

MT. DIABLO SILVER MINE

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR AUGUST 15 - 31 1953.

This report covers the period from August 15th thru August 31st 1953. On August 15th the operation got under way when C. W. Schuette established the collar elevation of the shaft, that is the level to which the shaft site was to be leveled by bulldozer, and laid out the shaft axes.

Leveling the shaft site was done by some drilling and blasting (item of \$30.18 for explosives MF-104) to loosen the ground (item of \$140.00 for labor of total labor item of \$220.20) and by a bulldozer which was rented for one day at a cost of \$68.00 (item of \$68.00 under rental of operating equipment MF-104). Some additional leveling will have to be done for the 300 feet of dump track for which \$216.35 for rails, bolts and track spikes and \$27.00 for track ties have been spent. (these last two items are listed under Track and Track ties on MF-104).

Timber for the headframe to the amount of 185 bd. ft. was on hand, costing \$106.87 (under timber on MF-104). The front bent of the headframe was framed and being bolted together at the end of the month and total labor cost was \$821.80 (part of total labor cost of \$222.20 on MF-104). Nails for the headframe construction came to \$23.65 and are so listed on MF-104.

Supervision and technical services are \$380.00 for the period.

The original intention was to buy a headframe but as no suitable one could be found it was decided to build one and C. W. Schuette sketched out a design that could be built from used timber that could be obtained at anytime. The headframe was being framed at the end of the month.

The shaft has been sunk 6 feet; a substantial collar set has been framed over it and the first set below the collar has been concreted with suitable reinforcement by the end of the month.

The hoist was on its way to the mine and the cost of it and of the cable and clamps was \$2906.80 and \$182.62 respectively, entered under Hoist and cable on MF-104 at \$3189.42.

Payroll taxes came to \$5.73 as listed on MF-104.

Work was proceeding briskly, the crew was competent and the job is off to a good start.

C. W. Schuette

MT. DIABLO QUICKSILVER MINE.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1953.

During September 1953, the headframe was completed and a small bin was built in front of it. On top of the bin a hinged chute was built to swing over the shaft for dumping the sinking bucket. Track for a mine car was laid from the bin to the dump.

The hoist was set on a substantial concrete foundation and was placed in operation.

The power line, which formerly passed over the shaft site, was moved to a new location and the necessary connections for the hoist were made.

The safety crosshead was installed on Sept. 23rd and on the 25th the actual work of sinking was started. At the end of the month the shaft was 28 feet down from the collar. The hoisthouse was being erected at the end of the month.

Costs:

The completion of the headframe cost as follows:

Labor on headframe	\$ 984.13
Lumber	60.28
Iron (rods, bolts, angle irons etc)	251.38
Rent of crane to raise headframe	<u>32.50</u>
Total	\$1378.29

Note: Of this total, \$1290.77 has been entered on Forms MF-104 and MF-104A, as this brings the amount spent for "New Bldgs., etc", to the full allowable total of \$2000.00.

The installation of the hoist cost (in part) as follows:

Concrete for Hoist foundation	\$ 121.17
Reinforcing iron	18.54
Lumber for concrete forms	5.87
Welding gas	<u>9.14</u>
Total	\$ 153.72

Note: Of this total, \$30.32 has been entered on Forms MF-104 and MF-104A, as this brings the amount spent to the full allowable total of \$2250.00

C. H. Schmitt

OCT 2 1953

INTERIM REPORT
Second

Socket No.: DMNA-2448 (Mercury)

Sept. 25, 1953

Name and address of operator: Ronnie B. Smith and partners
Tower Petroleum Building
Dallas, Texas

Name and location of property: ME. Diablo Quicksilver Mine,
SE 1/4 sec. 29, T. 1 N., R. 1 E.,
M. D. S. & M., Contra Costa County, Calif.

Contract No.: Mm 1344

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The property was inspected on September 15 and 16, 1953 by an engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Mines accompanied by Mr. C. N. Schuette, consulting engineer, and by Mr. Vic Blumberg, assistant superintendent.

Work was started at the property on August 15, 1953. Work completed included shaft site leveling; and a portion of headframe construction and hoist installation. The shaft was sunk to a depth of 8 feet and concrete was poured for the collar set, hoist foundation, and hoist room floor.

Preliminary work was done efficiently and operating conditions were fair. The operator has not found a solution to water problems at the property described by the previous interim report of July 20, 1953. An independent contract for the shaft sinking operation has not been obtained by the operator.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) For improvement of operations: The operator should spend

more time on the property and should delegate either his consultant or superintendent with the authority to pay bills.

(b) Changes in project or target: None.

(c) Amendments to contract: None.

STATEMENT OF WORK COMPLETED

The shaft site was excavated and a 2-compartment shaft, measuring 4'-6" by 8'-6" was sunk to a depth of 3 feet.

A concrete collar set was poured at the shaft, and the construction of a headframe was nearly completed. The collar of the shaft was established at elevation 916 and near the location indicated by the contract.

A hoist with a 50-horsepower induction motor was being installed. A cross head, 750 feet of new 5/8" - 6x19 hoist cable, timber for headframe, 300 feet of 12-pound mine rail and other supplies needed for starting exploration operations were located at the property.

Supplies and equipment not on hand included a sinking basket, air and water pipe, ventilation equipment and sinking pumps.

COMMENTS ON PROGRESS

Preliminary work was done efficiently by a skilled crew. The operator obtained the services of C. N. Schuette, consulting engineer, and Vic Blomberg, assistant superintendent who was a former operator of the property. The present crew consists of four workmen and includes Mr. Guy Castle, Melvin Bruner and two other shaft men. An independent contract has not been signed.

Excavation work for the shaft site required drilling and blasting to a depth of 3 feet. Equipment used by the operator included one TD-7 International bulldozer with scoop loader, one pickup truck, one portable air compressor with hoses, rock drills and hand tools. A bulldozer with an angle blade was hired for use in leveling the shaft site.

The Mt. Diablo Mining Co. has supplied welding and cutting equipment, hand tools and several small items.

Additional bracing of the headframe was needed. The assistant superintendent installed a 54-inch sheave and the shaft was widened to 4'-6" in clear of timber.

OPERATING CONDITIONS

Present operating conditions are fair. The operator, Ronnie B. Smith, is not in close touch with the exploration operation. The crew were living at Angels Camp, Calif. Mr. C. N. Schuetz expressed the opinion that the operator should spend more time at the property and delegate someone to pay bills.

Difficult water problems will be encountered at the property after the shaft reaches the water table.

OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

The operator's monthly narrative report was good. The monthly report and voucher for the month of August 1953 lacked copies of the payroll, original invoices or certified copies of equipment and supply purchases.

GEOLOGY

The shaft was collared in altered cleaved serpentine. No mercury mineralization was encountered.

SAMPLING

Samples of water were taken from the portal of the 165-foot level and from an evaporation pond at the property. The analyses will be included with the next interim report.



E. H. Sheehan
Mining Engineer

INTERIM REPORT
(third)

DEC 1 - 1953

Docket No.: DMEA-2448 (Mercury)

November 18, 1953

Name and address of operator: Ronnie B. Smith and partners,
Tower Petroleum Building,
Dallas, Texas.

Name and location of property: Mt. Diablo Quicksilver Mine
SW 1/4 sec. 29, T. 1 N., R. 1 E.,
M. D. E. & M., Contra Costa County,
Calif.

Contract No.: IDA-8544

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The property was inspected on Nov. 12, 1953 by an engineer of the Bureau of Mines accompanied by Mr. Vic Blomberg.

The exploratory shaft was sunk and timbered to a depth of 155 feet. No mercury mineralization was found. The rock consisted of sheared black shale and graywacke.

Work progressed at a satisfactory rate. Water problems are expected to be encountered by the work. The shaft was practically dry at its present depth.

The operation was conducted efficiently under the general supervision of Mr. C. N. Schuette, Consulting Engineer. Labor was performed by an independent contract crew of five men, led by Mr. Guy Castle and Melvin Bruzer. Mr. Ronnie B. Smith, trustee, has retained financial control of the operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. For improvement of operations:

The operator should spend more time at the property. He should provide his superintendent with financial aid to handle water problems that may be encountered, and other factors involved with the work.

WORK COMPLETED

The two compartment exploratory shaft was sunk to a depth of 155 feet, and timbered with standard shaft sets of 8- by 8-inch timber and 2-inch lagging.

Surface facilities completed included the construction of a head-frame, hoist installation, hoist house, and dump track.

COMMENTS ON PROGRESS

Excellent progress was made on the work. Operations were temporarily stopped from Oct. 20 to Oct. 23 because of a failure of the hoist motor which had to be replaced.

The actual shaft sinking operation was done by independent contract at a price of \$50.00 per foot for labor, who furnished explosives. Other material and supplies were purchased by the operator.

OPERATING CONDITIONS

Operating conditions were fair. Water has not yet been encountered in the shaft.

The operation was inspected by Mr. John C. Franz, California.

State Safety engineer on October 26, 1953. His recommendations for improvements will be carried out as soon as possible according to the operator.

EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS

Mr. C. N. Schlette, consulting engineer, has efficiently supervised the work with some assistance from Vic Blomberg, resident and former operator.

The labor employed under the independent contract were skilled in their occupation and included five workmen. The work was conducted on a one shift per day basis. The men worked from 8 to 12 hours per day and six days per week.

OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

Expenditures listed by the operator for the month of October showed a total expenditure to date of \$19,680.40 when the shaft was 117 feet in depth.

The operator's narrative report prepared by his consulting engineer was good.

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The independent contractors hope to complete the shaft sinking portion of the operation to a depth of 330 feet by January 1954.

Future progress will depend to a large extent upon water problems that will be encountered.

GEOLOGY

Advance was made in sheared black shale and graywacke. No mercury mineralisation was observed in the shaft.

SAMPLING

Samples of water taken from the portal of the 165-foot level and from an evaporation pond at the property were analyzed by the Bureau of Mines, Hydrometallurgical and Ore Dressing Branch, Region III.

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>% Solids</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
S-240	2.30	Water from 165 level adit.
S-241	4.80	Water from large evaporation pond.

Spectrographic examination of residues from evaporation of water samples S-240 and S-241 detected the presence of Al, Fe, Ca, Mg, Na, and K. Si was not detected in either sample.

Examination with ultra-violet light and fluorescent screen detected Hg in residue S-240 only.

OTHER INFORMATION

According to Mr. Vic Blomberg, the operator may convey his lease on the property to Mr. John Jonas and associates.


B. H. Sheahan
Mining Engineer

MT. DIABLO QUICKSILVER MINE.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR JANUARY 1954.

The shaft sinking was completed during January 1954.

The shaft is 330 feet deep and timbered to the bottom. At the very bottom a little water is seeping in. At a depth of 300 feet from the collar, a 14 foot station set was placed in the shaft and the crosscut was started to the south, at right angles to the long axis of the shaft. At the end of the month this crosscut was 45 feet long. The crosscut was entirely in the shales thru which the shaft was sunk, it was dry and has not been timbered to date. No provision was made in the contract for a shaft station and no station has been cut out.

Sinking was completed on January 16th and crosscutting started on the 18th using the sinking bucket for hoisting. After the crosscut had been advanced some 20 feet, the shaft was cleaned out and timbering was completed. Then a cage was hung in the shaft to hoist the 20 cu. ft. mine cars which are being loaded by a #12 Bisco mucking machine.

At the shaft collar, tracks were laid from the shaft to a turntable under the bin chute. The dump track was extended north, crossing the road to a new and unlimited dump site.

A supply of transite pipe is on hand for the pump and a supply of peeler logs, some 8'-8" long and some 10" in diameter is on hand for timbering the crosscut.

The Contract No. IDME-E 544, Docket No. DMEA 2448 under which this work is being done, was transferred from:

Ronnie Smith, Trustee,

2106 Tower Petroleum Bldg., Dallas 1, Texas. to: //

John L. Jonas & John E. Joanson,
166 Los Robles Drive, Burlingame, California.

Assignment ?

C. H. Schmitt