



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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ROBERT W. STRAUB
GOVERNOR

October 8, 1975

Mr. David E. Thompson
c/o Hercules Construction Co., Inc.
94-163 Leowaena
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Mr. Thor Johnson called me yesterday to ask about diatomite deposits in Oregon.

As you may know, there are a number of fresh-water deposits of diatomaceous earth in various areas of eastern Oregon, only one of which has ever produced any quantity. This is the so-called Terrebonne deposit which was mined by Great Lakes Carbon Company several years ago.

About two years ago I asked Mr. Norman S. Wagner, who was in charge of our Baker field office, to review what information we had on diatomite deposits in the State to see whether it would be desirable for the Department to prepare a bulletin which would update the report by B.N. Moore back in 1937 (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 875, "Nonmetallic Mineral Resources of Eastern Oregon"). I am enclosing a copy of Norm Wagner's rather rambling discourse summarizing his views on the information we have on the diatomite properties.

As you can tell from Norm's memorandum, he does feel that there are two or three areas in the State that probably warrant further work. He points out, however, that as we have never been able to find out precisely what kinds of diatoms the companies are looking for, it is difficult for us to make a completely valid evaluation of our Oregon diatomites.

If, after reading this memorandum, you have any questions concerning specific areas, please feel free to write or call me. I would also suggest that you obtain a copy of Moore's report because it does give an excellent description of all of the major diatomite areas in the State. Although the bulletin has been out of print for many years, I assume that a copy can be obtained at the University of Hawaii library.

Sincerely yours,

REC: jr
Encl.
cc Thor Johnson

Raymond E. Corcoran
State Geologist