

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 BNBZ-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 SCDrape system. The survey was divided into two adjacent blocks. Survey lines in the northwest block were oriented southeast-northwest, while in the southeast block, survey lines were oriented northeast-southwest. Final 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 1 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 secular 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 Explorerium 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 monitors 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 data. During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into the energy windows. Counts from the radon detectors were recorded in a 1600 - 1800 keV window and radiation at energies greater than 3000 keV was recorded in the cosmic window. The standard windows used are 1370 - 1570 keV for potassium, 1660 - 1860 keV for uranium, 2410 - 2610 keV for thorium and 400 - 2610 keV for total activity data.

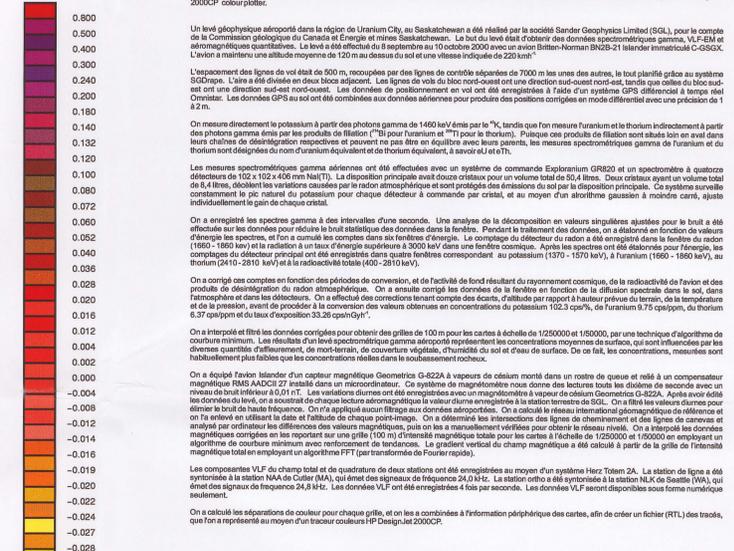
All window counts were corrected for dead time. The standard windows were corrected for background activity from cosmic radiation, the radioactivity of the aircraft and atmospheric radon decay products. The potassium, uranium and thorium window data were then corrected for spectral scattering in the ground, air and detectors. The four 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/% for potassium, 6.37 cps/ppm for uranium, 6.37 cps/ppm for thorium and 33.26 cps/eU% 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 concentrations.

The aircraft was equipped with a Geometrics G-822A cesium vapour magnetic sensor mounted in a stirrer to the rear of the aircraft, connected to an RMS AADC1 27 term magnetic compensator installed in a microcomputer. The magnetometer data were recorded every 0.1 seconds with a noise level of less than 0.01 nT. Diurnal variations were recorded at 0.2 second intervals using a Geometrics cesium vapour base station magnetometer. After editing the survey data, low pass filtered diurnal values were subtracted from the unfiltered aeromagnetic 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 magnetic values were computed and analysed and manually checked to obtain the final data network. The corrected magnetic data were converted to a 100 m grid for the 1:250 000 and 1:50 000 scale maps using a minimum curvature algorithm with grid trend reinforcement. The vertical gradient of the magnetic field was calculated from the total magnetic field using an FFT based algorithm.

VLF total field and quadrature components for two frequencies were recorded using a Herz Totem 2A system. The line station was turned to station NAA of Cutler, MA, transmitting at 24.0 kHz. The ortho station was turned to the 24.8 kHz station NLK at Seattle, WA. VLF data were recorded 4 times per second. VLF data will only be made available with the digital file.

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



LEGEND / LÉGENDE

Road / Chemin	—	Wetland / Marais	~~~~~
Cart track / Chemin de terre	—	Lake / Lac; Intermittent	~~~~~
Trail / Sentier	—	Watercourse / Cours d'eau	~~~~~
Power transmission line / Ligne électrique	—	Flooded area / Région inondée	~~~~~
Runway / Piste d'atterrissage	—	Esker / Eskier	~~~~~
Bridge / Pont	—	Sand / Sable	~~~~~
Built-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	— L1410-1 —
Dam / Barrage	—		

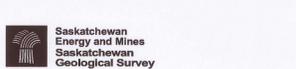
Digital cartographic base information supplied by Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan. Elevation contour interval 15 metres.

L'information cartographique numérique a été fournie par Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan. Équidistance des courbes d'élévation 15 mètres.

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MAGNETIC FIRST VERTICAL DERIVATIVE MAP
CARTE DE LA DÉRIVÉE PREMIÈRE VERTICALE DU CHAMP MAGNÉTIQUE

ZIN BAY
SASKATCHEWAN
NTS / SNRC 74N/14



Open File
Dossier Public
3953_90
Geological Survey of Canada
Commission géologique du Canada
2001

SEM Open File 2001-4
Map 90 of 110

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Transverse Mercator Projection
South American Datum 1983
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Projection transversale du Méridien
Système de référence géodésique sud-américain, 1983
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