

CLASSIFICATION SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR.

21 January 1955

SUBJECT

Object 1, Wismut A.G., Johannegeorgenstadt

NO. OF PAGES

5

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U. S. CODE AS AMENDED, ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

1. All uranium ore installations in Johannegeorgenstadt were under the administration of Object No 1; mines included Mines No 31 Mts, 18, 54, 1, and 147. The ore processing plant and the crushing plant near the railroad station were assigned to Object No 98. All the other mines and installations previously assigned to Object No 1 were deactivated after early 1954 because their ore deposits were exhausted.
2. Ore deposits in the Johannegeorgenstadt area below the 60-meter level have been exhausted. On the other hand, large quantities of uranium

CLASSIFICATION SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION								
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI					AEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OSI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ev	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

**Page Denied**

50X1-HUM

SECRET/ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

ore are still said to be mined in layers above the 60-meter level. No new miners had been hired for the area since early January 1954. A total of 8,000 workers were transferred from Johanngeorgenstadt to Auerbach after 8 January 1954. It was rumored that uranium ore mining activities except for open-pit mining were to be suspended in the Johanngeorgenstadt area by the end of 1954.

3. The ore processing plant and crushing mill, generally called "Erzfabrik Objekt 98" served all uranium ore installations in the Johanngeorgenstadt area. In 1953, a total of 1,200,000 cubic meters of ore including waste material was mined in the area. The ore was hauled by about 60 narrow gauge steam locomotives which consumed about 100 tons of coal daily. About 10 kg of pure uranium ore concentrates were said to be produced at the ore processing plant.
4. The ore processing plant was equipped with 2 large crushers and 6 grinding courses where the wet ore, which had been sorted on sorting belts was crushed and ground. There are a number of sorting belts on which the ore was tested and sorted by so-called radiometrists and sorters. Sorting was done automatically on the main sorting belt. Only grade-I and II ore was processed at the plant. Grade III ore which is of inferior quality was shipped out in railroad boxcars, [redacted] to Aue. The ore ground at the processing plant was put into drums measuring 60 x 50 cm. At the end of a shift, 20 to 40 such drums were seen in the ore crushing plant. The quality of the ore obtained in Johanngeorgenstadt was far inferior to that mined at Oberschlema. Moreover, the mines in the Oberschlema area yielded much more ore than those around Johanngeorgenstadt. On the average, four trains of ore were dispatched from Johanngeorgenstadt every week; most of the trains consisted of two carloads of processed concentrates and six carloads of grade-III ore. 50X1-HUM
5. The work force of mine No 1 was estimated to be 3,000 men. The mine had four levels, namely the so-called 78-, 95-, 120 - and 140-levels. From 10 to 12 boxes of grade-I, II and III ore including one or two boxes of pure pitchblende were produced per shift. A bonus of 50 eastmarks was paid for each box of pitchblende. The ore lodes at the mine were 2 to 4 cm thick and 4 to 8 meters long. The ore mined was black or greenish.
6. The boxes trucked from the mine to the ore storage bunker had to be sealed by the German truck drivers after the uranium content of the ore has been tested by the Soviets. Each box was accompanied by a slip filled out by the German foreman of the miners' brigade which produced the ore. The slips must be countersigned by the Soviet controllers and radiometrists. The sealed boxes did not bear any marking except for those which were filled with pitchblende.
7. The total work force of all the mines controlled by Object No 1 was estimated to be 14,000 men. Mine No 31 had an estimated work force of 2,600 men. The mine had eight levels, the deepest level being at 360 meters. No mining activities were conducted at Johanngeorgenstadt below that level. Chief of mine No 31 was Vasiv (fnu), a Soviet citizen, [redacted] engineer, an expert in mining. Mine foremen were Sandig (fnu), 50X1-HUM

SECRET, - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

SECRET/

- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 3 -

50X1-HUM

[redacted] and Leo Grain, [redacted]  
The safety inspector was Leo Neukirch, whose monthly income was 1,160 eastmarks.

50X1-HUM

8. Between 1951 and early 1953, ore mining operations in the Johangeorgenstadt area were rather successful. In early 1954, the uranium ore yield of the mines decreased more and more. Several galleries which had been closed because of poor productivity have been opened again in an intensive effort to increase the output of uranium ore in the Johangeorgenstadt area. Special efforts were made at Mine No 31 to discover a lode of pure pitchblende, 30 to 60 cm thick, which is already being worked in Mine No 54 adjacent to Mine No 31. The monthly output of Mine No 31 was estimated to be 50 boxes of ore, for which bonuses were paid. It was believed that each of these boxes yielded 15 to 20 kg of pure pitchblende. An additional 150 to 180 boxes of ore, which had still to be processed, were produced per day. The ore obtained was brownish, gray and occasionally green.
9. Materials required for the repair of equipment and machinery was in short supply. Timber was difficult to obtain especially in winter. The accident rate was unusually high. In March 1954, 4.8 percent of the work force suffered accidents, mostly fractures, of which 20 were of a compound nature. The last fatal accident in the mine occurred in May 1953. Most of the accidents were caused by excessive work norms which induced the workers to neglect safety regulations.
10. No new miners were hired at Mine No 31. Many miners were transferred to Auerbach and Oberschlema which, during the reported period, was the most important uranium ore mining area of the Wismut A.G. In March 1954, it was learned that new mine levels were to be opened below the 360-meter level which at that time was the deepest level in the area. Open-pit mining was scheduled to begin at the ridge extending from Johangeorgenstadt toward Eibenstock. The working-by-chamber method is to be used.
11. The report published on 23 May 1954 in the West Berlin press, which stated that a major accident had occurred in Mine No 32 at Johangeorgenstadt, in which six miners were killed and 12 severely injured, was declared to be unfounded.
12. Mine No 31 definitely had a work force of 2,600 persons, including 400 technical and administrative personnel. The uranium ore mines controlled by Object No 1 were rather rich in uranium ore. On the average, uranium ore lodes were 16 cm thick, in some places they were even 30 cm thick. Efforts were made at Mine No 31 to detect a lode of pitchblende which was assumed to extend from Joachimsthal to Schneeberg. There was a standing Soviet order to discontinue boring operations when granite was struck. In spite of this order, boring operations have twice continued through layers of granite. In one case, an uranium ore lode, about 30 cm thick, was detected below the granite. Work was being conducted at 16-, 78-, 98-, 120-, 140-, 160-, and 180- meter levels. [redacted] on the basis of the number of rotations made by the pit-head winch [redacted] mining operations on the Czech side of the border had also reached the maximum depth of 180 meters.

50X1-HUM

SECRET/

- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

SECRET, U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 4 -

13. From talks between foremen and Soviets it was learned that a total of about 110 test drillings had been made in the direction toward Eibenstock and Auerbach. Two of the test drillings were reportedly very successful.
14. Mine No 31-bis had an estimated work force of 1,200 men. The mine had 4 working levels, at the 0-, 25-, 37-, and 40- levels. The maximum depth reached was 80 meters. The output per shift at the 40- level was 10 boxes of ore, including 1 to 4 boxes of pitchblende, which was also called "Sorte 4" material. It was believed that the monthly output of pitchblende in the mines of the Johanngeorgenstadt area was about 20 boxes. [redacted] The ore mined was black, greenish, reddish and yellow. Most of the ore mined was found in lumps. Mine No 31 bis had direct connection with Mine No 31. The work norm for gallery boring operation was 39 cm per man and shift in rock category 9. This norm was exceeded 30 to 40 percent.
15. Tools and equipment were of poor quality. From 60 to 70 percent of the new boring machines and boring rods delivered were either unusable or broke down after a few hours of operation. Lumber, nails and cramps were in short supply. Special labor brigades and political favorites were given priority in the supply with tools and equipment.
16. [redacted] only a central mine was scheduled to continue in operation in the Johanngeorgenstadt area in the summer of 1954. In June 1954, efforts were being made to exploit the spar lodes in the area. Work at the so-called "plus" levels (Markus Semmler levels) had to be discontinued in the area below the cemetery. The railroad passenger station of Johanngeorgenstadt was scheduled to be moved to the Muehlberg town section.
17. Mine No 54 had an estimated work force of 2,000 men and mining operations were conducted at 70-, 90- and 120-meter levels. The average daily output of the mine was estimated at 120 boxes of which at least 50 boxes were pitchblende which was also called "Sorte 1" material. The remaining 70 boxes contained grade 2 and 3 ore. The main ore lode worked at the 90-meter level originated on the Czech side of the border.
18. Mine No 54 had an estimated work force of 2,500 men. Mining operations were conducted at the so-called 66- and 78- levels which were at depths from 250 to 300 meters. The mine was unusually extensive. The mine locomotive had to cover a distance of about 1,600 meters. A total of seven miners' foremen were assigned to Mine No 54. The average monthly production target was 400 to 450 boxes of grade-1 ore (best quality) in addition to 350 to 400 boxes of grade-2 ore. The production target was generally reached. Most of the ore mined was black (pitchblende), in some cases ocher or gray. Some blister ore was also mined. Most of the ore mined occurred in lumps. Ore lodes at the mine were from 2 to 6 cm thick and 8 to 12 meters long. A bonus of 100 to 150 eastmarks was paid for one box of grade-1 ore. The work norm for gallery boring operations was 40 to 47 cm per man per shift in rock category 8 to 9.
19. The mines in the Johanngeorgenstadt area have been exploited for a long time: It was rumored that open-pit mining was to be started soon. Mine No 61 bis was deactivated in January 1954.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

SECRET/

- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 5 -

20. The work force of Mine No 51 (Weisse Taube mine) was estimated to be 1,500 men. The mine had five levels, namely the so-called 25-, 27-, 40-, 78- and 96 levels. The 78-meter level was at a depth of about 200 meters. It was the most productive level of the mine. The ore mined looked black. On the average, the ore lodes were 5 or 6 cm thick and 10 to 12 meters long.

21. The ore dumped on heaps near Mine No 54 was recently tested by a Soviet commission. [redacted] prospecting operations had been started near Eibenstock.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

SECRET/

- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY