

Introduction
A quantitative gamma-ray spectrometric and aeromagnetic airborne geophysical survey of the Northwestern Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan, was completed by Goldak 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 2400 m, and the air craft flew at a nominal terrain clearance of 120 m at speeds between 200 and 270 km/h. 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 radon 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 (²¹⁴Pb for uranium and ²¹⁴Pb 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, 1600-1860 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 Danvers, 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	80.33
Uranium (cpuppm)	10.48	10.88	10.30
Thorium (cpuppm)	5.61	5.45	5.57

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 over 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 computer-analyzed to obtain a mutually leveled and gridded magnetic data. The leveled 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 significantly improves the resolution of closely spaced and superposed anomalies. A property of first vertical derivative maps is the coincidence of the zero-value contour with vertical contacts of magnetic units at high magnetic latitudes (Hood, 1965).

PLANIMETRIC SYMBOLS / SYMBOLES PLANIMÉTRIQUES

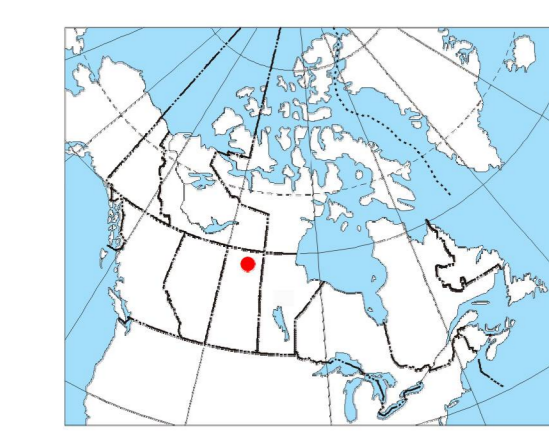
Drainage Drainage
Highway Autoroute
Flight line Ligne de vol

ISOMAGNETIC LINES / LIGNES ISOMAGNÉTIQUES

250nT 250 nT
50nT 50 nT
10nT 10 nT
2 nT 2 nT
Magnetic Depression Dépression magnétique

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Map location - Localisation de la carte

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SMER OPEN FILE 2011-25

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

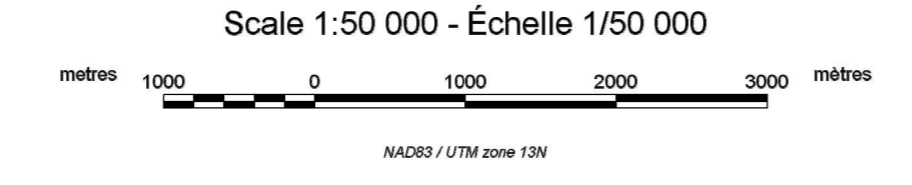
RESIDUAL TOTAL MAGNETIC FIELD
COMPOSANTE RÉSIDUELLE DU CHAMP MAGNÉTIQUE TOTAL

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

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Data acquisition, compilation and map production by Goldak 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 de cartes furent effectuées par Goldak Airborne Surveys, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. La gestion et la supervision du projet furent effectuées par la Commission géologique du Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.



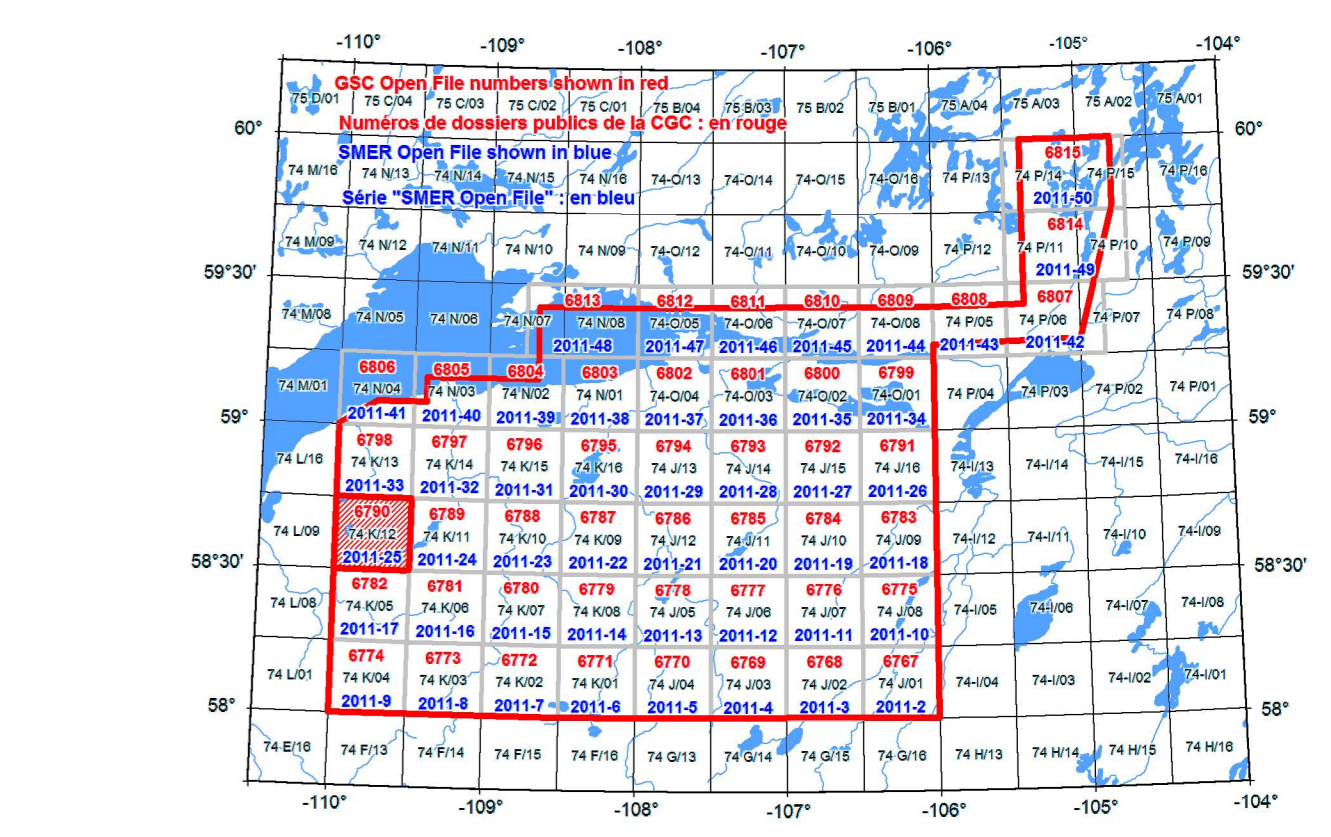
MAP SHEET SUMMARY / SOMMAIRE DES FEUILLETS

- Natural Air Absorbed Dose Rate
- Potassium
- Uranium
- Thorium
- Uranium / Thorium
- Uranium / Potassium
- Terrain Radiometric Map
- Diagramme ternaire des radiométriques
- Residual Total Magnetic Field
- First Vertical Derivative of the Magnetic Field
- Derivée première verticale du champ magnétique

OPEN FILE 2011-25
SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES
2011
SHEET 9 OF 10 / FEUILLET 9 DE 10

OPEN FILE DOSSIER PUBLIC 6790
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA / COMMISSION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA
2011
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NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYSTEM REFERENCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL MAP INDEX / SYSTÈME NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE CARTOGRAPHIQUE ET INDEX DES CARTES GÉOGRAPHIQUES



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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