

NAME OF PROPERTY

SUQUASH

OBJECT LOCATED - showing.

UNCERTAINTY IN METRES 500. Lat. 50°38'10" Long. 127°14'20"

Mining Division Nanaimo District Rupert

County Township or Parish

Lot Concession or Range

Sec Tp. R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR AND ADDRESS

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

Sediments of Upper Cretaceous age, containing a few coal seams, form a continuous outcrop along the coast from Port McNeill to Beaver Harbour, a distance of 14 miles. These sediments consist mainly of a grey siliceous sandstone of the Suquash Formation.

The structure of the measures is very regular and appears, in general, to be a broad syncline dipping slightly to the northeast. The dips are low, usually less than 10 degrees.

Three coal seams have been located at Suquash. These are as follows: No. 1 seam is 2½ feet thick and outcrops at the shoreline and near the mouth of Suquash Creek; No. 2 seam is at a depth of 173 feet at the shaft and consists of from 4 to 8 feet of coal interbedded with rock bands of varying thickness; No. 3 seam was cut by a drill-hole at a depth of 445 feet and is estimated to be 4 feet thick.

Analysis of a sample gave values of 5.03% hygroscopic water, 41.51% volatile combustible matter, 46.52% fixed carbon, and 6.94% ash.

Associated minerals or products of value

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The property is on the northeast coast of Vancouver Island, 7½ miles northwest of Port McNeill and 12 miles southeast of Port Hardy.

Dr. W.F. Tolmie recognized the presence of coal on this part of the coast in 1835. Mining on a limited scale was carried on by the Hudson's Bay Company from 1849 until 1853. The Company mined outcrops for use of naval and other shipping.

Pacific Coast Coal Mines Limited became interested in the area in 1908. Drill-holes were put down, cutting the No. 2 seam at a depth of 173 feet, following which a twin-compartment vertical shaft was sunk to the seam. Between 1909 and 1914 about 10,000 feet of development drivage was done; a longwall face 800 feet long was opened up to the south of the shaft on the landward side, and two pairs of slopes were driven northeast toward the sea, the longest of these being advanced 1,140 feet beyond the shoreline.

In 1914 work was started on the sinking of a new and larger shaft. Work was then suspended and was not resumed again until 1920. The original shaft was then unwatered, and a considerable amount of location work was done on the surface. There is no record of any further underground work being done, and operations ceased entirely in 1922.

Suquash Collieries Limited started operations on March 6th, 1952, at the old shaft. The Company unwatered and reopened parts of the mine. Operations ceased on November 15th, 1952.

Cobre Exploration Limited, in Dec. 1971, acquired 35 coal licences from Suquash Prospecting Syndicate. By Sept. 1972 all but two of the licences, described as No. 2110 and 2111 were abandoned.

In Aug. 1974 Cobre optioned the property to British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. By Aug. 1975 when B.C. Hydro terminated the agreement approximately \$91,000 had been spent on the property for road construction, geological mapping, diamond drilling of 4 holes totalling 2,802 feet, and coal testing.

Cobre abandoned the licences in Sept. 1975.

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Mineral Development Sector, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa

HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

Production in the 1850's was reported to be between 1,000 and 11,000 tons.

From 1909 to 1914, about 11,910 tons of coal were produced.

REFERENCES

Annual Report, Geol. Surv. of Canada: 1886, Pt. B, pp. 62-70.

Reports of Minister of Mines, British Columbia: 1874, p. 32; 1898, p. 1164; 1909, pp. 243-244; 1910, p. 175; 1911, pp. 223, 235, 256-257; 1912, pp. 276-278; 1913, pp. 351, 355-356; 1914, pp. 450, 453-454; 1915, p. 397; 1920, pp. 203-204, 304-305; 1921, p. 309; 1922, p. 317; 1952, pp. 309-310; 1953, p. 245.

Clapp, C.H.; Notes on the Geology of the Comox and Suquamish Coal Fields, Vancouver Island; Summary Report 1911, p. 106, Geol. Surv. of Canada.

Mineral Development Sector; Corporation Files: "Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Limited"; "Cobre Exploration Limited".

Muller, Northcote, and Carlisle; Geology and Mineral Deposits of Alert-Cape Scott Map-area; Paper 74-8, pp. 71-73, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1974.

Geology, Exploration and Mining; British Columbia Dept. of Mines: 1974, p. 426.

Annual Report 1886 Pt. B, p. 62

MAP REFERENCES

Map 4-1974, Alert Bay-Cape Scott, (Geol.), Sc. 1:250,000 - accomp. Paper 74-8, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1974.

*Sheet 92 L (MI), Alert Bay, Preliminary Mineral Inventory Map, Sc. 1:250,000, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1969.

*Map 92 L/11 E, Port McNeill, (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.

Map 1738 G, Port McNeill, (Aeromag.), Sc. 1":1 mile.

REMARKS

Comp./Rev. By	LJ	LJ					
Date	10-75	12-76					