

Pegmatite and Its Mineral

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Abstract

Pegmatite found in the Spruce Pine Mining District of North Carolina is fairly rich in minerals. Spruce Pines rare geological properties are the result of a continental collision about 380 million years ago and 100 million years of slowly cooling intrusive magma settled deep within the earth. The main bodies of minerals found in abundance are feldspar, quartz, and mica. A detailed look on the use of the most common of the minerals was done. Room and pillar mining is a common method of removing the rocks from the earth. Rare gemstones, such as emeralds, are also commonly found within pegmatite. Areas known to contain granitic pegmatite have been found to site uranium deposits. The Black Hills of South Dakota are an example of such a place.

Previous researchers of the Spruce Pine Mining District concede that the pegmatite native to Spruce Pine is mica pegmatite. A pegmatite found near the site of the Bandana Sinkhole of Spruce Pine should reflect the former statement; pegmatite native to Spruce Pine is mica pegmatite. Using modal analysis, a rough count of the grains contained within the pegmatite lead to a conclusion of whether or not a pegmatite found within the Bandana Sinkhole area is consistent with the previous research stating pegmatite native to Spruce Pine is mica pegmatite.