



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

BAKER FIELD OFFICE

2033 FIRST STREET • BAKER, OREGON • 97814 • Phone (503) 523-3133

TOM McCALL
GOVERNOR

October 26, 1973

Mr. R. E. Corcoran
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries
1069 State Office Bldg.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Andy:

My evaluation of the available data concerning Oregon's heritage of diatomite occurrences is that any compilation that could be put together at the present time would fall far short of being a professionally authoritative document compared to what could be put out if some up-dated mapping was to be done in the instance of certain of the better-known occurrences which can be deemed to have commercial potential.

In other words I am convinced that no report compiled on the basis of the presently available data could do justice to Oregon's potential for this resource on the level that said potential merits. In fact I can put it even more strongly by saying that I think that a compilation on the basis of the presently existing data would actually be more misleading than constructive because if anything, the available property reports are most complete and comprehensive in their coverage in the instance of occurrences that are essentially devoid of commercial potential while at the same time being mostly obsolete, fragmentary and/or superficial in the instance of those occurrences which can be conceived of as having some elements of commercial attractiveness.

By way of illustrating this more graphically I can state that there must be at least three, and possibly as many as five or six, individual occurrences that deserve to be described comprehensively because they conceivably include large tonnages of comparatively contaminant-free material in a setting that is dry or drainable and not beset with excessive overburden removal and disposal problems. Nevertheless, there isn't a solitary instance in which the available data for any one of these occurrences is well-documented enough to permit the presentation of anything more than a wishy-washy inferential sort of a description of the pertinent subject matter that a prospective examiner would expect to see chronicled in reasonable detail. On the other hand, however, it is, for the most part, for the deposits that are utter dogs that our presently available data is the most comprehensive, and by "utter dogs" I mean properties which are substantially devoid of commercial attractiveness as a consequence of excesses of contaminants, saturation by high, undrainable water-table situations, obvious overburden removal and disposal problems, or impracticable locations with reference to marketing facilities and utilities.