

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

PREVIOUS MAPPING

The area (NTS 76D/16, Ursula Lake) lies in the central part of the Slave structural province, 315 km NNE of Yellowknife. Following 1949 previously mapped the area on a regional scale in the 1940's (CGS 1:14 mile scale map 1977A).

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

All map units recognized are either Archean metamorphic and granitoid rocks or younger intrusives (dikes, kimberlites). The central part of 76D/16 is dominated by plutons of porphyritic biotite granite and two mica granite, with minor occurrences of biotite granodiorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite. The geology of the southwest corner and top portion of the map area is geologically more complex. These regions consist of greywackes of variable grade (biotite spotted slates, phyllites, cordierite + andalusite schists, sillimanite schists and migmatites) plus belts or bodies of biotite granodiorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite, hornblende-biotite tonalite and diorite/quartz diorite plus porphyritic biotite and two mica granites. Lithologic units in the map legend are described below in inferred stratigraphic order.

Metasedimentary rocks (Agw)

The oldest recognized rocks are metamorphosed sediments (greywackes) consisting of interbedded psammite(silt) are present in the map area. Grey-green weathering, graded psammite-pelite assemblages of low metamorphic grade (spotted slates and phyllites) occur to the south of Ursula Lake. The bedding parallel quartz veins are common, as are quartz net veins; the rocks in general are relatively siliceous. Outcrops of banded ironformation (garnet + amphibole + pyrrhotite + arsenopyrite assemblages) were observed in this area. In the extreme southwest corner of the map, the greywackes are at sillimanite grade, possibly a contact metamorphic effect related to the combined effects of the quartz diorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite to the south (in the Paul Lake sheet) and the adjacent hornblende-biotite tonalite body in 76D/16. The greywackes in the southwest part of 76D/16 are dominantly finely bedded, and combined with the occurrence of Bf and other features observed within the same belt along strike in 76D/16 (e.g. graphite-bearing metasediments) are tentatively correlated with the Conroyville Formation (as defined by Bastock, 1980).

In contrast, green-brown to rusty brown weathering pelitic psammite assemblages in the greywacke belt in the northern part of the map area consists of cordierite + andalusite grade schist/psammite, sillimanite grade schist/psammite and migmatite (metabiotite). These greywackes are dominantly thickly bedded and characteristically contain mats of fibrolite plus partial melt, similar to metasediments in the Paul Lake map area (76D/16) to the south. No graphite-bearing assemblages, based on formation of volcaniclastic sediments, are found associated with these greywackes and they are tentatively correlated with the Ilichen Formation (as defined by Bastock, 1980).

Granitoid intrusive rocks

Granitoid rocks in 76D/16 have been subdivided into mappable units (diorite/quartz diorite, hornblende-biotite tonalite, biotite granodiorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite, porphyritic biotite granite, two mica granite and pegmatite) on the basis of mineralogy, presence or absence of cognate xenoliths and variation in fabric development. Rocks of the diorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite are habitually correlated with the Concession plutonic suite (Bastock, 1980; King et al., 1992; Davis, 1994) in the Conroyville-Nose Lakes area to the north.

Diorite/quartz diorite (Adi/Adq)

Four small plutons consisting of variably deformed (massive to foliated), coarse- to medium-grained diorite and quartz diorite occur in the southwestern part of the map sheet. The two larger bodies define well developed granitic enclaves on the regional (500 m airborne magnetic survey (CGS map #7100)) scale. These rocks are dominated by plagioclase and hornblende, with small, but variable amounts of biotite schists, pyroxene, magnetite, quartz and pyrite. Hornblende and microcline cognate cumulate xenoliths are relatively common. No intrusive relationships were observed.

Hornblende-biotite tonalite (Aht)

Defined (S, L, fabric) hornblende-biotite tonalite occurs in two areas within the map sheet. The mineralogy of this unit is hornblende + plagioclase with biotite, quartz, minor K-feldspar and accessory magnetite, pyrite and zircon. In the southwestern part of the map, these rocks are a continuation of the hornblende-biotite tonalite body to the south in the Paul Lake sheet (76D/16). In the northern part of 76D/16, the hornblende-biotite tonalite bodies are part of a belt which continues to the southeast into the Aulavik Lake sheet (and also Barnes, 1952) and the northeast into the Conroyville sheet (King et al., 1991). In these rocks, thin (10 cm - 10 m scale) greywacke septae of variable length (10's - 100's of m) commonly occur; these rocks also typically contain hornblende-rich microcline enclaves. The enclaves are thought to have long axes lying parallel to S₁.

Biotite granodiorite/hornblende-biotite tonalite (Abgd/Ahbt)

Granodiorite dominated (with minor hornblende-biotite tonalite) plutons are found in the west central and southwestern part of 76D/16. The granodiorites are massive to foliated (S, L, no mineral lineations observed), and consist of plagioclase, K-feldspar, quartz, biotite and accessory pyrite and magnetite. Subordinate hornblende-biotite tonalite also occurs within these plutons, consistent with these bodies being multiple intrusions. Small, map scale magnetite-bearing greywackes occur in the granodiorites in both areas. Micro-diorite enclaves are rare to absent.

Two mica granite (A2mg)

A distinctive white to light grey weathered surface and abundant primary muscovite characterizes these granites. Rocks typically consist of equal proportions of quartz, plagioclase and K-feldspar, with 5 - 10% of both muscovite and biotite. Aquamarine apatite and tourmaline are common accessories. Garnet, cordierite and sillimanite are also observed, but the latter is diamond banded only in association with greywacke inclusions. The central two mica granite belt extends to the west into 76D/15 and to the east into the Aulavik Lake sheet (King et al., 1991). Variations in grain size (equigranular fine- to very coarse grained), and sub-porphyritic textures and mineralogy are consistent with the central belt with southern and northern areas (Barnes, 1952). The large areas of granite belong to a number of recognizable phases (variable grain size and mineralogy), consistent with these bodies being products of multiple deformational events. A lack of penetrative deformation is consistent with these rocks being emplaced after the main regional metamorphism and deformational events (D, and D₁).

Porphyritic biotite granite (Apbg)

Light red to pinkish white weathering, medium- to coarse-grained, K-feldspar rich granite forms a distinctive unit in the map sheet. These rocks are dominantly sub-porphyritic to porphyritic, although equigranular variants are also present. K-feldspar phenocrysts range from 1-3 cm in length and display a preferred orientation. Rocks consist of 5-10% biotite, with primary muscovite usually absent, or present only in trace amounts (1-5%), however secondary muscovite (overprinting S₁) is very common. The northern porphyritic biotite granite body (D₁) in the southern extension of the Paul Lake monogranite batholith in the Conroyville-Nose Lakes area (King et al., 1991). The large batholith in the central and southern part of the map area in the Conroyville-Nose Lakes area continues southward into 76D/16 (the "Dawson granite" (Kingsley, 1953)). The large areas of granite belong to a number of recognizable phases (variable grain size and mineralogy), consistent with these bodies being products of multiple deformational events. A lack of penetrative deformation is consistent with these rocks being emplaced after the main regional metamorphism and deformational events (D, and D₁).

Pegmatite (Apeg)

Very coarse grained biotite and biotite + muscovite pegmatites occur throughout the map area, associated with two mica and biotite granites. In three areas they form mappable bodies consisting of >50% pegmatite (with granite).

Dabase dykes

These swarms of Proterozoic diabase dykes (4 to 50 m in width) are observed. The dykes cut all Archean units. Rocks from separate dyke swarms are distinguished on the basis of orientation, texture, mineralogy and magnetic characteristics. Dykes have been correlated with known swarms in the Slave Province (Fahg and West, 1986; LeCheminant, 1994).

Conroyville (C05)

Two Conroyville dykes, 20 - 40 m wide and trending approximately 045 were noted in the map area. U-Pb baddeleyite studies on a dyke from this swarm further south in the Lac de Gras area yielded an age of 2.23 Ga (LeCheminant and O. van Breemen, 1994).

Lac de Gras (D10)

Segments of six different Lac de Gras dykes, 30 - 50 m wide, trending approximately 010, were observed to outcrop intermittently in the map area. They are distinguished from other dykes by their well-developed optic textures. U-Pb baddeleyite studies yielded ages of 2.03 to 2.02 Ga (LeCheminant and van Breemen, 1994), correlative with the Booth River intrusive suite 300 km to the NNE.

Mackenzie (D35)

A number of dykes of the Mackenzie swarm (at least six, possibly eight), with trends of 330° and up to 160 m wide, were observed in the map area. These dykes are quite common on the eastern and northeastern part of the map area. Previous U-Pb baddeleyite studies on dykes from the Mackenzie swarm yielded an age of 1.27 Ga (LeCheminant and Heaman, 1996).

Kimberlite (K)

A single pipe (on the BHP/DaM claim block) is shown on the map. Note that this kimberlite lies under a lake, therefore the pipe outline as indicated on the map is schematic only and does not indicate the actual size (this remains proprietary information). A 76D/16 three point isochron yielded an Eocene age of 52 ± 1.2 Ma (Northern Miner, 1993), however the exact location of the specific kimberlite dated (other than being in the BHP/DaM claim block) is unknown. Kimberlite-derived mudstones with Cordierite + Palaeocene dinoflagellate pollen and spores (Northern Miner, 1993) potentially suggest more than one period of kimberlite emplacement. A U-Pb zircon age of 86 ± 2 Ma (C.H. Jennings, quoted in Peil, 1994) from another kimberlite in the Lac de Gras area (locally unspecified) supports this view.

ARCHEAN INTRUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS & AGE CORRELATIONS

U-Pb geochronology (in progress) is presently not available for Archean rocks in the Ursula Lake map sheet. Relative ages (based on intrusive relationships and fabric development) are considered to be: metabiotite + diorite + quartz diorite + hornblende-biotite tonalite + biotite granodiorite + two mica granite + porphyritic biotite granite. On the basis of mineralogy, preliminary geochemistry and relative degree of deformation, all granitoid rocks in the map area are considered correlative of the younger Slave granitoid suite (King et al., 1992; Davis, 1994), intruded at ca. 2625 - 2580 Ma (van Breemen et al., 1992). Specifically, the diorite + granodiorite suite in the map sheet appears to be equivalent to the Concession suite granitoids found to the north in the Conroyville-Nose Lakes sheet, dated at 2608 ± 0.4 Ma (Davis, 1994). Previous age determinations on two mica granites from the Conroyville-Nose Lakes sheet are in the range 2595 ± 5 Ma to 2585 ± 4 Ma, and 2562 ± 4 Ma for porphyritic biotite granite (summarized in Davis, 1994). Debitol zircon studies on a metabiotite sample from the Paul Lake sheet in the south of the map area give a preliminary maximum deposition age of 2.07 Ga (M.E. Villeneuve, pers. comm., 1994).

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

Fabric elements

S₁ is bedding in metasediments and is defined by textural and mineralogical variation at the outcrop scale. Primary sedimentological features include tilted graded turbidite beds and scour and fill, ball and pillow and flame structures. S₁ is the dominant regional cleavage, axial planar to F₁. In metasediments it is defined mainly by biotite alignment, plus parallel first generation quartz stringers. S₁ is generally oriented parallel or sub-parallel to S₂ in the metasediments, but is strongly refracted across pelitic and psammite S₂ beds. S₂ is defined in the diorite/quartz diorite/hornblende-biotite suite by mildly anastomosing biotite planes + aligned microcline boundaries. A local S₂ fabric in two mica granite is defined by a biotite/muscovite + equidimensional quartz/feldspar quartet. S₃ is a locally observed cleavage axial planar to F₂. S₃ in the greywackes is defined by biotite, muscovite and a second generation of quartz veins. Cleavage development is best observed in pelitic beds. F₁ folds are isoclinal, but are rarely seen. However, when observed, S₁ is transposed parallel to S₂, yielding isolated F₁ fold closures with attenuated and sheared off limbs. Metamorphic and layer-scale F₁ isoclines are determined by frequent changes of S₂ younging directions and bedding/cleavage (S₂/S₁) relationships. F₂ are asymmetric folds; Z folds predominance. S folds are quite rare. L₁ mineral lineations (quartz, biotite) observed in metasedimentary rocks are related to flattening across S₁. L₂ intersection lineations, defined by biotite, muscovite and quartz are observed where both S₁ and S₂ are developed. Rarely observed slicken striata have moderate to shallow plunges. Joint surfaces in all rock types are dominantly steeply dipping. Sub-horizontal joints (not measured) in granitoid rocks are interpreted to be cracks developed during pluton cooling.

Structural development

Tectonic fabrics exhibit varying degrees of development and orientation. The deformational history in the map area consists of two phases, D₁ and D₂. Note that in adjacent map areas in the central Slave province (e.g. King et al., 1992; Thompson et al., 1994) which contain the 'older' Slave granitoid suite an earlier deformation event and associated cleavage is observed (S₁), and the main or regional cleavage in these areas is the second cleavage (S₂). The main or regional cleavage in the 76D/16 map area is S₁, an earlier cleavage has not been observed.

S₁ is dominantly steeply dipping. However, moderately dipping beds are locally observed. The main cleavage (S₁) is associated with isoclinal folds (F₁), related to D₁. S₂ forms a discrete, spaced cleavage in the greywackes and is oriented sub-parallel to S₁. The observed S₂ cleavage is locally developed, associated with asymmetric F₂ folds (rarely S folds) related to D₂. D₂ is defined by a biotite/muscovite + equidimensional quartz/feldspar quartet, suggestive of mineral growth pre- syn- and post-D₂. At least two generations of cordierite are present. Large, idiomorphic porphyroblasts of cordierite and andalusite overgrow S₁ and are wrapped by S₂ (Davis), suggesting that D₂ deformation is preceded by static porphyroblastesis. However, cordierite and andalusite porphyroblasts are also observed to contain dominantly rotated non-planar inclusion trails (syn-D₂). Cordierite is also seen overgrowing S₂, and a biotite mineral inclusions, and rarely being wrapped or cut by S₂ (post-D₂, pre- to syn-D₂). Both cordierite and sillimanite are observed to overgrow andalusite. Isograds in the northern greywacke belt are parallel to the main regional cleavage (S₁). Cleavage development in the diorite/hornblende-biotite suite is consistent with emplacement syn-D₁ and pre-D₂, rare S₂ cleavages in granodiorites suggest slightly later emplacement (post-D₁). Two mica granites (with local cleavage development) are interpreted to have been emplaced late- to post-D₁. Porphyritic biotite granites are massive (post deformation).

Faulting

Direct evidence for faulting in the map area is limited to one area in the northern part of the map sheet. Although a number of lineaments are apparent on topographic maps and satellite images, no fault gullies were found in surficial exposures, likely a result of subsequent glaciation. However, rare slicken striata were observed throughout the region. Azimuth measurements of slicken striata coupled with strike measurements on steeply dipping, and often subvertical joint sets suggest faulting may be associated with the following trends: 040°, 080° and ~110°.

METAMORPHISM

In the metasediments, metamorphic grade is quite variable. Biotite grade spotted slates and phyllites are dominant in the southern part of the map area, a small region of sillimanite grade metasediments also occurs in this region between two tonalitic plutons, suggesting a local contact metamorphic effect. In the northern greywacke belt, grade increases northward from cordierite and andalusite porphyroblast schists through sillimanite grade schists, to muscovite (metabiotite). The higher grade schists contain sillimanite in the form of fibrolite mats plus rare acicular sillimanite needles (partial melt), and are similar to greywackes in the Paul Lake map area to the south (Kingsley and Wylie, 1994). Small greywacke enclaves associated with diorite/granodiorite suite granitoids are of migmatite grade and contain enclaves of greywackes in the Paul Lake map area to the south (Kingsley and Wylie, 1994). Small greywacke enclaves associated with diorite/granodiorite suite granitoids are of migmatite grade and contain enclaves of greywackes in the Paul Lake map area to the south (Kingsley and Wylie, 1994). The metamorphic assemblages in the metasediments are similar to those observed in other areas of the Slave Province (Thompson, 1978) and are consistent with low-P, high-T metamorphism.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

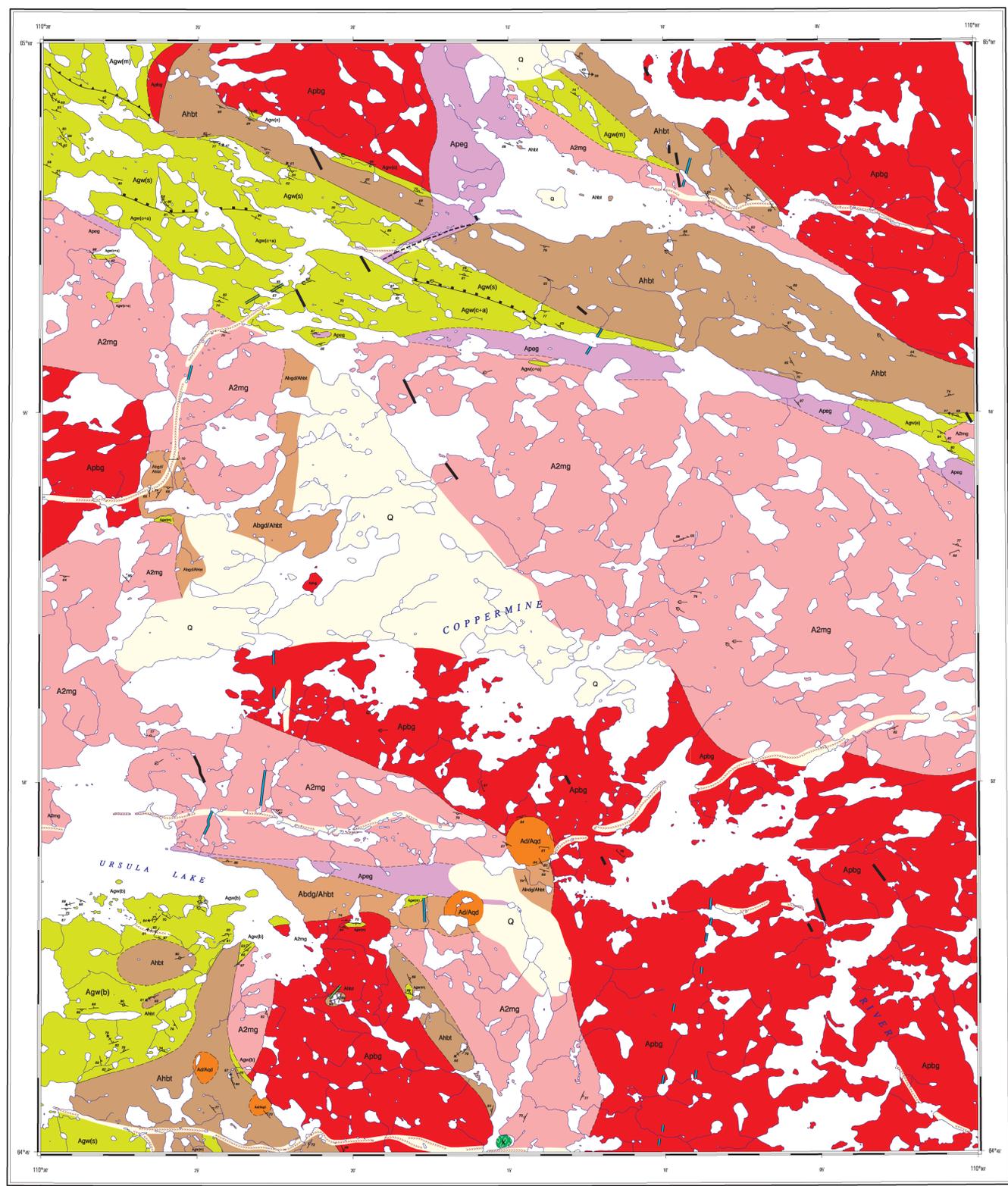
Numerous (> 100) kimberlites have been discovered since the autumn of 1991 in the Lac de Gras area of the central Slave Province. A number of the pipes are diamond bearing. The diamond grade of the kimberlite pipe at the southern margin of the map sheet is unknown, however, it is suggested to be low as it has not been fully sampled. The occurrence of siliceous banded iron formation with pyrrhotite and arsenopyrite in the southwestern greywacke belt has potentially important implications for banded iron formation type gold deposits in the region.

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LEGEND

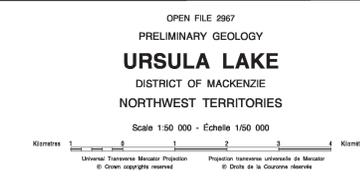
QUATERNARY	Q	Undifferentiated glacial sediments
PHANEROZOIC		
		Kimberlite
PROTEROZOIC		
		Mackenzie diabase dykes; ca 1.27 Ga
		Lac de Gras diabase dykes; ca 2.02 Ga
		Conroyville diabase dykes; ca 2.23 Ga
ARCHEAN		
	Apeg	Pegmatite dominated, with A2mg and/or Apbg
	Apbg	Porphyritic biotite granite
	A2mg	Muscovite - biotite granite
	Abgd/Ahbt	Biotite granodiorite with minor hornblende-biotite tonalite
	Ahbt	Hornblende-biotite tonalite
	Adi/Adq	Diorite with minor quartz diorite
	Agw	(b) biotite grade greywacke (+c) cordierite + andalusite grade greywacke (d) sillimanite grade greywacke (m) migmatite (metabiotite)

SYMBOLS

Fault	.....
Sillimanite lagged (ornaments on high temperature side)	.....
Migmatite lagged (ornaments on high temperature side)	.....
Lithological contacts (defined, assumed, inferred)	.....
Bedding: facing unknown (inclined, vertical)	.....
Bedding: facing known (inclined, overturned)	.....
First cleavage or foliation (inclined, vertical)	.....
Second or crenulation cleavages, foliation (inclined)	.....
Clastical strike: direction known	.....
L ₁ (mineral lineation)	.....
L ₂ (intersection lineation)	.....
Joint	.....
Slicken striata	.....

Geology by B. A. Kingsley, R. Spink and Z.J. Japko
Digital cartography by M. Sigouff, Geological Survey of Canada
Electrostatic plot produced by the Geological Survey of Canada
Part of the Canada - N.W.T. Mineral Initiative Agreement and NATMAP Slave Province Project
Any revisions or additional geological information known to the user would be welcomed by the Geological Survey of Canada
Mean magnetic declination 1994, 26° 18' E, decreasing 21.1' annually.
Base map digitized from topographic map published at 1:50 000 scale from Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing
Copies of the topographical edition covering this map may be obtained from the Canada Map Office, Department of Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E9

Canada-NWT MINERAL INITIATIVES 1991-1996
CANADA-NWT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
Contribution to the Canada-Northwest Territories Mineral Initiatives 1991-1996, a subsidiary agreement under the Canada-Northwest Territories Economic Development Agreement. Project funded by the Geological Survey of Canada



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