

An airborne geophysical survey of the Phelps Lake area, Saskatchewan, was flown by Sander Geophysics Limited (SGL) for the Geological Survey of Canada and Saskatchewan Energy and Mines. The purpose of the survey was to obtain gamma-ray spectrometric, aeromagnetic and VLF-EM data. The survey was flown between August 14 and September 7, 2001 using a Birnie-Norman Islander BN212 aircraft flying 120 m above the terrain at a mean speed of 220 km/h.

The 1000 m spaced, northwest-southeast oriented survey lines and orthogonal 10 000 m spaced control lines were planned using the SGObase system. Mill lines were flown in the northwest section of the survey area to produce 500 m line spacing. In-flight positional data were recorded using an Onistar real time differential GPS system. GPS ground station data were combined with airborne GPS data to produce differentially corrected positional data with an accuracy of 1 to 2 m.

Potassium is measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by <sup>40</sup>K. Uranium and thorium must be measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products of uranium and thorium. For thorium, the gamma-ray photon of 232Ac (2204 keV) is used. For uranium, the gamma-ray photon of 214Pb (2204 keV) is used. Both uranium and thorium are assumed to be in equilibrium with their parents; thus gamma-ray spectrometric measurements of uranium and thorium are referred to as equivalent uranium (eU) and equivalent thorium (eTh).

The airborne gamma-ray measurements were made with an Exploration GR20 gamma-ray spectrometer using fourteen 102 x 102 x 406 mm NaI(Tl) crystals. The main detector array consisted of twelve crystals (total volume 50.4 litres). Two crystals (total volume 8.4 litres), shielded from the ground by the main array, were used to detect variations caused by atmospheric radon. The GR20 constantly monitored the natural potassium peak for each crystal, using a Gaussian least squares algorithm to adjust the gain for individual crystals.

Gamma-ray spectra were recorded at one-second intervals. Noise Adjusted Singular Value Decomposition (NASVD) analysis was carried out on full spectrum 256 channel data to reduce statistical noise in the windows used. During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into six energy windows. Counts from the region detectors were corrected for deviations of altitude from the planned terrain clearance and for variations of temperature and pressure prior to conversion to standard units. The conversion factors used were 102.3 cps/eU for potassium, 9.75 cps/ppm for uranium, 6.37 cps/ppm for thorium and 33.25 cps/eTh for total activity dose rate.

All window counts were corrected for dead time. The standard windows were corrected for background activity from cosmic radiation, the radioactivity of the aircraft and atmospheric radon decay products. The potassium, uranium and thorium window data were then corrected for spectral scattering in the ground, air and detectors. The final standard windows were corrected for deviations of altitude from the planned terrain clearance and for variations of temperature and pressure prior to conversion to standard units. The conversion factors used were 102.3 cps/eU for potassium, 9.75 cps/ppm for uranium, 6.37 cps/ppm for thorium and 33.25 cps/eTh for total activity dose rate.

Corrected data were filtered and interpolated to a 200 m grid for the 1:250 000 and 1:50 000 scale maps using a minimum curvature algorithm technique. The results of an airborne gamma-ray spectrometric survey represent the average surface concentrations that are influenced by varying amounts of outcrop, overburden, vegetation cover, soil moisture and surface water. As a result the measured concentrations are usually lower than the actual bedrock concentrations.

The aircraft was equipped with a Geometrics G-222A cesium vapour magnetometer mounted in a trailer to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RMS AADCII 27 magnetic compass installed in a microcontroller. The magnetometer was installed in a trailer to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RMS AADCII 27 magnetic compass installed in a microcontroller. The magnetometer was installed in a trailer to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RMS AADCII 27 magnetic compass installed in a microcontroller. The magnetometer was installed in a trailer to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RMS AADCII 27 magnetic compass installed in a microcontroller.

VLF total field and quadrature components for two frequencies were recorded using a Herz Toren 2A system. The line station was tuned to station NAA at Cutler, MA, transmitting at 24.8 kHz. The other station was tuned to station NAA at Seattle, WA. VLF ground to air data were recorded 4 times per second. VLF data will only be available with the digital data.

Colour levels were calculated for each grid cell and combined with map information to create an RTI plot file, which was plotted using an HP DesignJet 2000CP color printer.

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URANIUM / POTASSIUM MAP  
CARTE DE L'URANIUM / POTASSIUM

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Saskatchewan Energy and Mines  
Saskatchewan Geological Survey

Natural Resources Canada  
Ressources naturelles Canada

Location Map - Carte de Localisation

BICKERTON LAKE  
SASKATCHEWAN

NTS / SNRC 64M/3

Scale 1 : 50 000 - Échelle 1 / 50 000

km 1 0 2 4

Transverse Mercator Projection  
North American Datum 1983  
© Data de la Commission Géologique

Projection transversale du Méridien  
Système de référence géodésique nord-américain, 1983  
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Open File  
Dossier Public

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Geological Survey of Canada  
Commission géologique du Canada  
Ottawa  
2001

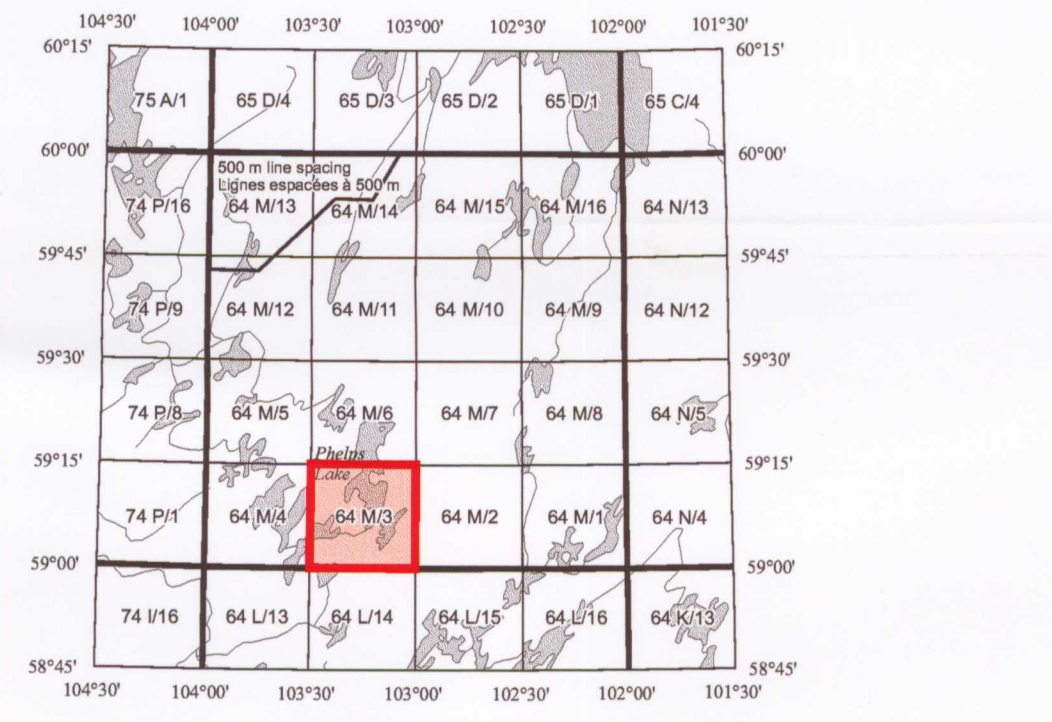
SEM Open File 2001-2  
Map 26 of 160

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URANIUM / POTASSIUM MAP  
CARTE DE L'URANIUM / POTASSIUM

BICKERTON LAKE  
SASKATCHEWAN

NTS / SNRC 64M/3