MINUTE ITEM

Calendar Item No. 30
approved as Minute Item
30 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
at its 2/24/83
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
30

2/24/83
W 40108
Gonzalez
PRC 6386

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

APPLICANT: United States Borax and Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION:
Approval of a Prospecting Permit for two years to prospect for borates and other valuable minerals, other than oil, gas and geothermal resources, on approximately 640 acres of land located in San Bernardino County.

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

TYPE OF LAND AND LOCATION:
Approximately 640 acres of patented State school lands, minerals reserved, in Section 16 T10N R2E, SBM, San Bernardino County.

PROPOSED PROJECT:
The applicant proposes to drill up to six exploratory drill holes, six inches in diameter, from 500 to 2,000 feet deep to explore for borates and other valuable minerals other than oil, gas and geothermal resources.

A 34

S 16

Non-Substantive Revision 4/4/83

PAGE 185
MINUTE PAGE 179

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

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 contair a commercially valuable deposit of minerals.

3. Royalty payable under this permit shall be 20 percent of the gross value of the minerals sold or otherwise disposed of or held by permittee for sale or other disposition.

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6891.

B. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Section 6896.

C. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Section 2200.

AB 884: 5/10/83.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The Commission, acting as lead agency under CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines has prepared a Negative Declaration for this project. A copy of this environmental document is attached as Exhibit "B". As more fully set forth in the Negative Declaration, this project has the potential for having significant environmental effects within the meaning of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The general areas of concern that have such potential include: Biology, drill hole hazard and archaeology. Below is a brief discussion of the environmental impacts and mitigation.

   Biology - Drilling activity has the potential for disturbing the habitat of the desert tortoise and reducing

CALENDAR PAGE 166
MINUTE PAGE 180

the population of this species. These effects could be mitigated by requiring that drill sites and access roads be inspected for the presence of desert tortoise burrows and the protection of any burrows found. Additionally, all tortoises found on the drill sites and access roads should be moved to a safe place 750 feet from the roads or drill sites.

Increased vehicular traffic at the project site could increase wildlife mortality in the vicinity. This potential impact could be mitigated by requiring that all vehicles be operated at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour or less on dirt roads.

Drill Hole Hazards - Unfilled drill holes could pose a hazard to both people and wildlife in the area. This hazard could be alleviated by requiring that all drill holes be backfilled with drill cuttings and cemented so as not to be left standing open.

Archaeology - Soil disturbance has the potential for destroying sites of archaeological significance revealed by a recent archaeological survey. Relocation of drill sites to avoid these specific archaeological sites would be a form of mitigation. An additional mitigation measure would be the stipulation that an archaeologist would be summoned to the site in the event any artifacts or cultural features are discovered.

2. The project is situated on lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1, and is unclassified. A staff review of available environmental information indicates no reason to identify the subject parcel as having such values at this time.

167
181

3. Pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6895, upon discovery of commercially valuable deposits, permittee is entitled to a preferential lease for 160 acres with not less than ten percent royalty or a percentage of net profits as determined by the Commission. The lease shall provide for an annual rent of not less than $1 per acre. Said right shall be subject to all necessary environmental approvals. The permit will not effect the discretion of the Commission in granting or denying such environmental approvals.

4. The surface owners filed for a prospecting permit exercising their preferential rights under P.R.C. Section 6893 but failed to complete the application.

5. The Commission, on October 8, 1982, terminated the preferential rights of the surface owners for failure to comply with the requirements, rules and regulations for applying for a prospecting permit and authorized staff to proceed with the original applicant, United States Borax and Chemical Corporation.

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. Location Map.
B. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 322 HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND THAT SUCH DOCUMENT WAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED. (CAL. ADM. CODE 15083, 15085).

CALENDAR PAGE 168
MINUTE PAGE 182

2. FIND THAT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED IN, OR INCORPORATED INTO, THE PROPOSED PROJECT WHICH MITIGATE OR AVOID THE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THEREOF AS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMPLETED NEGATIVE DECLARATION.

A. IMPACT: DISRUPTION OF DESERT TORTOISE HABITAT BY DRILLING ACTIVITY AND INCREASED HUMAN ACTIVITY AT THE PROJECT SITE.

FINDING: THE COMMISSION FINDS THIS IMPACT WILL BE MITIGATED BY REQUIRING (A) PROPOSED PROPOSED DRILL SITES BE EXAMINED FOR TORTOISES AND THEIR BURROWS; (B) TORTOISES FOUND WILL BE REMOVED TO A SAFE AREA AND THE BURROWS PROTECTED FROM DAMAGE; AND (C) TORTOISES FOUND ON ROADS WILL BE MOVED 750 FEET FROM THE ROAD EDGE.

IMPACT: INCREASED WILDLIFE MORTALITY IN THE PROJECT VICINITY DUE TO INCREASED TRAFFIC AT THE PROJECT SITE DUE TO DRILLING OPERATIONS.

FINDING: AS A MITIGATION MEASURE ANY PROSPECTING PERMIT ISSUED WILL REQUIRE A MAXIMUM 20 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON ROADS WITHIN THE STATE PARCEL.

B. IMPACT: IF DRILL HOLES ARE LEFT UNFILLED, IT COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO WILDLIFE AND HUMAN ACTIVITY AT THE PROJECT SITE.

FINDING: THE APPLICANT'S EXPLORATION PLAN CALLS FOR ALL DRILL HOLES TO BE BACKFILLED WITH DRILL CUTTINGS AND CEMENTED. AT NO TIME WILL DRILL HOLES BE LEFT STANDING OPEN, ADDITIONAL MITIGATION IS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE STANDARD PROSPECTING PERMIT FORM WHICH STATES THAT THE PROJECT PREMISES SHALL BE RESTORED TO A CONDITION AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO THE CONDITION THAT EXISTED ON THE DATE OF THE PERMIT.

C. IMPACT: ANY SOIL DISTURBANCE AT THE PROJECT SITE HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR DISTURBING UNKNOWN ARCAHEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

FINDING: AS A MITIGATION MEASURE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SIX PROPOSED DRILL HOLE SITES WAS COMPLETED IN AUGUST, 1982 BY STAFF OF THE STAFF DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCE PROTECTION DIVISION. THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY WAS TO LOCATE, RECORD AND EVALUATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL

CALENDAR PAGE 169
MINUTE PAGE 183

VALUES IN THE AREA. THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SURVEY WILL BE INCLUDED AS CONDITIONS OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT.

a. THE PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF DRILL SITES 1, 4, 5, AND 6 ARE PRESENTLY IN AREAS OF DIFFUSE CULTURAL MATERIALS AND SHOULD REMAIN IN THOSE LOCATIONS.

b. DRILL SITE 2 SHOULD BE RELOCATED APPROXIMATELY 91 M (300 feet) WEST TO POSITION SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAP.

c. DRILL SITE 3 SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE AREA WITHIN 30.5 M (100 feet) OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SECTION.

d. ACCESS TO DRILL SITE 6 SHOULD BE LIMITED TO AVOID VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ACROSS HISTORIC SITE Y2.

e. IF ANY ARTIFACTS OR CULTURAL FEATURES OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE UNCOVERED DURING THE PROJECT, WORK SHOULD BE STOPPED IN THE VICINITY OF THE FIND AND AN ARCHEOLOGIST CONSULTED.

f. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT UNITED STATES BORAX AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION NOTIFY RUTH D. SIMPSON OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM OF THE FIELD SCHEDULE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROJECT.

3. DETERMINE THAT THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT ARE NOT KNOWN TO CONTAIN COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF MINERALS.

4. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROSPECTING PERMIT TO UNITED STATES BORAX AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, FOR ALL MINERALS OTHER THAN OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES IN SECTION 16, T1ON R2E, SBM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, ON APPROXIMATELY 640 ACRES; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD FORM OF PERMIT. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER THE PERMIT IS 20 PERCENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF THE MINERALS SOLD OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF OR HELD BY PERMITTEE FOR SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITION. UPON DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE DEPOSIT, PERMITTEE WILL BE ENTITLED TO A PREFERENTIAL LEASE OF 160 ACRES. ROYALTY PAYABLE UNDER ANY PREFERENTIAL LEASE ISSUED UPON THE DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE DEPOSITS

CALENDAR PAGE 170
MINUTE PAGE 184

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 30 (CONT'D)

FOR ANY AND ALL MATERIAL EXTRACTED OR REMOVED FROM SAID PREMISES AND SALE OR STOCKPILING WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 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 WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION. RENT WILL BE NOT LESS THAN $1 PER ACRE PER YEAR AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

CALENDAR PAGE 171
MINUTE PAGE 185

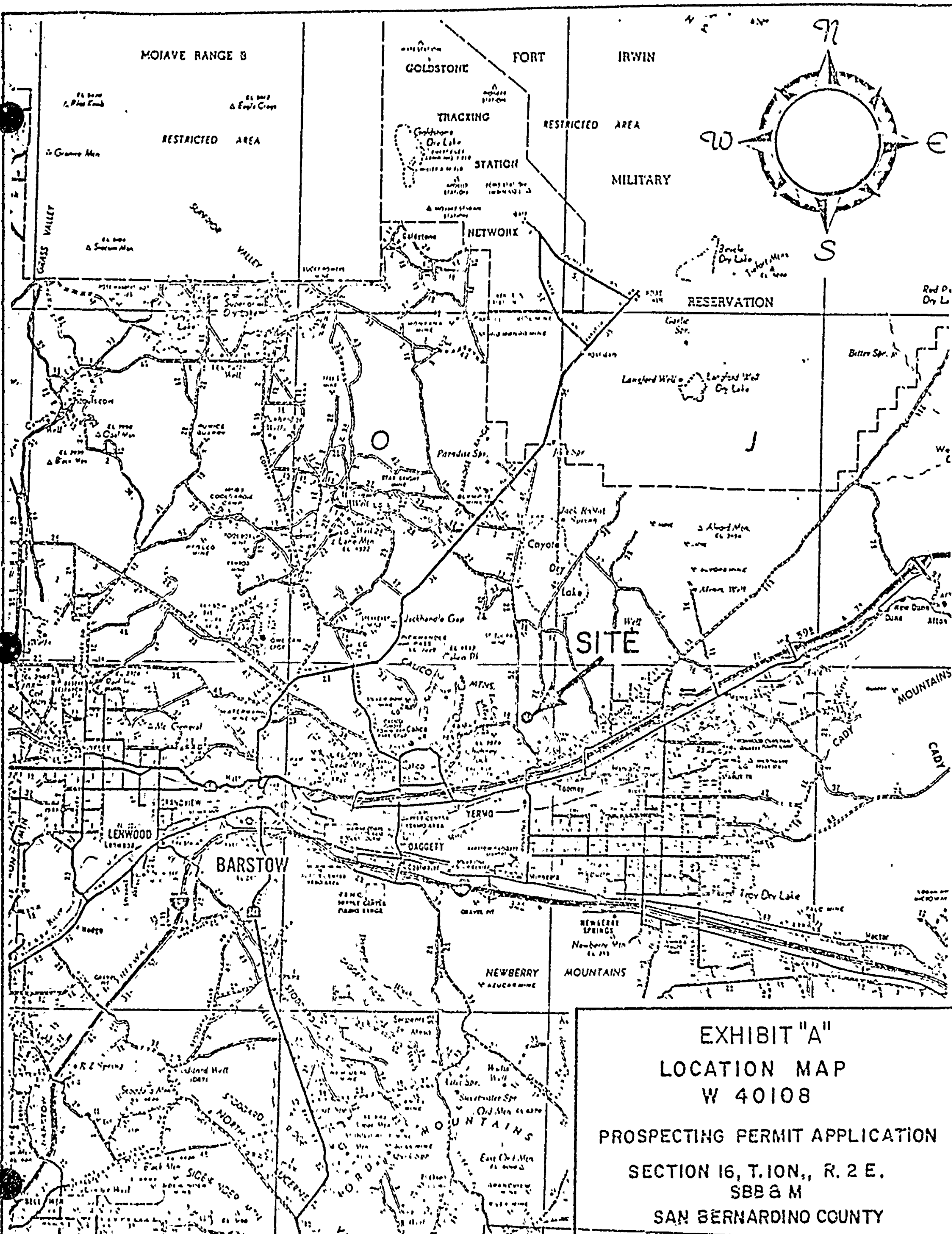


EXHIBIT "A"
LOCATION MAP
W 40108

PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATION

SECTION 16, T. 10N., R. 2 E.
SBB & M
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

EXHIBIT "B"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 322

File Ref.: W 40108

SCH#: 82032608

Project Title: Mineral Prospecting Permit - Yermo Area

Project Location:

Section 16, T. 10 N., R. 2 E., S.B.B.&M., near Yermo, San Bernardino County.

Project Description:

Drill up to six exploratory drill holes, 6 inch diameter, from 500 to 2000 feet deep to explore for valuable minerals other than oil, gas or geothermal.

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

☒ the attached mitigation measures will avoid potentially significant effects.

Contact Person:

Ted T. Fukushima
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
TEL: (916) 322-7813

CALENDAR PAGE 173
MINUTE PAGE 187

Form 13.17 (7/78)

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Vehicles shall be operated at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour or less on dirt roads within the State parcel to reduce wildlife road mortality.

2. Drill sites and roads to be used for access shall be inspected for the presence of desert tortoise burrows and these burrows protected from destruction. Tortoises found on the drill sites and access roads shall be moved to a safe place 750 feet from the roads or drill sites.

3. All drill holes shall be backfilled with drill cuttings and cemented. Drill holes must not be left standing open.

4. The following recommendations from the archeological survey shall be followed:

   a. The proposed locations of Drill Sites 1, 4, 5, and 6 are presently in areas of diffuse cultural materials and should remain in those locations.

   b. Drill Site 2 should be relocated approximately 91 m (300 ft) west to position shown on the attached map.

   c. Drill Site 3 should be restricted to the area within 30.5 m (100 ft) of the western boundary of the section.

   d. Access to Drill Site 6 should be limited to avoid vehicular traffic across Historic Site Y2.

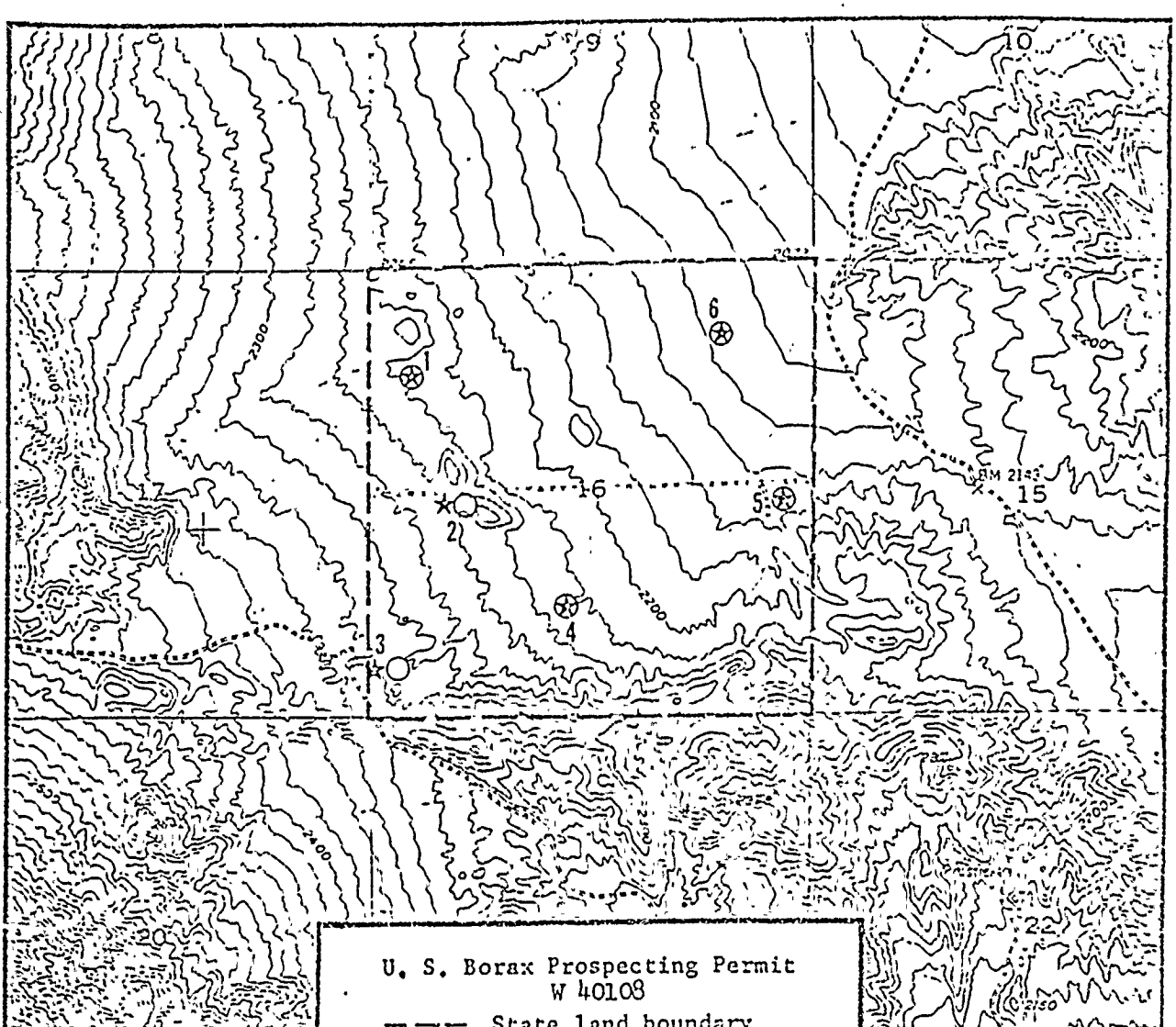
   e. If any artifacts or cultural features of potential significance are uncovered during the project, work should be stopped in the vicinity of the find and an archeologist consulted.

   f. It is also recommended that United States Borax and Chemical Corporation notify Ruth D. Simpson of the San Bernardino County Museum of the field schedule prior to the commencement of the project.

   g. See attached map for recommended drill site locations.

End of Mitigation Measures.

CALENDAR PAGE 174
MINUTE PAGE 188



U. S. Borax Prospecting Permit
W 40108

——— State land boundary

○ Proposed drill site

☆ Recommended drill site

YERMO, CALIF.

NO/4 DAGGETT 15 QUADRANGLE

N3452.5 —W11649/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1970

AMS 3049 I SE SERIES V 795

SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM

COLLECTION PAGE	
MINUTE PAGE	189

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY AND RESPONSES

1. Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region 6

Comment:

"Our Agency believes that a Negative Declaration is adequate". (No Specific Comments)

Response:

None Required.

2. Department of Transportation
District 8

Comment:

"We agree that a Negative Declaration would be adequate for this project". (No Specific Comments)

Response:

None Required.

3. Air Resources Board

a) Comment:

".... that adequate dust control measures be taken at each drill site during all phases of operation".

Response:

It is anticipated the drilling operations will be conducted using drilling fluids with little or no dust being generated. Paragraph 24(b) of the standard prospecting permit form requires all permittees to conduct operations so as to eliminate dust as far as is practicable.

CALENDAR PAGE 176
MINUTE PAGE 190

3. Air Resources Board (Contd.)

b) Comment:

In the event that a full mining operation is undertaken as a result of the drilling, a complete and thorough EIR shall be submitted by the project proponent.

Response:

In the event of the discovery of a commercially valuable ore body through prospecting efforts under a prospecting permit, preparation of a suitable environmental document, in full compliance with CEQA and other laws and regulations, will be required covering development and exploitation of the ore body.

4. Division of Mines and Geology

a) Comment:

Drill areas should be smoothed over (raked) after drilling has been completed. If possible, the compacted area should be scarified to promote faster revegetation.

Response:

Paragraph 18 of the standard prospecting permit form states in part that the permittee "shall restore the premises and replant those areas...as near as possible to the condition existing on the date... (of the permit)."

b) Comment:

Any vegetation having bird nests, whether in use or abandoned, should be left undisturbed, if possible.

Response:

Paragraph 24(c) of the standard prospecting permit form states in part "Permittee shall conduct any operations (so) as to not result in unreasonable damage to trees and plant cover..."

c) Comment:

Speed limits should not be greater than 20 mph on dirt

CALENDAR PAGE 177
MINUTE PAGE 191

4. Division of Mines and Geology (Contd.)

c) Comment: (Contd.)

roads to reduce wildlife road mortality.

Response:

A speed limit of 20 miles per hour on roads within the State parcel will be incorporated into any prospecting permit issued for this project.

5. County of San Bernardino
Planning Department

Comment:

We would be concerned with potential impacts to biota and cultural resources. We would require additional data regarding desert tortoise populations and the types and frequencies of cultural resources.

Response:

The California Department of Fish and Game has been requested to review the Initial Study and comment on the possible impact to wildlife and habitat with special attention to any desert tortoise population. Also, the San Bernardino County Museum Association, as the responsible California Archaeological Inventory Center, has been authorized to conduct a records review of the possible cultural resources of the project area and to prepare an assessment on whether or not cultural resources will be affected by prospecting activities.

6. Department of Fish and Game

a) Comment:

Prior to prospecting activities the drilling sites should be examined for tortoises and their burrows. Any tortoise found should be moved to a safe area and burrows should be identified to prevent their destruction. Any tortoise found on access roads should be moved to a minimum distance of 750 feet from the edge of the road.

CALENDAR PAGE 178
MINUTE PAGE 192

6. Department of Fish and Game (Contd.)

Response:

Proposed drill sites will be examined for tortoises and their burrows. Tortoises will be removed to a safe area and the burrows protected from damage. Tortoises found on roads will be moved 750 feet from the road edge.

b) Comment:

Prospecting activities should result in minimal destruction of native vegetation.

Response:

An article in the standard prospecting permit form states that the permittee shall conduct operations so as to avoid unreasonable damage to trees or plant cover.

c) Comment:

Backfill all drill holes as soon as possible after they are no longer needed.

Response:

The applicants exploration plan calls for all drill holes to be backfilled with drill cuttings and cemented. At no times will drill holes be left standing open.

d) Comment:

Remove and properly dispose of all trash, toxic waste, equipment, and other waste upon termination of prospecting activities.

Response:

The standard prospecting permit form requires that operating sites be kept neat, clean and safe. Upon termination of the project, the premises must be restored to prior conditions as nearly as possible.

CALENDAR PAGE 179
MINUTE PAGE 193

6. Department of Fish and Game (Contd.)

c) Comment:

Any proposed activity not authorized by this permit should not proceed without prior approval of a project amendment.

Response:

Prospecting activities are limited to those described in the permit and accompanying environmental document.

7. San Bernardino Archaeological Inventory Information Center

Comment:

A cultural resources assessment should be required prior to any ground disturbing activities in order to determine whether or not cultural resources will be affected.

Response:

See Response to Comment 8 below.

8. Department of Parks and Recreation

Comment:

We urge that a field reconnaissance survey be carried out of the six proposed drill hole sites in Section 16; T. 10 N., R. 2 E., S.B.B.&M. The purpose of this survey would be to locate, record, and evaluate archeological and historical values in the area.

Response:

An archeological survey of the proposed drill sites was completed in August 1982 by Personnel of the Resource Protection Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The recommendations contained in the report of the survey are listed in the mitigation measures attached to this document. These recommendations will be included as conditions of any prospecting permit issued for the proposed activity.

END OF COMMENTS

CALENDAR PAGE 180
MINUTE PAGE 194

Mailing List - Memos
W 40108
SCH 82032608

Mike Redemer
Air Resources Board
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Robert Tharratt
Dept. of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regional Office:
Region 5
Dept. of Fish & Game
350 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

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

Regional Office:
Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region 6
Victorville Branch
15371 Bonanza Road
Victorville, CA 92392

Ken Fellows
Dept. of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Caltrans District Office:
Region 8
P.O. Box 231
San Bernardino, CA 9240?

Ted Fukushima
Sacramento

MINUTE PAGE 181 195

Mailing List - Letters
W 40108
SCH 82032608

Planning Department:
County of San Bernardino
Attn: Mr. Charles Bell
1111 E. Mills Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

San Bernardino County
Museum Association
Attn: Mr. Michael Lerch
2024 Orange Tree
Redlands, CA 92737

Native American
Heritage Commission
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

U.S. Borax and Chemical Corp.
Attn: Mr. D. M. Boyle
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010

CALENDAR PAGE 182
MINUTE PAGE 196

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

INITIAL STUDY

INTRODUCTION

United States Borax and Chemical Corporation has applied for a prospecting permit for State mineral interest lands located in the Yermo Area, San Bernardino County. The proposed project consists of drilling up to 6 exploratory drill holes, approximately 6 inches in diameter, ranging in depth from 500 to 2000 feet, to prospect for valuable minerals.

This Initial Study consists of a checklist, environmental information form responses, exploration plan and maps.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

May, 1982

CALENDAR ITEM 185
MINUTE PAGE 197

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Form 13.20 (7/80)

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: United States Borax and Chemical Corporation
3075 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Attn: Mr. D. M. Boyle, Chief Land Agent

B. Checklist Date: May / 3 / 1982

C. Contact Person: Alexander E. Gonzalez

Telephone: (213) 590-5201

D. Purpose: Prospecting Permit Application. Explore for valuable minerals.

E. Location: Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 2 East, S.B.B.&M., San Bernardino County. 15 miles east of Barstow. See attached maps.

F. Description: Drill up to 6 exploratory drill holes, 6 inch diameter, from 500 to 2000 feet deep to explore for valuable minerals other than oil, gas or geothermal. See attached plan and map.

G Persons Contacted:

See attached mailing list.

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

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

	Yes	Maybe	No
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?	☐	☐	☒

On
MINUTE PAGE 198

	Yes	Maybe	No
B. *Air.* Will the proposal result in:			
1. Substantial air emmissions 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?	☐	☐	☒

CALENDAR PAGE 185
MINUTE PAGE 199

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?	☐	☐	☒
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 an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒

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

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

CALENDAR PAGE 156
MINUTE PAGE 200

	Yes	Maybe	No
T. *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?	☐	☐	☒
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 discussion.

IV. 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: May 13 1982

ALEXANDER E. GONZALEZ

For the State Lands Commission

CALENDAR PAGE 107

MINUTE PAGE 201

Form 13.20 (7/80)

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

A-2 Local disruption and compaction of soil will occur in the immediate vicinity of the drill rig when it is moved on and off a drillsite. A minimal amount of earthmoving to construct drillsites might be required at some locations approximately 300 sq. ft. per site.

A-3 Some drilling sites might involve constructing level drillsites in hilly terrain.

A-5 Some increase of wind and water erosion of any soil at newly constructed drillsites, especially in hilly terrain, will occur during rain and windstorms.

B-1 Temporary dust emissions may occur during drilling and possible construction of drillsites.

C-6 Drilling may penetrate one or more aquifers with a subsequent flow path through the drill hole. However, it is anticipated no water bearing formations will be penetrated. If ground water is encountered, the drill hole will be plugged with cement upon abandonment.

F-1 The operating drill rig and compressor and service vehicle activities will temporarily increase the existing noise levels in the relatively quiet desert environment.

CASE HANDLE 188
REQUISITION 202

File Ref.: W 40108
SCH# 82032608

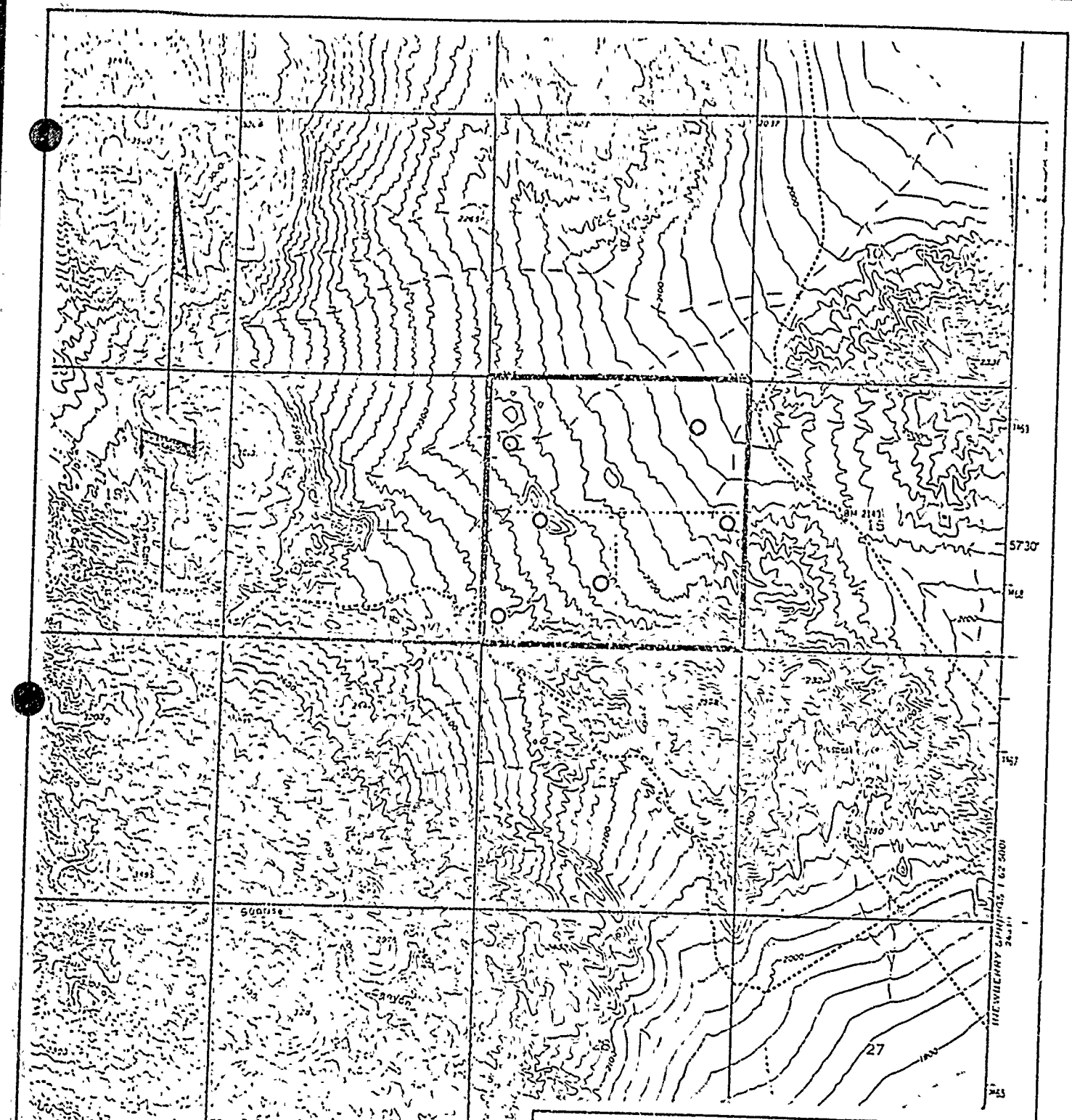
EXPLORATION PLAN

It is proposed to drill up to a total of 6 exploratory drill holes at the tentative locations shown on the attached site map. The holes will be approximately 6 inches in diameter, ranging in depth from 500 to 2000 feet. The actual location of holes will be based on subsurface geologic information gained as the drilling progresses. A Failing 1500 drill rig or equivalent and truck-mounted auxiliary compressor will be used for drilling. A water truck and one pick-up truck will comprise the supporting equipment. Portable mud pits will be utilized and all drill holes will be back filled with drill cuttings and cemented. Access to drill sites will be over existing roads, where possible, and no road building should be necessary. Only a few hundred square feet of land will be required for access and drill siting.

No permanent surface facilities will be constructed and drillsites will be returned, as nearly as practicable, to their condition prior to drilling.

Water needed for drilling purposes will be transported from the nearest community source.

CALENDAR PAGE 189
MINUTE PAGE 203



SITE MAP
W-40108
PROSPECTING PERMIT APPLICATION
SECTION 16, T. 10 N., R. 2 E., SBBSM
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
O PROPOSED DRILL HOLES
SCALE: 1" = 1/2 MILE

190
MINUTE PAGE 284 LL 83

DATE MAY 4 1982
DJE
CFE
ADW
RGP
TAE.G
Enc.
FILE: W 40108

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

U.S.BORAX

May 3, 1982

Mr. A. E. Gonzalez
STATE LANDS COMMISSION
100 Oceangate - Suite 300
Long Beach, California

State File Ref.: W 40108

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

Following is a revision of our Environmental Data Statement requested in your letter of April 29, 1982.

Environmental Data Statement

Project and Its Location

The Land upon which the applicant desires a permit to prospect is described as follows:

All of Section 16, T. 10 N., R. 2 E., S.B.B.& M., County of San Bernadino, State of California, consisting of 640 acres, more or less.

No name has been assigned to the project.

Objectives Sought

Applicant seeks to determine the mineral potential of the area.

Description of the Project

Applicant proposes to prospect for minerals, excluding oil, gas and other hydrocarbon substances by drilling up to six exploratory drill holes, ranging in depth from 500 to 2,000 feet, for core recovery and geological evaluation.

Environmental Setting

The prospect area is located approximately 15 miles east of Barstow, California. Yermo, California is the nearest community.

CALENDAR PAGE 191
MINUTE PAGE 205

UNITED STATES BORAX & CHEMICAL CORPORATION • 3075 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90010 • (213) 301-5311
MAIL ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 75120, SANFORD STATION, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90075

The area is within a desert-type environment, typified by low humidity, high/low temperature extremes and low rainfall. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and greasewood.

Knowledge of environmental resources that are rare or unique is unknown to the applicant, nor is the applicant aware of any existing or planned projects in the region.

Water Quality Aspects

Applicant has no knowledge of groundwater quality within the prospect area. Water needed for drilling purposes will be transported from the nearest community source.

Environmental Impact

As previously mentioned, applicant desires only to determine the mineral potential of the area by core drilling to a depth of 500 to 2,000 feet. Drill holes will be plugged, when completed, and drill sites shall be returned, as nearly as practicable, to their condition prior to drilling.

Adverse Environmental Effects which cannot be Avoided

Applicant's prospecting plan would have little or no adverse impact on the environment. Access to drill sites will be over pre-existing roads. The drill sites will require only a few hundred square feet of land use and will be left in such a way as to minimize any evidence of prospecting work.

Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Impact

a. Access to drill sites will be over pre-existing roads.

b. Drill holes will be plugged, when completed, and drill sites shall be returned, as nearly as practicable, to their condition prior to drilling.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

We can suggest only no action as an alternative. If access is denied, mineral resources, if present, would remain undiscovered.

Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The uncertainty of discovering commercial valuable minerals makes it difficult to analyze long-term impacts. Our proposed plan would have little short-term impact and no long-term impact on the environment.

CALENDAR PAGE 192
MINUTE PAGE 206

The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

Applicant's proposed action would foster neither economic nor population growth in the immediate or surrounding area. Only if minerals are discovered in commercially valuable quantities, and applicant subsequently applies for a preferential lease, would this impact need to be addressed.

Organizations and Persons Consulted

No federal, state or local agencies, private firms or other organizations were consulted in preparing the Environmental Data Statement.

The draft exploration plan submitted with your letter accurately describes our proposed drilling program and is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

D. M. Boyle
Chief Land Agent
Land Department

DMB:
Enclosure

cc.: S.Carpenter

CALENDAR PAGE 153
MINUTE PAGE 207