



Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Mineral Resources Division
Geological Survey Branch
Environmental Geology Section



Energy Mines and
Resources Canada
Geological Survey of Canada
Commission géologique du Canada

Énergie, Mines et
Ressources Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY

NTS 92J - PEMBERTON

STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL DATA

W. Jackaman and P.F. Matysek

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

British Columbia regional geochemical survey

Cover title.

Publisher varies: 1976?-1990 , Geological Survey
Branch, Applied Geochemistry, 1991- , Geological
Survey Branch, Environmental Geology Section.

Co-published by Geological Survey of Canada,
Resource Geophysics and Geochemistry Division.

"MEMPR BC RGS 21", etc.,

"GSC O.F. 2038", etc.

"Canada-British Columbia Mineral Development
Agreement (1985-1989)"

Description based on: NTS 92E (1988)

Partial contents: NTS 92J Pemberton

ISBN 0-7718-8833-3 (set)

1. Geochemistry - British Columbia. 2. Geochemistry
- British Columbia - Maps. 3. Geology, Economic - British
Columbia. 4. Geology, Economic - British Columbia -
Maps. I. British Columbia. Geological Survey Branch.
Applied Geochemistry. II. British Columbia.
Environmental Geology Section. III. Geological Survey of
Canada. Resource Geophysics and Geochemistry Division.
IV. Canada/British Columbia Mineral Development
Agreement.

QE515.B74 1989

551.9'09711

C89-092173-3



VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA

January 1994

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BC RGS 41 / GSC OF 2667

NTS 92J - PEMBERTON

By W. Jackaman and P.F. Matysek

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| INTRODUCTION | 2 | RGS DATA EVALUATION | 5 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 2 | Analytical Reproducibility | 5 |
| OPEN FILE FORMAT | 2 | Precision Estimates | 6 |
| SURVEY DETAILS | 3 | Comparison of INAA and AAS | 7 |
| Physiography and Geology | 3 | Interpretation of Gold Data | 7 |
| Sample Collection | 3 | Anomaly Rating Procedure | 8 |
| Sample Preparation - 1981 | 3 | REFERENCES | 9 |
| Sample Analysis - 1981 | 3 | LIST OF APPENDICES | |
| Sample Preparation - 1993 | 4 | Appendix A : Field and Analytical Data | A-1 |
| Sample Analysis - 1993 | 4 | Appendix B : Analytical Duplicate Data | B-1 |
| | | Appendix C : Statistical Summary | C-1 |
| | | Appendix D : Sample Evaluation Charts | D-1 |

INTRODUCTION

Open File BC RGS 41 / GSC OF 2667 is one of three open files published in January, 1994 as part of the British Columbia Regional Geochemical Survey (RGS) Program. This Open File includes **new** analytical data for 26 elements in stream sediments. These results were obtained by analyzing archived sediment pulps collected during a 1981 joint Federal-Provincial stream sediment and water survey conducted in NTS map sheet 92J - Pemberton. Also included in this package are the original field and analytical results from Open File BC RGS 9 / GSC OF 867 published in 1982 for 14 elements in stream sediments plus uranium, fluoride and pH in stream waters. Open File BC RGS 41 / GSC OF 2667 supersedes all previous publications.

The 1981 survey was managed and funded by the British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) as part of the Regional Geochemical Survey Program. Data management was provided by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC).

Initiated in 1990, as part of the Ministry's RGS Archive Program, the sediment samples collected from earlier surveys were retrieved from GSC storage facilities in Ottawa and analyzed by instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA). This project was funded in part by the *Canada-British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement* (1985-1990). INAA determinations for Open File BC RGS 41 / GSC OF 2667 was funded by the *Geological Survey of Canada*.

Analytical results and field observations compiled by the RGS Program are used in the development of a high quality geochemical database suitable for resource assessment, mineral exploration, geological mapping and environmental studies. Sample collection, preparation and analysis are closely monitored to ensure consistency and conformance to national standards (Ballantyne, 1991).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1981 STREAM SEDIMENT and WATER RGS PROGRAM

Contracts were let to the following companies for sample collection, preparation and analysis and were managed by staff of the MEMPR.

COLLECTION : Rooi Enterprises Ltd., Victoria, B.C.
PREPARATION : Kamloops Research Assay and Laboratory, Kamloops, B.C.
ANALYSIS : Chemex Laboratories Ltd., North Vancouver, B.C. (Sediments)
Novatrack Analysts Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. (U in Sediments)
Bondar Clegg Ltd., North Vancouver, B.C. (Waters)

1993 RGS ARCHIVE PROGRAM

The 1993 RGS Archive Program was managed by Geological Survey Branch staff of the MEMPR. *P.F. Matysek* and *W. Jackaman* coordinated the operational activities of contract and MEMPR staff.

W. Jackaman coordinated the production of this open file. *S.J. Cook* assisted with the analysis and interpretation of the data. *K. J. Colbourne* provided production support.

PREPARATION : Rob Phillips, Ottawa, Ont.
ANALYSIS : Bondar-Clegg & Company Ltd., Ottawa, Ont.
Activation Laboratories, Ancaster, Ont.

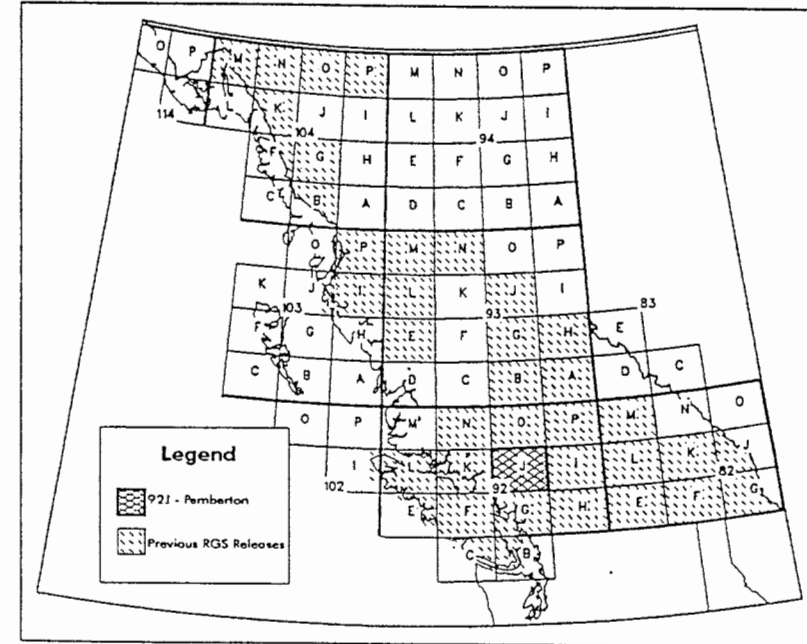


Figure 1. Location map.

OPEN FILE FORMAT

Open File BC RGS 40 / GSC OF 2666 includes a data booklet, a map booklet and a 3.5" floppy diskette.

The data booklet is divided into the following sections. *Please refer to notes preceding each section for important information on data presentation format.*

- survey details and RGS data evaluation,
- listings of field and analytical data,
- listings of analytical duplicate data,

- threshold tables,
- summary statistics, and
- sample evaluation charts.

The map booklet contains the following maps :

- 4 - 1: 100 000 scale sample location maps,
- 1 - 1: 500 000 scale sample location clear overlay and map,
- 1 - 1: 500 000 scale bedrock geology clear overlay and map,
- 1 - 1: 500 000 scale surficial geology map,
- 43 - 1: 500 000 scale symbol and value maps for individual elements,
- 1 - 1: 500 000 base metal anomaly map, and
- 1 - 1: 500 000 precious metal anomaly map.

Analytical and field data is included as an ASCII file on a 3.5", high-density diskette. Document files detailing data format specifications and survey details are also included.

SURVEY DETAILS

PHYSIOGRAPHY and GEOLOGY

The Pemberton map sheet covers an area of approximately 15 500 square kilometres and is located within the Coast Mountain physiographic unit (Holland, 1976). The Coast Mountains are an extremely rugged and heavily glaciated mountain range. Summit elevations commonly exceed 2500 metres and extend above deeply cut U-shaped valleys. Mountain slopes tend to be steep and are comprised of exposed bedrock with a discontinuous layer of colluvium and till. Valley walls and lower slopes are generally covered by thick deposits of till. (Map 3, after Fulton *et al.*, 1982).

Underlain by the Coast Crystalline Complex, the survey area is comprised of Cretaceous granites and granodiorites. Within the Coast belt, roof pendants of gneiss, amphibolite, metasediments and metavolcanics represent metamorphosed remnants of volcanic-arc rocks (Roddick and Tipper, 1985). The northeast corner of the region includes Permian to Middle Jurassic chert, argillite, basalt and alpine-type ultramafic rocks of the Bridge River Terrane and Upper Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Tyaughton-Methow trough (Wheeler *et al.*, 1988). The bedrock geology base map (MAP 2) used in this Open File is Roddick *et al.*, 1979.

The British Columbia mineral deposits database lists 234 mineral occurrences for map sheet 92J (MINFILE 092J). The major types of metallic deposits include porphyry copper and molybdenum deposits, volcanogenic massive sulphide mineralization, mesothermal base and precious metal vein deposits and a variety of precious and base metal epithermal deposits. The region is noted for its historical gold production and includes significant past producers such as Bralorne, Pioneer mine and Northair mine. There are currently no operating metal mines in the survey area.

SAMPLE COLLECTION - 1981

Helicopter and truck-supported sample collection was carried out during the summer of 1981. A total of 852 stream sediment and 848 stream water samples were systematically collected from 806 sites. Average sample site density was 1 site per 19 square kilometres over the 15 500 square kilometre survey area. Field duplicate samples were routinely collected in each analytical block of twenty samples.

Fine grained stream sediment material (< 1mm) weighing 1-2 kg was obtained from the active (subject to annual flooding) stream channel and placed in kraft bags. Unfiltered water samples were collected in 250 ml bottles, precautions were taken to exclude suspended solids when possible. Field observations regarding sample media, sample site and local terrain were also recorded.

SAMPLE PREPARATION - 1981

Field dried sediment samples were shipped to Kamloops Research Assay and Laboratory for final sample preparation. The samples were air-dried and the -80 mesh (<177 microns) fraction was obtained by dry sieving. Quality control reference standards and analytical duplicate samples were inserted into each analytical block of twenty sediment samples. Any -80 mesh sediment remaining after analyses was archived for future analyses.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS - 1981

Chemex Laboratories (North Vancouver) analyzed the sediment samples for: antimony, arsenic, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, silver, tin, tungsten and zinc. Uranium in stream sediments was determined by Novatrack Analysts Ltd. (Vancouver). Water samples were analyzed for fluoride, uranium, and pH by Bondar Clegg Ltd. (North Vancouver). Concentrations reported below the detection limit are presented in the data listings as a value equivalent to one-half of the detection limit. Detection limits for each element are listed in Table 1.

For the determination of copper, cobalt, iron, lead, manganese, nickel, silver, and zinc, a 1 gram sample was reacted with 3 ml of concentrated HNO₃ for 30 minutes at 90°C. Concentrated HCl (1 ml) was added and the digestion was continued at 90°C for an additional 90 minutes. The sample solution was then diluted to 20 ml with metal free water and mixed. Concentrations were determined by atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) using an air-acetylene flame. Background corrections were made for Pb, Ni, Co and Ag.

Antimony was determined using a 2 gram sample digested with concentrated HCl in a hot water bath. The iron was reduced to Fe(II) and the antimony extracted with trioctyl phosphine oxide MIBK and measured by AAS with background correction.

Arsenic was determined by hydride generation/atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS-H) on an aliquot of solution taken from the sample solution prepared for the base metal analyses.

Molybdenum was determined by AAS using nitrous oxide acetylene flame. A 0.5 gram sample was reacted with 1.5 ml concentrated HNO₃ at 90°C for 30 minutes. At this point 0.5 ml of concentrated HCl

was added and the digestion continued for an additional 90 minutes. After cooling, 8 ml of 1250 ppm Al solution was added and the sample solution diluted to 10 ml before aspiration by AAS.

Mercury was determined using a 0.5 gram sample reacted with 20 ml concentrated HNO₃ and 1 ml concentrated HCl in a test tube for 10 minutes at room temperature and for 2 hours in a 90°C water bath. After digestion the sample was 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 of 10% weight per volume SnSO₄ in H₂SO₄. The Hg vapor was flushed by a stream of air into an absorption cell mounted in the light path of an atomic absorption spectrometer (AAS-F). Measurements were made at 253.7 nm. This method is described in detail by Jonasson, *et al.* (1973).

| Element | Detection | | Element | Detection | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|--------|---------|------|
| | Limit | Method | | Limit | Method | | |
| Antimony | Sb | 0.2 ppm | AAS | Cerium | Ce | 10 ppm | INAA |
| Arsenic | As | 0.5 ppm | AAS-H | Cesium | Cs | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| Cobalt | Co | 2 ppm | AAS | Chromium | Cr | 5 ppm | INAA |
| Copper | Cu | 2 ppm | AAS | Cobalt | Co | 5 ppm | INAA |
| Iron | Fe | 0.02 % | AAS | Hafnium | Hf | 1 ppm | INAA |
| Lead | Pb | 2 ppm | AAS | Iron | Fe | 0.20 % | INAA |
| Manganese | Mn | 5 ppm | AAS | Lanthanum | La | 5 ppm | INAA |
| Mercury | Hg | 10 ppb | AAS-F | Lutetium | Lu | 0.2 ppm | INAA |
| Molybdenum | Mo | 2 ppm | AAS | Molybdenum | Mo | 1 ppm | INAA |
| Nickel | Ni | 2 ppm | AAS | Nickel | Ni | 10 ppm | INAA |
| Silver | Ag | 0.2 ppm | AAS | Rubidium | Rb | 5 ppm | INAA |
| Tungsten | W | 2 ppm | COLOR | Samarium | Sm | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| Uranium | U | 0.2 ppm | NADNC | Scandium | Sc | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| Zinc | Zn | 2 ppm | AAS | Sodium | Na | 0.10 % | INAA |
| Fluoride - water | FW | 20 ppb | ION | Tantalum | Ta | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| Uranium - water | UW | 0.05 ppb | LIF | Terbium | Tb | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| pH - water | pH | 0.1 | GCE | Thorium | Th | 0.5 ppm | INAA |
| Gold | Au | 2 ppb | INAA | Tungsten | W | 2 ppm | INAA |
| Antimony | Sb | 0.1 ppm | INAA | Uranium | U | 0.2 ppm | INAA |
| Arsenic | As | 0.5 ppm | INAA | Ytterbium | Yb | 2 ppm | INAA |
| Barium | Ba | 100 ppm | INAA | Zirconium | Zr | 200 ppm | INAA |
| Bromine | Br | 0.5 ppm | INAA | | | | |

TABLE 1 ANALYTICAL SUITE OF ELEMENTS: NTS 92J

Uranium in sediments was determined using a neutron activation method with delayed neutron counting (NADNC). A 1 gram sample was weighed in a seven dram polyethylene vial, capped and sealed. Irradiation was provided by the Triumf Cyclotron with an operating flux of 10¹² neutrons/cm²/second. Each sample was irradiated for 60 seconds. Following a 20 second delay, the sample was counted for 60 seconds with six BF₃ detector tubes embedded in paraffin.

Tungsten was determined colourimetrically after a pyrosulfate fusion and a dithiolcarbonate complexing for the generation of the colour (COLOR).

Uranium in waters was determined by a fluorometric method (LIF). The U was initially preconcentrated by evaporation. The residue was fused with a mixture of Na₂CO₃, K₂CO₃ and NaF in a platinum dish. After cooling the fluorescence of the fused pellet was measured using a Turner Fluorometer.

The determination of fluoride in waters involved an aliquot of sample being mixed with an equal volume of total ionic strength adjustment buffer (TISAB II solution). The fluoride was measured using a Corning 101 Electrometer with an Orion Fluoride Electrode (ION).

pH in waters was measured using an aliquot of sample in a clean dry beaker by a Fisher Accumet pH Meter (GCE).

SAMPLE PREPARATION - 1993 RGS Archive Program

Of the 852 sediment samples collected during the original survey, 805 samples contained sufficient material to be analyzed by instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA). New quality control reference standards were inserted into each analytical block of twenty samples and existing analytical and field site duplicate samples were checked and verified.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS - 1993 RGS Archive Program

The determination of antimony, arsenic, barium, bromine, cerium, cesium, chromium, cobalt, gold, hafnium, iron, lanthanum, lutetium, molybdenum, nickel, rubidium, samarium, scandium, sodium, tantalum, terbium, thorium, tungsten, uranium, ytterbium and zirconium by INAA was conducted by Bondar-Clegg (Ottawa). Instrumental neutron activation analysis involves irradiating the sediment samples, which range from 0.5 to 54 grams (average 25 grams), for 20 minutes in a neutron flux of 10¹¹ neutrons/cm²/second. After a decay period of approximately 1 week, gamma-ray emissions for the elements were measured using a gamma-ray spectrometer with a high resolution, coaxial germanium detector. Counting time was approximately 15 minutes per sample. Table 1 lists the associated detection limits reported by this analytical technique.

Repeat analysis by INAA have been performed by Activation Laboratories on the original split for samples returning gold values exceeding 20 ppb and are reported as Au2 in Appendix A. This level represents the 95th percentile for gold based on the total RGS data set for map sheets 92H, 92I and 92J.

RGS DATA EVALUATION

The ability to discriminate real trends, related to geological and geochemical conditions, from those that result from spurious factors such as sampling and analytical errors is of considerable importance in the success of geochemical data interpretation. An estimate of precision allows sampling and analytical variation to be quantified, and is an integral part of the evaluation of geochemical data. Estimates of analytical precision and element variability within and between sample sites can be determined by utilizing control reference, analytical duplicate and field duplicate data.

Control reference standards, analytical duplicates and field duplicates are routinely inserted to monitor and assess accuracy and precision of analytical results. Each analytical block of twenty sediment samples consists of :

- 17 routine samples,
- 1 field duplicate sample collected adjacent to one of the 17 routine samples (Listed in Appendix A),
- 1 analytical duplicate sample; a subsample taken from one of the 17 routine samples prior to analysis (Listed in Appendix B), and
- 1 control reference standard sample containing sediment of known element concentrations.

Analytical blocks of corresponding water samples differ slightly in that they contain two control reference standard samples but no analytical duplicate samples.

ANALYTICAL REPRODUCIBILITY

Scatterplots of analytical results of field duplicate pairs and analytical duplicate pairs are presented for Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn (AAS sediment data) and Au, As (INAA sediment data). A total of 125 field and analytical duplicate pairs from the 1994 data set (NTS map sheets 92H, 92I and 92J) were included in this analysis. Field duplicate data and analytical duplicate data (Figures 2a and 2b) show very good reproducibility, particularly for those trace elements with concentration levels well above detection limits. This gives a high degree of confidence in the quality of both the field sampling and the analytical methods. Poor reproducibility for gold is primarily due to the influence of the particle sparsity effect (see section : Interpretation of Gold Data).

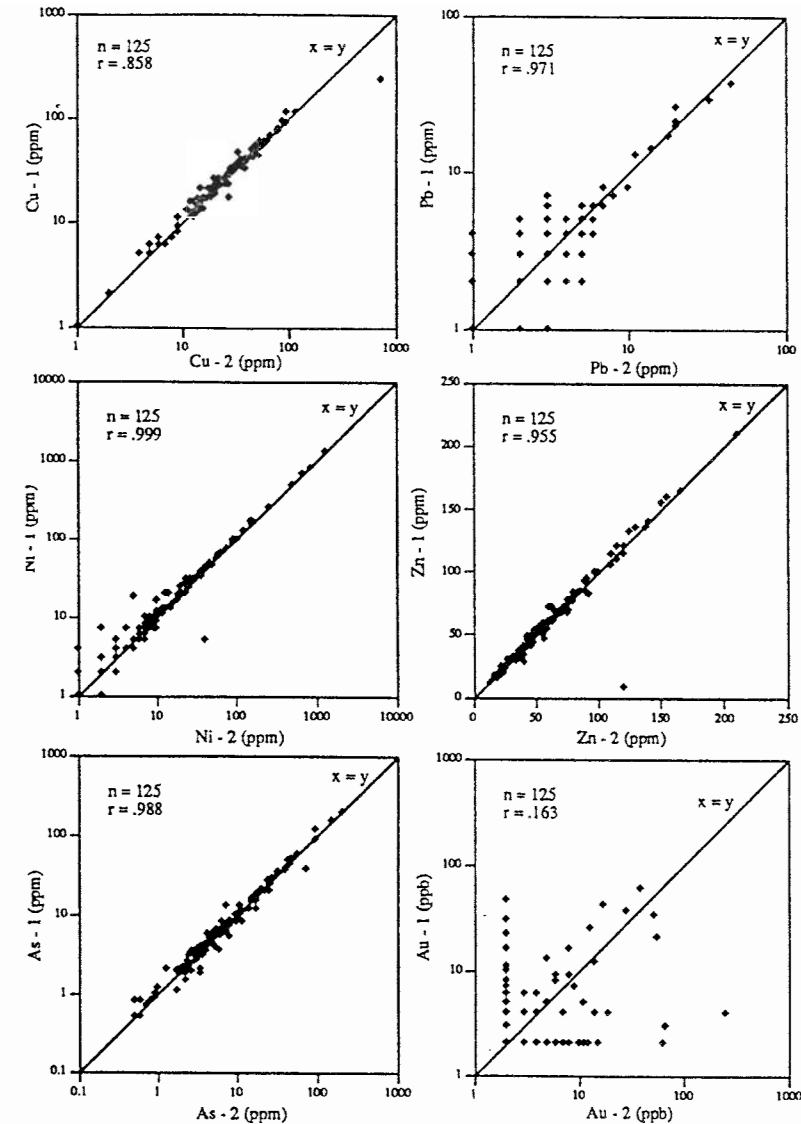


Figure 2a. Scatterplots showing field duplicate pairs for Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn (1981 data) and As, Au (1993 data).

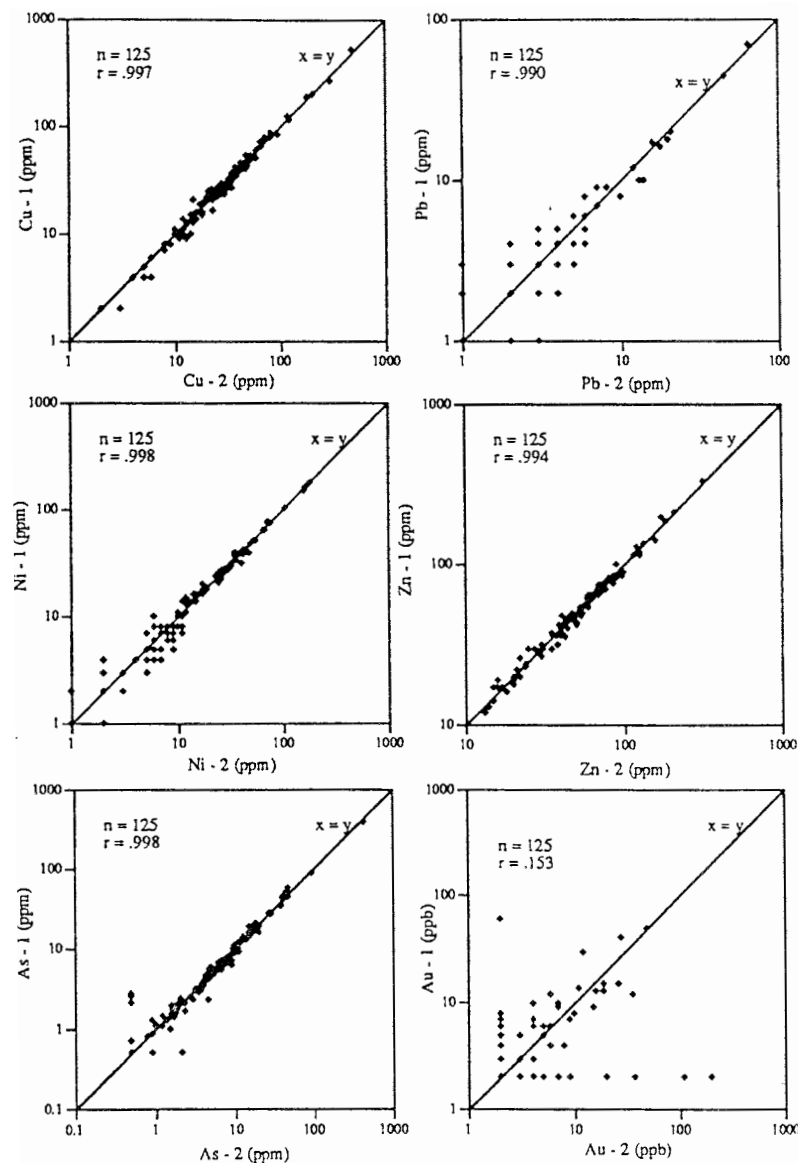


Figure 2b. Scatterplots showing analytical duplicate pairs for Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn (1981 data) and As, Au (1993 data).

PRECISION ESTIMATES

Precision estimates for selected elements were calculated using 125 analytical duplicate pairs from the total 1994 analytical data set using the Thompson and Howarth (1973, 1976, 1978) method.

Their method involves dividing 50 or more analytical duplicate pairs (x_1, x_2) into groups with narrow concentration ranges. For each group, the median value of absolute differences between duplicate pairs ($|x_1 - x_2|$) is used as an estimation of the standard deviation (s), whereas the mean value of all the duplicate pair means $(x_1 + x_2)/2$ is used as an estimation of the average concentration. Repetition of this procedure for successive groups of concentration ranges produces a set of corresponding mean concentration and standard deviation estimates for the entire range of data. Linear regression of the estimates provides slope and intercept values from which precision of the data set can be calculated using the equation:

$$P_c = 200(K/c + S_0)$$

where S_0 (coefficient of slope) is the standard deviation at zero concentration and K (intercept) is a constant. This linear function has been determined in practical cases (Matysek and Sinclair, 1984) to be a satisfactory model for the expression of analytical variation.

Precision estimates were calculated as follows:

- Step 1. A list of duplicate means and corresponding absolute differences was calculated for each sample pair.
- Step 2. The list was sorted in increasing order of concentration means.
- Step 3. The mean concentration and the median difference between pairs for the first group of 11 analytical pairs were determined.
- Step 4. Step 3 was repeated for each successive group of 11 pairs ignoring any remainder less than 11.
- Step 5. The linear regression of the median differences on the means was calculated. The resultant intercept and coefficient of the calculated line are multiplied by 1.048 and were used to estimate precision.

Precision estimates were determined for Cu, Fe and Zn (AAS), and As (INAA). This particular suite of elements was selected on the following basis:

- Their distributions approximated a Gaussian (normal) curve, and
- The majority of their concentrations were well above their detection limits.

This methodology may not be applicable for elements characterized by non-normal distributions. These distributions are recognized when the following conditions arise:

- Element abundance is dependent on rare grains,
- Concentration levels are at or near the detection limit, and/or
- Data contains outliers.

RESULTS

Precision estimates calculated at different concentration levels using the Thompson and Howarth method are presented in Table 2 and Figure 2. Precision estimates for As averaged 16.1% at the 50th percentile (5.3 ppm As), 13.9% at the 80th percentile (14.0 ppm As) and 13.0% at the 95th percentile (44.0 ppm As). Precision estimates for Cu, Fe and Zn were lower, averaging 10.5% at the 50th percentile, 9.7% at the 80th percentile, and 9.0% at the 95th percentile. These estimates are of similar magnitude to those obtained from studies on error evaluation in stream sediment surveys (Plant, 1971; Chork, 1977; Fletcher, 1981). These studies generally concluded that precision ranges of 10 to 15% at the 95% confidence level are often encountered and considered acceptable for laboratory variability in most exploration programs.

| Element | r | Intercept | Slope | 50th (ppm) | Precision | 80th (ppm) | Precision | 95th (ppm) | Precision |
|---------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Copper | 0.8116 | 0.382 | 0.0426 | 26 | 12% | 46 | 11% | 80 | 10% |
| Iron | 0.8194 | 0.015 | 0.0397 | 1.85 | 10% | 2.70 | 9% | 3.95 | 9% |
| Zinc | 0.7752 | 0.716 | 0.0334 | 55 | 10% | 80 | 9% | 140 | 8% |
| Arsenic | 0.9043 | 0.090 | 0.0600 | 5.3 | 16% | 14.0 | 14% | 44.0 | 13% |

TABLE 2 THOMPSON AND HOWARTH PRECISION ESTIMATES

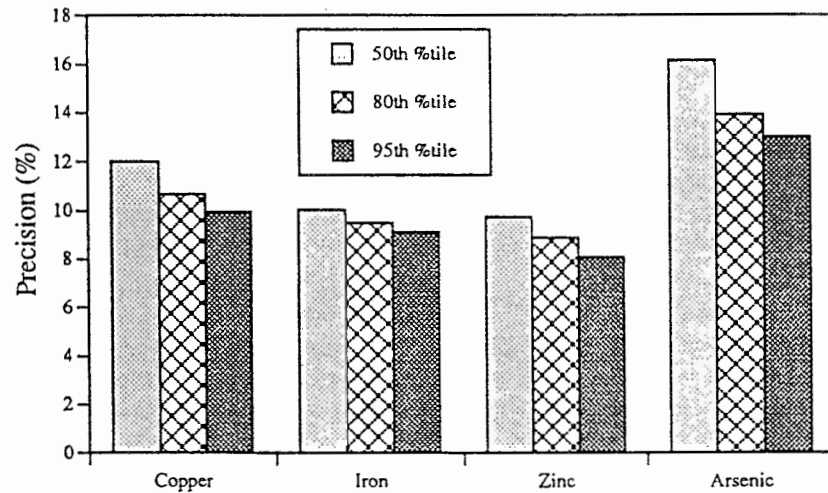


Figure 3. Bar graph showing precision estimates.

COMPARISON of INAA and AAS TECHNIQUES

Several elements (Sb, As, Co, Fe, Mo and Ni) were determined by both atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) and by instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA). Variations observed between original (AAS) and subsequent (INAA) results are due largely to differences in the analytical methods. AAS requires dissolution of the sample with acids prior to analysis. Aqua regia, a combination of hydrochloric and nitric acids, was used to dissolve RGS sediment samples. Gold and sulphide minerals are dissolved, whereas silicates and some oxides (*i.e.* magnetite) are only partially digested. Conversely, INAA does not require sample digestion prior to analysis. Concentrations determined by INAA generally represent the *total* content of that element in the sample. Due to this difference between methods, INAA generally reports slightly higher concentrations than aqua regia AAS.

Using the 92H data set, Figure 4 represents a comparison of the two techniques for iron and nickel. In both cases, INAA gives higher results. A strong correlation is noted for nickel ($r = .907$). The slightly higher INAA results are probably due to the presence of minute quantities of nickel within the lattices of silicates (*i.e.* feldspars). Iron demonstrates substantial concentration differences between analytical methods and a weaker correlation ($r = .569$). These results are probably due to the presence of variable amounts of magnetite and hematite commonly found in stream sediment samples.

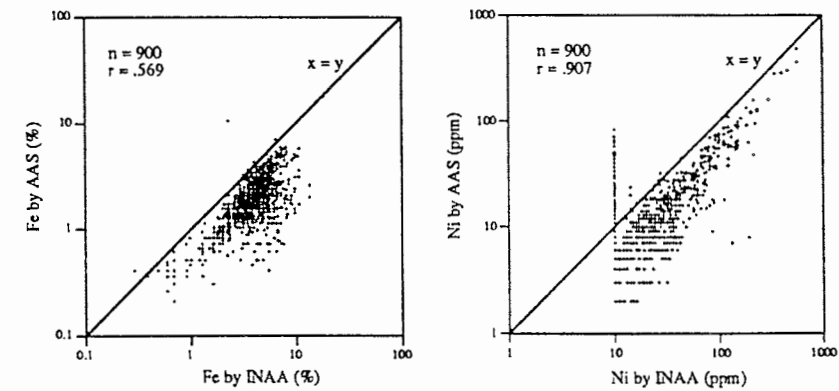


Figure 4. Scatterplots comparing INAA and AAS results for Fe and Ni.

INTERPRETATION OF GOLD DATA

Understanding gold geochemical data from regional stream sediment surveys requires an understanding of the chemical and physical characteristics of gold in the surficial environment.

Gold is a soft, malleable element of high density (19.3 g/cm³). Gold is chemically inert and commonly occurs in native form (pure Au) or as electrum (alloyed with silver). Sub-micron sized gold is often bound to clays, adsorbed onto Fe-Mn oxides or contained within organic colloids. At normal surface

temperatures, gold will dissolve under rare conditions of high oxidation potential and high acidity where ions such as chloride (Cl⁻), thiosulphate (S₂O₃²⁻) or cyanide (CN⁻) are present. Normal background concentrations for gold in bedrock vary, but are generally less than 5 ppb. Background levels encountered for stream sediments seldom exceed 10 ppb and commonly are near the detection limit of 2 ppb.

Gold generally occurs as rare, discrete particles. In many instances a geochemical subsample may or may not contain a gold grain. This is known as the 'nugget effect'. Generally, larger geochemical sample sizes are required to minimize the nugget effect and more accurately represent gold concentrations. (Clifton *et al.*, 1969; Harris, 1982). Neutron activation analyses for the RGS Archive program utilized samples weighing on average 20 grams.

Follow-up investigations of gold anomalies should be based on careful consideration of related geological and geochemical information and an understanding of the variability of gold geochemical data. 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. Analysis of field and analytical duplicate samples enables assessment of the reliability of gold results and permits better data interpretation.

ANOMALY RATING PROCEDURE

Stream sediments collected downstream from mineralized sources commonly exhibit enhanced concentrations for ore and pathfinder elements. An interpretive technique has been developed by Matysek *et al.* (1991) to highlight sample sites characterized by anomalous, multi-element signatures (Figure 5). As an example of this methodology, sample evaluation charts (Appendix D) and 1:500 000 scale anomaly maps (Map Booklet) have been produced which outline areas considered to have relatively higher base metal and precious metal potential.

METHODOLOGY

Step 1 - Subset analytical data by lithology.

Element concentrations for stream sediment samples typically reflect the underlying geology found within the sampled drainage basin. Considerable variability in element concentrations are associated with different lithologies and must be considered in order to distinguish samples which most likely reflect mineralized sources from lithological units characterized by high background values. Consequently, analytical data is initially subset on the basis of the underlying lithology found at each sample site.

Step 2 - Calculate 90th, 95th and 98th percentiles (threshold values) for each lithology.

The 90th, 95th and 98th percentiles are calculated for lithologies having 10 or more sample sites. Lithologies having less than 10 sample sites list threshold values determined from the current provincial RGS data set. The results are listed in a threshold table (Appendix D). To better estimate element variability within lithologies, data from adjoining survey areas (NTS map sheets 92H, 92I, 92J, 92N, 92O, and 92P) have been included.

Step 3 - Assign anomaly ratings to each sample.

Element concentrations for each sample are then compared to the calculated threshold values and assigned the following anomaly ratings :

- an anomaly rating of 1 for concentrations \geq 90th but $<$ 95th percentile,
- an anomaly rating of 2 for concentrations \geq 95th but $<$ 98th percentile, and
- an anomaly rating of 3 for concentrations \geq 98th percentile.

Sample evaluation charts graphically display the anomaly rating for individual elements. In addition, the summed element ratings provide a measure of the anomalous multi-element nature of each sample. Anomaly maps produced from the sample evaluation charts highlight the spatial relationships between anomalous samples.

Utilizing the above technique, sample evaluation charts (Appendix D) and anomaly maps (Map Booklet) have been generated to aid the user in identifying potential base metal and precious metal targets. The element suite used for the identification of base and precious metal multi-element anomalies include Cu - Pb - Zn - Ag and Au - Sb - As - Hg - Ag, respectively.

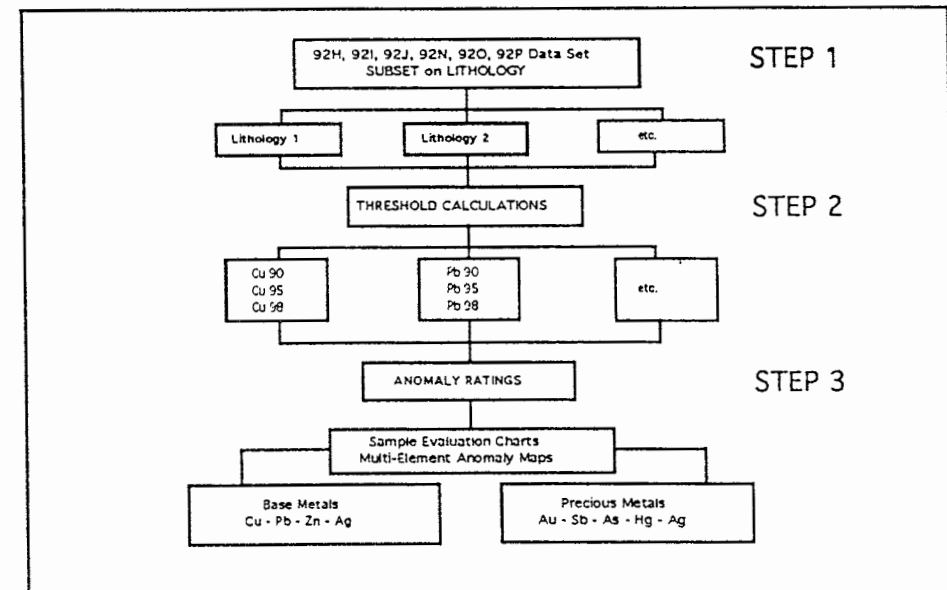


Figure 5. Anomaly Rating Flowchart.

REFERENCES

- Ballantyne, S.B., (1991): Stream Geochemistry in the Canadian Cordillera: Conventional and Future Applications for Exploration; *in* Exploration Geochemistry Workshop, *Geological Survey of Canada*, Open File 2390.
- Chork, C.Y. (1977): Seasonal, Sampling and Analytical Variations in Stream Sediment Surveys; *Journal of Geochemical Exploration*, Volume 7, pp. 31-47.
- Clifton, H.E., Hunter, R.E., Swanson, F.J. and Phillips, R.L. (1969): Sample Size and Meaningful Gold Analysis; *U.S. Geological Survey*, Professional Paper, 625-C.
- Fletcher, W.K. (1981): Analytical Methods in Exploration Geochemistry, *Handbook of Exploration Geochemistry*, *in* G.S. Govett, Editor, Elsevier, Volume 1, New York, New York, 255 pp.
- Fulton, R.J., Clague, J.J. and Ryder, J.M. (1982): Surficial Geology, Vancouver Island and Adjacent Mainland British Columbia; *Geological Survey of Canada*, Open File 837.
- Harris, J.F. (1982): Sampling and Analytical Requirements for Effective use of Geochemistry in Exploration for Gold; Precious Metals in the Northern Cordillera; *in* Symposium proceedings, A.A., Levinson, Editor, *Association of Exploration Geochemists and Geological Association of Canada, Cordilleran Section*, pp. 53-67.
- Holland, S.S. (1976): Landforms of British Columbia, A Physiographic Outline; *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, Bulletin 48.
- Jonasson, I.R., Lynch, J.J. and Trip, L.J. (1973) Field and Laboratory Methods used by the Geological Survey of Canada in Geochemical Surveys: No. 12, Mercury in Ores, Rocks, Soils, Sediments and Water; *Geological Survey of Canada*, Paper 73-21.
- Matysek, P.F. and Sinclair, A.J. (1984): Statistical Evaluation of Duplicate Samples, Regional Geochemical Surveys 92H, 92I and 92J, British Columbia; *in* Geological Fieldwork 1983, *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, Paper 1984-1, pp. 186-196.
- Matysek, P.F., Jackaman, W., Gravel, J.L., Sibbick, S.J., and Feulgen, S. (1991): British Columbia Regional Geochemical Survey - Fernie (NTS 82G); *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, RGS 27.
- MINFILE NTS 092J, Bailey, D.G., Payie, G.J., Gaba, R.G., Schiarizza, P., MacLean, M.E. and Church, B.N. (1992): Pemberton Mineral Occurrence Map; *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, MINFILE, released January 1992.
- Plant, J. (1971): Orientation Studies on Stream Sediment Sampling for a Regional Geochemical Survey in Northern Scotland, *Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Transactions*, Volume 80, pp. B324-345.
- Roddick, J.A., Muller, J.E. and Okulvitch, A.V. (1979): Fraser River - Map Sheet 92 - Geological Atlas Series; *Geological Survey of Canada*, Map 1386A.
- Thompson, M. and Howarth, R.J. (1973): The Rapid Estimation and Control of Precision by Duplicate Determinations; *Analyst*, Volume 98, pp. 153-166.
- Thompson, M. and Howarth, R.J., (1976): Duplicate Analysis in Geochemical Practice (2 parts); *Analyst*, Volume 101, pp. 690-709.
- Thompson, M. and Howarth, R.J., (1978): A New Approach to the Estimation of Analytical Precision; *Journal of Geochemical Exploration*, Volume 9, pp. 23 - 30.
- Wheeler, J.O., Brookfield, A.J., Gabrielse, H., Monger, J.W.H., Tipper, H.W. and Woodsworth, G.J. (1988): Terrane Map of the Canadian Cordillera; *Geological Survey of Canada*, Open file 1894.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY

NTS 92J PEMBERTON

BC RGS 41 / GSC OF 2667

APPENDIX A

FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYTICAL DATA

Notes:

- AAS results less than the detection limit are reported as one half the detection limit.
- Repeat analysis of Au by INAA have been performed on the original split for samples reporting Au values exceeding 20 ppb and are reported as Au2. This level represents the 95th percentile for Au based on the total RGS data set for map sheets 92H, 92I and 92J.
- Analytical duplicate results for Au are also reported as Au2.
- Missing data is reported as blanks.

Table A-1. Reference Guide for Geological Formations (Roddick *et al.*, 1979)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>STRATIFIED ROCKS</u> | |
| QUATERNARY | |
| Pleistocene and Recent | |
| QG | Garibaldi Group : basalt, andesite |
| TERTIARY | |
| Eocene and Oligocene | |
| EOK | Kamloops Group : dacite, basalt |
| Lower Tertiary | |
| ITps | shale, sandstone, arkose |
| ITvr | rhyolite, dacite |
| ITv | andesite, basalt |
| CRETACEOUS AND/OR TERTIARY | |
| Upper Cretaceous | |
| uKKW | Kingsvale Group : arkose, conglomerate, greywacke |
| Lower Cretaceous | |
| IKB | Brew Group : argillite, quartzite, conglomerate |
| IKJM | Jackass Mountain Group : greywacke, conglomerate |
| IKTP | Taylor Creek Group : shale |
| IKC | Cheakamus : greywacke, arkose |
| IKFL | Fire Lake Group : greenstone, slate, schist |
| IKG | Gambier Group : tuff, breccia, argillite |
| IKTV | Taylor Creek Group : andesite, basalt |
| JURASSIC AND CRETACEOUS | |
| JKRM | Relay Mountain Group : shale, greywacke, conglomerate |
| TRIASSIC | |
| Upper Triassic | |
| uTC | Cadwallader Group : argillite, phyllite, limestone |
| uTP | Pioneer : andesite breccia, tuff, flows, greenstone |
| uTV | basalt, andesite, sediments |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| PALEOZOIC AND TRIASSIC | |
| PTBR | Bridge River Group : chert, argillite, phyllite |
| PENNSYLVANIAN AND PERMIAN | |
| PPTI | Twin Island Group : granulite, amphibolite, gneiss, schist |
| PALEOZOIC | |
| Pqs | quartzite, schist |
| <u>INTRUSIVE ROCKS</u> | |
| TERTIARY | |
| Late Tertiary | |
| LTqm | quartz monzonite |
| Early Tertiary | |
| ETqm | quartz monzonite |
| ETgd | granodiorite |
| ETfp | dacitic feldspar porphyry |
| CRETACEOUS | |
| Kg | granite |
| Kqm | Remmell: quartz monzonite, granodiorite, quartz diorite |
| Late Cretaceous | |
| LKgd | granodiorite |
| PERMIAN AND TRIASSIC | |
| PTub | serpentinite, peridotite, Shulaps : ultramafic rocks |
| <u>AGE UNKNOWN</u> | |
| Coast Plutonic Complex | |
| gd | granodiorite |
| qd | quartz diorite |
| di | diorite |
| b | gabbro |
| ng | migmatitic complexes of amphibolite grade |

Table A-2. Reference Guide for Field Observations

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MAP | 1:50 000 NTS map sheet number |
| SAMPLE ID | Sample Number |
| UTM ZONE | UTM Zone |
| UTM EAST | UTM East Coordinate |
| UTM NORTH | UTM North Coordinate |
| STA | Replicate Sample Status: Routine Sample 10 1st Field Duplicate 20 2nd Field Duplicate |
| MED | Sample Media Collected: 1 Stream Sediment 6 Steam Sediment and Water |
| FORM | Geological Formations (see Table A-1) |
| WAT COL | Water Color: 0 Colorless 2 White Cloudy 1 Brown Clear 3 Brown Cloudy |
| FLW | Water Flow Rate: 0 Stagnant 3 Fast 1 Slow 4 Torrent 2 Moderate |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| SED COL | Sediment Color: R Red O Olive-Green W White-Buffer G Grey-Blue B Black P Pink Y Yellow T Tan-Brown |
| SED PPT | Sediment Precipitate : N = None (otherwise, same as SED COL) |
| CON | Site Contamination: N None A Agricultural P Possible D Domestic M Mining F Forestry |
| SED COMP | Sediment Composition : Estimate of Sand-Fines-Organic Content 0 Absent 1 Minor (<1/3 of total) 2 Moderate (>1/3 but <2/3 of total) 3 Major (<2/3 of total) |
| STRM WPTH | Stream Width (metres) |
| STRM DPTH | Stream Depth (centimetres) |
| BNK | Bank Composition: U Unknown G Glacial Outwash A Alluvium R Rock C Colluvium S Scree, talus T Till O Organic |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| BNK PPT | Bank Precipitate : N = None (otherwise, same as SED COL) |
| PHY | Physiography: L Lowland H Hilly S Swamp M Mature Mts P Plateau Y Youthful Mts |
| DRN | Drainage Pattern: D Dendritic I Interrupted H Herringbone G Glacially deranged R Rectangular |
| TYP | Stream Type: P Permanent R Re-emergent S Seasonal |
| ODR | Stream Order: 1 Primary 3 Tertiary 2 Secondary 4 Quaternary |
| SRC | Stream Source: U Unknown S Spring Runoff G Groundwater M Meltwater |
| DATE | Sample Collection Date (day-month) |
| WT | Weight of Sample Analyzed by INAA |

