

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 29  
was added to the Minute Item  
No. 29 of the State Lands  
Commission at its meeting of 2  
to 0 at its 10/26/78  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

29.

10/78  
W 40062  
Smith

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR PROSPECTING PERMIT

APPLICATION: American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.  
11437 West 48th Avenue  
Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033

TYPE OF LAND: School land.

AREA AND LOCATION:

North 1/2 Section 36, T12S, R19E, SBB&M,  
Imperial County. Approximately 10 to 11  
miles east of Glamis.

PROPOSAL:

To evaluate the potential for mineral values  
other than oil, gas, and geothermal of  
the subject State lands. The primary ex-  
ploration objective is to determine if  
uranium ore exists in commercial quantities  
and, if so, propose a plan for its extraction.

METHOD OF EXPLORATION:

Initially the surface will be carefully  
mapped by plane table and surface samples  
taken for analysis. Two exploratory drill  
holes are tentatively scheduled to a maximum  
depth of 1,500 feet. Access will be by  
existing roads and no structures will be  
erected. All data obtained will be made  
available to the Commission and will be  
correlated with that from adjacent federal  
claims.

PREREQUISITE TERMS:

1. The State Lands Commission staff, in  
accordance with Article 10, Section  
2905(b) of the Cal. Adm. Code, has  
conducted an initial study and has  
concluded that the project will not  
have a significant effect on the environ-  
ment. Therefore, in compliance with  
subsection (c) of Section 2905, a negative  
declaration was prepared and filed  
with the State Clearinghouse.
2. The State Clearinghouse acknowledged  
receipt of the negative declaration  
and has completed the required review.

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3. In accordance with Chapter 1200, Statutes of 1977, the State Lands Commission must complete and certify a negative declaration within 105 days following receipt of a completed application and approve or deny the project within 1 year. This application was certified complete as of August 15, 1978.

EXHIBIT:           A. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION STAFF.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION ND# 226 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND THE STATE GUIDELINES; AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## PROSPECTING PERMIT W 40062

This Negative Declaration is prepared pursuant to Section 15083, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6 and is based upon an Initial Study pursuant to Sections 15080 and 15066 thereof.

American Copper & Nickel Co. Inc., has filed an application for approval to prospect for minerals other than oil and gas and geothermal on Section 36, T. 12 S., R. 19 E. S.B.M. Imperial County. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating the commercial potential of uranium in the N- $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Section. If it is established that a commercial ore deposit does exist, the applicant will apply for a lease to develop said deposit.

Exploration will consist initially of surface mapping and sampling followed by the drilling of two exploratory holes to a maximum depth of 1500 feet. Drillsites should not require any significant preparation, existing roads will provide necessary access. No permanent facilities will be constructed. Data will be evaluated and correlated with data obtained from adjacent Federal claims.

Project will not have any economic effect on the area.

The Initial Study was prepared by the Staff of the State Lands Commission augmented by data supplied by the applicant. Mr. Jay Von Werlhof of the Imperial Valley College Museum conducted an on site archeological study of the area and in the subsequent report stated no prehistorical resources were found in the entirety of Section 36. This report and the Initial Study are on file in the Commission's Long Beach Office.

It is indicated that any Environmental Impacts will have only short term effects and will be temporary and insignificant. No permanent evidence of the project will remain after its completion; no long term effects are foreseeable. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed exploration project will not have significant effect on the environment.

## INITIAL STUDY - PROSPECTING PERMIT W 40062

### 1. Project and Location:

An application has been made to the California State Lands Commission to prospect for nonmetallic minerals, primarily uranium, in the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 36, T. 12 S., R. 19 E., S.B.M., Imperial County. Section 36 is approximately 37 miles northeast of Brawley and is transected by Highway 78 running east-west (see attached map).

The area is accessible from the highway.

### 2. Statement of the Purpose of the Project:

The potential mineralization occurs along a zone up to several tens of feet in width and strikes east-west completely through the section. The applicant proposes to drill two holes into unweathered bedrock, one hole near the west and one hole near the east side of the section along the strike of the mineralized zone.

### 3. General Description of the Project:

Initially, geologic mapping and surface sampling will be completed and will require a two-man field crew working for a period of ten days to two weeks. This work will consist of outcrop mapping and sampling on foot traverses and the development of local detail by means of plane table surveying.

Two exploratory drill holes are programmed, one on the east side of the section and one on the west side, to a projected maximum drilling depth of 1500 feet. The drillsites are limited in size to approximately one hundred feet in diameter and should not require any significant surface preparation considering the open country involved. The network of existing roads will provide adequate access to the proposed drillsites. No additional roads will be constructed.

The drilling program will take approximately four to six weeks with an anticipated drilling rate of fifty to seventy feet per day. The drill crew will consist of two men working one ten-hour shift per day on a six-day week. It is possible that if the knowledge gained from this drilling indicates favorable mineral potential, some additional drilling may be required.

Too little is known about the geology of the prospect area to project any plan of development. Much will depend on the potential of the applicant's claims that border the State parcel. If the prospect area is found to contain a commercially valuable mineral deposit, a separate and detailed environmental report will be prepared to cover the production phase.

### 4. Present Environment:

#### General Geologic Description:

Section 36 is near the southern end of the Chocolate Mountains. The Chocolate Mountains lie within the Mojave Desert geologic province and form the north-eastern wall of the Salton basin. They are composed partly of pre-Cambrian

and pre-Cretaceous metamorphic rocks intruded by Jurassic granitic rocks and partly of Tertiary andesitic and rhyolitic lava flows. The metamorphic schistose rocks are of known and probably pre-Cambrian age.

In Section 36, the bedrock consists of pre-Cambrian(?) quartzite and quartz-mica schists which are folded, faulted and subsequently intruded by felsic dikes, sills and small volcanic plugs of Tertiary age. The metamorphic rocks as well as the felsic intrusive rocks are locally bleached and hydrothermally altered.

#### Environmental Setting:

The area is located on the southeastern flank of the Chocolate Mountains, which trend NW-SE and parallel Highway 78 running between Brawley and Blythe. The Imperial Sand Dunes trend along the south flank of the mountains and are generally separated from them by a partly dissected pediment. The Coachella Canal runs along the south side of the dune complex that is between the Dunes and the Imperial Valley irrigation area.

The region around the subject area is sparsely populated and the Glamis store and railroad siding ten miles southwest is the only permanent community area within thirty-seven miles. The country north of the State section is in rugged, igneous/metamorphic complex of the Chocolate Mountains. Much of this range is designated as an aerial gunnery range and access to its interior is limited by the topography or restricted by designation.

The surface utilization in the area has been minimized by the adverse desert climate, gunnery range boundaries, and B.L.M. designations in their Desert Vehicle Program. There are several small surface gold mines operating in the general area around Glamis. This prospecting activity has fluctuated over the years, but never reached a high enough level to allow this area to be designated as a discrete mining district.

The project area is typically mountainous desert terrain with sparse fauna and flora. Vegetation observed is:

creosote bush	( <i>Larrea divaricata</i> )
mesquite	( <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> )
desert ironwood	( <i>Olneya tesota</i> )
Palo Verde	( <i>Ceridium floridum</i> )
ocotillo	( <i>Fouquieria splendens</i> )

Animals observed are:

red spotted toad	( <i>Bufo punctatus</i> )
zebra-tailed lizard	( <i>Callisaurus draconoides</i> )
Colorado desert sidewinder	( <i>Crotalus cerastes</i> )

Western ground snake (sonora semiannulata)  
desert crested lizard (Dipsosaurus dorsalis)

Climate:

The climate of Imperial County and the general Colorado Desert region is classified as hot and arid. The average annual rainfall is three inches, most of which occurs during the winter months. The absence of a cloud cover throughout most of the year contributes to the low relative humidity of the region.

5. Environmental Impact

The small drillsites selected will have only a minor, short-term impact and there will be no long-term adverse effects on any aspect of the present environment. The small drill rig will use existing roads; water will be delivered by tank truck. Water used in the drilling process will be collected in a small, temporary sump and recirculated when possible. When a hole is completed, the fluid will be removed from the sump and the sump area returned as nearly as practicable to its original condition. The drill holes when abandoned shall be cemented from the surface to fifty feet below the surface and all cutting dispersed so as to blend with the surface.

6. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided If the Proposal Is Implemented:

None are anticipated during this phase of the evaluation. The drill rig and few service vehicles will be inconspicuous and will have only a short-term impact on the aesthetics of the area. There will be no impact on human health and no disruption of present ecological systems.

7. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact:

Drilling and service vehicles will be limited in size and number compatible with efficient operation. All equipment will be properly maintained to operate on an energy efficient level. Every effort will be made to utilize personnel and equipment on a schedule promoting minimum time for site occupation.

8. Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

The specific alternative is "No Project". However, the proposed exploration of the area is essential to make a valid assessment of the mineral potential at depth.

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

The design of this program is such that there will be no cumulative or long-range effect which could impact the environment. Until the time a potential mineral resource is identified there will be only short-term impacts.

10. Any Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented:

No irreversible environmental changes will be produced by the proposed program.

There will be a small expenditure of fuel energy, and no significant surface alteration which could propagate future changes.

11. Growth Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action:

The exploration phase of this project will have no effect on the growth of the area. If the project area contains a commercially valuable mineral deposit, no lease agreement will be concluded until an environmental impact report is prepared covering the production phase.

12. Economic and Social Factors:

There will not be any significant changes from existing conditions.

W 40062

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

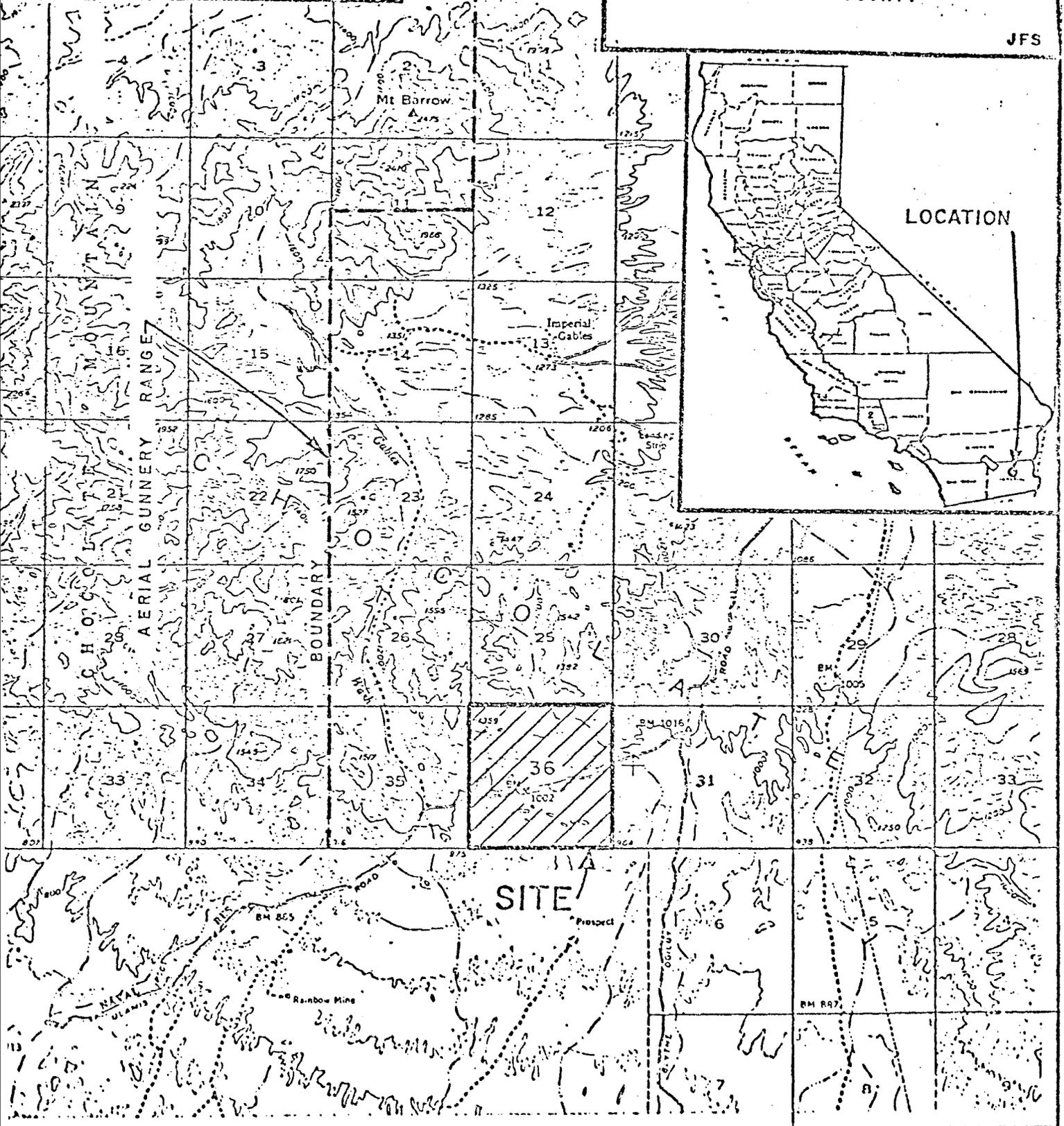
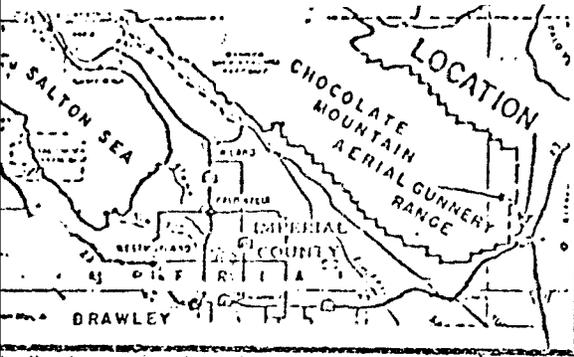
Application for Prospecting Permit  
by

American Copper & Nickel Company Inc.

Section 36, T.12S., R.19E.

IMPERIAL COUNTY

JFS



12.2. 1974

Attachment A - Comments

(1) Type of drilling rig proposed?

Truck mounted - Becker CSR or equivalent

(2) Diameter of hole? Becker CSR "3 - 4"

Winkie Drill 1-7/8"

(3) Type of drilling mud?

Air and/or water depending on the drilling conditions.

(4) Proposed disposal of drilling mud and cuttings?

See paragraph 5 - Environmental Impact, page 3.

If conditions permit a small sump will be dug and on completion the fluid will be removed and the cuttings buried in the sump with the surface being restored as nearly as is practicable to its original condition. If necessary a portable sump or stock tank will be employed with the cuttings being dispersed on the surface, the total amount of cuttings will be minimal.