

OR 1948/44

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15th October, 1948.

MEMORANDUM:CLAY DEPOSIT AT SURGES BAY

On 13th October, I visited lease 1M/41, 5 acres, near Surges Bay Jetty and on which clay is being produced by open cut methods by Non-metallic Mineral's Syndicate N.L.

Quality of Clay

The clay has been formed in situ by the alteration of an alkali porphyry, rich in felspar and generally it is a good grade kaolin. The upper 2 - 4 feet a bluish gritty clay is discarded. The main body that is mined is 15 - 20 feet in thickness. Some brown colouration due to vegetable matter, and little red colouration due to iron staining are present, so that it is necessary to hand pick the clay. Below this belt is a good white kaolin but included in it are laths of unaltered felspar. Some of this clay is included in lots sold.

Quantity.

As the clay represents a porphyry altered in situ, the deposit should be extensive. Only a boring campaign would reveal any definite tonnages.

Overburden averages 6 - 8 feet of soil, sand and inferior clay.

Present Operations.

Five men are employed full time and the output is 5 - 6 tons per day. Assistance is required so that a tractor may be hired to clear out the floor of the quarry and remove overburden. A slip on the southern side of the quarry has filled the floor and hampered transport of the clay from face to truck. With this cleared and some overburden removed, the company hopes to increase production to 10 tons per day. It is proposed to work the face in a series of benches.

Markets.

The Associated Pulp and Paper Mills are the chief purchasers of the clay and it is stated that they are desirous of obtaining increased tonnages.

Signed: Terence D. Hughes  
GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,  
HOBART