

REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL DATA, LABRADOR 1986, GSC-OF 1354, NGR 90-1986, NTS 14M PART OF 14L, 24I, 24P AND 25A

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA OPEN FILE 1354: NEWFOUNDLAND DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY OPEN FILE LAB (710) REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL RECONNAISSANCE DATA, NORTHERN LABRADOR NTS 14M AND PART OF 14L, 24I, 24P, AND 25A.

THE RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEWFOUNDLAND DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY UNDER THE THE CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (1984-1989).

E.H.W. HORN BROOK DIRECTED THE SURVEY PROGRAM.

P.W.B. FRISKE COORDINATED THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA STAFF THROUGHOUT THE SURVEY.

CONTRACTS LET FOR COLLECTION, SAMPLE PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF, AND WERE SUPERVISED AND/OR MONITORED BY THE STAFF OF THE EXPLORATION GEOCHEMISTRY SUBDIVISION AS FOLLOWS:

COLLECTION: - MPH CONSULTING LTD., TORONTO, ONTARIO  
- P.W.B FRISKE, H.R. SCHMITT

PREPARATION: - GOLDR ASSOCIATES, OTTAWA, ONTARIO  
- J.J. LYNCH

ANALYSIS: - BONDAR - CLEGG AND COMPANY LTD., OTTAWA  
- BARRINGER MAGENTA LABORATORIES (ALBERTA) LTD.,  
CALGARY, ALBERTA (WATERS)  
- CHEMEX LABS LTD., NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. (GOLD)  
- J.J. LYNCH, D.J. ELLWOOD

H.R. SCHMITT COORDINATED OPEN FILE PRODUCTION.

A.C. GALLETTA MANAGED THE DIGITAL GEOCHEMICAL DATA AND PROVIDED COMPUTER PROCESSING SUPPORT.

D.J. ELLWOOD DEVELOPED SOFTWARE TO RASTER PLOT OPEN FILE VALUE, SYMBOL AND REGIONAL TREND MAPS. THE PLOTTING WAS DONE BY CANADA LANDS DATA SYSTEMS STAFF AT ENVIRONMENT CANADA, HULL QUEBEC.

M. MCCURDY AND S. COOK PROCESSED INCOMING AND OUTGOING MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND SAMPLES.

COMPUTING, PLOTTING, AND OPEN FILE TEXT LASER PRINTING SERVICES, WERE PROVIDED BY THE COMPUTER SCIENCE CENTER, E.M.R.

J. YELLE AND F. WILLIAMS OF THE GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION DIVISION SUPERVISED THE PREPARATION OF OPEN FILE MAPS BY CARTOGRAPHY UNIT A-2.

HELICOPTER AND SHIP SUPPORTED SAMPLE COLLECTION WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1986.  
STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED AT AN AVERAGE DENSITY OF ONE SAMPLE PER 13 SQUARE KILOMETERS THROUGHOUT THE 16000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF THE NORTHERN LABRADOR SURVEY AREA.

SAMPLE SITE DUPLICATE SAMPLES WERE ROUTINELY COLLECTED IN EACH ANALYTICAL BLOCK OF TWENTY SAMPLES.

IN OTTAWA, FIELD DRIED SAMPLES WERE AIR-DRIED, SIEVED THROUGH AN 80 MESH SCREEN AND BALL MILLED. THE BALL MILLED FRACTION WAS USED FOR SUBSEQUENT ANALYSES.

AT THIS TIME, CONTROL REFERENCE AND BLIND DUPLICATE SAMPLES WERE INSERTED INTO EACH BLOCK OF TWENTY SEDIMENT SAMPLES. FOR THE WATER SAMPLES, ONLY CONTROL REFERENCE SAMPLES WERE INSERTED INTO THE BLOCK. THERE WERE NO BLIND DUPLICATE WATER SAMPLES.

ON RECEIPT, FIELD AND ANALYTICAL DATA WERE PROCESSED WITH THE AID OF COMPUTERS.

THE FIELD DATA WERE RECORDED BY THE FIELD CONTRACT STAFF ON STANDARD STREAM WATER AND SEDIMENT FIELD CARDS (REV. 74) USED BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA (GARRETT, 1974).

THE SAMPLE SITE POSITIONS WERE MARKED ON APPROPRIATE 1/250,000 SCALE NTS MAPS IN THE FIELD.

THESE MAPS WERE DIGITIZED AT THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN OTTAWA TO OBTAIN THE SAMPLE SITE UTM COORDINATES.

THE SAMPLE SITE COORDINATES WERE CHECKED AS FOLLOWS: A SAMPLE LOCATION MAP WAS PRODUCED ON A CALCOMP 1051 DRUM PLOTTER USING THE DIGITIZED COORDINATES; THE FIELD CONTRACTOR'S SAMPLE LOCATION MAP WAS THEN OVERLAYED WITH THE CALCOMP MAP; THE TWO SETS OF POINTS WERE CHECKED FOR COINCIDENCE. THE DOMINANT ROCK TYPES IN THE STREAM CATCHMENT BASINS WERE IDENTIFIED ON APPROPRIATE GEOLOGICAL MAPS USED AS THE BEDROCK GEOLOGICAL BASE ON RGR MAPS.

THOROUGH INSPECTIONS OF THE FIELD AND ANALYTICAL DATA WERE MADE TO CHECK FOR ANY MISSING INFORMATION AND/OR GROSS ERRORS.

QUALITY CONTROL AND MONITORING OF THE GEOCHEMICAL DATA WAS UNDERTAKEN BY A STANDARD METHOD USED BY THE EXPLORATION GEOCHEMISTRY SUBDIVISION AT THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ZN, CU, PB, NI, CO, AG, MN, FE, CD, AND AS A 1 GRAM SAMPLE WAS REACTED WITH 3 ML CONC. HNO<sub>3</sub> IN A TEST TUBE OVERNIGHT AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.

AFTER DIGESTION, THE TEST TUBE WAS IMMERSSED IN A HOT WATER BATH AT ROOM TEMPERATURE AND BROUGHT UP TO 90C AND HELD AT THIS TEMPERATURE FOR 30 MINUTES WITH PERIODIC SHAKING. 1 ML CONC. HCL WAS ADDED AND HEATING WAS CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER 90 MINUTES.

THE SAMPLE SOLUTION WAS THEN DILUTED TO 20 ML WITH METAL FREE WATER AND MIXED. ZN, CU, PB, NI, CO, AG, MN, FE AND CD WERE DETERMINED BY ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY USING AN AIR-ACETYLENE FLAME. BACKGROUND CORRECTIONS WERE MADE FOR PB, NI, CO, AG AND CD.

AS WAS DETERMINED BY ATOMIC ABSORPTION USING A HYDRIDE EVOLUTION METHOD WHEREIN THE HYDRIDE (ASH<sub>3</sub>) IS EVOLVED, PASSED THROUGH A HEATED QUARTZ TUBE IN THE LIGHT PATH OF AN ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER. THE METHOD IS DESCRIBED BY ASLIN (1976).

MOLYBDENUM AND VANADIUM WERE DETERMINED BY ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY USING A NITROUS OXIDE ACETYLENE FLAME.  
A 0.5 GRAM SAMPLE WAS REACTED WITH 1.5 ML CONCENTRATED HNO<sub>3</sub> AT 90C FOR 30 MINUTES.  
AT THIS POINT 0.5 ML CONCENTRATED HCL WAS ADDED AND THE DIGESTION WAS CONTINUED AT 90C FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90 MINUTES.  
AFTER COOLING, 8 ML OF 1250 PPM AL SOLUTION WERE ADDED AND THE SAMPLE SOLUTION WAS DILUTED TO 10 ML BEFORE ASPIRATION.

MERCURY WAS DETERMINED BY THE HATCH AND OTT PROCEDURE WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS. THE METHOD IS DESCRIBED BY JONASSON ET AL. (1973).  
A 0.5 GRAM SAMPLE WAS REACTED WITH 20 ML CONCENTRATED HNO<sub>3</sub> AND 1 ML CONCENTRATED HCL IN A TEST-TUBE FOR 10 MINUTES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE PRIOR TO 2 HOURS OF DIGESTION WITH MIXING AT 90C IN A HOT WATER BATH.  
AFTER DIGESTION, THE SAMPLE SOLUTIONS WERE COOLED AND DILUTED TO 100 ML WITH METAL FREE WATER.  
THE HG PRESENT WAS REDUCED TO THE ELEMENTAL STATE BY THE ADDITION OF 10 ML 10% W/V SnSO<sub>4</sub> IN M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.  
THE HG VAPOUR WAS THEN FLUSHED BY A STREAM OF AIR INTO AN ABSORPTION CELL MOUNTED IN THE LIGHT PATH OF AN ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER.  
ABSORPTION MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE AT 253.7 NM.

LOSS ON IGNITION WAS DETERMINED USING A 500 MG SAMPLE.  
THE SAMPLE, WEIGHED INTO 30 ML BEAKER, WAS PLACED IN A COLD MUFFLE FURNACE AND BROUGHT UP TO 500C OVER A PERIOD OF 2-3 HOURS.  
THE SAMPLE WAS LEFT AT THIS TEMPERATURE FOR 4 HOURS, THEN ALLOWED TO COOL TO ROOM TEMPERATURE FOR WEIGHING.

URANIUM WAS DETERMINED USING A NEUTRON ACTIVATION METHOD WITH DELAYED NEUTRON COUNTING.  
A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD IS PROVIDED BY BOULANGER ET AL (1975).  
IN BRIEF, A 1 GRAM SAMPLE WAS WEIGHED INTO A 7 DRAM POLYETHYLENE VIAL, CAPPED AND SEALED.  
THE IRRADIATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE SLOWPOKE REACTOR WITH AN OPERATING FLUX OF 5\*\* 10 NEUTRONS/SQ.CM./SEC.  
THE SAMPLES WERE PNEUMATICALLY TRANSFERRED FROM AN AUTOMATIC LOADER TO THE REACTOR, WHERE EACH SAMPLE WAS IRRADIATED FOR 20 SECONDS.  
AFTER IRRADIATION, THE SAMPLE WAS AGAIN TRANSFERRED PNEUMATICALLY TO THE COUNTING FACILITY WHERE AFTER A 10 SECOND DELAY THE SAMPLE WAS COUNTED FOR 20 SECONDS WITH SIX HELIUM DETECTOR TUBES EMBEDDED IN PARAFFIN.  
FOLLOWING COUNTING, THE SAMPLES WERE AUTOMATICALLY EJECTED INTO A SHIELDED STORAGE CONTAINER.  
CALIBRATION WAS CARRIED OUT ONCE A DAY AS A MINIMUM, USING NATURAL MATERIALS OF KNOWN URANIUM CONCENTRATION.

FLUORINE WAS DETERMINED IN STREAM SEDIMENTS AS DESCRIBED BY FICKLIN (1970). A 250 MG SAMPLE WAS SINTERED WITH 1 GRAM OF A FLUX CONSISTING OF TWO PARTS BY WEIGHT SODIUM CARBONATE AND 1 PART BY WEIGHT POTASSIUM NITRATE. THE RESIDUE WAS THEN LEACHED WITH WATER, THE SODIUM CARBONATE WAS NEUTRALIZED WITH 10 ML 10% (W/V) CITRIC ACID AND THE RESULTING SOLUTION WAS DILUTED TO 100 ML WITH WATER. THE PH OF THE RESULTING SOLUTION SHOULD BE FROM 5.5 TO 6.5. THE FLUORIDE CONTENT OF THE TEST SOLUTION WAS THEN MEASURED USING A FLUORIDE ION ELECTRODE. STANDARD SOLUTIONS CONTAIN SODIUM CARBONATE AND CITRIC ACID IN THE SAME QUANTITIES AS THE SAMPLE SOLUTION. A DETECTION LIMIT OF 40 PPM WAS ACHIEVED.

GOLD WAS DETERMINED USUALLY ON A 10 GRAM STREAM SEDIMENT SAMPLE; DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT OF SAMPLE AVAILABLE, LESSER WEIGHTS WERE SOMETIMES USED. THIS RESULTED IN A VARIABLE DETECTION LIMIT: 1 PPB FOR A 10 GRAM SAMPLE, 2 FOR A 5 GRAM SAMPLE... THE SAMPLE WAS FUSED TO PRODUCE A LEAD BUTTON, COLLECTING ANY GOLD IN THE SAMPLE, WHICH WAS CUPELLED IN A MUFFLE FURNACE TO PRODUCE A SILVER (DORE) BEAD. THE SILVER BEADS WERE IRRADIATED IN A NEUTRON FLUX FOR 1 HOUR, COOLED FOR 4 HOURS, AND COUNTED BY GAMMA RAY SPECTROMETRY. CALIBRATION WAS CARRIED OUT USING STANDARD AND BLANK BEADS.

TUNGSTEN WAS DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS: A 0.2 GRAM SAMPLE OF STREAM SEDIMENT WAS FUSED WITH 1 GRAM K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> IN A RIMLESS TEST TUBE AT 575C FOR 15 MINUTES IN A FURNACE. THE COOLED MELT WAS THEN LEACHED WITH 10 ML CONCENTRATED HCL IN A WATER BATH HEATED TO 85C. AFTER THE SOLUBLE MATERIAL HAD COMPLETELY DISSOLVED, THE INSOLUBLE MATERIAL WAS ALLOWED TO SETTLE AND AN ALIQUOT OF 5 ML WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER TEST TUBE. 5 ML OF 20% SNCL<sub>2</sub> SOLUTION WERE THEN ADDED TO THE SAMPLE ALIQUOT, MIXED AND HEATED FOR 10 MINUTES AT 85C IN A HOT WATER BATH. A 1 ML ALIQUOT OF DITHIOL SOLUTION ( 1% DITHIOL IN ISO-AMYL ACETATE) WAS ADDED TO THE TEST SOLUTION AND THE TEST SOLUTION WAS THEN HEATED FOR 4-6 HOURS AT 80-85C IN A HOT WATER BATH. THE TEST SOLUTION WAS THEN REMOVED FROM THE HOT WATER BATH, COOLED AND 2.5 ML OF KEROSENE ADDED TO DISSOLVE THE GLOBULE. THE COLOUR INTENSITY OF THE KEROSENE SOLUTION WAS MEASURED AT 630 NM USING A SPECTROPHOTOMETER. THE METHOD IS DESCRIBED BY QUIN AND BROOKS (1972).

TIN IN STREAM SEDIMENTS WAS DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS: A 200 MG SAMPLE WAS HEATED WITH NH<sub>4</sub>I; THE SUBLINED SNI<sub>4</sub> WAS DISSOLVED IN ACID AND THE TIN DETERMINED BY ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY.

ANTIMONY WAS DETERMINED IN STREAM SEDIMENTS AS DESCRIBED BY (ASLIN, 1976). A 500 MG SAMPLE WAS PLACED IN A TEST TUBE; 3 ML CONCENTRATED HNO<sub>3</sub> AND 9 ML CONCENTRATED HCL ARE ADDED AND THE MIXTURE WAS ALLOWED TO STAND OVERNIGHT AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. THE MIXTURE WAS HEATED SLOWLY TO 90C AND MAINTAINED AT THIS TEMPERATURE FOR AT LEAST 90 MINUTES. THE SOLUTION WAS COOLED AND DILUTED TO 10 ML. A 400 MICRO L ALIQUOT OF THIS TEST SOLUTION WAS REMOVED AND DILUTED TO 10 ML WITH 1.8M HCL. THE ANTIMONY IN AN ALIQUOT OF THIS DILUTE SOLUTION WAS THEN DETERMINED BY HYDRIDE EVOLUTION-ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY .

BARIUM WAS DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS: A 0.25 GRAM SAMPLE WAS HEATED WITH 5 ML CONC. HF, 5 ML CONC. HClO<sub>4</sub> AND 2 ML CONC. HNO<sub>3</sub> TO FUMES OF HClO<sub>4</sub>; 3 ML OF CONC. HClO<sub>4</sub> WERE ADDED AND HEATED TO LIGHT FUMES; 5 ML OF WATER WERE ADDED AND THE SOLUTION WAS TRANSFERRED TO A CALIBRATED TEST TUBE AND DILUTED TO 25 ML WITH WATER. BARIUM WAS DETERMINED BY ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY USING A NITROUS OXIDE ACETYLENE FLAME.

FLUORIDE IN STREAM WATER SAMPLES WAS DETERMINED USING A FLUORIDE ELECTRODE. PRIOR TO MEASUREMENT AN ALIQUOT OF THE SAMPLE WAS MIXED WITH AN EQUAL VOLUME OF TISAB II SOLUTION (TOTAL IONIC STRENGTH ADJUSTMENT BUFFER). THE TISAB II BUFFER SOLUTION WAS PREPARED AS FOLLOWS: 58 GM NaCl AND 5 GM CDTA (CYCLOHEXYLENE DINITRIL ACETIC ACID) WERE DISSOLVED IN A MIXTURE OF 50 ML METAL FREE WATER AND 57 ML GLACIAL ACETIC ACID. THE SOLUTION WAS COOLED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE AND THE PH ADJUSTED TO BETWEEN 5.0 AND 5.5 BY THE SLOW ADDITION OF 5M NaOH SOLUTION. THE SOLUTION WAS COOLED AND DILUTED TO 1 LITER IN A VOLUMETRIC FLASK.

HYDROGEN ION ACTIVITY (PH) WAS MEASURED WITH A COMBINATION GLASS-CALOMEL ELECTRODE AND A PH METER.

URANIUM IN WATERS WAS DETERMINED BY A LASER-INDUCED FLUOROMETRIC METHOD USING A SCINTREX UA-3 URANIUM ANALYSER. A COMPLEXING AGENT, KNOWN COMMERCIALY AS FLURAN AND COMPOSED OF SODIUM PYROPHOSPHATE AND SODIUM MONOPHOSPHATE, (HALL, G.E.M., 1979) WAS ADDED TO PRODUCE THE URANYL PYROPHOSPHATE SPECIES WHICH FLUORESCES WHEN EXPOSED TO THE LASER. SINCE ORGANIC MATTER IN THE SAMPLE CAN CAUSE UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOUR, A STANDARD ADDITION METHOD WAS USED. FURTHER, THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES AT THE G.S.C. WHERE THE REACTION OF URANIUM WITH FLURAN IS EITHER DELAYED OR SLUGGISH; FOR THIS REASON AN ARBITRARY 24 HOUR TIME DELAY BETWEEN THE ADDITION OF THE FLURAN AND THE ACTUAL READING WAS INCORPORATED INTO THIS METHOD. IN PRACTICE, 500 UL OF FLURAN SOLUTION WERE ADDED TO A 5 ML SAMPLE AND ALLOWED TO STAND FOR 24 HOURS. AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD FLUORESCENCE READINGS WERE MADE WITH THE ADDITION OF 0.0, 0.2 AND 0.4 PPB U. FOR HIGH SAMPLES THE ADDITIONS WERE 0.0, 2.0 AND 4.0 (20 UL ALIQUOTS OF EITHER 55 OR 550 PPB U WERE USED). ALL READINGS WERE TAKEN AGAINST A SAMPLE BLANK.

TABLE -1 DISPLAYS THE DATA RECORD FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS AND TABLE -2 THE DETECTION LIMITS OF THE ANALYTICAL METHODS. THE SECOND FIGURE UNDER THE DETECTION LIMIT HEADING CORRESPONDS TO AN ARBITRARILY SET VALUE IF THE RESULTS FALL BELOW THE DETECTION LIMIT (USUALLY 1/2 THE DETECTION LIMIT) AND ARE USED IN SOME OF THE STATISTICAL CALCULATIONS.

TABLE -1

FIELD	ELEMENT	CARD	COLUMNS
	MAP	1	01-06
	ID	1	07-12
	UTM ZONE	1	13-14
	UTM EAST (METER)	1	15-20
	UTM NORTH (METER)	1	21-27
	ROCK TYPE	1	28-31
	SAMPLE MATERIAL	1	32
	STREAM WIDTH (DECIMETER)	1	33-35
	STREAM DEPTH (DECIMETER)	1	36-38
	REPLICATE STATUS	1	39-40
	CONTAMINATION	1	41
	BANK TYPE	1	42
	WATER COLOUR	1	43
	FLOW RATE	1	44
	SEDIMENT COLOUR	1	45
	SAMPLE COMPOSITION	1	46-48
	PRECIPITATE IN STREAM	1	49
	DISTINCTIVE PRECIPITATE	1	50
	GENERAL PHYSIOGRAPHY	1	55
	DRAINAGE PATTERN	1	56
	STREAM TYPE	1	57
	STREAM CLASS	1	58
	SOURCE OF WATER	1	59
	AGE	1	70-71

TABLE -2

THE ANALYTICAL DATA WERE RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:

ELEMENT	UNITS	CARD	COLUMNS	DETECTION LIMIT
SEDIMENT				
ZN	PPM	2	16-20	<2=1
CU	PPM	2	21-25	<2=1
PB	PPM	2	26-30	<2=1
NI	PPM	2	31-35	<2=1
CO	PPM	2	36-40	<2=1
AG	PPM	2	41-47	VARIABLE
MN	PPM	2	48-52	<5=3
AS	PPM	2	54-60	<1=.5
MO	PPM	2	61-65	VARIABLE
FE	PCT	2	66-70	<0.02=0.01
HG	PPB	2	71-75	<10=5
LOI	PCT	2	76-80	<1.0=.5
U	PPM	3	16-22	<0.5=0.3
F	PPM	3	23-27	<40=20
V	PPM	3	28-32	<5=3
CD	PPM	3	33-39	VARIABLE
SB	PPM	3	40-46	VARIABLE
W	PPM	3	47-51	<2=1
BA	PPM	3	52-56	<40=20
SN	PPM	3	57-63	<1=.5
AU	PPB	4	31-35	VARIABLE
REPEAT AU	PPB	4	36-40	VARIABLE
AU WEIGHT	GRAMS	4	41-44	
REPEAT AU WEIGHT	GRAMS	4	45-48	
WATER				
F	PPB	4	26-30	<20=10
PH	LOG	4	31-35	
U	PPB	4	36-40	<0.05=0.03



PRESENTATION OF GOLD DATA AND COMMENTS REGARDING

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INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS  
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THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION REVIEWS THE FORMAT USED TO PRESENT THE AU GEOCHEMICAL DATA AND OUTLINES SOME IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN INTERPRETING THIS DATA. THIS DISCUSSION IS INCLUDED IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL GEOCHEMICAL BEHAVIOUR AND MODE OF OCCURRENCE OF AU IN NATURE AND THE RESULTANT DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING AND ANALYZING SAMPLES WHICH REFLECT THE ACTUAL CONCENTRATION LEVEL AT A GIVEN SITE.

UNDERSTANDING AU GEOCHEMICAL DATA FROM REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT OR LAKE SEDIMENT SURVEYS REQUIRES AN APPRECIATION OF THE UNIQUE CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AU AND ITS MOBILITY IN THE SURFICIAL ENVIRONMENT. KEY PROPERTIES OF AU THAT DISTINGUISH ITS GEOCHEMICAL BEHAVIOUR FROM MOST OTHER ELEMENTS INCLUDE :

- 1) AU OCCURS MOST COMMONLY IN THE NATIVE FORM WHICH IS CHEMICALLY AND PHYSICALLY RESISTANT. A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE METAL IS DISPERSED IN MICRON-SIZED PARTICULATE FORM. GOLD'S HIGH SPECIFIC GRAVITY ENSURES HETEROGENEOUS DISTRIBUTION ESPECIALLY IN STREAM SEDIMENT AND CLASTIC-RICH (LOW LOI) LAKE SEDIMENT ENVIRONMENTS. AU DISTRIBUTION APPEARS TO BE MORE HOMOGENEOUS IN ORGANIC-RICH FLUVIATILE AND LAKE SEDIMENT ENVIRONMENTS.
- 2) AU TYPICALLY OCCURS AT LOW CONCENTRATIONS IN THE PPB RANGE. AU CONCENTRATIONS OF A FEW PPM MAY REPRESENT ECONOMIC DEPOSITS. BACKGROUND LEVELS ENCOUNTERED FOR STREAM AND CENTRE-LAKE SEDIMENTS SELDOM EXCEED 10 PPB, AND COMMONLY ARE NEAR THE DETECTION LIMIT OF 1 PPB.

THE MANY FOREGOING FACTORS CAN RESULT IN A PARTICLE SPARSITY EFFECT WHEREIN VERY LOW CONCENTRATIONS OF AU ARE HETEROGENEOUSLY DISTRIBUTED IN THE SURFICIAL ENVIRONMENT. HENCE, A MAJOR PROBLEM FACING THE GEOCHEMIST IS OBTAINING A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE. IN GENERAL THE LOWER THE ACTUAL CONCENTRATION OF AU, THE LARGER THE SAMPLE SIZE, OR THE SMALLER THE GRAIN SIZE REQUIRED TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTY OVER WHETHER SUBSAMPLE ANALYTICAL VALUES TRULY REPRESENT ACTUAL VALUES. CONVERSELY, AS ACTUAL AU CONCENTRATIONS INCREASE OR GRAIN SIZE DECREASES, THE NUMBER OF AU PARTICLES TO BE SHARED IN RANDOM SUBSAMPLES INCREASES AND THE VARIABILITY OF RESULTS DECREASES (CLIFTON ET AL., 1969; HARRIS, 1982). THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF MATERIAL COLLECTED DURING THE RAPID, RECONNAISSANCE-STYLE REGIONAL SURVEYS AND THE NEED TO ANALYZE FOR A BROAD SPECTRUM OF ELEMENTS, PRECLUDES THE USE OF A SIGNIFICANTLY LARGE SAMPLE WEIGHT FOR THE AU ANALYSES. THEREFORE, TO THE EXTENT THAT SAMPLE REPRESENTIVITY CAN BE INCREASED, SAMPLE GRAIN SIZE IS REDUCED BY SIEVING AND BALL MILLING OF ALL SAMPLES. IF THE AU IS PRESENT IN A METALLIC STATE, BALL MILLING MAY NOT REDUCE IT'S PARTICLE SIZE SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE OF ITS MALLEABILITY.

GOLD DATA DISCUSSION CONTINUED

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THE FOLLOWING CONTROL METHODS ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED TO EVALUATE AND MONITOR THE SAMPLING AND ANALYTICAL VARIABILITY WHICH ARE INHERENT IN THE ANALYSIS OF AU IN GEOCHEMICAL MEDIUMS :

- 1) FOR EACH BLOCK OF TWENTY SAMPLES:
  - A) RANDOM INSERTION OF A STANDARD REFERENCE SAMPLE TO MONITOR AND CONTROL ANALYTICAL ACCURACY AND LONG-TERM PRECISION,
  - B) COLLECTION OF A FIELD DUPLICATE (TWO SAMPLES SEPARATELY COLLECTED FROM ONE SITE) TO MONITOR SAMPLING VARIANCE,
  - C) ANALYSIS OF A SECOND SUBSAMPLE (BLIND DUPLICATE) FROM ONE SAMPLE TO MONITOR AND CONTROL SHORT-TERM PRECISION;
- 2) FOR BOTH STREAM SEDIMENTS AND LAKE SEDIMENTS, REPEAT ANALYSES ON A SECOND SUBSAMPLE ARE PERFORMED FOR ALL SAMPLES HAVING VALUES THAT ARE STATISTICALLY ABOVE APPROXIMATELY THE 90TH PERCENTILE OF THE TOTAL DATA SET; WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA
- 3) FOR LAKE SEDIMENTS ONLY, REPEAT ANALYSIS ON A SECOND SUBSAMPLE WAS PERFORMED ON THOSE SAMPLES WITH LOI VALUES BELOW 10%, INDICATING A LARGE CLASTIC COMPONENT. ON-GOING STUDIES SUGGEST THAT THE AU DISTRIBUTION IN THESE SAMPLES IS MORE LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY VARIABLE THAN IN SAMPLES WITH A HIGHER LOI CONTENT.

AU DATA PRESENTATION, STATISTICAL TREATMENT AND THE VALUE MAP FORMAT ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN FOR OTHER ELEMENTS. AU DATA LISTED IN THIS OPEN FILE INCLUDES INITIAL ANALYTICAL RESULTS, VALUES DETERMINED FROM REPEAT ANALYSES, TOGETHER WITH SAMPLE WEIGHTS AND CORRESPONDING DETECTION LIMITS FOR ALL ANALYZED SAMPLES.

THE GOLD HISTOGRAM, STATISTICAL PARAMETERS, AND REGIONAL TREND MAP ARE DETERMINED USING THE FOLLOWING DATA POPULATION SELECTION CRITERIA:

- 1) ONLY THE FIRST VALUE OF A REPEAT ANALYSIS IS UTILIZED;
- 2) AU VALUES DETERMINED FROM SAMPLE WEIGHTS LESS THAN 10 G ARE EXCLUDED.
- 3) AU VALUES LESS THAN THE DETECTION LIMIT (<1PPB) FOR 10 G SAMPLES ARE SET TO 0.5 PPB.

GOLD DATA DISCUSSION CONTINUED

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ON THE VALUE MAPS, REPEAT ANALYSIS VALUES (NOT FIELD DUPLICATES) ARE PLACED IN BRACKETS FOLLOWING THE INITIAL VALUE DETERMINATION. ALL VALUES DETERMINED ON A SAMPLE LESS THAN 10 G ARE DENOTED BY AN ASTERISK. ACTUAL SAMPLE WEIGHT USED CAN BE DETERMINED FROM THE TEXT. FOLLOWING ARE POSSIBLE VARIATIONS IN DATA PRESENTATION ON A VALUE MAP:

*	NO DATA
+27	SINGLE ANALYSIS, 10 G SAMPLE WEIGHT
+27*	SINGLE ANALYSIS, <10 G SAMPLE WEIGHT
+27 (14)	REPEAT ANALYSIS, BOTH SAMPLES 10 G
+27 (14*)	REPEAT ANALYSIS, FIRST SAMPLE 10 G, REPEAT <10 G
+<1	SINGLE ANALYSIS, 10 G SAMPLE, LESS THAN DETECTION LIMIT OF 1 PPB

IN SUMMARY, GEOCHEMICAL FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS FOR AU SHOULD BE BASED ON A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL INFORMATION, AND ESPECIALLY A CAREFUL APPRAISAL OF GOLD GEOCHEMICAL DATA AND ITS VARIABILITY. IN SOME INSTANCES, PROSPECTIVE FOLLOW-UP AREAS MAY BE INDIRECTLY IDENTIFIED BY PATHFINDER ELEMENT ASSOCIATIONS IN FAVOURABLE GEOLOGY, ALTHOUGH A COMPLEMENTARY AU RESPONSE DUE TO NATURAL VARIABILITY MAY BE LACKING. ONCE AN ANOMALOUS AREA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, FIELD INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO INCLUDE DETAILED GEOCHEMICAL FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS AND COLLECTION OF LARGE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES. SUBSEQUENT REPEAT SUBSAMPLE ANALYSES WILL INCREASE THE RELIABILITY OF RESULTS AND PERMIT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATURAL VARIABILITY WHICH CAN THEN BE USED TO IMPROVE SAMPLING METHODOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION.

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