NaMgF₃ Neighborite

Crystal Data: Orthorhombic, pseudocubic. *Point Group:* 2/m 2/m. As pseudo-octahedral or pseudocubic crystals, to 3 mm, and as oblong to rounded grains. *Twinning:* Polysynthetic and interpenetrant, complex but poorly defined.

Physical Properties: Fracture: Uneven. Hardness = 4.5 D(meas.) = 3.03(3) D(calc.) = 3.06

Optical Properties: Transparent to opaque. *Color:* Colorless, cream, pink, red, brown, may be zoned. *Luster:* Vitreous to dull, greasy.

Optical Class: Isotropic, but with birefringence about 0.003. n = 1.364(2)

Cell Data: Space Group: Pcmn. a = 5.363(1) b = 7.676(1) c = 5.503(1) Z = 4

X-ray Powder Pattern: South Ouray, Utah, USA. 1.918 (100), 2.71 (50), 3.83 (35), 2.30 (25), 1.556 (25), 2.23 (18), 2.20 (13)

Chemistry:

	(1)	(2)
$\mathrm{Fe_2O_3}$	0.17	
MgO	39.36	38.65
CaO	1.10	
${ m Na_2O}$	27.02	29.71
K_2O	0.77	
\mathbf{F}^{-}	54.76	54.65
$\mathrm{H_2O}$	0.25	
$-O = F_2$	[23.06]	23.01
Total ,	[100.37]	100.00

(1) Ural Mountains, Russia; original total given as 100.49%; corresponds to $(Na_{0.87}K_{0.02})_{\Sigma=0.89}$ $(Mg_{0.98}Ca_{0.02})_{\Sigma=1.00}F_{2.97}$. (2) $NaMgF_3$.

Occurrence: An authigenic mineral, formed under aluminum-deficient conditions in dolomitic oil shale (South Ouray, Utah, USA); in metamorphosed tuff and clayey carbonate sediments (Ural Mountains, Russia); in miarolitic cavities in an alkalic granite (Lake Gjerdingen, Norway); in cavities in pegmatite and in hornfels in an intrusive alkalic gabbro-syenite complex (Mont Saint-Hilaire, Canada).

Association: Burbankite, nahcolite, wurtzite, barytocalcite, garrelsite, pyrite, calcite, quartz (South Ouray, Utah, USA).

Distribution: From the South Ouray and Sun Havenstrite wells, about 8 km south-southeast of South Ouray, Uintah Co., Utah, USA. At Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada. From near Lake Gjerdingen, Nordmarka, Norway. In the Lovozero, Khibiny, and Kovdor massifs, Kola Peninsula, the Ural Mountains, and other poorly defined localities in Russia.

Name: Honors Frank Neighbor, district geologist of Sun Oil Co., Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, for his assistance in providing samples.

Type Material: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA, 115216, 162603.

References: (1) Chao, E.C.T., H.T. Evans, Jr., B.J. Skinner, and C. Milton (1961) Neighborite, NaMgF₃, a new mineral from the Green River Formation, South Ouray, Utah. Amer. Mineral., 46, 379–393. (2) Efimov, A.F., E.M. Eskova and S.T. Kataeva (1967) On the first discovery of neighborite in the U.S.S.R. Doklady Acad. Nauk SSSR, 174, 5, 1182–1184 (in Russian). (3) Horváth, L. and R.A. Gault (1990) The mineralogy of Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec. Mineral. Record, 21, 284–359, esp. 325–326.