

From NBMG OFR 83-9

See also 83-10 for
geochemical results.

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Lander County - general
Item 11

ARGENTA DISTRICT

0320 0007

The Argenta district is located in the north end of the Shoshone Range about 14 miles east of Battle Mountain. Many mines and prospects of the district are clearly visible from Interstate 80 and can be seen south of the Interstate, high on the range front above the highway.

The district name is historically credited to silver discoveries in the area about 1867. The literature background for this is obscure, however, and the location of the early silver prospects is unknown. No silver production is credited to the district, and none of the mines in the district are known to contain silver mineralization.

Barite was discovered here in 1930, and barite has been mined from that time up to the present. The large Argenta mine, located along the ridge crest south of Argenta siding, is credited with 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 tons of barite ore.

The north end of the Shoshone Range in the area of the Argenta district is underlain by siliceous and volcanic assemblage rocks of Ordovician and Devonian age that occur in a complex array of thrust slices in the upper plate of the Roberts Mountains thrust. In the eastern part of the district these rocks are overlain by a thick sequence of Miocene basaltic andesites. The principal rocks exposed in the areas of the major mines are thin-bedded dark radiolarian chert, with some interbedded argillaceous chert and limestone beds of the Slaven Chert of Devonian age.

Thin to thick beds of massive barite interbedded with the chert have been mined where the beds are of sufficient thickness.

The largest mine in the district, the Argenta mine, has produced barite from several large open pits on the west side of Mosquito Canyon. Beds of

barite as much as 40 feet thick occur interbedded with dark-gray limestone and chert in the Slaven Chert (Stager, 1977).

Selected References:

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Possibly Relevant:

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