High Sensitivity Airborne Gamma-Ray Spectrometric and Aeromagnetic Survey
Central British Columbia, 2004 - 2006

In 2004 and 2005, Fugro Airborne Surveys completed nine multi-sensor airborne geophysics surveys in the central region of British Columbia for the Geological Survey of Canada, the British Columbia and Yukon Chapter of Mines, Geoscience, and Industry partners, including Barrick Gold Corporation, Sangees Resources Inc., Vantage Hill Minerals Ltd., Riofield Ventures Corp., GWR Resources Inc. and Amarc Resources Ltd. The Geological Survey of Canada provided survey supervision and quality control. The purpose of the surveys was to obtain quantitative gamma-ray spectrometric and aeromagnetic data. The surveys were flown over two seasons, from September 18 to November 18, 2004 and June 15 to August 8, 2005 using ASAR 350-82 and 350-83 helicopters. © GECI, Inc.

Gamma-ray Spectrometric Data

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The silicon gamma-ray measurements were made with an Explorerium DB803 spectrometer with a 100 × 100 × 400 mm ³LiF crystal. The main detector array consisted of eight crystals (total volume 33.6 liters). One crystal (total volume 4.2 liters), shielded by the most active crystal, was used to detect uranium in background radiation caused by atmospheric radon. The other seven crystals were used for each crystal and using a Gaussian peak-fitting least squares algorithm, adjusted the gain for each crystal.

Potassium is measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by ⁴⁰K, whereas uranium and thorium are measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products (214Pb for uranium and 214Pb for thorium). Although these daughters are far down the decay chain, they are in secular equilibrium with the parent. The gamma-ray spectra of the spectrometric measurements of uranium and thorium are referred to as equivalent uranium and equivalent thorium, i.e. μU and μTh . The energy windows used to measure potassium, uranium, and thorium are shown in Figure 1.

Potassium (^{40}K) 1300 - 1500 keV
 Uranium (^{234}Bq) 1600 - 1800 keV

Gamma-ray spectra were recorded at one-second intervals at a planned ground clearance of 1200 or 90 cm depending on the survey area and an air speed of 125 km/h. The 1956, potassium, uranium and thorium window counts were derived from the recorded 256 channel spectra. During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into the window described above. Counts from the thorium detectors were recorded in a 1600–1900 keV window at energies greater than 3000 keV was recorded in the cosmic window. The window for the potassium detector was 1400–1600 keV. The window for the uranium detector was 2600–2800 keV. The window for the thorium detector was 2600–2800 keV. The radioactivity of the aircraft and atmospheric radon decay products. The window data were then corrected for spectral scattering in the ground, air and detectors. Corrections for detectors at altitude from the planned ground clearance and for variation of temperature and pressure were made prior to conversion to ground concentrations of potassium, uranium and thorium, using factors

Potassium 57.3 cps/% (2004) 56.9 cps/% (2005)
Uranium 6.7 cps/ppm (2004) 8.4 cps/ppm (2005)
Thorium 3.6 cps/ppm (2004) 3.7 cps/ppm (2005)

Corrected data were filtered and interpolated to a 100m grid for the 1:250 000 scale maps and to a 50m grid for the 1:20 000 and 1:50 000 scale maps. 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 total absorbed dose rate in nanograys per hour was produced from measured counts between 410 and

Magnetic Data

The helicopter was equipped with a Scintrex CS-2 cesium vapour magnetic sensor mounted in HM1 high-resolution single sensor stinger mounted system. The system recorded readings every 0.1 seconds with a noise level of less than 0.01 nT. Magnetic interferences caused by aircraft maneuvers were compensated using an RMS ADCSI magnetic compensator. Diurnal variations and GRR-50 variations were recorded using a Fomac CS3 base station.

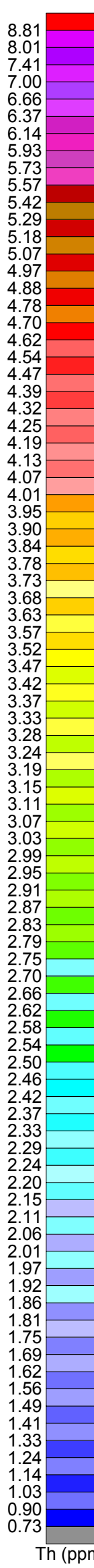
After editing the survey data, the intersections of traverse and control lines were determined and the differences in the magnetic values were computed, analyzed and manually verified to obtain the leveling network. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field was calculated and removed using a fixed date of August 2, 2005 and an altitude of the differentially corrected GPS height for each data point. The corrected magnetic data was interpolated to a 50m grid using a minimum curvature algorithm. The first vertical derivative grid was calculated from the corrected total magnetic intensity using a FFT based two-pass minimum filtering algorithm.

Positional Data

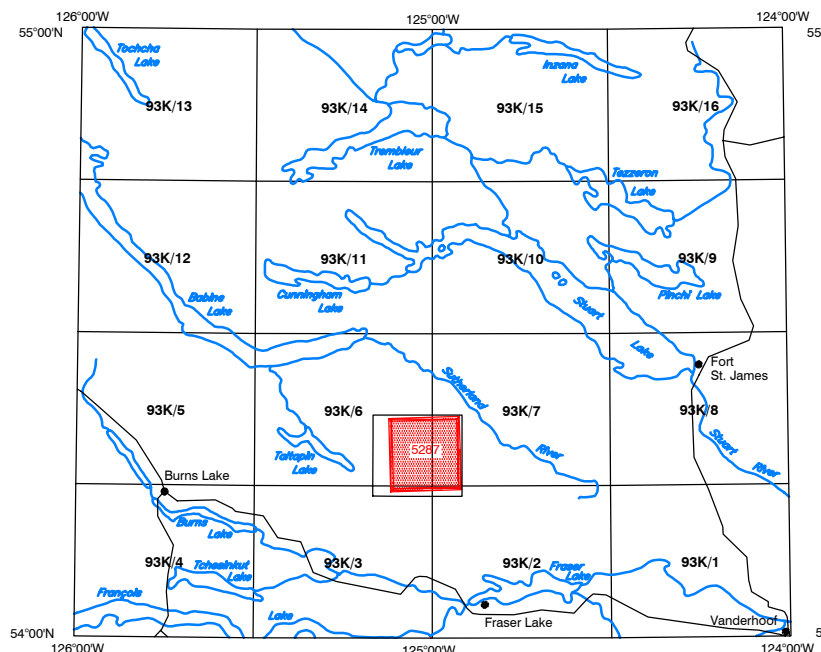
Positional Data
Line spacing and direction for survey and control lines were selected for each block to ensure the best intersection of local geological features. Terrain clearance was monitored by radar altimetry. Positional data were recorded using a dual frequency Novatel Millennium system. GPS groundstation data were combined with airborne GPS data to produce differentially corrected positional data with an accuracy of 2 to 5 m.

Data Presentation

Colour levels and contours were calculated for each grid and combined with map surround information in maps postscript plot files, which were plotted using HP DesignJet colour plotters.



Planimetric Symbols



NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHICAL SYSTEM REFERENCE AND GEOPHYSICAL MAP INDEX
SYSTÈME NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE CARTOGRAPHIQUE ET INDEX DES CARTES GÉOPHYSIQUES

Recommended citation:
 Carson, J.M., Dumont, R., Poivy, J., Shires, R.B.K., Harvey, B.J.A., Buckle, J.L. and Lee
 2000: Geophysical Series - NTG 59X06, 59X17, 59X23, 59X52 - Tatlapin Lake, British Columbia.
 Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 5267.

THORIUM

TALTAPIN LAKE
BRITISH COLUMBIA