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November 23, 1956

State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries
1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

Attention: Mr. T. C. Matthews

Gentlemen:

We have your letter of November 21, 1956, relative to the publishing of information relating to radioactivity on our farm premises located in Township 8 South, Range 4 West, in Marion County, Oregon.

It is agreeable with us that you make public such information. We are, accordingly, enclosing herewith (1) a photocopy of a letter received from the Bureau of Mines, Albany, Oregon, on October 27, 1955; (2) photocopy of a report received from the Bureau of Mines, Salt Lake City, January 5, 1956; (3) photocopy of a report received from the Bureau of Mines, Salt Lake City, February 21, 1956 (4) a photocopy of a report received from the AEC, Spokane, Washington, April 12, 1956. We have attempted to type in on the enclosed copies to supply missing information on the originals which failed to appear in the photo by reason of the type of ink, etc.

On June 11, 1956, you forwarded us reports as to two samples which were received by you on May 29, 1956. We assume that you have this information in your files.

We have, of course, taken numerous samples that have not been tested for radioactivity but apparently fall within the range of 0.10% to 1% radioactivity. Uranium minerals identified in all samples appear to be tyuyamunite. All samples were taken within ten feet of the surface of the ground. Because of a lack of adequate equipment, drilling has been limited to such depth.

Your geologists, Mr. Schlicker and Mr. Max Schafer, have been over the premises on more than one occasion and I believe are familiar with the terrain. Above normal readings have been taken on scintillators over an area of more than fifty acres in extent. As pointed out above, because of a lack of adequate equipment, exploration has been very nominal and we are, therefore, unable to hazard

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a guess as to the nature and extent of uranium deposits on our premises, if any.

We have in our possession a small quantity of yellow, orange and green granules ranging in size from a grain of salt to a piece of birdshot which were plainly visible to the naked eye and removed from pulverized sand on the premises. Such material appears to be highly radioactive.

If we can be of further help or give you further information, please advise. We appreciate your past courtesies.

Yours very truly,

RHOTEN, RHOTEN & SPEERSTRA

By

SFS:mj
Enc.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Region I

Albany, Oregon
October 27, 1955

P-6006

Rhoten, Rhoten & Speerstra
Attorneys at Law
Pioneer Trust Building
Salem, Oregon

Gentlemen:

This is in further reference to your letter of October 4, 1955, requesting an examination of a radioactive sample originating from Marion County, Oregon.

Your sample is a sandstone that essentially contains altered feldspar with some associated chlorite and amphibole and small amounts of quartz, clay minerals, sericite, and tyuyamunite.

A radiometric determination indicates that this sample contains in the order of 0.08 percent equivalent uranium. The radioactivity is entirely due to the presence of tyuyamunite, a hydrated calcium-uranium vanadate.

Although your sample is below the lower limit of commercial-grade ore (under favorable conditions 0.1% U_3O_8), the Atomic Energy Commission is interested in cataloging samples containing as little as 0.01 percent equivalent uranium. Therefore, a copy of this letter is being forwarded to their Washington, D. C. office.

Very truly yours,

s/ H. J. TRUMPOUR

for H. D. Hess, Head
Petrographic Laboratory