

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date of exam: February 11, 1947

HOWELL CINDER PIT (Cinders)

Unclassified District
Harney County

OWNER-OPERATOR: A. E. Howell, Box 142, Hines, Oregon.

9023

LOCATION: T 23 S - R 30 E - S 22. This is about 3/4 of a mile north of U. S. 20 at Hines.

AREA: 560 acres of deeded land of which 40 acres consists of cinders.

HISTORY: Howell commenced operations here in 1929 at which time he purchased the 40 acre cinder tract. Since then he has acquired the additional land and established residence on the property. Early production amounted to about 300 yds. per year with the annual production rate increasing steadily to a maximum of 4000 yds. for 1946. Pit run material only is produced for driveway and road use.

GEOLOGY: The cinders excavated here are part of a lava and cinder belt which is reportedly widespread in occurrence in the area between the pit and the Grant County line to the north. The cinders are red in color. While a screened product would be composed of hard, solid and fresh pieces, pit run material includes a substantial amount of clayey fines. Due to these fines the whole deposit at the pit is highly compacted and does not break down appreciably upon exposure.

EQUIPMENT & MINING: Production was originally accomplished by plowing and loading.

Today, with the unconsolidated surface material gone, it is necessary to use a bulldozer and ripper. This work is done on a contract basis and the material stockpiled. The only major equipment belonging to Howell is a $4\frac{1}{2}$ yd. dump truck.

ECONOMICS:

As a one-man operation producing road bed material for a local market this is a profitable enterprise. Production of a satisfactory concrete aggregate would be possible but would entail screening. The remoteness of the occurrence from large market areas would limit such aggregate production to that required in the immediate locality.
