



Introduction
A quantitative gamma-ray spectrometric and aeromagnetic airborne geophysical survey of the Northwestern Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan, was completed by Geotek Airborne Surveys. The survey was flown from June 26 to September 21, 2011 using two Piper PA-31 Navajo (C-GLDB, C-GLDB) and one Cessna Caravan (C-GLDB, C-GLDB). The control transects and control line spacings were, respectively, 400 m and 2400 m, and the aircraft flew at a nominal terrain clearance of 125 m and an average ground speed of 270 km/h. Traverse lines were oriented 135° with respect to the control lines. The flight path was corrected following post-flight differential corrections to the data to rectify a Global Positioning System (GPS) error.

Gamma-ray Spectrometric Data
The airborne gamma-ray measurements were made with a Radiation Systems RS-500 gamma-ray spectrometer using Kurier 1520/102406 mm NaI (Tl) crystals. The main detector array consisted of twelve crystals (total volume 54 litres). Two crystals (total volume 8.4 litres), shielded by the main array, were used to detect variations in background radiation caused by the aircraft and terrain. The system consisted of two channels for each crystal, and using a Canberra level-by-gate algorithm, selected the gain for each crystal.

Photons measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by ⁴⁰K, whereas uranium and thorium were measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products (²¹⁴Pb for uranium and ²¹⁴Pb for thorium). Although these daughter are far down their respective decay chains, they are assumed to be in equilibrium with their parents. The gamma-ray spectrometric measurements of uranium and thorium were corrected for self-absorption and attenuation using a Canberra level-by-gate algorithm, selected the gain for each crystal.

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 spectra described above. Counts from the main detector were recorded in a 1600-1800 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 progeny. The spectra were then corrected for detector efficiency, and the counts were converted to concentrations. Corrections for deviations from the planned terrain 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 the Dawson, Saskatchewan, and Ontario basins, respectively, 1370-1570 keV, 1660-1860 keV and 2410-2810 keV.

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	C-GLDB	C-GLDB	C-GLDB
Potassium (ppm)	13.27	12.56	12.56
Uranium (ppm)	1.24	1.24	1.24
Thorium (ppm)	5.17	4.68	4.68

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 nGy/hr per hour was produced from measured counts between 400 and 2510 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 smoothed using a 2 km by 2 km moving average. 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. The IGRF, representing the magnetic field over the Earth's surface, produces a residual component related essentially to magnetic anomalies 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 low wavelength features of the magnetic field and significantly improves the resolution of closely spaced and suspended anomalies. A property of first vertical derivative maps is the coincidence of the contour-line with vertical contacts of magnetic units at high magnetic latitudes (Hood, 1965).

This airborne geophysical survey and the production of this map were funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources and the GEM-Energy Program of the Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada.
Ce levé géophysique aéroporté et la production de cette carte ont été financés par le ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources de la Saskatchewan et le programme GEM-Energie du Secteur des sciences de la Terre, Ressources naturelles Canada.

On peut télécharger gratuitement, depuis l'Empire de données géophysiques de Ressources naturelles Canada à l'adresse Web: <http://www.nrnc.gc.ca>, des versions numériques de cette carte, des données cartographiques correspondantes en format numérique, ainsi que des données similaires issues des levés aéromagnétiques et spectrométriques adjacents. On peut se procurer les versions numériques, respectivement des bases de données et des cartes géophysiques de la Commission géologique du Canada, 615, rue Booth, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0E8. Téléphone: (613) 995-5320; courriel: info@gsg.nrcan.gc.ca.



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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 P/11 and 74 P/10 Chambeuil Lake and Young Lake / SNRC 74 P/11 et 74 P/10 Chambeuil Lake et Young Lake

NATURAL AIR ABSORBED DOSE RATE
TAUX D'ABSORPTION NATUREL DES RAYONS GAMMA DANS L'AIR

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

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Table 1. Gamma Ray Spectrometer Sensitivities for each aircraft

	C-GLDB	C-GLDB	C-GLDB
Potassium (ppm)	13.27	12.56	12.56
Uranium (ppm)	1.24	1.24	1.24
Thorium (ppm)	5.17	4.68	4.68

PLANIMETRIC SYMBOLS
Drainage
Highway
Flight line

SYMBOLS PLANIMÉTRIQUES
Drainage
Autoboute
Ligne de vol

MAP SHEET SUMMARY / SOMMAIRE DES FEUILLES

Sheet / Feuille	MAP / CARTE
1.	Natural Air Absorbed Dose Rate / Taux d'absorption naturel des rayons gamma dans l'air
2.	Potassium
3.	Uranium
4.	Thorium
5.	Magnétisme / Thorium
6.	Magnétisme / Potassium
7.	Thorium / Potassium
8.	Diagramme terrain des radiations
9.	Relevé Topographique
10.	First Vertical Derivative of the Magnetic Field / Dérivée première verticale du champ magnétique

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NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYSTEM REFERENCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL MAP INDEX
SYSTÈME NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE CARTOGRAPHIQUE ET INDEX DES CARTES GÉOPHYSIQUES

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

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Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources (SMER), Open File 2011-49.
Scale: 1:50 000.

Historical Information:
Fortin, R., Coyle, M., Buckle, J., Hefford, S. et Delaney, G., 2011.
Série des cartes géophysiques.
Levé géophysique aéroporté de la partie nord-ouest du bassin Athabasca, Saskatchewan, SNRC 74 P/11 et 74 P/10, Chambeuil Lake et Young Lake.
Commission géologique du Canada, Dossier public 6814.
Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources de la Saskatchewan (SMER), Open File 2011-49.
Échelle: 1:50 000.



Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources

Geological Survey of Canada
Commission géologique du Canada

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