

Property
Submission

821926

File 93H

BRIT
UNIVE

Diatomaceous Earth

Quesnel Area B.C.

January 1965

NCIL

VANCOUVER B.C.

February 18, 1965

93H
attach to correct.
Jan 59
Diatomaceous
Earth

Head Office,
Toronto, Canada.

Attention: Mr. D. J. Worth,
Natural Resources Development Department.

Dear Mr. Worth,

Our study on diatomaceous earth in British Columbia has been limited to the problems of rendering it suitable for marketing. At this stage, we feel that our work is not sufficiently advanced to reach a decision on the technical and economical factors in marketing this material. However, if more information does become available to us I will try to keep you informed.

Yours very truly,

BRITISH COLUMBIA RESEARCH COUNCIL

F. E. Murray,
Head, Division of Chemistry
and Chemical Engineering

FEM/pt

821926

BRITISH COLUMBIA RESEARCH COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA . . . VANCOUVER B. C.

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Mon Aug

Paul:

- Looks as if prill coating won't be a growing use for diatomite
- although the figures ^{in the attached letter} are rather stale.
- Thanks for the "roses" editorial
- Had a chuckle over this as did Mrs Brown downstairs.

Regards

Don



CANADA

FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

MINES BRANCH

OTTAWA

Mineral Processing
Division

40 Lydia Street,
Ottawa 1, Ontario,
8 February, 1965.

Mr. D.J. Worth,
Natural Resources Development Department,
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce,
51 King Street West,
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Worth:

Mr. C.M. Bartley of this Division has asked me to
reply to your telephone enquiry to him concerning diatomite in
coating fertilizer prills.

Diatomite is one of several materials used to coat prills.
Although a small amount of diatomite is mined in British Columbia,
all the diatomite used for this purpose in Canada is imported. In
1962, Canada consumed 5,961 tons of diatomite for coating prills.
This is down from the 8,263 tons used in 1959.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours truly,

J. S. Ross,
Non-Metallic Minerals Section

JSR:lh

DJW

*Ammonium Nitrate
prills
Potash prills
trend of this
use downward.*

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

1963

Excerpt from Page 141

W.S.R.
K.C.G.
E.F.
R.D.S.
B.C.B.
P.M.K.
G.W.M.
H.A.P.
C.K.W.
J.B.S.
G.P.R.
K.F.L.
J.I.B.
E.C.J.

DIATOMITE

Fairey & Company Limited

Quesnel (53° 122° S.E.). Company office and plant, 661 Taylor Street, Vancouver 3. L. T. Fairey, president. Fifteen carloads (222 tons) of diatomite was quarried on Lot 6182, on the east bank of the Fraser River about 6 miles north of Quesnel. This is the largest production for some years and is nearly four times the 1962 production. The material was excavated by a local contractor. It is used to make insulating brick and as a concrete admixture.

FEB 9 1965

PLEASE ADDRESS
REPLY TO
THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER

CANADIAN IMPERIAL
BANK OF COMMERCE

HEAD OFFICE
TORONTO, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"CANBANK"

W.S.R.
K.C.G.
E.F.
R.D.S.
B.C.B.
P.M.K. ✓
G.W.M.
H.A.P.
C.K.W.
J.B.S.
G.P.R.
K.F.L.
J.I.B.
E.C.J.

February 8, 1965.

Dr. Paul M. Kavanagh,
Chief Geologist - Exploration,
Kerr Addison Mines Limited,
Suite 1600, 44 King St. W.,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Kavanagh:

Apropos to our telephone conversation this
afternoon, we are sending you the attached notes
on a diatomaceous earth deposit near Quesnel, B.C.
If your initial reaction to such a situation should
change, we would be pleased to assist you in a follow-
up by way of an introduction to Mr. Brook.

Yours very truly,



D. J. Worth, P.Eng.
Natural Resources Development
Department.

*Mr. C.H. Munro
Bank Man in Calgary*

*Upon receiving this letter I advised
Worth that we would like to be introduced. Later,
Bruce Lacey of Calgary informed me
by phone on Feb. 9 that Dr. Bruce Lacey
of the BC Research Council has been most
of these Council's diatomaceous earth study.
Lacey said the Council people have never visited
the property, nor have they ever received any
samples from it, although they have been
sent samples from a nearby property,
which has been investigated during
the past 2 years by some organization
without a Mr. Skinner is associated.
Lacey said he would accumulate
& forward all the data
available on the property.*

*P.M.K.
Feb. 9/65.*

Rec^d Feb 3/65

January 27, 1965

Re: Thomas L. Brook
#304 - 315 Eighth Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
and
Asamera Oil Corporation Ltd.

Diatomaceous Earth Reserve near Quesnel, B.C.

A considerable amount of work has been done in the past both by Government people and private people and it would appear that at least three million tons of this material, of excellent grade, are available for commercial mining.

This lease became available when an engineer by the name of Murray from Vancouver, who was most enthusiastic about it, began to spend his own money to put a plant or a mill on the property which was to be designed to turn approximately three tons an hour of this diatomaceous earth. When he got about half way through it he suffered a heart attack and died, and it was because of this unfortunate event that Brook was able to come into the picture with Swede Hanson and Bus Lacey of Calgary - all of whom we know.

A report was written on this property by a Government engineer by the name of Eardley-Wilmott and his data and so forth has been substantiated by core drilling and examination in various ways. The problem of mining is rather simple because the earth is close to the surface and is only covered by an average of five or six feet of overburden and would lend itself to stripping and cheap mining. In addition to this the P.G.E. railroad runs close to the property but on the opposite side of the Fraser River and natural gas and electric power are available at the proposed mill site.

From a recent survey which Bus Lacey has, it would appear that with the present price for this material and the estimated cost, there should be a profit of approximately \$10 per ton in this material on the basis of a 3-ton an hour plant. Naturally the costs go down with a larger plant and 10 tons per hour seems to be the logical size for a deposit such as this. Incidentally, Brook believes considerably more leases could be acquired in the general area.

Evidently quite a bit of interest is now developing regarding diatomaceous earth and, as a result, the B. C. Research Council has made a study of this material and has come up with the conclusion that by using the so-called "wet" process this material is satisfactory for use in a great variety of industries. The one that caught Brook's eye as the logical one is the pulp and paper industry in British Columbia which has a market for approximately 50,000 tons per year. Another interesting fact is that Great Lakes Carbon Company has just contracted

Lacey advised me that Wilmott's latest report was written in 1957.

to build a substantial (10 ton per hour) plant at Kobe in Japan and this plant is anticipated to produce 80,000 tons of diatomaceous earth per year. We understand at the present time this rock is to be supplied to Japan from a property Great Lakes Carbon Company owns in California. Brook feels if this is the case something could probably be worked out with the Japanese to build their own plant with their own machines and Brook could supply them at a very good price.

There are many uses for diatomaceous earth such as the dusting of commercial chemical fertilizers (Medicine Hat uses about three tons per day) and other uses are for absorbents, filters in beer making, filters of all kinds, dusting of forests for fire prevention, treating of shingles for fire prevention, and many, many other allied uses not the least of which is a product called "Kitty Litter", and so forth.

Brook thinks that he would be looking at a capital outlay of approximately \$1,500,000 to put the property into production, together with bagging machines and so forth to sell and distribute it himself, but in the event he could get a market to ship material to a plant overseas, of course his cost would be considerably less.

R. D. 58

~~98.B~~

934 3
~~930~~

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM Mr. E.O. Chisholm

DATE 29 January 1959

TO Mr. R. Macrae

SUBJECT

A	N
W.S.R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R.J.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.O.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
G.F.R.	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.L.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>
J.K.	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.C.J.	<input type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE

(TO BE COMPLETED IN TRIPLICATE)

Dear Rod:

Further to my letter of 27 January regarding the diatomaceous earth in Quesnel Area, it is noted on Page 11 of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report for 1955, on the miscellaneous non-metal Mining Industry, that there is a very small Canadian market for the material and the deposits in the Quesnel area are quite extensive. A new deposit in this area, therefore, would not appear to be attractive.

EOC-da

E.O. Chisholm

93H 3
~~208~~

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM Mr. E.O. Chisholm

DATE 27 January 1959

TO Mr. Rod Macrae

SUBJECT _____

A		N
	W.S.R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	R.J.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E.O.C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	F	
	B.C.	
	G.F.R.	
	E.L.D.	
	J.K.	
	E.C.I.	

MESSAGE

(TO BE COMPLETED IN TRIPLICATE)

Dear Rod:

The reference to the molybdenum deposit mentioned in my last letter is found on page 7 of "FIELD WORK, 1958", published by C.S. Lord, Chief Geologist, G.S.C.

Enclosed is copy of this item, and the asbestos occurrence. You will also note on page 8 mention is made of a diatomite deposit in the Fraser Valley between Quesnel and Macalister and several previously unrecorded occurrences of diatomite noted near Buck Ridge, one at least 25 feet thick. This might be worth investigation, if not already staked.

E.O. Chisholm

EOC-da
Encl.