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Portland, Oregon

STATE OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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WANTED - A DOMESTIC MINERAL POLICY

A coordinated series of conferences that may help determine the mineral future of the West and the nation will be held this fall between western mining people and heads of their State governments and representatives. Various groups and committees throughout the western states are now exploring their particular areas of interest in order to present their problems and suggestions for remedial action to the October meeting of the Western Governors' Mining Advisory Council. The results of the Advisory Council meeting will form the basis for discussions at a Western Governors' Mineral Policies Conference in Sacramento, California, November 7 and 8. Following the conference the Advisory Council will meet again on November 9 and 10 to formulate the mineral policies acceptable to the western states for presentation to the governors.

Mineral policies arrived at through consultation between states and their mining people should go far in achieving a domestic mineral policy, something which is not now in existence. The President's Cabinet Committee on Minerals Policy long ago recommended that the Interior Department establish closer contact with the mineral industry to aid in government policy making. To that end the Office of Minerals Mobilization was organized in January of this year. So far nothing has been accomplished. The president's veto of the bill to enlarge the Domestic Minerals Program, reportedly because it was only stop-gap legislation, re-emphasizes the desire of the Administration for a feasible overall policy acceptable to industry and government. The conferences planned for October and November will be a big step in laying the groundwork for a workable domestic mineral policy.

The Western Governors' Mining Advisory Council was organized in 1953 to exchange information between the western states on common mineral resources problems and to recommend prudent and effective solutions for the problems to the governors. Membership on the Council is open to the eleven western states, Alaska, and to such other states as the Council shall determine. Delegates to the Council are appointed by the governors. Chairman of the Council for 1955 is S. H. Williston of Cordero Mining Company representing Governor Russell of Nevada.

The Western Governors' Mineral Policies Conference is sponsored by Governor Goodwin J. Knight of California. As presently outlined, the conference deliberations will be conducted primarily in a series of policy section meetings and mineral commodity subsection meetings. The policy sections are: Mineral Economics, Taxes, Lands and Water, Research, and Public Information. Mineral commodity subsections will be conducted on many of the mineral commodities. Possibly of greatest interest to the mining people of Oregon will be the sections dealing with chromite, quicksilver, tungsten, manganese, gold, and industrial minerals. Honorary Chairman of the Conference is Governor Knight; Conference Co-Chairmen are S. H. Williston and DeWitt Nelson, California State Director of Natural Resources.

Four major accomplishments can develop from the Conference and Advisory Council meetings:

- (1) The western states, acting in unison, can present a strong and politically important case for consideration at the national level.
- (2) The Conference, organized and sponsored by state governments, can present policy recommendations free from influence by special interests.
- (3) The Conference can stimulate interest in the problems of the industry of not only

the representatives of the mining and mineral-consuming industries but also the presently disinterested and uninformed public.

(4) The Advisory Council, a permanent organization, can continuously press for acceptance of its recommendations, provide a ready means of organizing future conferences as new problems arise and old problems persist, and coordinate the policies of western governors with respect to their individual mining problems.

BASIC MINING LAW AMENDED

When President Eisenhower signed Congressional Bill H.R. 5891 in July, the basic mining law was amended to allow multiple use of the surface of mining claims prior to patent and to exclude certain nonmetallic minerals from mineral location. The bill, which became Public Law 167, included an amendment by Representative Harris Ellsworth that revenues from the revested O&C lands and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands be disposed of in accordance with present law.

The new law, which had endorsement from many mining organizations, contains the following changes to the mining laws:

(1) Precludes from location under the mining laws common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and cinders.

(2) Bars the use of a mining claim for any purpose other than prospecting, mining, or processing operations.

(3) Permits the United States to manage and dispose of timber and forage on mining claims but provides that if, after disposition, more timber is required for mining operations, the miner be supplied from the nearest timber administered by the disposing agency.

(4) Precludes a mining claimant from removing or using the timber or other non-mineral surface resources except as required in mining operations. Timber cutting, other than to provide clearance, must be done in accordance with sound principles of forest management.

(5) Permits the United States to have access to adjacent land across mining claims so long as it does not materially interfere with mining operations.

None of the above limitations would apply after patent, and the patentee will acquire the same title to the mining claim as if this law had not been enacted.

A procedure is provided that would enable the Government to resolve title uncertainties resulting from the existence of abandoned, invalid, dormant, or unidentifiable mining claims located prior to enactment. The procedure is in the nature of a quiet-title action, and follows generally the method applicable to securing mineral patents.

The Congressional Record of July 30, 1955, contains an "Extension of Remarks" by Representative Clifton Young, Nevada, which gives an explanation of the new law and how miners and prospectors may be affected by it. The part of his speech concerning questions and answers that may be raised is given below.

Question: Will the new law affect the owner of an unpatented mining claim heretofore located?

Answer: Mining claim holders could be affected by the new law in that all unpatented claims heretofore located will be subject to an in rem proceeding if one is filed which includes the lands covered by the mining claim. In this event, the mining claimant would be required to come forward and establish the validity of his mining claim if he desires to assert full possessory rights to the surface of the land. Determination of the validity of so asserted surface rights would be made by the Secretary of the Interior or his designated agent.

Question: Does the new law affect the rights of an individual to go on the national forests and other public domain to prospect for minerals and to locate mining claims?

Answer: No.

Question: May a mining claim be hereafter located on a deposit of a common variety of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, or cinders?

Answer: No. However the term "common varieties" does not include deposits of such materials which are valuable because of some distinct or special value and does not include "bleek pumice" which occurs in nature in pieces having one dimension of 2 inches or more. The report of the Senate Interior Committee pointed out that materials, such as limestone suitable for use in production of cement, metallurgical or chemical grade limestone, gypsum, and the like, will still be locatable under the mining laws. The law is also specific in providing that a mining location may be based upon the discovery of a locatable mineral occurring in or in association with the common variety materials.

Question: What rights to the surface of a mining claim hereafter located will be controlled by the Federal Government?

Answer: The United States is authorized to manage and dispose of surface resources on claims hereafter located and to use the surface for access to adjacent lands, so long as and to the extent that these activities do not endanger or materially interfere with mining, or related operations or activities on the mining claim. In other words, the new law will in no way deprive a miner of any surface right which is reasonably related to prospecting, mining, or processing operations. The House Interior Committee report on the bill was very specific in pointing out that this legislation would not have the effect of modifying long-standing essential rights springing from location of a mining claim by stating that the dominant and primary use of lands hereafter located, would, as in the past, be vested in the mining locator of such claim.

Question: Do these reservations of surface rights to the United States continue after mineral patent has been granted?

Answer: No. The new law provides that no reservation, limitation, or restriction will be included in any mineral patent hereafter issued unless such reservation was otherwise authorized by law. In other words, the new law in no way affects the character and scope of title to a mining claim, including its surface resources, after patent is issued.

Question: Does the law impose any new restriction upon surface use of a mining claim validity located before the passage of the new law?

Answer: No.

Question: It has been charged that the new law gives a Government official the power to determine the validity of a mining claim. Is that true?

Answer: This has always been true under the general mining laws and this authority is not affected by the new law. The Secretary of Interior has always had authority to determine the validity of a mining claim. Under the in rem proceeding provided by the new law, the mining claimant without the filing of a specific contest against his location may be called upon to come forward and assert his claim and its validity. If he fails to do so, it does not invalidate his location, but simply gives it a surface-rights status like that of claims located after passage of the new law. He does not in such an in rem proceeding have to put the validity of his claim on the line. Of course, if he appears and asserts a validity of his claim pre-dating passage of the new law, that question would be in issue. Determination might or might not completely condemn the location. For example, if it were found that the supporting discovery was not made until after passage of the new law, the effect of the decision would be to make the claim subject to the new law. But if it were found that the claim had no discovery, the effect would be holding of complete invalidity.

Question: It has been charged that the new law discriminates against the small miner. Is this true?

Answer: The rights of every miner, small or large, are equally and fully protected under the new law. He is free to go on the public domain, including the national forests, and to prospect for minerals, to locate mining claims, and to patent mining claims, just as he has been able to do so since 1872.

Question: Why did the mining industry support this new law?

Answer: The mining industry recognized that there were occasional instances in which attempts were made to misuse the mining laws to obtain valuable timber, a desirable homesite, or property for commercial purposes. It recognized that although such attempted mining locations usually lacked good faith or other elements requisite to validity, they nonetheless presented problems to those administering public lands and cast an unfavorable aura of suspicion upon the mining law system. The mining industry in no way condoned such abuses. Bills have been introduced for the purpose of preventing abuses which would have changed the basic concept of the location - patent system, or which would have imposed burdensome requirements on the locator. The industry felt that it was of vital importance to maintain the location and patent concept of established mining law, that the real purpose of the mining laws was to permit mineral exploration and mining use, and that a prepatent preclusion of use of surface resources for other than legitimate mining purposes would not injure the good-faith miner or retard mining activity.

Question: Does the new law require recordation of mining claim location notices of heretofore or hereafter located mining claims with any Federal agency?

Answer: No.

Question: How will common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, or cinders now be obtained from public lands?

Answer: Such materials may be obtained under the Materials Disposal Act from the Federal agency administering the lands involved - that is from the Department of Agriculture or Department of the Interior. The charge for such materials will be determined by the administering agency. In the case of a Federal, state, or municipal agency, or nonprofit association or corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of Interior as to lands administered under their respective Departments may permit the removal of such materials without charge. In the case of an individual or private company, such materials may be obtained from the Federal agency administering the lands involved - from the United States Forest Service or from the Bureau of Land Management. Payment for such materials will be determined by the administering agency. In the case of a Federal, state, or municipal agency or nonprofit association or corporation, the United States Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management may permit the removal of such materials without charge.

Question: Does the new law affect the validity of a previously located mining claim, based upon a discovery of common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, or cinders?

Answer: No.

Example

Jones is the owner of a mining claim located prior to enactment of the new law. He is satisfied that he has a valid mining claim, properly posted and recorded, and has a valid discovery of tungsten on the property. He has performed the annual assessment-work requirements.

Question: What courses of action are available to Jones in the event the Secretary of Interior initiates action to determine the surface rights on lands embracing his claim?

Answer: First, if Jones desires to retain the full rights to the surface use of his mining claim which he presently enjoys, he must file - in the office specified by the Secretary of Interior in the published notice of the proceeding - within 150 days from the date of the first publication of such notice, a verified statement setting forth as to his unpatented mining claim (a) the date of location; (b) the book and page of recordation of the notice or the certificate of location; (c) the section or sections of the public land surveys which embrace

such mining claim; or if such lands are unsurveyed, either the section or sections which would probably embrace such mining claim when the public land surveys are extended to such lands or a tie by courses and distances to an approved United States mineral monument; (d) whether such claimant is a locator or purchaser under such location; and (e) the name and address of such claimant and names and addresses so far as known to the claimant of any other person or persons claiming any interest or interests in or under such unpatented mining claim. The Secretary of Interior will then fix a time and place for a hearing to determine the validity and effectiveness of any right or title to, or interest in or under such mining claim. The hearing must be in the county where the lands in question are located, unless the mining claimant agrees otherwise. Conduct of the hearing will follow the then established general procedures and rules of practice of the Department of Interior in respect to contest, or protests affecting public lands in the United States. If the final decisions rendered affirm the validity and effectiveness of the rights asserted by Jones under his mining claim, then no subsequent similar proceedings can affect his right or interest under such mining claim.

Second, if Jones does not desire to assert full rights to the surface use of his mining claim, prior to issuance of patent therefor and is satisfied to have his rights of surface use limited to the surface use required in his mining operations or related activities, he could either (a) refrain from filing any statement, in which event his failure to file would be deemed to constitute a waiver and relinquishment of full surface rights and would thereafter subject the claim to the limitations and restrictions which permit the Government to manage and dispose of surface resources; or (b) file a waiver and relinquishment of such exclusive surface rights in the office where the notice or the certificate of location of such mining claim is of record which would thereafter subject the claim to the rights of the United States to manage and dispose of surface resources.

STOCKPILE LEGISLATION TURNED DOWN

The crisis in domestic mining was brought still nearer this past month when the Congressionally approved bill, H.R. 6373 to increase the minerals purchase goals without change in scheduled termination dates, was vetoed by the President. Credit for killing the bill should probably go to General Services Administration which brought out a report in violent opposition to S. 922, the bill to extend the Domestic Mineral Purchase Program until 1968, but which was also applicable to H.R. 6373. Office of Defense Mobilization Director, Arthur Flemming, and the Department of the Interior had both strongly opposed S. 922 but had given H.R. 6373 their indirect blessing as a compromise move. This latest action by the Government makes it imperative that domestic mineral policies be established without delay as existing purchase programs will soon be completed or terminated.

General Services Administration recently announced fulfillment of the columbium-tantalum quota and closure of one manganese-buying depot. Other manganese depots are approaching closure as quotas near completion. Tungsten producers anticipate their quota being filled some time around the middle of 1956. The status of GSA purchases on other materials as of March 31, 1955, was 847 short tons of asbestos out of a 1500-short-ton quota; 626 short dry tons of a 1500-ton beryl quota; 82,402 long dry tons of a 200,000-ton chrome quota; and 5,503 short tons of mica out of a 25,000-ton quota.

As it looks now, the Grants Pass chrome purchase depot will continue to buy to the end of its program which terminates June 30, 1957.

H.M.D.

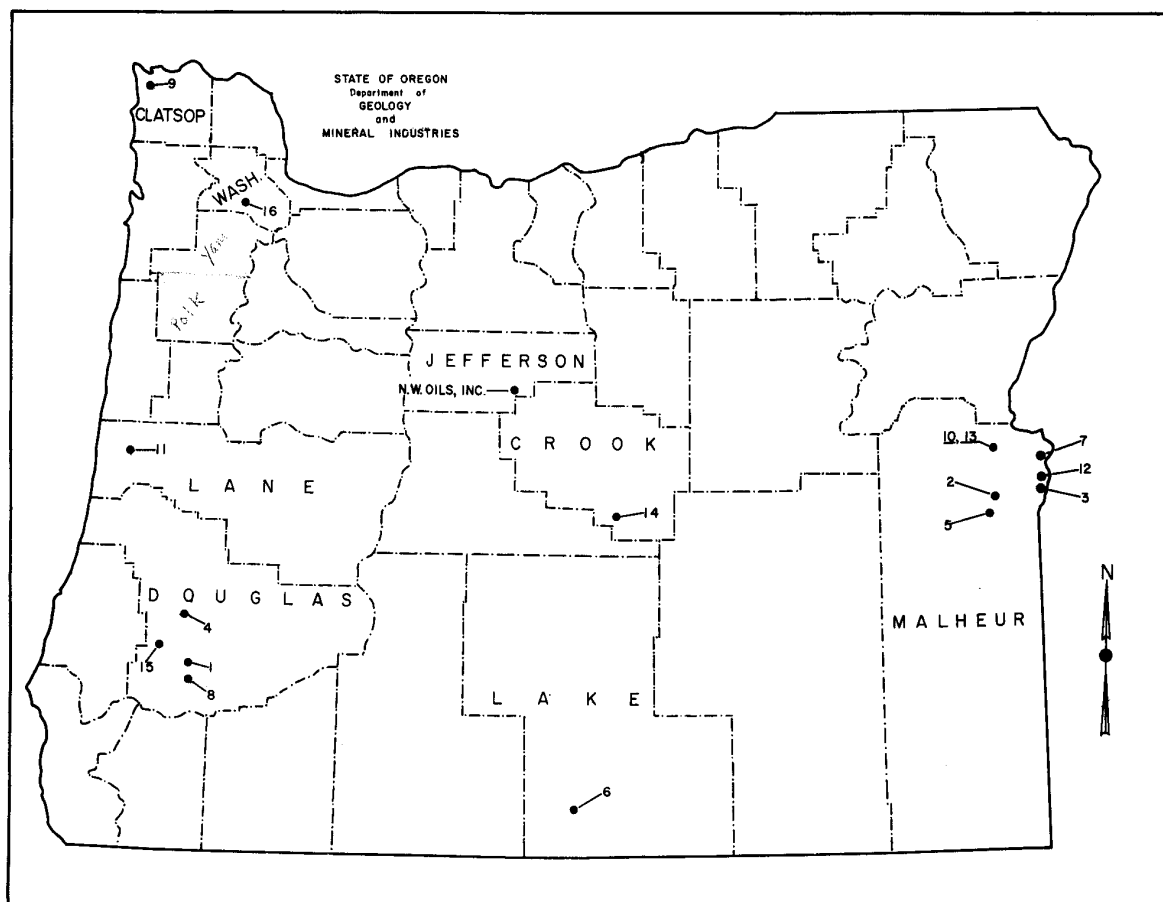
NEW TUNGSTEN OPERATION

Mr. Charles R. Jackson reported that the Northwest Mining Company, consisting of Messrs. William D. Rhea, Ivan W. Lanham, Glenn W. Badley, and C. R. Jackson, are leasing the Laughlin Alloy Steel Company mill at Eagle Point to concentrate tungsten ore they are open-pit mining on Footh Creek, Jackson County. Six claims located in sec. 14, T. 37 S., R. 4 W., have been obtained by the company. They include the Blue Star and Lucky Strike prospects. Mining is being done with power shovel and trucks.

STATUS OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN OREGON

Sixteen drilling permits for exploratory drilling in Oregon were issued by the Department's Governing Board between December 1953 and August 22, 1955. Eleven of these permits were filed since February 1955. Because of the rapid increase in drilling activities and the widespread test drilling in the State, a summary showing the present status of the wells and their locations is presented. No oil or gas in commercial quantities has as yet been discovered in Oregon, but of possible significance are shows of gas in Malheur County and a minor show of crude oil in well cuttings from a test drilled in Douglas County.

As previously noted in the Ore.-Bin (January 1954), the Oregon Legislature passed an oil and gas conservation law to be administered by the Governing Board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The Board was directed to set up rules and regulations for the guidance of oil and gas operators in the State. Any individual or company desiring to drill a well for oil and natural gas in Oregon must file with the Board a permit to drill such a well and, in addition, furnish a bond in the sum of \$4,000 to insure that all abandoned wells will be plugged in a satisfactory manner.



LOCATION MAP
SHOWING DRILLING SITES COVERED BY PERMITS
January 1954 — August 1955

Permit No.	Date Issued	Company	Lease Name and County	Location	Status
No number. Drilling begun before oil & gas regulations were adopted.	Sept. 4, 1952	Northwest Oils, Inc. Prineville, Oregon	Morrow Bros. No. 1 (Jefferson County)	700' N. of S. line, 900' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 18, T. 12 S., R. 15 E.	Sporadic drilling since 1952. Suspended August 1955. Depth: 3000' \pm .
1	March 22, 1954	W. F. Kernin Roseburg, Oregon	D. Coon No. 1 (Douglas County)	900' S. of N. line, 900' W. of E. line, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 30, T. 28 S., R. 6 W.	Sporadic drilling.
2	March 26, 1954	R. A. Stamey Ontario, Oregon	G. B. Russell No. 1 (Malheur County)	330' S. of N. line, 330' E. of W. line, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 14, T. 19 S., R. 44 E.	Suspended October 1954. Depth: 4367'.
3	Sept. 2, 1954	H. K. Riddle Ontario, Oregon	Kiesel Estate No. 1 (Malheur County)	1260' N. of S. line, 1370' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 8, T. 19 S., R. 47 E.	Suspended November 1954. Depth: 5411'.
4	Oct. 4, 1954	Oil Developers, Inc. Roseburg, Oregon	Scott No. 1 (Douglas County)	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 5 T. 27 S., R. 6 W.	Plugged and abandoned December 1954. Total depth: 3693'.
5	Nov. 15, 1954	El Paso Natural Gas Company. Salt Lake City, Utah	Federal No. 1 (Malheur County)	360' S. of N. line, 550' W. of E. line, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 5, T. 20 S., R. 44 E.	Plugged and abandoned January 1955. Total depth: 7470'.
6	Feb. 16, 1955	C. A. Stone & Assoc. Lakeview, Oregon	W. A. Anderson No. 3 (Lake County)	2290' N. of S. line, 20' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 20, T. 39 S., R. 19 E.	Suspended April 1955. Depth: 727'.
7	Feb. 24, 1955	Oroco Oil and Gas Co. Payette, Idaho	Bolles No. 1 (Malheur County)	660' S. of N. line, 400' W. of E. line, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 15, T. 17 S., R. 47 E.	Suspended April 1955. Depth: 1540'(?).
8	March 29, 1955	Riddle Oil and Gas Producers Riddle, Oregon	Dayton No. 1 (Douglas County)	960' N. of S. line, 1040' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 34, T. 30 S., R. 6 W.	Drilling ahead.
9	April 1, 1955	Standard Oil Company of California Seattle, Washington	Hoagland Unit No. 2 (Clatsop County)	311' N. and 499' E. of SE corner sec. 11, T. 7 N., R. 10 W.	Plugged and abandoned June 1955. Total depth: 7101'.
10 (See permit No. 13)	June 6, 1955	R. N. Ranger Portland, Oregon	Eastern Ore. Land Co. No. 1 (Malheur County)	660' N. of S. line, 1320' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 15, T. 16 S., R. 44 E.	Used as water source for well being drilled under permit No. 13.
11	June 2, 1955	Sinclair Oil and Gas Company Portland, Oregon	Federal Mapleton No. 1 (Lane County)	1629' N. and 246' W. of SE corner sec. 12, T. 16 S., R. 10 W.	Drilling ahead.
12	July 22, 1955	Oroco Oil and Gas Co. Payette, Idaho	J. D. Lane No. 1 (Malheur County)	1320' N. of S. line, 2640' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 16, T. 18 S., R. 47 E.	Location graded.
13	July 26, 1955	Sinclair Oil and Gas Company Portland, Oregon	Eastern Ore. Land Co. No. 1 (Malheur County)	660' N. of S. line, 1980' E. of W. line, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 15, T. 16 S., R. 44 E.	Drilling ahead.
14	July 28, 1955	Standard Oil Company of California Seattle, Washington	Pexco No. 1 (Crook County)	3300' N. of S. line, 3300' E. of W. line, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 36, T. 20 S., R. 20 E.	Surface casing set.
15	August 2, 1955	Uranium Oil and Gas Company Klamath Falls, Oregon	Ziedrich No. 1 (Douglas County)	1570' S. and 238' W. of NE corner NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 16, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.	Drilling ahead.
16	August 15, 1955	Oregon Explorations Hillsboro, Oregon	C. Wohler No. 1 (Washington County)	500' S. of N. line, 1650' W. of E. line, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 11, T. 1 S., R. 3 W.	Preparing to set surface casing.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY CHROMITE NEWS

William Robertson, operator of the Oregon Chrome mine, Josephine County, has been sinking a winze to open an extensive chromite body explored by diamond drill methods. A 100-foot winze has been extended farther to open an offset (?) segment of the explored body discovered by the winze at a lower depth. The winze is at 115 feet (August 11) and is in ore. The workings will be extended to mine the lower body.

At the Lucky L&R mine, R. W. Radcliffe and Albert Lea have cut a 2-foot thick layer of high-grade chromite in a new tunnel 75 feet in from the portal, which is about 25 feet lower than the open out workings. The mine was discovered by Radcliffe and Lea, November 1952. It is located in sec. 35, T. 35 S., R. 9 W., at the north end of Chrome Ridge. Ore runs about 52 percent chromic oxide.

Jack Wilson recently began bulldozing operations on the Buster mine in S $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. 11, T. 36 S., R. 9 W., on a milling-grade ore zone. He also began excavation at the Lower Violet, sec. 14, T. 36 S., R. 9 W., to open up a large milling-grade ore deposit. Ore is being milled at the Bowers chrome mill on Galice Creek.

M. B. Wood is working on another section of the Violet ore zone about 100 yards north-west of the Lower Violet and also hauling ore to the Bowers mill.

M. J. McShane, M. E. Adams, and Steve McShane began production again at the Sad Sack mine after putting in a 30-foot winze and about 80 feet of drift. The mine is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 23, T. 36 S., R. 9 W., near the south end of Chrome Ridge.

SHERIDAN AND McMINNVILLE QUADRANGLES MAPPED

A new geologic map in the Oil and Gas Investigations Series for northwest Oregon has been recently published by the U. S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The title of the map is "Geology of the Sheridan and McMinville quadrangles, Oregon," and the authors are E. M. Baldwin, R. D. Brown, Jr., J. E. Gair, and M. H. Pease, Jr.

The map covers parts of Yamhill, Polk, and Marion counties and adjoins published geologic mapping on the north, west, and south sides. The area is underlain by more than 12,000 feet of Tertiary sedimentary and volcanic rocks, penetrated locally by igneous intrusives. The map is on the scale of 1:62,500 (1 inch equals approximately 1 mile). It is printed on one sheet 38 by 54 inches, together with geologic cross sections; a correlation chart comparing stratigraphic names in the Sheridan and McMinville quadrangles with adjacent areas; check lists of fossils; and a text describing the geology and oil possibilities of the area.

"Geology of the Sheridan and McMinville quadrangles, Oregon," has been issued as OM 155 and may be purchased for 50 cents from the Distribution Section, Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

COAL RESOURCES OF OREGON PUBLISHED

"Coal Resources of Oregon," by Ralph S. Mason and Margaret I. Irwin, has just been published as Circular 362 by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The 7-page circular describes the major coal fields and discusses the geology, history, production, utilization, and reserves of coal in the State. Included are an index map of the Coos Bay coal field and a map of the State showing locations of 22 coal occurrences.

The circular is being distributed free-of-charge by the Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C. Copies may also be obtained from the Department's office at 1069 State Office Building in Portland, or at the field offices in Baker and Grants Pass for as long as the supply lasts.

FAST TAX WRITE-OFFS SUSPENDED

According to the August 17 American Mining Congress Bulletin, ODM Director Arthur Flemming has ended fast tax write-off allowances for 19 categories of industrial expansion programs. In addition, 38 other categories have been suspended, leaving only 20 categories of production facilities open for rapid tax amortization.

Flemming declared this action was necessary in order to permit a review of the nation's overall industrial mobilization capacity. Following such a review each of the 38 suspended goals "will either be reopened or closed." Meanwhile, he said, there will be no further pre-processing of pending applications for certificates of necessity nor of new applications which may be received.

Metals and minerals included in the 38 categories suspended are: primary aluminum, antimony, bauxite, chemical grade chromites, cobalt, iron ore, taconite, manganese ore, petroleum, rutile, and titanium metal.

Metals and minerals in the categories permanently closed are: asbestos, barite, beryl, two types of chromite, columbite and tantalum ore, fluorspar, lead, manganese ore, molybdenum, portland cement, rare earths, tungsten, and zinc.

Metals and minerals in the 20 categories which remain open for further fast tax write-offs are: copper, mercury, nickel, and selenium.

ODM has the authority to discontinue the entire program if it sees fit.

SURVEY PUBLISHES URANIUM BULLETIN

A new contribution to the geology of uranium has been published by the U.S. Geological Survey. The report is entitled "Search for Uranium in the United States." It reviews the more common uranium minerals and discusses the most promising methods of prospecting for the metal. Characteristics and distribution of the deposits in various types of rocks in the United States are described.

The publication is a 64-page, paper-covered pamphlet designated as Bulletin 1030-A. It contains 5 maps, an index, and references pertaining to uranium prospecting. Copies are available at 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

OREGON PORTLAND CEMENT TO EXPAND

A \$3,180,000 construction project that will add 50 percent to the capacity of the Oregon Portland Cement Company plant at Oswego has been announced by Frank E. McCaslin, President of the company. The construction is expected to be completed by April 1, 1956, and will require an undetermined number of additional personnel. Improvements at the plant will include a dust-collection system, a 287-foot kiln, new machinery, and additional storage space. Included also in the program will be the re-equipping of the company's rock quarry in Polk County near Dallas with a new shovel, trucks, and conveyors.

QUICKSILVER PRICE

The rapid decline in the price of quicksilver came to at least a temporary halt the middle of August when a price of \$253 a flask was reached. RAMJ Metal and Mineral Markets for August 18 reported that a fair quantity of metal was being absorbed and the market steadied at that price. Also reported was the arrival of about 400 flasks from Spain, the first shipment in some time.

RELEASE OF POWER SITES FOR PROSPECTING

According to E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets of August 11, 1955, H.R. 100, introduced by Rep. Clair Engle in January 1955, was rewritten several times before the final bill was passed by both houses and cleared a Senate-House conference compromise version. That version is now awaiting the President's signature. As finally passed, the bill releases some 6½-million acres for mining development out of 7½-million acres withdrawn for federal power projects. These lands, to be released on availability to be determined by the FPC, will not include those under license or prospective license, and must be filed in the district land office.

TAX RULING ON EXPLORATION

Internal Revenue Bulletin No. 27, of July 5, contains the following ruling concerning tax treatment of "small quantities of ore" sold during the exploration period:

"During 1954 the M mining company, while operating a mine which was in the exploration stage, discovered small quantities of ore which it extracted and sold to a smelter. In such year the company incurred exploration expenditures of \$105,000 and received income of \$5,000 from the sale of the ore. Held, the M company in computing taxable income for 1954 is entitled to deduct, or to treat as deferred expenses, subject to the provisions and limitations of section 615 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, the excess of such exploration expenditures over the net receipts derived from the sale of the ore in an amount not to exceed the statutory limitation of \$100,000. Held further, the taxable income from the property under the circumstances stated would be zero and since percentage depletion is limited to 50 percent of taxable income from the property (computed without allowance for depletion), no percentage depletion is allowable to the company in 1954."

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REVISES NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

In the future the Bureau of Land Management will give more publicity to its notices of withdrawals or restoration of public lands. Regulations adopted recently give a notification procedure as follows:

- (1) Notice of the application will be published in the Federal Register.
- (2) Copy of the notice, together with a press release, will be sent to newspapers circulated in the vicinity of the lands and in areas of public interest in the lands.
- (3) Copy of the notice will be sent to individuals and others who have demonstrated an active or potential interest.
- (4) Copies of the notice will be posted in appropriate land and district offices of BLM.
- (5) Copies will be sent to local county recorders, post offices, court houses or other places frequented by interested public, with a request they be posted.
- (6) Whenever feasible, copies of the notice will be posted on land or along roads leading to the lands.

In the past, notice has been given only in the Federal Register.
