WOOD COVE MARBLE

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LOCATION

The Wood Cove marble deposit (MINFILE Number 092L 187) is located 35 kilometres northwest of Zeballos, British Columbia. The marble beds are situated on the west shore of Kashutl Inlet within Kyuquot Sound. Elevations on the claim group range from 0 to 350 metres above sea level. Slopes are moderate and get steeper to the west portion of the claims where some cliffs are exposed between 175 to 350 metres of elevation. The property is accessed by driving from Zeballos to Fair Harbour and taking a 12 kilometre boat ride to Kashutl Inlet (Fischl, 1992).

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

Lower Jurassic Bonanza Formation andesite-rhyodacite flows and tuffs underlie the southern portion of Kashutl Inlet, which includes the Wood Cove marble prospect. The marble beds are within the Bonanza Group sequence. There are massive 300 metre thick outcroppings of Upper Triassic Quatsino limestone in Brooks Bay and Quatsino Inlet (to the north), but this limestone has not proven to be favourable for quarries because of high Fe_2O_3 and Al_2O_3 content.

The high calcium limestone deposit consists of two marble beds, 50 to 67 metres thick, separated by 30 to 45 metres of argillite. The deposit is located below amygdaloidal andesite/dacite of the Lower Jurassic Bonanza Formation (Campbell, 1973). This sequence has been subjected to low grade epidote-pyrite-chlorite metamorphism during emplacement of a lower middle Jurassic 4 by 8 kilometre, elliptical granite/quartz diorite /granodiorite intrusive complex (Muller, 1974). The marble beds strike northeast and dip 30 to 60 degrees southeast. The upper and lower beds are approximately 46 metres and 61 metres wide, respectively. The carbonate beds consist of massive, pearl grey to white, medium to coarse-grained recrystallized limestone (that is, marble).

Proven reserves were estimated at 16 250 tonnes (Black, 1973). The material is potentially suitable for cement or pulp-grade lime (Campbell, 1973). The deposit is estimated to contain a possible resource of 30 million tonnes (Campbell, 1973).

SUMMARY

The marble beds consist of two 40 to 60 metre wide traceable units separated by the 30 to 50 metres wide argillaceous siltstone. The apparent trend of the marble-volcanic contact is northeast with a moderate southeast dip. Marble can be used for cement and pulp-grade lime.

REFERENCES

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