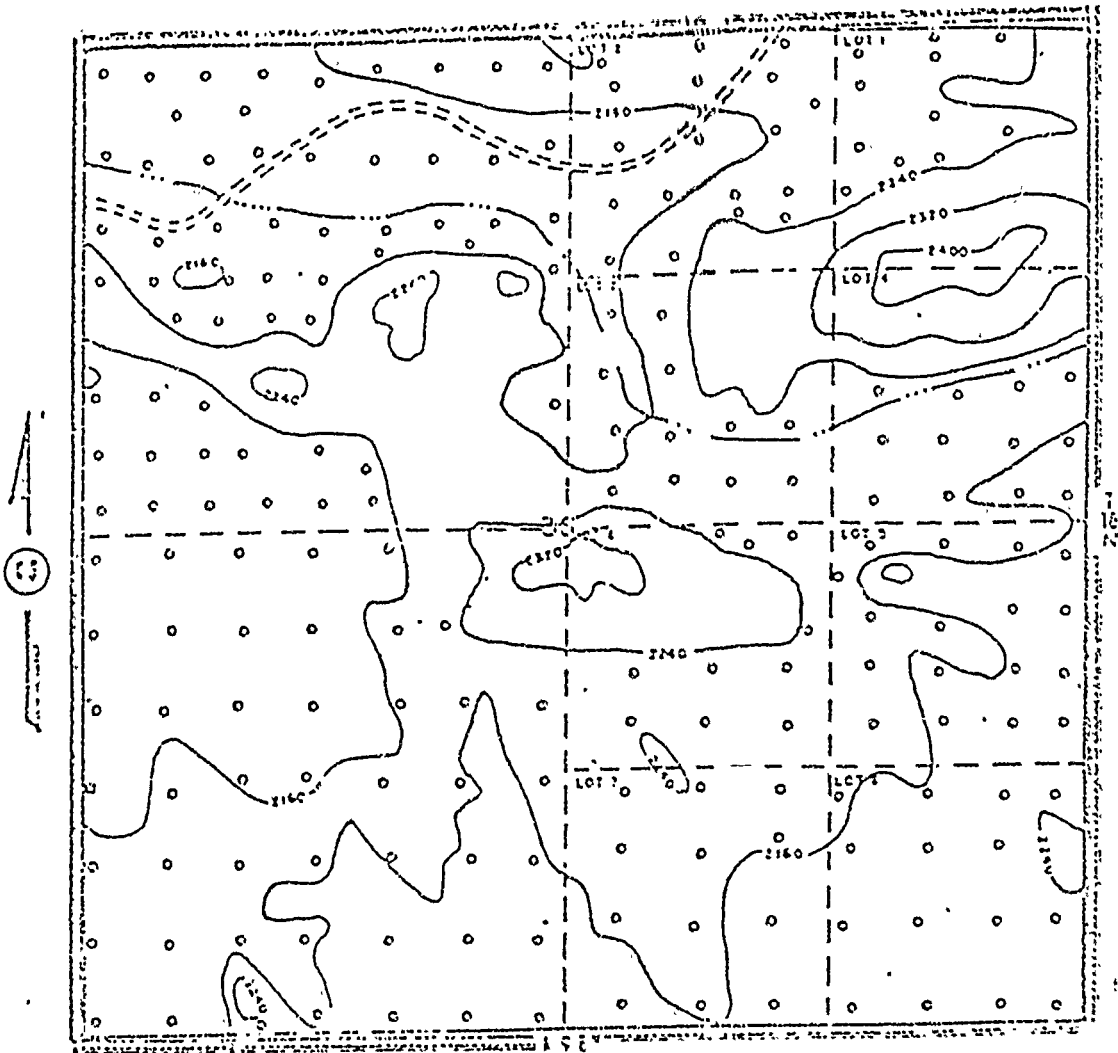
6. It is possible that there will be a minimal increase in dust on the site, depending on the surface conditions at the time of the operation. However, due to the desert pavement rock cover this should be negligible. Additionally, there will be a slight increase in fumes on the site because three vehicles will be operating there.

8. There will be a change in the existing noise on the site because three gasoline-powered trucks and two gasoline-powered drilling units will be operating. Due to the remoteness of the site, disturbance should be minimal.

12. There will be a slight increase in fossil fuel consumption as a result of this project because three gasoline-powered trucks and two gasoline-powered drilling units will be utilized.

13. This application is one of five contiguous applications being requested on this section of school land. All of the operations will be conducted at the same time.

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Legend:

- Prospecting Permit Boundary
- Proposed Drill Hole location
- Existing Trail
- Ephemeral Drainage

American Colloid Company  
 P. O. Box 2010, Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
 Application for Prospecting Permit W-2374  
 Kingston Springs Project  
 T18N R9E Section 36  
 Scale: 1" = 1,000' Contour Interval: 5'  
 Date: June 13, 1983

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Attachment 1

Environmental Information Form 59.2

1. Project and its Location.

American Colloid Company is referring to this project as the Kingston Springs Project. The location is described on the General Data Form 54.2, the Vicinity Map, and the Project Map attached to this application

2. Statement of Objectives Sought by the Proposed Project.

The objectives sought by this project are discovering and evaluating the extent and nature of the mineral deposit present on the site.

3. General Description of the Project.

The proposed project will be an exploration program to evaluate the presence and extent of bentonite and other valuable clays on the project area. To accomplish this evaluation, approximately 225 four-inch diameter holes will be drilled to a maximum depth of 75 feet. Two 4-wheel drive trucks, with Parmanco auger drills mounted on them, will be used for this exploration.

At each drill site a pile covering approximately four square feet will result. Once the hole is complete a sample, of approximately one pound, of any mineral found will be taken, and then the drill cuttings will be placed back into the hole. A 2" x 4" numbered stake will be placed into the top of the hole to show its location. The total amount of disturbance should be approximately 240 square feet, or 0.02 acre.

A survey crew, using a pickup, will survey in the drill stakes to tie them to established section corners. Once this surveying is completed, laboratory analysis of the samples will be done and maps of the hole locations will be prepared.

4. Description of the Environmental Setting.

(a) The project area is a sparsely vegetated desert area. Extensive study has been done on the surrounding area by the Bureau of Land Management, and there are no known environmental resources that are rare or unique on the site or immediately adjacent to it. The nearest area of environmental concern is the Kingston Range, approximately 10 miles to the north of the project site. The only known related projects are the four other contiguous prospecting permit applications which have been submitted by American Colloid on the same state section.

(b) There are no known previously certified water quality aspects for this project.

5. Assessment of Impact.

The only project phase being considered at this time is that described in Section 3 above. The impacts of this project are the possible increase in dust

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due to three vehicles driving on the area and rotary auger drilling. This impact should be minimal because of the rocky desert pavement covering the area. There will also be a slight increase in fumes and noise which will result from the vehicles being used on the site. Finally, there will be some crushing of the surface portion of plants on the site due to the vehicles being driven off established roads.

6. Significant Environmental Effects of the Project.

There should be no significant environmental effects of the project. The disturbance caused by the vehicles should be short term in that the entire project will only take approximately one month to complete. No damage should be done to the root systems of the crushed vegetation, and therefore plant recovery should be complete in a short period of time. There should be no long term environmental impacts associated with this project. The drilling crew will be from outside the area, and will be on site only during the month of activity. Therefore, there will be no increase in population distribution or concentration. The road into the area will not be improved for this operation, so there should be no increase in human use of the land other than that of the project itself.

No ground water should be encountered on the site. However, if ground water is encountered, the drill hole will be sealed in accordance with Department of Water Resources Water Well Standards Bulletin No. 74. There should be no impact on scenic quality other than the site of the trucks on the area during the month of activity, and this impact should be minimal due to the remote nature of the site.

7. Any Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented.

There should be no significant environmental effects that result from this project being implemented.

8. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Significant Environmental Effects.

As mentioned above, there should be no significant environmental effects that result from this project.

9. Alternatives to the Proposed Action.

The only alternative to the proposed project is no project. Due to the nature of the mineral, alternate sites for the project are not readily available. The alternate of no project would result in the mineral being shipped into the state for distribution from other states, which would result in increased use of fossil fuels.

10. The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity.

There should be no cumulative or long term effects of the proposed project which adversely affect the state or its environment. This project will not narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long term risks to

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health or safety. The proposed project is justifiable now because it will offer an opportunity to reduce fossil fuel consumption now necessary because of long shipping distances for the product.

11. Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it be Implemented.

There will be no significant irreversible environmental changes because of the proposed project other than a small amount of gasoline will be used to operate the vehicles needed for the project. No improvement of roads into the area is planned, so no new access for public use will be provided. The minerals sought are non-toxic and non-hazardous, so there is no environmental danger associated with accidents.

12. The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action.

This project will not foster economic or population growth directly. No people will be moved permanently to the area for this project. Indirectly, there will be a very small amount of economic growth for one month in Baker, California due to a slightly increased use of motels, gas stations, and restaurants by the crew involved in this operation.

13. Energy Conservation.

Very little energy will be utilized for this operation. No alternatives were considered because of the insignificant resource use involved.

14. Organizations and Persons Contacted.

A meeting was held on March 17, 1983 with Mr. David Eslinger and Mr. Peter Ertman of the Bureau of Land Management in Riverside, California concerning the surrounding federal land. A meeting was also held, on March 18, 1983, with Mr. A. Willard, Mr. Alex Gonzales, and Mr. Jim Hart of the State Lands Commission, at their office in Long Beach, concerning the filing of this application.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 1370 (1/70)

File Ref.: W 40374-  
40378

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: American Colloid Company  
5100 Suffield Court  
Skokie, Illinois 60077

B. Checklist Date: Aug. 12 / 1985

C. Contact Person: Alexander P. Gonzalez, State Lands Commission  
Telephone: ( 215 ) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospect for bentonite clays or other valuable minerals.

E. Location: Section 36, Township 18 North, Range 9 East, SBB&M  
Approximately 10 miles Northeast of Baker, San Bernardino County

F. Description: Drill 225 exploratory holes, four inch diameter by 75 feet  
deep to obtain samples to discover and delineate any possible  
orebody - see attached project description.

G. Persons Contacted: See attached mailing list.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)

A. *Truth.* Will the proposal result in:

Yes Maybe No

- 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?
- 2. Disturbances, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?
- 3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?
- 4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?
- 5. Any erosion or wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?
- 6. Change in the sedimentation or erosion of the banks of or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may muddy the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?
- 7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground

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*Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?
- 2. The creation of objectionable odors?
- 3. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

*Water. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?
- 2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?
- 3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?
- 4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?
- 5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?
- 6. Alteration of the direct on or rate of flow of ground waters?
- 7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?
- 8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?
- 9. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?
- 10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs?

*D. Plant Life. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?
- 3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?
- 4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?

*E. Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?
- 2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?
- 3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?
- 4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?

*F. Noise. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Increase in existing noise levels?
- 2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

*G. Light and Glare. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. The production of new light or glare?

*H. Land Use. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?

*I. Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:*

- 1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?
- 2. Substantial depletion of any non-renewable resources?

Yes Maybe No

**J. Risk of Injury.** Does the proposal result in:

- 1. Risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?
- 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

**K. Population.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?

**L. Housing.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

**M. Transportation/Circulation.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?
- 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking?
- 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?
- 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?
- 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?
- 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?

**N. Public Services.** Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?
- 2. Police protection?
- 3. Schools?
- 4. Parks and other recreational facilities?
- 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- 6. Other governmental services?

**O. Energy.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?
- 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?

**P. Utilities.** Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- 1. Power or natural gas?
- 2. Communication systems?
- 3. Water?
- 4. Sewer or septic tanks?
- 5. Storm water drainage?
- 6. Solid waste and disposal?

**Q. Human Health.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?
- 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

**R. Aesthetics.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of a new vista or view open to the public?

**S. Recreation.** Will the proposal result in:

- 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?

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Yes Maybe No

7. Cultural Resources.

- 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site?
- 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
- 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?
- 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

8. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?
- 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?
- 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

See attached Project Description, Discuss of Environmental Evaluation.

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation.

- I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.

Date: 1 / 1 / 1988

For the State Lands Commission

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40378

### DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

- A-2 Local disruption and compaction of soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the drill sites and in traveling cross country by the 4-wheel drive trucks.
- A-5 Some increase of wind and water erosion of any soil exposed at drill sites on hillsides will occur during rain or windstorms.
- B-1 Temporary dust emissions may occur during drilling or travel across soft dry terrain.
- F-1 The operating drill trucks and service vehicle activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels in the relatively quiet desert environment.

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MAILING LIST - LETTERS

W 40374-78

San Bernardino Co. Planning Dept.  
Attn: Fred Hinshaw  
1111 East Mill St., Bldg. 1  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 1976  
Chemehuevi Valley, CA 92363

Neilsen and Senior  
Attn: J. L. Reid  
P.O. Box 11808  
Salt Lake City, UT 84147

American Colloid Company  
Attn: Ron Sieg  
P.O. Box 2010  
Belle Fourche, S.D. 57717

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MAILING LIST - MEMOS  
W 40374-78

PG. 1

Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
Lahontan Region 6  
Attn: Roy C. Hampson,  
Executive Officer  
2092 Lake Tahoe Boulevard  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 95702

Department of Parks & Recreation  
Attn: Maurice Getty  
1220 "K" Street, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Transportation  
District 8  
Attn: Robert Pote  
247 West Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92403

Native American Heritage Commission  
Attn: Willie Pink  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Conservation  
Environmental Program Coordinator  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1354  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of Historic Preservation  
Nick del Cioppo  
1220 "K" Street, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Water Resources  
Control Board  
John Huddleson  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dept. of Fish and Game  
Fred A. Worthley, Jr.,  
Regional Manager  
245 W. Broadway, Suite 350  
Long Beach, CA 90802

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Dept. of Health  
Harvey Collins  
714 "P" Street, Room 430  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Air Resources Board  
Anne Geraghty  
1120 "Q" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
15371 Bonanza Road  
Victorville, CA 92392