

TEXADA SLUDGE

It's Baaa-aaack

Flying Shingle, Thursday, February 26 2009

“...if the material must be used that it should be allowed to weather to let the lime rinse out.”

The idea that you can “rinse” out “lime” (calcite) is of course wrong. What I said at the time was that the stuff should be weathered to wash out the clay (volcanic ash). Removing all the calcite by a combination of chemical weathering and dissolution would take far too long. You can't possibly “rinse” it out.

In subsequent discussions with I'm not sure whom now, this idea was nixed by the observation that stockpiles of goop left to weather develop a concreted hardpan crust ...surprise!...making it difficult to handle.

The idea expressed in the same article that crushed sandstone might make a substitute for goop is in my view very unlikely to go anywhere. Crushed sandstone is used as a component in road building but not so far as I know as a surfacing material anymore than is sand and only then when the “sandstone” is quartz arenite which Gabriola's stuff isn't.

Gabriola “sandstone” is dirty with a significant clay matrix and it contains lots of feldspar that rapidly weathers on exposure to the elements to produce clay. It also locally contains calcite forming concretions. Sounds like a recipe for Gabriola Goop to me.