

Introduction
A quantitative gamma-ray spectrometric and aeromagnetic survey of the Northwestern Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan, was completed by Geotek Airborne Surveys. The survey was flown from June 24th to September 21st, 2010 using two Piper PA-31 Navajo aircraft (C-GJBA, C-GJBB) and one Cessna Caravan (C-GLDX). The nominal traverse and control line spacing were, respectively, 400 m and 200 m, and the aircraft flew at a nominal terrain clearance of 120 m and between 200 and 270 m. Traverse lines were oriented 135° with orthogonal control lines. The flight path was recovered following post-flight differential corrections to raw data recorded by a Global Positioning System.

Gamma-ray Spectrometric Data
The airborne gamma-ray measurements were made with a Radiation Solutions RS-500 gamma-ray spectrometers using fourteen 102x102x406 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 by the main array, were used to detect variations in background radiation caused by atmospheric radon. The system constantly monitored the natural thorium 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 ⁴⁰K, whereas uranium and thorium are measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products (Bi²¹⁴ for uranium and Tl²⁰⁸ 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 uranium and thorium are referred to as equivalent uranium and equivalent thorium, i.e. eU and eTh. The energy windows used to measure potassium, uranium and thorium are, respectively, 1370-1570 keV, 1660-1860 keV, and 2410-2810 keV.

Gamma-ray spectra were recorded at one-second intervals. Data processing followed standard procedures as described in IAEA, 1991 and IAEA, 2003. During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into the windows described above. Counts from the radon detectors were recorded in a 1600-1860 keV window and radiation at energies greater than 3000 keV was recorded in the cosmic window. The window counts were corrected for dead time, background activity from cosmic radiation, 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 deviations from the planned terrain clearance and for variations of temperature and pressure were made prior to conversion to ground concentrations of potassium, uranium and thorium, using factors determined from flights over the Danelson, Saskatchewan calibration range. The factors for potassium, uranium, and thorium are listed in Table 1.

	C-GJBA	C-GJBB	C-GLDX
Potassium (cpa%)	83.27	82.05	80.13
Uranium (cpu/ppm)	10.48	10.85	10.30
Thorium (cpt/ppm)	5.61	5.45	6.57

Table 1. Gamma Ray Spectrometer Sensitivities for each aircraft

Corrected data were filtered and interpolated to a 100 m grid interval. 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 total air absorbed dose rate in nanograys per hour was produced from measured counts between 400 and 2810 keV.

Magnetic Data
The magnetic field was sampled 10 times per second using a split-beam cesium vapour magnetometer (sensitivity = 0.005 nT) rigidly mounted to the aircraft. Differences in magnetic values at the intersections of control and traverse lines were controlled to obtain a mutually levelled set of flight line magnetic data. The levelled values were then interpolated to a 100 m grid. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) defined at the average GPS altitude of 510 m for the year 2010.01 was then removed. Removal of the IGRF, representing the magnetic field of the Earth's core, produces a residual component related essentially to magnetizations within the Earth's crust.

The first vertical derivative of the magnetic field is the rate of change of the magnetic field in the vertical direction. Computation of the first vertical derivative removes long wavelength features of the magnetic field and improves the resolution of closely spaced and sign-reversed anomalies. An property of first vertical derivative maps is the conversion of the zero-value contour with vertical contacts of magnetic units of high magnetic latitudes (Hood, 1965).

PLANIMETRIC SYMBOLS

Drainage
Highway
Flight line 1:500 scale

SYMBOLS PLANIMÉTRIQUES

Drainage
Autoroute
Ligne de vol 1:500 échelle

ISOMAGNETIC LINES

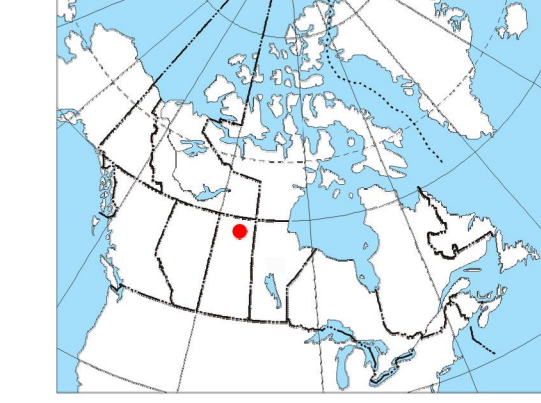
250nT
50nT
10nT
2 nT
Magnetic Depression

LIGNES ISOMAGNÉTIQUES

250 nT
50 nT
10 nT
2 nT
Dépression magnétique

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GEOPHYSICAL SERIES / SÉRIE DES CARTES GÉOPHYSIQUES

AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE NORTHWESTERN ATHABASCA BASIN, SASKATCHEWAN
LEVÉ GÉOPHYSIQUE AÉROPORTÉ DE LA PARTIE NORD-OUEST DU BASSIN ATHABASCA, SASKATCHEWAN

NTS 74 J/12 Birney Lake / SNRC 74 J/12 Birney Lake

RESIDUAL TOTAL MAGNETIC FIELD
COMPOSANTE RÉSIDUELLE DU CHAMP MAGNÉTIQUE TOTAL

Authors: Fortin, R., Coyle, M., Buckle, J., Hefford, S.W. and Delaney, G.
Auteurs : Fortin, R., Coyle, M., Buckle, J., Hefford, S.W. et Delaney, G.

Scale 1:50 000 - Échelle 1/50 000

Scale 1:50 000 - Échelle 1/50 000

Data acquisition, compilation and map production by Geotek Airborne Surveys, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Contract and project management by the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

L'acquisition, la compilation des données ainsi que la production des cartes furent effectuées par Geotek Airborne Surveys, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. La gestion et la supervision du projet furent effectuées par la Commission géologique du Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

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- Dérivée première verticale du champ magnétique

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2011-21

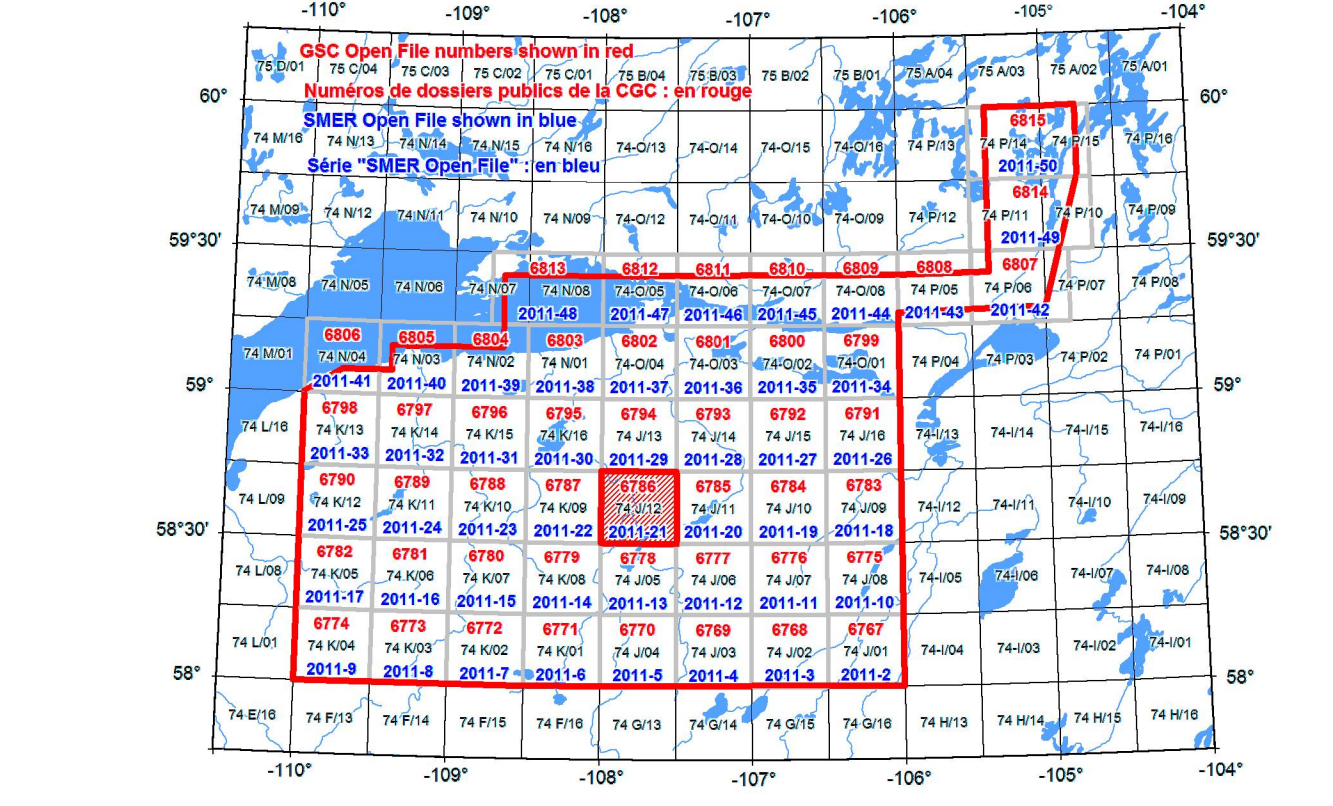
SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES
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2011
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NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYSTEM REFERENCE AND GEOPHYSICAL MAP INDEX / SYSTÈME NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE CARTOGRAPHIQUE ET D'INDEX DES CARTES GÉOPHYSIQUES



AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE NORTHWESTERN ATHABASCA BASIN, SASKATCHEWAN
LEVÉ GÉOPHYSIQUE AÉROPORTÉ DE LA PARTIE NORD-OUEST DU BASSIN ATHABASCA, SASKATCHEWAN

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