# REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY

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The Metals Reserve Company (MRC) was organized June 28, 1940 under the authority of section 5d of the RFC Act, as amended. The RFC appointed the MRC’s Board of Directors. The Board and officials it appointed often served as directors or officers of the RFC or its subsidiaries. The chief functions of the MRC were the procurement, stockpiling, and disposal of strategic and critical metals and minerals and the payment of subsidies to their producers, as, for example, under the wartime and postwar “premium price plan.” All MRC programs were undertaken at the request or under the sponsorship of other Federal agencies. Policy for these programs was made by such agencies as the War Production Board, Office of Price Administration, the Board of Economic Warfare, and the military services. The MRC confined itself to an administrative and procedural role.

Procurement activities of the MRC included mining, refining, and processing operations. It was also involved with programs for the acquisition, recovery, and conversion of scrap and the distribution of aircraft parts and materials surplus to military and naval manufacturing contractors. In the course of these activities the MRC disbursed $2,750,000,000, acquiring about 50 kinds of metals and minerals from 51 countries, 39 states, and the Philippines. Proceeds from the sales of the materials purchased by the MRC amounted to 2,800,000,000. Another billion dollars was disbursed for freight, storage, handling, operating expenses, and for subsidy payments.

The largest single expenditure by the MRC was the payment of over $350 million in direct subsidies to producers of strategic metals and minerals, chiefly copper, lead, and zinc, for the development of new sources and maximum production of such materials as were in short supply.

From 1940 the MRC was active in the Federal program to assure supplies of tin. It sponsored the construction of a smelter at Texas City, Texas, supervised its operations and undertook to procure tin ore. These activities were continued by the successors of the MRC until the smelter was sold to a private operator in 1957.

The MRC was dissolved and merged with the RFC on July 1, 1945, in accordance with an act of June 30, 1945. Its assets and liabilities were then liquidated by the Office of Metals Reserve that was established within the RFC. The MRC’s unrecoverable costs as of June 30, 1947, were included in RFC notes payable to the Secretary of the Treasury that were cancelled by the direction of Congress.
Items #1-42 provide a one time disposition authority for records of the Metals Reserve Corporation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.


Unarranged. The Colonial Mica Corporation was established in 1942 to encourage the production of mica within the United States during World War II. These records contain raw data concerning the production of mica. The files include production reports, bills of lading, shipment reports, stocks and warehouse reports.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by name of mine. Index card file of quotas and prices assigned to mines mining copper, lead, and zinc for wartime production. Card file maintained for active and inactive mines. These card files contain raw data on production figures for individual mines.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by roughly by subject. These files document the activities of the Traffic Branch in relation to the shipment of metals and industrial alcohol. Included in the files are U.S. Customs consumption entry forms, industrial alcohol shipments by date, way bills, shipping correspondence, salvage rights to the SS Edward Luckenbach, authorizations, and orders.

Disposition: Temporary. GRS 1.1, item 010 - Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by contract number and thereunder by ore type. Field notes on sale, purchase, and treatment contracts for the shipment and delivery of chrome and manganese.

Disposition: Temporary. GRS 1.1, item 010 - Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by sales contract number. Ore sales from stockpiles to smelters and refiners. Sales of various ores, but primarily asbestos, beryllium, zinc, chrome, and cadmium. A typical contract file will include quantity of ore sold, quality, assay information, payment information, and delivery information.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by purchase contract number. Ore purchase contract shipment information, sample data, and purity statements. A typical contract file will include quantity of ore purchased, quality, assay information, payment information, and delivery information.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by contract number. Contracts negotiated by the United States Commercial Company for foreign purchases of ore. A typical contract file will include shipping correspondence, insurance documents, bills of lading, ore amounts, ore sample information, and shipment manifests. Some domestic contracts are included in this series.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by subject. Daily operation files relating to all activities of the Traffic Division. Topics within the files typically include corporate correspondence, agency correspondence, personal correspondence, inventory information, warehouse storage, daily ore reports, ore storage, purchase depots, trust receipts, the tin allocation program, and the Texas City disaster.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by contract number. Ore treatment contracts negotiated with individual companies to smelt and mill ores. A typical contract will include process agreements, quality control, sampling, storage, selling, and payment information. Included as well are ore handling contracts, relating to storage, shipping, receiving, and wages.
Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by agreement number. Sales and Purchase Agency agreements negotiated by the Metals Reserve Corporation and various private companies to represent the Federal government as uncompensated sales or purchase agents. A typical file will include an authorization for a company to represent the Metals Reserve Corporation in negotiations, price information, premium purchase information, and shipping instructions.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by city or town. These files document storage agreements for the warehousing of ores at locations across the country. A typical file will include storage methods, leases, vouchers, personnel policies, inspections, and shipping instructions.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by subject. These files document routine shipping correspondence by staff members of the Traffic Division.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by surplus declaration number. Declarations that ores had been placed in surplus status for various reasons such as contamination or bad grading. These declarations allowed the ore to be taken out of the stockpile inventory and sold. A typical file will include a surplus declaration, sale information, bills of lading, and shipping documentation. These files were approved for destruction in 1972 but the action was not carried through to completion.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged roughly by date. General correspondence of Premium Price Plan administrators Jesse C. Johnson and Frank E. Johnson. Topics include reviews of quota proposals, smelter lists, examination of ores, copper, lead, and zinc production and prices. These files document the purpose and functions of the Premium Price Plan.

Disposition: Permanent. Transfer to the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park upon approval of this schedule.


Arranged alphabetically by name of company. General correspondence with various mining companies about the program for premium payments. Correspondence with companies regarding exploration agreements, production audits, quotas, over quota payments, examinations, and production techniques.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by report number. Reports published by the Bureau of Mines numbered 1-381 assessing the ore production potential of mines located throughout the United States. A typical report will include a summary, history of the mine under study, physical features of the mine, ownership, labor pool, deposit description, ore reserves, and costs of ore retrieval.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by ore type and there under by list number and date. Published quota lists prepared by the quota committee for various types of ore. These files also document payments to producers for losses incurred while mining various types of ores.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged alphabetically by company. Ore explorations and reports sent to the Office of Metals Reserve by various companies. Included in the files are exploration applications, cost reports, remittance payments for exploration, audits, and reviews. Also included in the files are exploration maps and strategic mineral surveys. These files document payment information for explorations undertaken by various companies on behalf of the Federal government. These files document payment information for explorations undertaken by various companies on behalf of the Federal government.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by subject. These files document freight rates for various types of ores. They include rate charts, vouchers, bills, and adjustments.

Disposition: Temporary. GRS 1.1, item 010 - Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by claim number. These files document freight claims for various types of ores. They include payment claims, bills, and adjustments.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by ore type. These files document the ore stockpiling activities of the Office of Metals Reserve. The Ore Purchase Depots purchased and stored metals such as manganese, chrome, and tungsten. A typical file includes settlement sheets, assays, sales affidavits, and shipping information.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by company. Premium Price Plan audit reports filed on various Plancors. These files include audit reports of assets, liabilities, and balance sheets.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged alphabetically by subject. Daily correspondence of the Tin Program concerning shipments of tin, sales, delivery contracts, smelting agreements, and smelting reports. This correspondence is of a routine nature and does not document the strategic mission of the Tin Program.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by subject. These files document the activities of the Office of Production in establishing a tin smelter in Texas City, Texas. The files include correspondence, production and processing reports, budget information, financial statements, purchase orders, and audits.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by subject. These files document the sale of tin to war production facilities. They include correspondence, audits, ore storage, ore allocations, shipping, and contracts. These files document routine business activities of the Tin Division.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by country and thereunder by company name. These files document the efforts of the Office of Production to purchase and stockpile ores from foreign countries. They include correspondence, contracts, pricing, payments, vouchers, assays, shipping information, bills of lading, and insurance information. These files document routine business activities of the Tin Division.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged roughly by subject. Correspondence of Jesse Johnson, Deputy Director of the Metals Reserve Company, with Edward Putnam concerning his efforts to negotiate an ore purchase contract with the Siamese Tin Corporation.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged by scrap purchase number. These files document the activities of the Metals Reserve Company in the purchase of scrap metals from public corporations. Included in the files are contracts, ledgers, payments, and shipping information for scrap metals such as nickel, tin, steel, and iron.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by type of ore and thereunder by purchase number or sales number. These files document the purchase and sale of both allocated (reserved for government use) and unallocated ores by the Metals Reserve Company. Ores represented in the files include, but are not limited to, aluminum, arsenic, bauxite, beryllium, cobalt, diamonds, fluorspar, kyanite, nickel, osmiridium, platinum, spodumene, and tantalum. A typical file will include a contract information, payment ledgers, ore specifications, shipment information, and bills of lading. Also included in the files are stockpile reports and assay reports.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by purchase number. These files document the purchase of various types of ore by the United States Commodity Company. A typical file will include U.S. Customs consumption entries, assay reports, bills of lading, insurance forms, warehouse storage, and payment settlements. The files were later utilized by the Land Grant Program in order to settle claims by the U.S. government against commercial carriers.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged roughly by company and thereunder by contract number. These files document the sale and purchase of copper on behalf of the Metals Reserve Company by various corporate agents. A typical file will include invoices, shipping documentation, ore allocations, receipts, and deliveries. In a few instances the files document the purchase of zinc, silver, and gold. The files were later utilized by the Land Grant Program in order to settle claims by the U.S. government against commercial carriers.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged by contract and thereunder by subject. These files document the purchase and sale of scrap metal by the Metals Reserve Company and its agents. Included in the files are ore account summaries, vouchers, subsidy agreements, sale and purchase contracts, delivery documents and shipment documents. The files were later utilized by the Land Grant Program in order to settle claims by the U.S. government against commercial carriers.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged roughly by contract number. These files document the sale of metals deemed to be strategically important by the Metals Reserve Company. These files include contracts for the sale of zinc and nickel for strategic production. A typical file will include quantity of ore, quality, price, treatment, assay, and shipping information. The files were later utilized by the Land Grant Program in order to settle claims by the government against commercial carriers.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by contract number. These files document the activities of the United States Commercial Corporation in the fulfillment of contracts for foreign shipments of mica to American ports. A typical file will include weights, prices, contract correspondence, insurance, invoices, and inventories. The files were later utilized by the Land Grant Program in order to settle claims by the government against commercial carriers.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged by purchase number and thereunder by lot number. These files consist of correspondence regarding bills of lading for mica shipments and invoices and payments for mica purchases from India. Also included are contracts for copper purchases with ore purity and assay information.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

Arranged by contract code. Accounting journal used to record Traffic division payments under various contracts.

Disposition. Temporary. GRS 1.1, item 010 - Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged roughly by subject. These files document the activities of the Traffic Division as they related to the activities of the Tin Division. Topics within the files include correspondence with the Tin Processing Corporation, activities of the Longhorn Tin Smelter, the Texas City Disaster, treatment contracts, and the Waste Acid Plant. Included in the files are information on freight rates, shipping, production, ore storage, ore receipts, assays, purchase orders for the Waste Acid plant, and tin specifications.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.

38. Transfer 57D669W. Metals Reserve Company, Traffic Division, Office of Production, Tin Division, Correspondence Index, 1941-1954. 3 cubic feet. ACO-AT Location: 2/81/1/1/2/2 to 2/81/1/1/2/3. Boxes 51-54.

Arranged alphabetically. General index cards for correspondence of the Tin Division.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged alphabetically by company. Monthly contracts made by the Federal Facilities Corporation to provide tin ore to commercial companies.

Disposition: Temporary. Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.


Arranged roughly by date. Subject file of Edward P. Chapman, Assistant Chief of the Tin Division, including reports, photos, maps, and correspondence concerning the explosion of the SS Grandcamp and subsequent destruction of port facilities at Texas City, Texas.

Disposition: Permanent. Transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park upon approval of this schedule.

41. Transfer 57H669W. Metals Reserve Company, Office of Metals Reserve, Tin Division, Tin
Processing Plant Blueprints, 1942. 1 Bundle. ACO-AT Location: 2/81/1/1/2/4. No 50.

Unarranged. Blueprints of various facilities at the Texas City Tin Processing Plant.

Disposition: Permanent. Transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park upon approval of this schedule.

42. Transfer 14-0000. Metals Reserve Company, Various Offices, Accounting, Purchase, and Shipment Records, 1942-1951. 14 Volumes. 3 cubic feet. ACO-AT Location: 1/1/102/1/17/4/6 to 1/1/102/1/17/5/2. Vols. 3-16.

Arranged by volume type and thereunder by date. These volumes document daily accounting, purchase, and transportation activities of offices and entities within the Metals Reserve Company.

Disposition: Temporary. GRS 1.1, item 010 - Destroy upon the removal of all legal holds and freezes on the records.