

An airborne geophysical survey of the Uranium City 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 September 8 and October 10, 2000 using a Britten-Norman Islander NB25-21 aircraft flying 120 m above the terrain at a mean speed of 220 km/h.
The 500 m spaced survey lines and orthogonal 7000 m spaced control lines were planned using the SIGDRIVE system. The survey lines were divided in two adjacent blocks. Survey lines in the northwest block were oriented north-south and the survey lines in the southeast block were oriented southeast-northwest. Flight positional data were recorded using a Trimble 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 10.2 m.
Potassium is measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by ⁴⁰K. Uranium and thorium must be measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products (²¹⁴Pb for uranium and ²¹⁴Pb for thorium). Although these daughters are far from their respective decay chains, they 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 Exploranium 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 8.4 litres). Two crystals (total volume 0.4 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 spectra. During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into six energy windows. Counts from the radon detectors were recorded in a 1650 - 1850 keV window and radon energy spikes greater than 3000 keV were recorded in the control window. The standard windows used are 1370 - 1570 keV for potassium, 1650 - 1850 keV for uranium, 2410 - 2810 keV for thorium and 400 - 2810 keV for total activity data.
All window counts were corrected for dead time. The standard windows were corrected for background activity from cosmic radiation, the radioactivity of the ground 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 four standard windows were corrected for variations of altitude from the planned reference elevation and for variations of temperature and pressure prior to conversion to standard units. The conversion factors used were 102.3 cps% for potassium, 9.75 cpsppm for uranium, 6.37 cpsppm for thorium and 33.26 cpsppm for total activity data.
Corrected data were filtered and interpolated to a 100 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 spectrometer 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 concentration.
The aircraft was equipped with a Geometric G-822A cesium vapour magnetic sensor mounted in a sledger to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RUSADACII 27 term magnetic compass installed in a microcomputer. The magnetometer data were recorded every 0.1 seconds with a noise level of 0.11 nT. Diurnal variations were monitored at 0.2 second intervals using a Geometric cesium vapour base station magnetometer. After editing the survey data, low pass filtered diurnal values were subtracted from the filtered magnetometer data. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field was calculated and removed using the date and altitude for each data point. The intersections of traverse and control lines were determined and the differences in the magnetic values were computer analysed and manually verified to create a leveled network. The corrected magnetic field was interpolated to a 100 m grid for the 1:250 000 and 1:50 000 scale maps using a minimum curvature algorithm. The vertical gradient of the magnetic field was calculated from the total magnetic intensity grid using a FFT based algorithm.
VLF total field and quadrature components for two frequencies were recorded using a Herz Totem 2A system. The line station was tuned to station NAA at Cutler, MA, transmitting at 24.8 kHz. The ortho station was tuned to the 24.8 kHz station NUK at Seattle, WA. VLF data were recorded 4 times per second. VLF data will only be made available with the digital data file.
Colour levels were calculated for each grid and combined with map surround information to create an RTL plot file, which was plotted using an HP DesignJet 2000CP colour plotter.

LEGEND / LÉGENDE

Road / Chemin	Wetland / Marais
Trail / Sentier	Lake / Lac, Intermittent
Cart track / Chemin de terre	Watercourse / Cours d'eau
Power transmission line / Ligne électrique	Flooded area / Région inondée
Runway / Piste d'atterrissage	Esker / Esker
Bridge / Pont	Sand / Sable
Bull-up area / Agglomération	Elevation contour / Courbes d'élévation
Man-made feature / Trait anthropologique	Depression contour / Courbes de dépression
Building / Bâtiment	Flight Line / Ligne de vol
Dam / Barrage	

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2001, Thorium Map (eTh), Ena Lake
Saskatchewan, NTS 74N/16,
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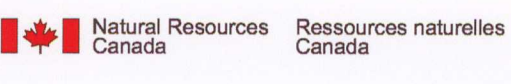
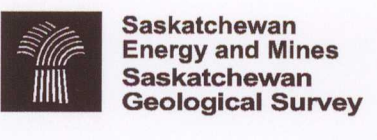
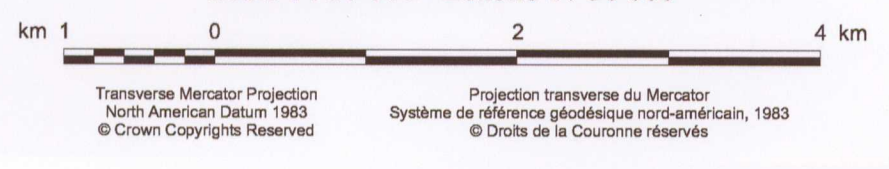
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THORIUM MAP (eTh)
CARTE DU THORIUM (éTh)

ENA LAKE
SASKATCHEWAN
NTS / SNRC 74N/16

Scale 1 : 50 000 - Échelle 1 / 50 000



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THORIUM MAP (eTh)
CARTE DU THORIUM (éTh)
ENA LAKE
SASKATCHEWAN
NTS / SNRC 74N/16

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