

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 37  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 37 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 1/31/85  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 68  
S 36

37

01/31/85  
W 40425 PRC 6789  
Hart

APPROVAL OF A PROSPECTING PERMIT FOR  
MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL  
RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

APPLICANT: Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
5932 McIntyre Street  
Golden, Colorado 80403

AGENT: Gordon R. Peake  
5932 McIntyre Street  
Golden, Colorado 80403

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  
640 acres of land located in Riverside County.

CONSIDERATION: Filing fee of \$25, expense deposit of \$100 and  
an acreage deposit of \$640.

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:  
State school land - Section 16, T2S, R23E, SBM,  
Riverside County, ten miles southwest of Vidal.

PROPOSED PROJECT:  
Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc. proposes to  
conduct multiphased exploration for valuable  
minerals with the execution of each phase  
dependent upon the achievement of success in  
the immediately preceding phase.

Phase I

A geologist on foot will conduct detailed geologic mapping of  
the area at the scale of one inch equals 200 feet.

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Phase II

A geologist will use hand tools to conduct a rock-chip sampling program of mineralized outcrop areas. The samples will be assayed for precious and base metal content.

Phase III

Five, 3-1/2 inch diameter holes will be drilled with a track-mounted reverse circulation drill rig to a maximum depth of 700 feet each. The average depth of holes A, B, D, Q and R (Map C of Initial Study) will be 300 feet each. The holes will be drilled with air as the drilling fluid. Drill mud will not be used. Prior to abandonment, each hole will be cemented from the surface to a depth of 50 feet. Prior to cementing of any drill hole in which ground water is encountered, the permittee shall contact the staff of the State Lands Commission's Long Beach office and Jack L. Spruill at (213) 590-5137 of the Department of Fish and Game.

Support vehicles will include three, 3/4 ton four-wheel drive vehicles. In order to avoid undue disruption to the burro deer, trips in and out of the area by the drill rig and support crews shall be limited to the necessary minimum and prospecting activities shall, to the extent practical, be limited to the months of May and June.

Phase IV

Favorable results from the previous drilling will lead to the drilling of an additional 15 holes (Map C of Initial Study). Description of the drilling activities is the same as Phase III.

Surface Disturbance:

Old road repair will not be required. There will be no new road construction and no excavations to provide level drill sites since the tracked drill rig eliminates the need for both activities. Vehicle travel in the permit area shall, to the extent possible, be limited to the existing access roads which are shown on Map C of the Initial Study.

TERM:

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

REVISED 01/22/85

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**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 not be less than ten percent of the gross value of all mineral production from the leased lands, less any charges approved by the Commission made or incurred with respect to transporting or processing the State's royalty share of production. The determination of said royalty and charges shall be at the discretion of the Commission and 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: 02/25/85.

**OTHER PERTINENT 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 an Initial Study and a proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 376, State Clearinghouse 84060607 pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "C".

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The Department of Fish and Game, commenting on the Initial Study, originally indicated an opinion that an EIR be prepared. In order to meet the concerns of Fish and Game, the proposed project was significantly downscaled and the potential for significant surface disturbance was eliminated. Based upon 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)).

2. 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 issuance of the permit shall not affect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such lease because of environmental considerations.
3. Permit shall provide for a performance bond of \$20,000 in favor of the State.

**APPROVALS OBTAINED:**

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

**EXHIBITS:**

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

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 37 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION, EIR ND 376, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 84060607, 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. ANY EXTENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS AMENDED, 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 ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO TEXASGULF MINERALS AND METALS, INC. FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS, GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES, SAND AND GRAVEL ON SECTION 16, T2S, R23E, SBM, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 640 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 OF MINERALS SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF ALL MINERAL PRODUCTION FROM THE LEASED LANDS, LESS ANY CHARGES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION MADE OR INCURRED WITH RESPECT TO TRANSPORTING OR PROCESSING THE STATE'S ROYALTY SHARE OF PRODUCTION. THE DETERMINATION OF SAID ROYALTY AND CHARGES SHALL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 40425

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

Section 16, T2S, R23E, SBM.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED DECEMBER 26, 1984 BY BOUNDARY SERVICES UNIT, M. L. SHAFER, SUPERVISOR.

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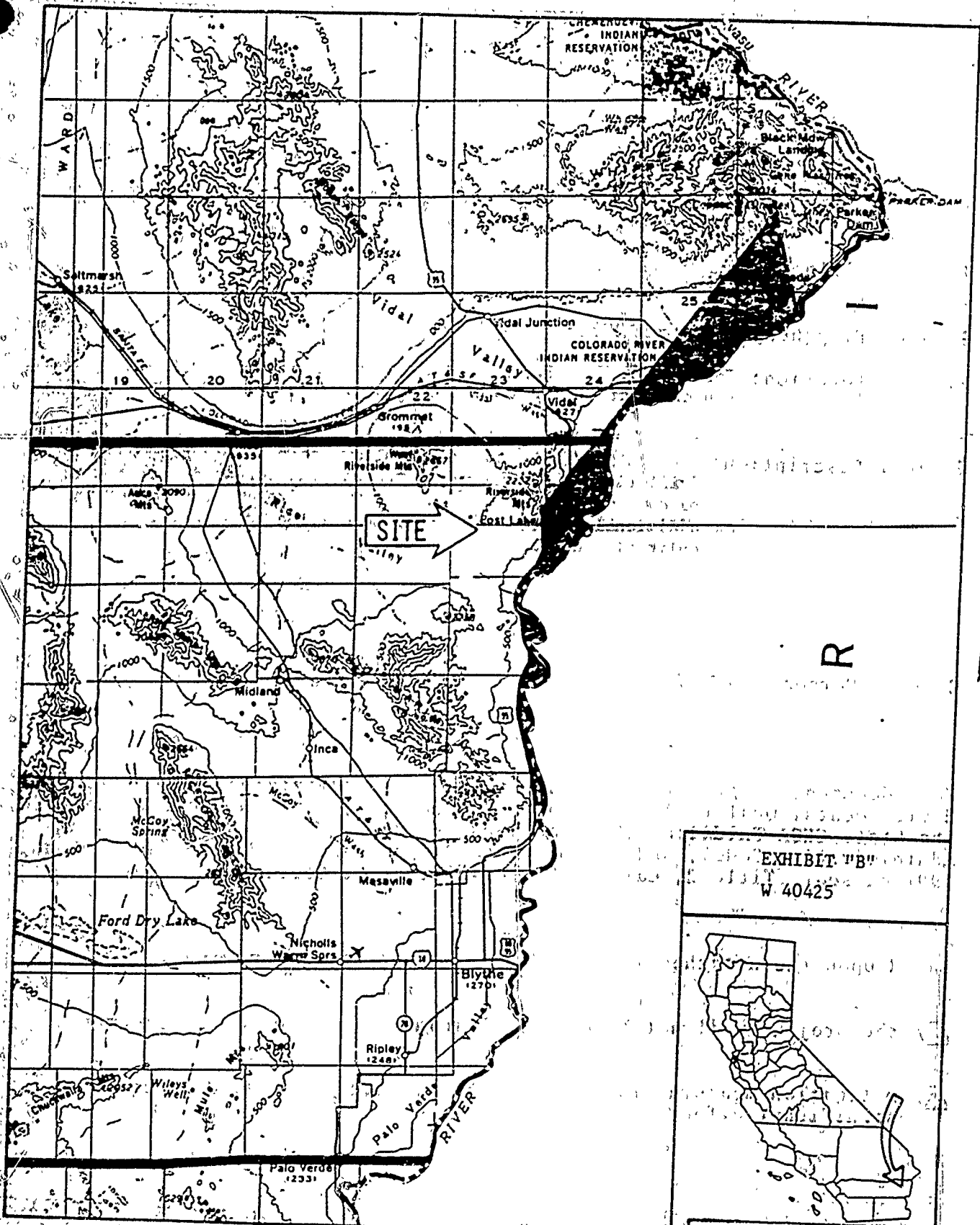


EXHIBIT "B"  
W 40425



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EXHIBIT "C"  
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 376

File Ref.: W 40425

SCH#: 84CG0607

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Riverside Mountains

Project Proponent: Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.

Project Location: Section 16, T. 2 S., R. 23 E., SBB2M, approximately 10 miles southwest of Vidal, Riverside County.

Project Description: The applicant will map the geology, chip sample rock outcrops, drill five holes, and assay the samples for gold, silver, and base metal content. If the assay results are favorable, an additional fifteen holes will be drilled to discover and delineate any possible orebody.

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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File Ref.: W 40425  
SCH# 84060607

MITIGATION MEASURE

The Permittee shall contact the staff of the State Lands Commission's Long Beach office and Jack L. Spruill at (213) 590-5137 of the Department of Fish and Game prior to cementing any drink hole in which ground water is encountered.

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COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY AND  
RESPONSES PER AN AMENDED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Same Initial Study (attached) was circulated under separate cover. After an adverse response to the Initial Study, the applicant submitted the following amended project description for Section 16:

Phase I

A geologist on foot will conduct detailed geologic mapping of the area at the scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

Phase II

A geologist will use hand tools to conduct a rock-chip sampling program of mineralized outcrop areas. The samples will be assayed for precious and base metal content.

Phase III.

Five, 3-1/2 inch diameter holes will be drilled with a track-mounted reverse circulation drill rig to a maximum depth of 700 feet each. The average depth of holes A, B, D, Q and R (Map C of Initial Study) will be 300 feet each. Support vehicles will include three, 3/4 ton four-wheel drive vehicles. The holes will be drilled with air as the drilling fluid. Drill mud will not be used. Prior to abandonment, each hole will be cemented from the surface to a depth of 50 feet.

Phase IV

Favorable results from the previous drilling will lead to the drilling of an additional fifteen holes (Map C of Initial Study). Description of the drilling activities is the same as Phase III.

Surface Disturbance:

Old road repair will not be required. There will be no new road construction and no excavations to provide level drill sites since the tracked drill rig eliminates the need for both activities.

If a commercially valuable mineral deposit is discovered through prospecting efforts under authorization of a prospecting permit, a comprehensive environmental impact report will be required on the future impacts of mining the deposit.

1. California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7

Comments:

"The Regional Board staff has reviewed information from the subject study, and we have determined that waste discharge requirements are not needed, since chemicals are not to be used and negligible amounts of wastewater would be discharged. Should a new proposal involving the use of chemicals in processing the ore be submitted in the future, we would again request an opportunity to review and comment."

Response:

You will be requested to review and comment on any future mining proposal.

2. Department of Transportation, District II

Comments:

"Caltrans District II will evidently not have a role within the meaning of Section 21080.3 in relation to this prospecting permit. Future consultation could become necessary, however, if the initial exploration leads to a project involving work within the rights-of-way of State Route 62 or U.S. Highway 95."

Response:

See above response.

3. Riverside County Planning Department

Comments:

"After reviewing the information that you provided to the Planning Department regarding mineral prospecting in Section 16, T2S, R23E, SBB&M of Riverside County, it is staff's opinion that the project does not require an environmental impact report at this time. However, if valuable mineral resources are discovered, an environmental impact report should be required prior to exploitation of minerals."

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In regards to archaeological resources, planning staff has contacted the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of California at Riverside. Mr. Daniel McCarthy from the Archaeological Research Unit indicated that an archaeological assessment must be required for this project due to the fact that archaeological resources were found in nearby areas. For more information on this matter you may wish to contact Mr. Daniel McCarthy at 787-3885.

An additional concern is the length of time that the trenches will be open until finally they are covered with dirt material or reclaimed. Open trenches can be safety and health hazards to wandering motorcycle riders, hikers or animals."

Response:

See response #1.

The Initial Study was sent to the Office of Historic Preservation, Native American Heritage Commission, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes for review and comment. No responses were received.

See amended project description.

4. Department of Fish and Game

Comments:

"The Department of Fish and Game disagrees with the EIA Checklist Items D 1; E 1, 2, 3, and 4; and U 1 and 2. They should have been marked respectively Maybe, Yes, Yes, Maybe, No Yes, and Yes. We believe an EIR should be prepared to fully disclose and mitigate the potential adverse effects of the proposed project as described below.

The state land parcel described in this Notice is part of critically important seasonal range used by an isolated population of burro mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus eremicus). This area includes the mountain foothills and washes and the upper alluvial woodlands in the central and western portions of the Riverside Mountains.

Radio telemetry data show deer occupy the area during the period from August through May, then migrate to the riparian zone near the Colorado River to spend the hot, dry period (June-July).

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Because the deer population is isolated, it is highly susceptible to any negative effects. In recognition of this, considerable efforts have been made in the Riverside Mountains to improve and maintain the area's potential to support deer. Since 1980, cooperative actions involving the Department, BLM, Riverside County Fish and Game Commission, and public support have resulted in the construction of three wildlife water sources. Although these projects required substantial investments in terms of funding, time and manpower, they have provided significant benefits to the deer herd.

However, mining activities, such as described in the prospecting application, can only negate these benefits. There will be increased human intrusion, noise and air pollution, and off-road travel. There will be soil and vegetation losses and possible alterations in the direction or rate of flow of groundwaters. In sonoran Desert habitats where vegetation density is low, regeneration of plant communities very slow, and water often a critical limiting factor to vegetation and wildlife, the proposed activities could have serious detrimental effects....

To summarize, because of the unique circumstances of the Riverside Mountains' deer herd, the long-term cooperative investments already made to improve those circumstances, and the potentially damaging effects of extensive prospecting activities over most of the herd's desert range, we strongly urge that an EIR be prepared to fully disclose the potential effects of this proposed project. All substantial adverse effects thus identified should be fully mitigated."

Response:

See Mitigation Measure

A temporary displacement of burro mule deer from traditionally used areas will occur on the State section as humans conduct prospecting activities. The proposed amended activities are not anticipated to cause permanent displacement or adversity to overall habitat conditions. Prospecting noise will cause a temporary displacement of wildlife from traditionally used areas. Noise is not anticipated to cause permanent displacement or adversity to overall habitat conditions.

The area subject to the prospecting permit application is 1 square mile (640 acres) out of approximately 36 square miles comprising the Riverside Mountains.

The burro mule deer is not a State listed unique, rare or endangered animal species.

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File Ref.: W 40426  
SCH# 84060607

July 19, 1984

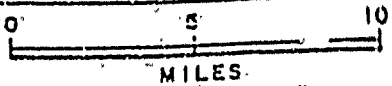
INITIAL STUDY  
INTRODUCTION

Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc. has applied to the State Lands Commission for a prospecting permit on State lands located in the Riverside Mountains in northeastern Riverside County. The proposed project consists of geologic mapping, rock chip sampling, excavating three trenches, and drilling twenty holes to a maximum depth of 700 feet each to discover and delineate any possible orebody. The permit, when issued, is for a two-year period and may be extended for a maximum of one year.

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

STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
July 1984

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COUNTY

BLISS

WEST RIVERSIDE MINS.

COLORADO

MOUNTAINS SITE

INDIAN

RESERVATION

BLYTE

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

W-40425

APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING PERMIT

TEXASGULF MINERALS AND METALS INC.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

JULY 1984

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K.R.B.

EXHIBIT "B"  
VIDAL AND BIG MARIA MTS.  
NE, CA-AZ  
7.5" USGS  
QUADRANGLES



W 40425

CALENDAR 26  
DATE PAGE 570



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 40425

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.
255 Glendale Ave., Suite #15
Sparks, NV 89431

B. Checklist Date: 7 / 11 / 84

C. Contact Person: James B. Hart, State Lands Commission
Telephone: ( 213 ) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospect for valuable minerals.

E. Location: Section 16, T. 2 S., R. 23 E., SBB&M, Riverside County. See attached maps.

F. Description: Applicant will map, chip sample, excavate three trenches, and drill a maximum of twenty holes in favorable areas to discover and delineate any possible orebody. See detailed project description.

G. Persons Contacted: [Empty lines for contact information]

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

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?
2. Disruptions, 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 increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify 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 failure, or similar hazards?

Yes Maybe No

Response grid for environmental impacts with Yes, Maybe, and No columns and checkboxes for each item.

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Yes, Maybe No

B. Air. 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?

C. 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 direction 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 nonrenewable resources?

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- J. Risk of Upset.** Does the proposal result in:
- |   | Yes                      | Maybe                    | No                                  |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A 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? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? . . . . .  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- K. Population.** Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- L. Housing.** Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- M. Transportation/Circulation.** Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? . . . . .                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? . . . . .         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? . . . . .                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? . . . . .                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? . . . . .         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- 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? . . . . .                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Police protection? . . . . .                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Schools? . . . . .   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Parks and other recreational facilities? . . . . .           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Other governmental services? . . . . .                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- O. Energy.** Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? . . . . .  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- P. Utilities.** Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Power or natural gas? . . . . .     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Communication systems? . . . . .    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Water? . . . . .                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Sewer or septic tanks? . . . . .    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Storm water drainage? . . . . .     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Solid waste and disposal? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- Q. Human Health.** Will the proposal result in:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? . . . . .                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- 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 an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- S. Recreation.** Will the proposal result in:
- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? . . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

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T. Cultural Resources.

Yes Maybe No

- 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?

U. 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 Detailed Project Description, Discussion of Environmental Evaluation, and Form 69.3.

V. 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 is required.

Date: 12 / 7 / 84

James B. Hart  
 For the State Lands Commission  
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DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc. proposes to conduct multiphased exploration in the permit area. The project consists of phases of increasing magnitude and expense. An exploration program to evaluate the mineral potential of this area is proposed as follows:

Phase I:

Conduct detailed geologic mapping of the area at the scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

Phase II:

Conduct a rock-chip sampling program of mineralized outcrop areas. Assay the samples for precious and base metal content.

Phase III:

Excavate three trenches, each one 300 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 2 to 10 feet deep, with a bulldozer as shown on Map C. An approximate total of 1,200 cubic yards of rock will be excavated from the three trenches. The excavated material will be used to back fill the trenches after completion of geologic analysis of the trenches. Construct a primitive access road to trench sites by blading only locally steep areas.

Phase IV:

Five, 5 1/2 inch diameter holes will be drilled with a reverse circulation drill rig to a maximum depth of 700 feet each. The average depth of holes A, B, D, Q and R (Map C) will be 300 feet each. Support vehicles will include three, 3/4 ton four-wheel drive trucks. If the drill sites are not level, a level pad approximately 30 feet by 50 feet will be constructed with a bulldozer. The holes will be drilled with air as the drilling fluid. Drill mud will not be used. Prior to abandonment, each hole will be cemented from the surface to a depth of 50 feet.

Phase V:

Favorable results from the previous drilling will lead to the drilling of an additional fifteen holes (Map C). Description of drilling activities is the same as Phase IV.

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Surface Disturbance:

Old road repair is not required. The estimated maximum surface area disturbance for new road building will be 1.9 acres. This will be accomplished by minimizing the use of bulldozer blade and using one set of tracks along the naturally flat ridges between arroyos. The road along areas that will not require excavation will be flagged extensively to prevent additional and unnecessary tracks from being made. The road will be posted to warn against traveling off flagged access. The total maximum volume of excavated material will be approximately 3500 cubic yards for access roads. All of this material will be stockpiled close to the excavated zone and will be used for reclamation.

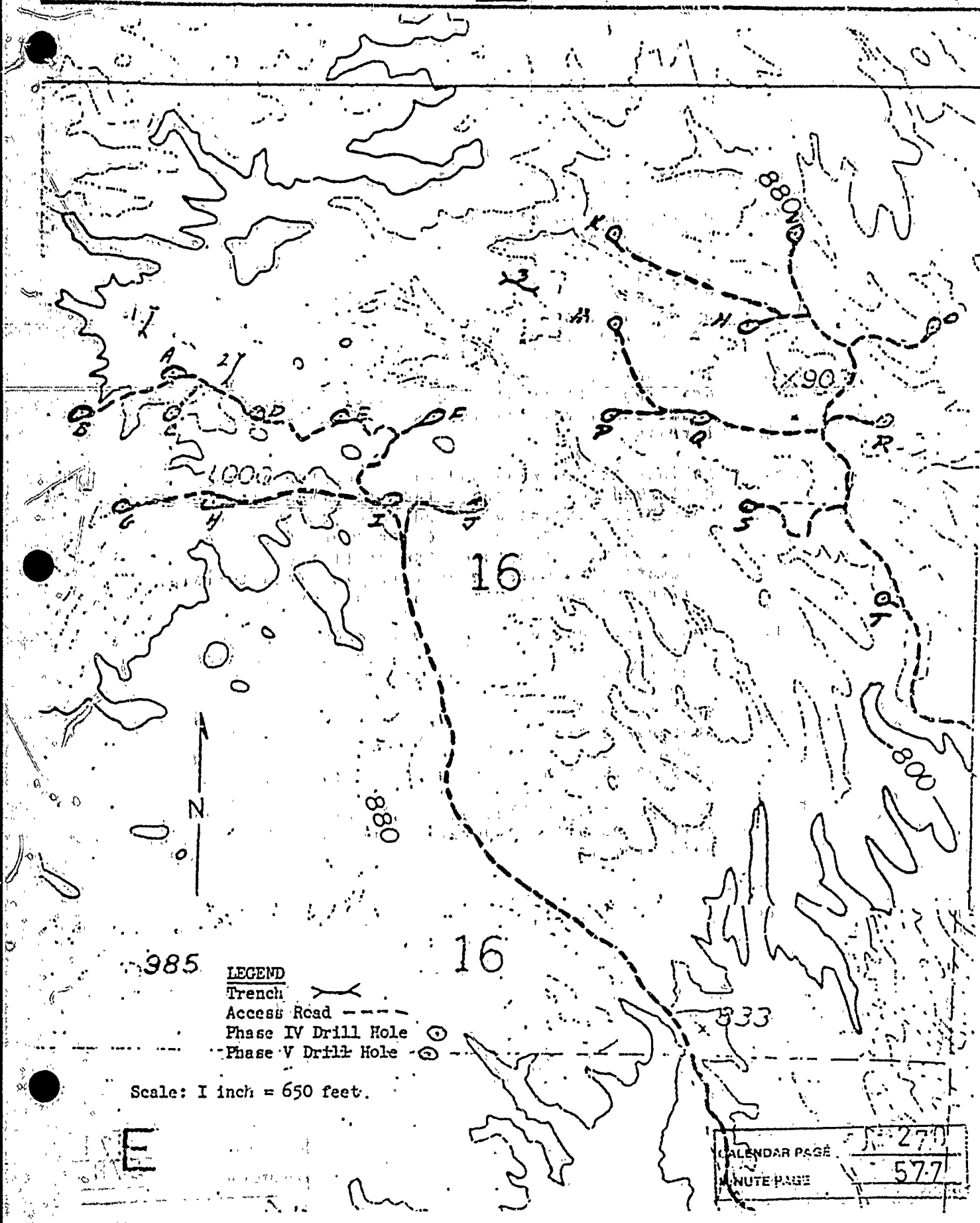
The estimated maximum surface area disturbance from the three trenches will be 0.25 acre.

Twelve of the twenty proposed drill sites are naturally level and no excavation will be required. On the remaining eight sites approximately 700 cubic yards will be moved to provide a level drill site. Maximum surface disturbance will be 0.6 acre.


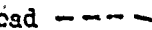


If a commercially valuable mineral deposit is discovered through prospecting efforts under authorization of a prospecting permit, a comprehensive environmental impact report will be required on the future impacts of mining the deposit.

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MAP C



LEGEND

- Trench 
- Access Road 
- Phase IV Drill Hole 
- Phase V Drill Hole 

Scale: 1 inch = 650 feet.

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### III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

- A 2. Disruption, displacement, compaction, and overcovering of the rocky soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the sampling sites if Phases III, IV, and V are executed. All new excavations will be restored to the natural ground contour, as nearly as possible, if Phases III, IV and V prospecting is unsuccessful.
- A 3. The Phase III trenching and Phase IV and V drilling will involve constructing some primitive roads and level drillsites in locally steep terrain.
- A 5. An increase in wind and water erosion of the disturbed soil at subsurface sampling sites will take place during wind and rain storms. An increase in wind and water erosion of the soil at newly constructed roads and drillsites and excavated trenches, especially in steep terrain, will occur during rain and wind storms.
- B 1. Temporary dust emissions will occur during drilling, access road construction, trenching, and/or vehicle travel on access roads.
- C 6. Drilling may penetrate one or more aquifers with a subsequent flow path through the drill hole. If ground water is encountered, the drill hole will be plugged with cement upon abandonment.
- F 1. The operating bulldozer, drill rig and accessory activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I**  
(To be completed by applicant)  
FORM 69.311 (82)

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant

Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
5932 McIntyre Street  
Golden, Colorado 80403  
( 303 ) 273-2400

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Paul D. Hartley  
Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
255 Glendale Ave., Suite #15  
Sparks, Nevada 89431  
( 702 ) 331-6014

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

28 miles due north of Blythe, California.

Section 16, T 2 S, R 23 E, San Bernardino Meridian.

b. Assessor's parcel number: Section 16, T 2 S, R 23 E, San Bernardino Meridian  
Class L under California

3. Existing zoning or project site: Extremely arid desert, Desert Conservation Area Plan

4. Existing land use of project site: Not in use.

5. Proposed use of site: Mineral prospecting.

6. Other permits required: BLM Plan of Operation (in preparation)

**B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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, noise locations, depth of holes, etc. Attach plans or other drawings as necessary.

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**C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

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.
2. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. a larger project or a series of projects? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.

Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1984

Signed: [Signature]

By: [Signature]

Title: Senior Vice President

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Texagulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
Prospecting Application for Section 16,  
T 2 S, R 23 E, San Bernardino Meridian

Form 59.3

B.2. The proposed activity is restricted to exploratory work for precious and base metal deposits. The exploratory work is to consist of:

- a. Detailed geological mapping at 1"=200'.
- b. Rock chip sampling of outcrops (300 samples).
- c. Trenching using a D-7 bulldozer or equivalent. 3 trenches are proposed and are illustrated on Plate-1. Each trench will be 300 feet in length and 2 to 10 feet deep. Approximately 1800 cubic yards would be excavated, but would be used to reclaim trenches.
- d. 20, 5½ inch diameter reverse circulation drill holes are proposed. Maximum depth of each hole will be 700 feet. Average depth will be 300 feet. Each hole will require a moderately flat drill site and primitive access road. Plate-2 illustrates the drill hole locations and proposed access roads. A total of approximately 37 cubic yards of material will be excavated during drilling.
- e. Total area of disturbed ground is approximately 2.5 acres.

C.1. Elevations within Section 16 range from 760 feet ASL to 1160 feet ASL. Topography is locally steep in along dig wash banks, but overall it is gentle. It is within the alluvial wash area adjacent to the Riverside Mountains. Soil development is typical of extremely arid, low elevation, desert environments and only becomes locally unstable (i.e. along arroyo banks) during heavy downpours. Plants are primarily creosote bushes and ironwoods within the washes. Wildlife are small desert reptiles and mammals. Section 16 is outside of the planned fish and wildlife management areas designated in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. Texagulf is not aware of any cultural or historical aspects of Section 16. Scenic aspects are not spectacular by general standards. The Riverside Mountains are not easily distinguished from other small ranges within eastern Riverside County.

There are no existing structures in Section 16.

2. The surrounding property to Section 16 is uninhabited. Vegetation and wildlife is similar to Section 16. The Riverside Mountains range in elevation from 1100 feet to 2554 feet. The Colorado River Indian Reservation boundary is 2 miles due east of Section 16.

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Texasgulf is not aware of any distinguishing cultural or historical aspects on the property adjacent to Section 16. There are no readily apparent structures that may be of historical significance. However, the area is under Class L of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980.

D.1. During access road, trench, and drill site construction some local modification of ground contours will be necessary. This will be minimal in this relatively flat topography. The access roads will be very primitive and only passable by four wheel drive vehicles. All materials moved will be readily available for reclamation fill.

6. During drilling with reverse circulation, some dust will be apparent especially when blowing out the hole after each five foot run. In addition, dirt access roads will have 2 to 6 vehicles making one round trip per day during the drilling phase.

8. Engine noise from 2 or 3 small diesels will be heard within one mile of the drill rig.

Only one shift per day is currently planned.

13. If the drilling program is successful in indicating an economic precious and/or base metal deposit, an expanded drilling program will be recommended. Hopefully, the additional drilling will prove up an economically mineable deposit and plans for a full scale mining operation can be initiated.

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Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
Mineral Prospecting Permit Application  
For Section 16, T. 2 S., R. 23 E., San Bernardino Meridian

Addendum to Form 69-3

Item 82.

1. A new primitive road is required to access the areas proposed for trenching. The end of the existing access road is illustrated on Plate-1 at the southeastern corner. The topography is gentle except along arroyo banks. The utmost attention will be given to eliminating excavation to construct the road. A primitive access is all that is required and the blade will only be used in locally steep areas.
2. The estimated maximum surface area disturbance from the three trenches will be 1200 square yards (1200 cubic yards of excavated volume).
3. Old road repair is not required. The estimated maximum surface area disturbance for new road building will be 1.9 acres. This will be accomplished by minimizing the use of bulldozer blade and using one set of tracks along the naturally flat ridges between arroyos. The road along areas that will not require excavation will be flagged extensively to prevent additional and unnecessary tracks from being made. The road will be posted to warn against travelling off flagged access. The total maximum volume of excavated material will be approximately 3500 cubic yards for access roads. All of this material will be stockpiled close to the excavated zone and will be used for reclamation.
4. Drill holes A, B, D, Q, and R will be completed during the first phase of drilling. The remaining 15 holes will be completed during the second phase of drilling.
5. One drill rig will be used during both phases of drilling. A Cyclone Model TH60 reverse circulation rig or equivalent, using 5½ inch outside diameter drill pipe, will be used. 500 CFM capacity compressor will be required. Support vehicles will include 3, 3/4 ton 4WD trucks. Drill site preparation, where necessary, will be completed by a D-8 (or equivalent) bulldozer. If the sites are not naturally flat, a pad approxi-

mately 30 x 50 feet will be cut. When drilling is completed, the holes will be plugged with cement from the surface to a depth of 50 feet.

6. 12 of the 20 proposed drill sites are naturally flat and no excavation will be required. On the remaining 8 sites approximately 700 cubic yards will be moved to provide a flat drill site. Maximum surface disturbance will be 0.6 acres.
7. Diesel fuel and gasoline will be used to run machinery and support vehicles. The holes will be drilled with air and additives will not be required. No radioactive substances nor explosives will be required.

MAILING LIST LETTERS  
W 40425

Paul D. Hartley  
Texasgulf Minerals and Metals, Inc.  
255 Glendale Avenue, Suite #15  
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lamon Street, 9th Floor  
Riverside, California 92501  
Attn: Patricia Nemeth

Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Route 1, Box 23-B  
Parker, Arizona 85344  
Attn: Anthony Dremnon, Chairman

MAILING LIST - MEMOS  
W 40425

Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region (7)  
Attn: Arthur Swajian, Executive Officer  
72-271 Hwy 111, Suite 21  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Department of Parks & Recreation  
Attn: James M. Doyle  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Department of Transportation  
District 11  
Attn: Jim Cheshire  
2829 Juan Street  
San Deigo, CA 92138

Native American Heritage Commission  
Attn: Loretta Allen  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of Historic Preservation  
Nick del Cippo  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

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

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

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

Attorney General's Office  
Robert Collins, Deputy Attorney General  
3580 Wilshire Boulevard, 6th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90010