

*Hines, Oregon Land Appraisal for Mineral Right Value
for the State Land Board.*

October 16, 1964

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

Dear Hollis;

This pertains to the state-owned mineral rights on the Roe Davis holdings in Harney County (T23S, R30E, Sec. 14, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$) and the State Land Board's letter of September 21 requesting an appraisal thereof.

My examination of this land was made during the morning of October 14. It consisted of a cruise by car over much of the tract, including visitation to the site of a newly dug reservoir and to a section where where dozing and back-hoe trenching was underway for street and sewer installations. Mr. Davis accompanied me and pointed out the property lines and corners.

The property consists of an estimated two-thirds of flat to gently sloping fields. These have been cultivated in the past and a portion was used for a laning strip during the late 1940's and throughout most of the 1950's. The rest of the tract consists of moderately steep terrace slopes and a small amount of terrace bench land. The subdivision now under construction is being built on a portion of the bottomland.

No cleanly exposed outcroppings of bedrock occur on the property. Instead, all land surface is covered with soil containing angular fragments of lava and obsidian and in places rounded stream gravels. Most of this is colluvium originating from the Danforth formation which is mapped (U.S.G.S. Water Supply Paper, 841) as the bedrock formation underlying the Davis holdings and much of the neighboring country. The Danforth is described as comprised of bedded siltstones, sandstones, tuffs and ash with some associated rhyelite and coarse gravel interbeds. These components class as run-of-the-mill rock members and none have been recognized as having unique or significant commercial potential over and beyond use as fill material or road ballast.

Despite their depth of an estimated six to seven feet in places, neither the reservoir nor the street or sewer excavations penetrated bedrock. What they showed was merely more of the colluvium just described or once-removed rock debris washed in from the neighboring hills to the north.

Pumice and cinders constitute the only mineral substance historically mined from sources close to the Davis property and according to available records the nearest such occurrence is located a mile and a half or better to the southwest. The rest of the occurrences are at even greater distances.

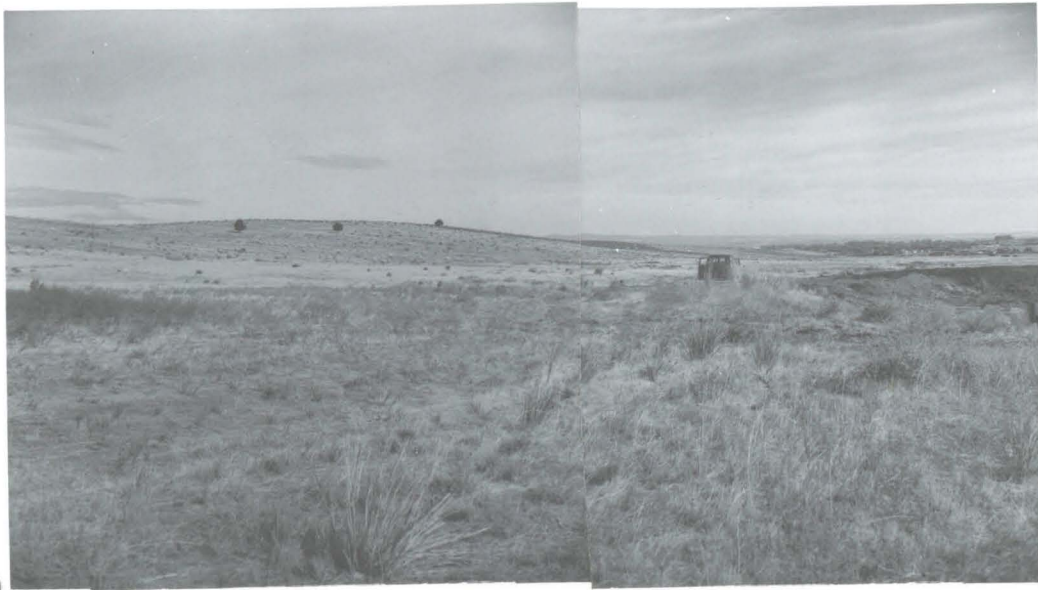
An occasional chunk of cinder is to be noted with the rock debris on the Davis property but beyond this there is no evidence to suggest the existence of any mineable accumulation. Even if an accumulation should be revealed as the result of future excavation, the situation should give rise to no great loss of mineral lease revenue to the state due to the excessive distance to large outlying market areas, the limited extent of local demand for material of this type and the presence of nearby alternative sources of supply for such local needs as do exist. The history of the mining of pumice from the occurrences located west of Mines bear this conclusion out in that while it did generate sporadic shipments of aggregate to Ontario, Boise and John Day over a period of years, the operation was not a profitable venture.

By way of summarizing the foregoing data I can advise that I see no particular reason for the Land Board to complicate their records by continuing to hold these mineral rights and this conclusion is based on (1) the general lack of associated mineral values of note with the Danforth formation as a whole, (2) the lack of indication of tangible mineral value underlying the immediate surface on the Davis property, and (3) the lack, to date, of any significant indication of commercial oil and gas at depth despite many years of wildcat drilling in the Harney Valley at large. Conversely, the release of mineral rights to this property would be in harmony with an already well-established trend in that the area between Burns and Mines is already largely ~~largely~~ occupied with residential, commercial and public facilities of diverse kinds to the extent that continuing expansion along this line is a logical development.

Sincerely

Norman S. Wagner
Geologist

PS: Photographs of the area are included on the attached page.



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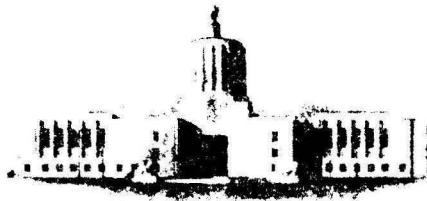
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View looking generally northeast from a point near the southern margin of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14. A portion of the reservoir is shown on the right margin of the photo. Some of the subdivisional area is located in the field directly above the reservoir rim.



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View northwestward from one of the streets in the subdivision. Shown is the rock-soil nature of the material being excavated.



STATE OF OREGON
OFFICE OF THE STATE LAND BOARD
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM 97310

IN REFERRING TO THIS COMMUNICATION
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU MENTION

FILE NO. C-16892-S

September 21, 1964

Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries
1069 State Office Bldg.
Portland, Oregon

Attention: Ralph Mason

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to our phone call to Mr. Mason September 11, 1964, we will
advise the Land Board decided the

E¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, Section 14,
Township 23 South, Range 30, East, Harney County,

to Roe Davis, reserving all minerals to the state. We have been re-
quested to release the reserved minerals as the land is adjacent to
Hines, Oregon, and the reservation is detrimental to a proposed resi-
dential addition.

Would you please advise what your records indicate as to the existence
of minerals and also let us have your opinion as to whether or not the
State should retain its rights.

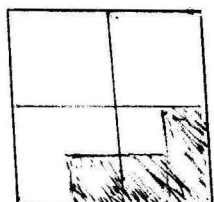
Very truly yours,

STATE LAND BOARD
Dale Mallicoat, Clerk

F. C. Deckebach

F. C. Deckebach
Assistant Clerk

FCD:mg



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SEP 22 1964

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