

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report By: Ray C. Treasurer
Date: March 5, 1943

Not to be filed
as written

WILHOIT COAL

Clackamas County.

This report is the result of a brief reconnaissance survey, made March 2, 1943. Data are incomplete but such facts as were seen, are recorded, pending additional work. The coal is bony and impure but might serve as a stopgap for local fuel in an emergency.

Ownership: Not known.

Location: Sec. 16, T. 6 S., R. 2 E., about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southeast of Wilhoit Spgs. resort.

Area: Unknown.

History: "

Development: Two adits are reported. The lower, or Tobin adit is 60' long, trends N. 50° E. and rises on a grade of 4°. The upper tunnel, on gov't land was not visited.

Geology: Country rock is sandstone that appears to be tuffaceous. The dip is N. 33° E. about 3°-5°. Age is unknown. If the rock correlates with the Molalla formation it would be lowermost Miocene. The character of the coal, and the presence of Eocene Mehama and Illaha formations to the south suggests an Eocene age.

The coal itself is bright, has conchoidal fracture, and is fairly hard. Its grade is guessed at sub bituminous. A study of the measured sections indicates the character of the coal occurrence. It is intimately mixed with bone and shale, in part. Greatest observed thickness of coal is 24 inches. The coal seam is about 8 feet thick.

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Extent is not known. If the coal measure correlates with Molalla formation, it probably has limited extent and will lens rapidly. If the measure is Eocene, there is greater probability of continuity.

Measured sections are:

N. W. Side of vein, 60' from portal S. E. Side of vein, 60' from portal

Top is sandy tuff.	Top, roof is sandy tuff.
3" coal	3" coal
2" clay	2" clay
7" coal	5" bone
1" clay	11" coal
8" coal	5" bone
8" coal & bone	18" coal & bone
10" coal	1" clay
1" clay	6" coal
102" coal & bone	8" bone
2" clay	1" coal
10" coal	1" bone
3" clay	16" coal
14" coal	1"-4" clay
3" clay	24" coal
6" coal & bone	
6" coal	<u>97" inches</u>
4" clay	
9" coal	51" coal
	16" coal & bone
	30" clay
<u>107 inches</u>	

67" coal
24" coal & bone
16" clay

The measured sections illustrate the variability of the coal measure. They also show that 40% to 50% of the seam is clay with coal and bone.

Informants: H. S. McQueen and RCT. March 2, 1943.

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Location: Portland to Oregon City ----- 13 miles)
Oregon City to Molalla ----- 15 miles) paved.
Molalla to Wilhoit Spgs. ----- 6 miles)
34 miles.

Wilhoit Spgs - Coal aidt - 0.75 miles private road.
The road from Wilhoit Spgs. to the mine is an old logging road,
partly planked and in indifferent repair.

The coal seam is not attractive as an ordinary peace time project. However, the scarcity of fuel may stimulate the mine's development. The coal is very "dirty" but could be handpicked to make a fair, high ash fuel. Washing, of course, would produce a much cleaner, and lower ash content steam or stoker coal.

The East & West Logging Co. railroad into the general area is abandoned and most of the steel is pulled.

The mine's proximity to Oregon City and the metropolitan Portland area may prove beneficial. Further work should be done to indicate possible extension and persistence of the coal seam. Also some stratigraphic work toward age identification of the rock, as a means of better interpreting the persistence of beds. Should sufficient coal be found, a washing plant might be in order.

"Rumors" of coal outcrop along Coal Creek to the south have been received.

Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist
March 5, 1943