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Island

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PROPERTY VISITS

TEXADA ISLAND - CIM District Six Tour (Oct. 1/92)

a) BLUBBER BAY QUARRY (Ash Grove Cement West, Inc.)

The Blubber Bay Quarry, located on the northern tip of TEXADA Island, has been in operation on a continuous basis since 1907 and produces over 2 million tons per year of high quality crushed limestone products (incl. 1.4 million - chemical). Ash Grove Cement West Inc. obtained the Quarry in 1993 as part of its Oregon Portland cement acquisition. All of its limestone (chemical, cement, and agricultural) is shipped via barge to processing plants in Portland, Oregon, C.B.R.'s cement plant in Vancouver, Continental Lime's plant in Tacoma, Ash Grove's new (1992) cement plant in Seattle, and several paper mills along the coast.

The property is underlain by at least 1800 ft. of Quatsino Limestone. Currently, mining is taking place in Pit #6 (see photos) which has dolomitic limestone on the surface with higher quality (high calcium/low magnesium) limestone reserves increasing with depth. The deposit is intruded by a network of volcanic dykes (approx. 25% of deposit). The 3 different grades of limestone include:

- 1) Chemical (+97.5% CaCO₃, 0.2 - 0.7% MgO)
- 2) Cement (+90.0% Ca CO₃, 0.7 - 1.5% MgO)
- 3) Agricultural (+90.0% Ca CO₃, 1.5 - 3.5% MgO)

The company is also examining the potential market for 'landscaping' (eg. residential, dykes, etc.) material. Extensive exploratory drilling has delineated around Pit No. 6 alone:

10 years chemical, 25 years cement, and 25 years agricultural.

Additional step-out drilling has indicated **much greater reserves**. Ted Thompson and Jack Yates were our hosts on site. A total of 51 employees work on site.

b) HOLNAM WEST MATERIALS QUARRY (Holnam West Materials Ltd.)

The Holnam West Materials Limestone quarry has been in operation for 35 years supplying the cement, paper, and construction industries with quarried stone. Currently, it ships by barge over 2.5 million tonnes of assorted products, mainly to two cement plants in Delta-Richmond and one in Seattle. Chemical grade limestone (+97% CaCO₃, consistent colour and crystallography) is produced for pulp mills and lime plants. White limestone is crushed and washed for a customer supplying the paint, plastics, and filler industries. Rip-rap, fill, road base and railroad ballast are 'byproducts'.

Coal from the Quinsam Mine near Campbell River is received by barge, unloaded and stockpiled, and reloaded to ocean-going vessels (see photo). Present projections of three quarters to one million tonnes per year can be handled through this facility. Peter Stiles, General Manager, was our host.

Vananda Gold had just completed a small diamond drill program near the 'white limestone' quarry.

From Monthly Report, T. Schroeter, October 1992

TS:JB
Oct 19/92