Company appeals fine tied to asbestos problem

The Sandy Excavating Co. has appealed an $8,000 penalty for alleged asbestos violations to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

The department said the company had failed to inspect a Southwest Portland structure adequately before demolishing it last July and possibly had released asbestos fibers into the air.

Asbestos, once used as a fire retardant and insulation material, is a potential cancer-causing substance. State regulations outline the training for persons certified to remove asbestos and how the material can be safely removed.

Sandy Excavating owner Bob Rodden said: “Our contract said we did not have responsibility for the asbestos. We were called in to wreck it assuming the asbestos was removed.”

DEQ spokesman John MacKellar said Rodden had requested an informal meeting with department staff members before proceeding with a contested case hearing on the civil penalty. The meeting may answer questions of department inspectors who were unable to contact Rodden by telephone or mail before issuing the penalty notice in December, MacKellar said.

Rodden said Sunset Development Co. had hired him as a subcontractor to demolish a structure in the 3800 block of Southwest Kelly Street. He said Northwest Housing Concepts also was involved in the project.
March 4, 1980

Mr. Charles Hoffman
Hoffman's Blue Eagle
Suite 280, Mountain View Mall
63455 N. Hwy. 97
Bend, Oregon 97701

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The major barite producers in the United States are Baroid Division, NL Industries, Inc., 111 Broadway, New York, New York 10006; Dresser Minerals Division, Dresser Industries, Inc., P. O. Box 6504, Houston, Texas 77005; and Mineral Division, Milchem, Inc., 3920 Essex Lane, Houston, Texas 77027 and ESCO Corporation, 2141 N.W. 25th, Portland, OR 97210 also may be interested in barite.

Sincerely,

Jerry J. Gray
Economic Geologist

JJG/bjd
Feb. 12, 1980

Oregon Dept. of Geology
and Minecal Industries
1069 State Office Bldg.
Portland, Ore.

Gentlemen:

Can you give me the names and addresses of firms who might be interested in developing a barite prospect?

I have a barite claim in Crook County, thirty miles from railhead.

Sincerely,

Charles Hoffman
62823 Loma Vista Dr
Bend, Or 97701
Oct. 3, 1986

Mr. Jerry Gray
Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Ind.
910 State Office Bldg.
1400 SW Fifth Ave
Portland, Or 97201

Dear Jerry:

I tried to find the pit with bentonite near Redmond and had no success. It had been described to me as the pit near Hi 97 south of Redmond. I found the pit but found nothing like bentonite. It was on Long Butte one mile NW of Deschutes Junction, Sect. 22, T 16S, R 12E. It is reached from Kiowa Drive off the old Bend-Redmond highway.

The largest pit is mined for red cinders by the state. Adjoining it on the east side is a pit owned by a Bend resident, name unknown. A third pit NE of the last named is owned by the Mid-state Oil Co. of Redmond. The last pit had white veins up to a foot wide but seemed too coarse in texture. There was the right color of green, but was volcanic in appearance. I have samples if you would like me to mail them.
There is bentonite in a pit on BLM land between Redmond and Powell Butte (town) in Sect. 20, T 15 S, R 14 E. It is a community pit where it is sold with a price based on quantity.

Regarding barite, I have believed our prospect was like the Bennett mine in Virginia shown in an illustration by Waldemar Lindgren, page 400, in his 1933 edition of Mineral Deposits. Although we don't have the mica schist we have the red clay and the umber. Perhaps we should dig into the red deposits rather than in the yellow-green host rock. Incidentally, I later checked our assays and a sample of the rock where we dug (yellow-green) showed traces of gold and silver... as you thought it should.

I had to put chains on before I got very far from the claims. Your route had the steepest hill. Hope you had no trouble.

Regards,

Chuck
Charles Hoffman

Enclosing a check for the report on gold (sold at Madras). If postage is needed, I'll return the amount due.

Would appreciate the name of the assay company we discussed. My letter to Reed Engr was returned, so they must be out of business.