

**High Sensitivity Airborne Gamma-Ray Spectrometric and Aeromagnetic Surveys**  
**Central British Columbia, 2004-2005**

In 2004 and 2005, Puget Airborne Surveys completed one multi-sensor, airborne, geophysical survey in the central region of British Columbia for the Geological Survey of Canada, the British Columbia and Yukon Chambers of Mines, Yukon First Nation, and five industry partners, including Sangeet Resource Inc., Yukon First Minerals Ltd., Pacific Ventures Corp., GWR Resources Inc., and Energy Resources Ltd. The Geological Survey of Canada provided survey supervision and quality control. The objective of the survey was to obtain quantitative gamma-ray spectrometric and aeromagnetic data. The surveys were flown over two seasons, from September 16 to November 17, 2004 and June 19 to August 6, 2005, using Airbus 330-300 and 330-300 helicopters, C-062, and C-063.

**Gamma-ray Spectrometric Data**  
The airborne gamma-ray measurements were made with an Epsilon-1000 gamma-ray spectrometer using one 102 x 102 x 400 cm NaI(Tl) crystal. The main detector array consisted of eight crystals, three on each side of the aircraft fuselage (four on each side), shielded by the main wing and lead shielding. The detector array was mounted on a gimbal that allowed the system to maintain the detector array perpendicular to the flight path. The system constantly monitored the natural potassium peak for each crystal, and, using a Gaussian least squares algorithm, adjusted the gain for each crystal.

Potassium is measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by <sup>40</sup>K, whereas uranium and thorium are measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products (Pb-214 for uranium and Th-232 for thorium), although these daughters are far down their respective decay chains. They are assumed to be in equilibrium with their parents, thus gamma-ray spectrometric measurements of parent and thorium are inferred to be equivalent, uranium and thorium therefore, 1:1:40 and 40:1. The energy windows used to measure potassium, uranium and thorium are:

Potassium (<sup>40</sup>K) 1360-1560 keV  
Uranium (<sup>238</sup>U) 1800-1860 keV  
Thorium (<sup>232</sup>Th) 2420-2810 keV

Gamma-ray spectra were recorded at one-second intervals at a planned swath clearance of 120m or 50m depending on the survey area and an air speed of 120km/h. The total 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 windows described above. Counts from the radon detector were recorded in a 1000-1800 keV window and radon at readings greater than 1000 keV was recorded in the radon window. The window counts were corrected for dead time and for background during post processing. The radioactivity of the aircraft and atmospheric radon decay products. The window data were then corrected for spectral variability in the ground, air and detector. Corrections for deviations of altitude from the planned swath clearance and for variation of temperature and pressure were made prior to conversion to ground concentrations of potassium, uranium and thorium, using factors determined from flights over a calibration range near Omineca.

Potassium 0.75 gpm/1000 gpm/1000 gpm/1000  
Uranium 0.75 gpm/1000 gpm/1000 gpm/1000  
Thorium 0.75 gpm/1000 gpm/1000 gpm/1000

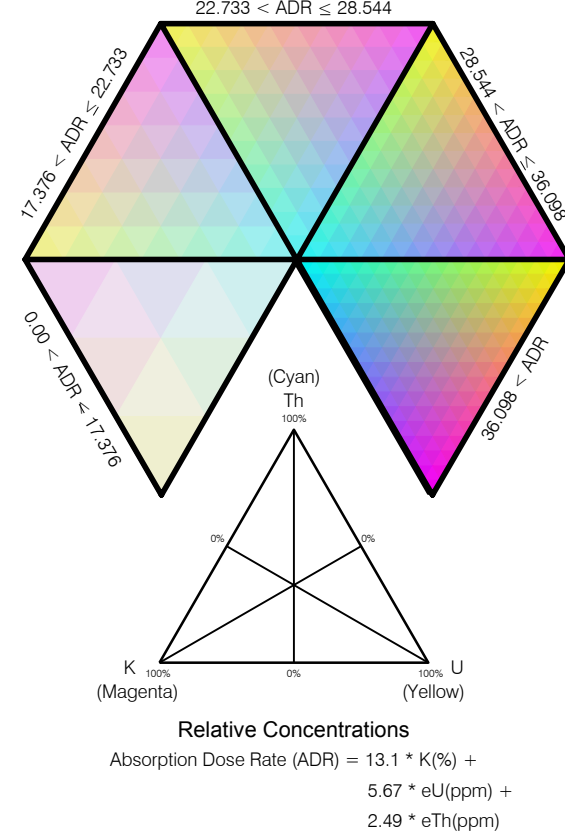
Corrected data were filtered and interpolated to a 100m grid for the 1:500,000 scale maps and to a 50m grid for the 1:250,000 and 1:100,000 scale maps. The results of an airborne gamma-ray spectrometric survey represent the average surface concentrations that are influenced by varying amounts of outcrop, cover, vegetation cover, soil moisture and surface water. As a result, the measured concentrations are usually lower than the actual bedrock concentrations. The 1000 air absorption dose rate in readings per hour was produced from measured counts between 410 and 2810 keV.

**Magnetic Data**  
The helicopter was equipped with a Scintrex CS-2 medium vapour magnetic sensor mounted in a HMI high-resolution, single sensor, single mounted system. The system recorded readings every 0.1 seconds with a noise level of less than 0.01 nT. Magnetic interference caused by aircraft maneuvers were compensated using an RMI ADCS magnetic compensator. Diurnal variations and GPS locations were recorded using a Trimble GPS base station.

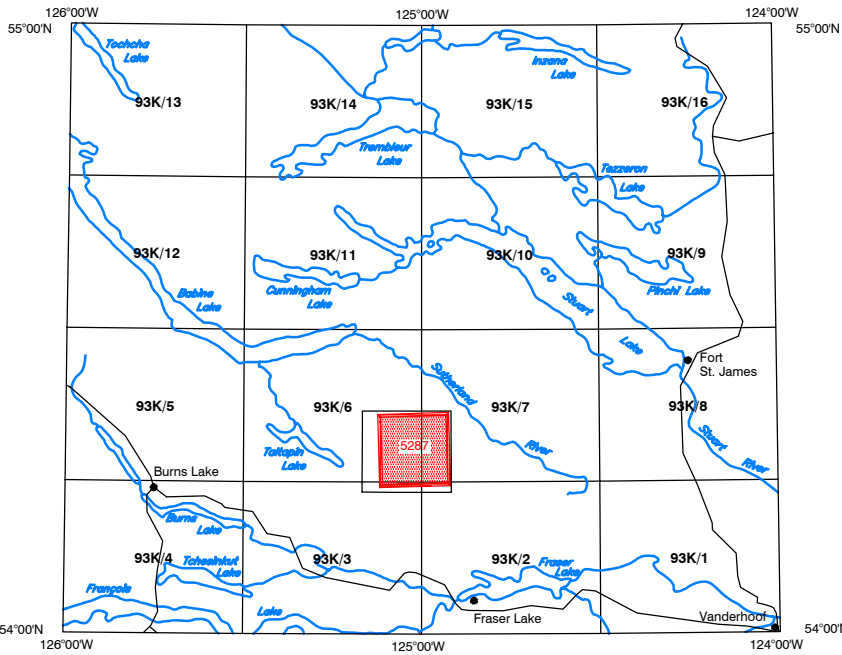
After editing the survey data, the intersections of traverse and control lines were determined and the differences in the magnetic values were corrected, adjusted and manually verified to obtain the leveling network. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field was calculated and removed using a field date of August 2, 2005 and an altitude of the offensively 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 data magnetically using a FFT based frequency domain filtering algorithm.

**Positional Data**  
Line spacing and direction for survey and control lines were selected for each block to ensure the best intersection of local geographic features. Terrain features were monitored by water features. Positional data were recorded using a dual frequency Novatel Minium system. GPS groundstation data were corrected 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 to create postscript plot files, which were plotted using HP DesignJet colour plotters.



**Plasma Symbols**  
Topographic Contour .....  
Elevation .....  
Roads .....  
Culture .....  
Railway .....  
Flight lines, 93K/6/7 .....  
1:100,000 scale



NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHICAL SYSTEM REFERENCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL MAP INDEX  
SYSTÈME NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE TOPOGRAPHIQUE ET INDEX DES CARTES GÉOGRAPHIQUES

Recommended citation:  
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