

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building  
Portland 1, Oregon

## OIL SEEP INVESTIGATION - SE PORTLAND

Multnomah

Owner: H. W. Northrup, 4323 S.E. 130th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11, T. 1 S., R. 2 E., in the city of Portland. The Northrup residence is located one block from the Gilbert Heights School, which is on the north boundary of the area that stood under water last winter (low area between Foster Road and Powell Blvd.).

Request for investigation: Mr. Northrup called the office several weeks ago to ask if the Department could send someone to investigate oil seepage in his garage. The oil had been seeping into his garage for the past 5 years and was especially noticeable last winter.

Discussion of inspection: Vernon Newton drove to the Northrup residence August 14, 1969. The garage floor was covered in a large area by what appeared to be water with an oil film on it. The fluid seemed to have seeped through the north foundation of the garage. The oil did not have a detectable odor to it and did not fluoresce under violet light.

The Northrups reported that the oil gave off a strong odor when the garage doors were closed for some time. The oil had the appearance of machine oil or motor oil. Mr. Northrup said he had checked for leaks from his car but could find none. There was an underground fuel oil tank near the garage; however, the oil on the garage floor was not similar to fuel oil.

A hole was dug on the outside of the north garage foundation but no oil could be detected. The source of the oil was not determined but it is very unlikely that it resulted from natural seepage.

Volcanic rock covers the area to a depth of at least several thousand feet. The oil did not have the appearance of crude oil nor did it fluoresce as a crude oil would.

Conclusions: The oil is coming from local contamination which could not be determined. It closely resembled motor oil or transmission oil.

Report by: V. C. Newton, Jr.

August 19, 1969