

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

HARBO TAIG CLAIMS

Baker District
Baker County

Location: On Dooley Mountain, in sec. 25, T. 11 S., R. 39 E.

Area: Four lode claims known as the Harbo No. 1 through 4. Nos. 1 and 2 were filed in 1950, No. 3 in 1955, and No. 4 in 1964.

Owners: W. B. and Mamie N. Miles 363 W. 7th Street, Hermiston, Oregon.

General: Soil and colluvium obscure bedrock conditions over most of the claim area. However, the presence of talc on the claims is shown in some prospect workings dug many years ago for gold and in many pits and cuts dug by the claim holder in his efforts to delineate the extent of some of the talc showings. Most of the work in connection with the talc was performed during recent years and especially during 1964. All of it consists of hand dug pits.

From what has been revealed to date, the talc appears to occur in three ways. One is as pods and seams associated with gouge and quartz in shear zones. The other two modes of occurrence consist of dense, even-grained talc and talc schist, both of which occur as bedrock masses of indefinite, but locally substantial extent.

The talc occurring in association with the quartz veins and shear zones is negligible in amount insofar as it is exposed at present. How widespread the country rock types will prove to be is problematical as more prospect work will have to be done before the lateral extent of some of the occurrences is fully defined. This is illustrated by the accompanying map which records the extensiveness of massive talc and talc schist occurrences as indicated by one group of current prospect workings. The significant point is that no contact with surrounding non-talcosed country rock is revealed in any of these pits. Furthermore, while such a contact can be anticipated nearby to the west and south of the westernmost and southernmost pits, there is no indicated limiting factor nearby to the northeast. The talc may extend in this direction for an appreciable distance for all that is currently known.

Iron in the form of limonite is common in association with both types of talc and it is particularly abundant in the talc schist exposed in the trenched-out creek channel. How much of this is a surface phenomenon, it is impossible to judge accurately on the basis of the present exposures, as none of the various pits and cuts penetrate the talc bodies to a significant distance beyond the talc-overburden contact zone. The currently observable association of limonite may thus be due largely to surficial weathering conditions and therefore be far greater on the surface than it is at depth. In any event, all forms of talc are various shades of gray in color; hence suitable only for commercial uses for which high levels of whiteness are not required. It should, however, prove satisfactory as a carrier for insecticides and for other kindred uses for which specifications are less rigid.

Report by: N.S. Wagner, October 20, 1964.

Date of examination: October 8, 1964.