RECONNAISANCE GEOLOGICAL

MAGNETOMETER AND SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY

VERITY # 1, AR # 1,2 CLAIMS

PARADISE CREEK

URANIUM-COLUMBIUM PROSPECT

KAMLOOPS MINING DIVISION

BLUE RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

N.T.S. 83D

520 17' N 119010' W

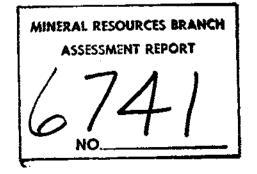
For

John Krueszewski

By

MEYERS CONSULTING

October , 1977



E. Meyers, P. Geol.

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PARADISE CREEK PROSPECT

N.T.S. - 83D

British Columbia

INTRODUCTION

From October 26 - November 2, 1977, a geological ev aluation and reconnaisance magnetometer and scintillometer survey was conducted on the Paradise Creek Prospect by the author and Ellis Goodwin, both of Calgary, Alberta. Preliminary sampling was conducted on older excavations.

A total of 3½ line miles (4.9 kilimeters) of both magnetometer and scintillometer surveying was completer, and an additional 3 miles (4.2) kilometers) of scintillometer work was conducted. A total area of 1.4 sq. miles (362 hectares) of geological mapping was conducted.

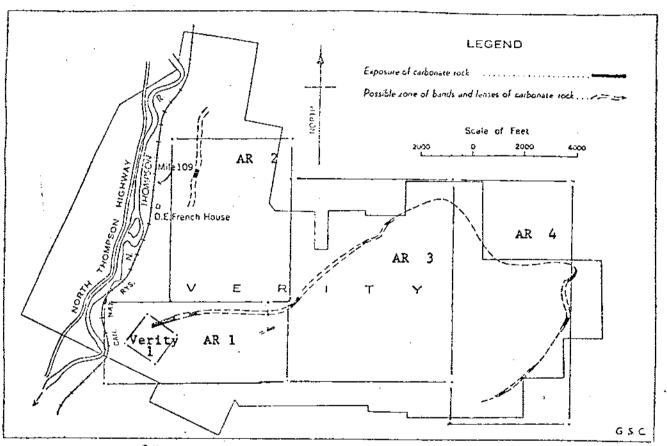
Of primary interest is the uranian pyrochlore and uranian columbite contained in a carbonatite host rock. The carbonatite also contains tantalum, apatite, zirconium, and vermiculite of potential economic importance. The pyrochlore has not been assayed for rare-earths. The carbonatite host containing the uranium bearing pyrochlore has been traced over 4 miles in length and spanning a verticle range of over 4,000 feet.

The Paradise Creek Prospect has a potential for finding economic ... concentrations of columbium, uranium, tantalum, and is worthy of further work.

This report was authorized by Mr. John Krueszewski, President of Rask Resources of Calgary, Alberta, which controls the Paradise Creek Property.

CLAIM DISPOSITION (Map 2)

Rask Resources controls 4 contiguous claim groups by staking. The claim group covers 3600 acres and are designated as follows: Sketch Map of Carbonatite Rocks and Claim Boundary on the A. R. Property



Sketchings of the AR property, southeastern British Columbia, showing accurrences of corbonate rocks. (From map by H. D. Hughes, 1932.)

2.

| Claim Name | No |). | No. of Units |
|------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| AR-1 | 25060 | 486 (8) | 9 |
| AR-2 | 25061 | 487(8) | 12 |
| AR-3 | 03353 | 505(9) | 20 |
| AR-4 | 03354 | 505(9) | 18 |
| | | | |
| | | TOTAL | 59 |

The anniversary date for the claims are unknown. Rask has an option on the Verity Claim owned by Miss Elizabeth French of Blue River, British Columbia.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY (See Regional Index Map)

AR 1 and 2 are accessible by logging roads approximately 2 miles south of the Lempriere flag stop. Lempriere is located 26 miles north of Blue River and 30 miles south of Valemont, B.C. along the Yellowhead Highway. Lempriere is located 169 miles north of Kamloops, B.C., and is the focal point for section gangs working on the Canadian National Railway tracks. A cleared power line right-of-way, 250' in width, bisects AR 1 and 2. Logging is currently active on AR-2.

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Relief ranges from 3000' to 7500' within the claim boundaries. Slopes are steep and undergrowth consisting of buckbrush, devils-club, and huckleberry is thick. Heavy stands of hemlock, cedar, fir, and white pine cover the slopes. The tree line is 6500' in elevation. Precipitation averages 50" per year and snow fall is generally heavy. Overburden generally does not exceed 15 feet.

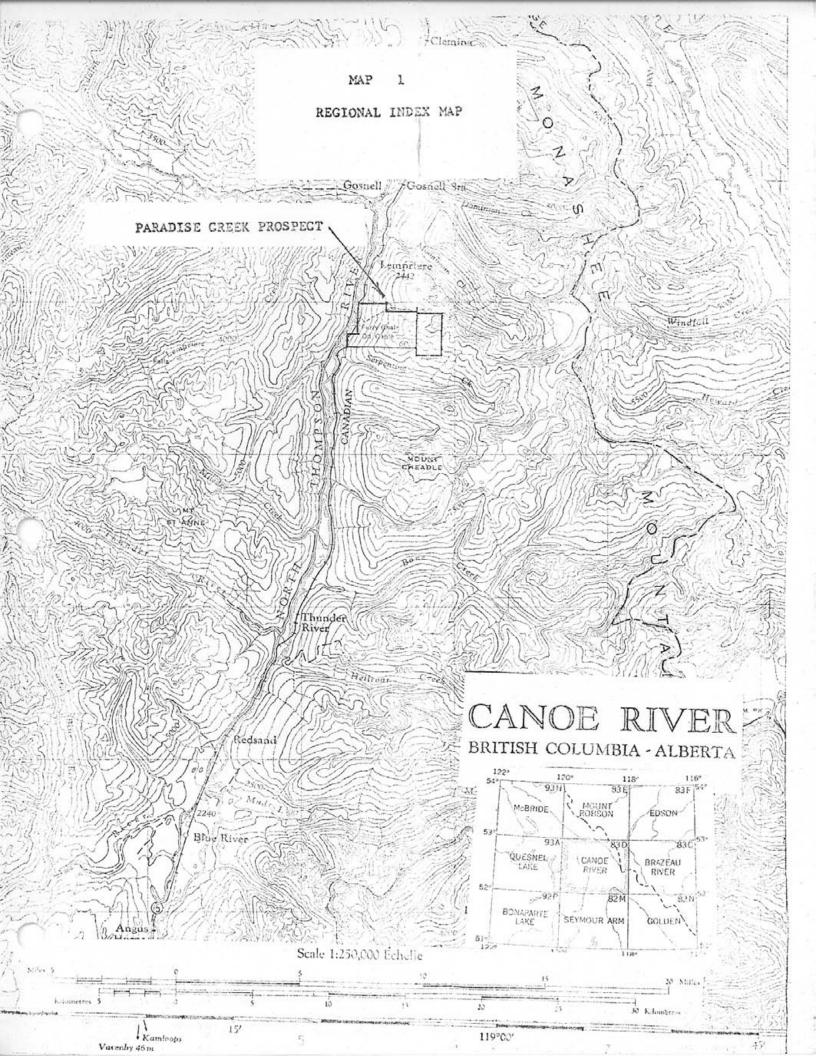
CERTIFICATE

I, Eugene P. Meyers, of the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, certify as follows:

- That I am a geologist residing at 139 Coleridge Rd. N.W. Calgary, Alberta.
- 2. That I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Idaho in 1963.
- 3. That I am registered as a Professional Geologist in the Province of Alberta.
- 4. That I have practiced my profession in mining and minerals exploration in Ganada and the United States continuously for the past thirteen years.

DATED IN CALGARY THIS 5 DAY OF November, 197 7.

Eugene P 2. Cécl. . Mayers,



HISTORY

The property was originally staked by O. E. French, a homesteader in the area, in 1950 on the basis of a vermiculite showing. Subsequent investigation by French resulted in the discovery of uranium bearing pyrochlore. In the spring of 1952, St. Eugene Mining Corp. Ltd. optioned the property and additional claims were staked. Most of the exploration work consisting of trenching, sampling, and blasting was confined to the verity and mill claims situated at elevations of from 3000¹ - 3500¹.

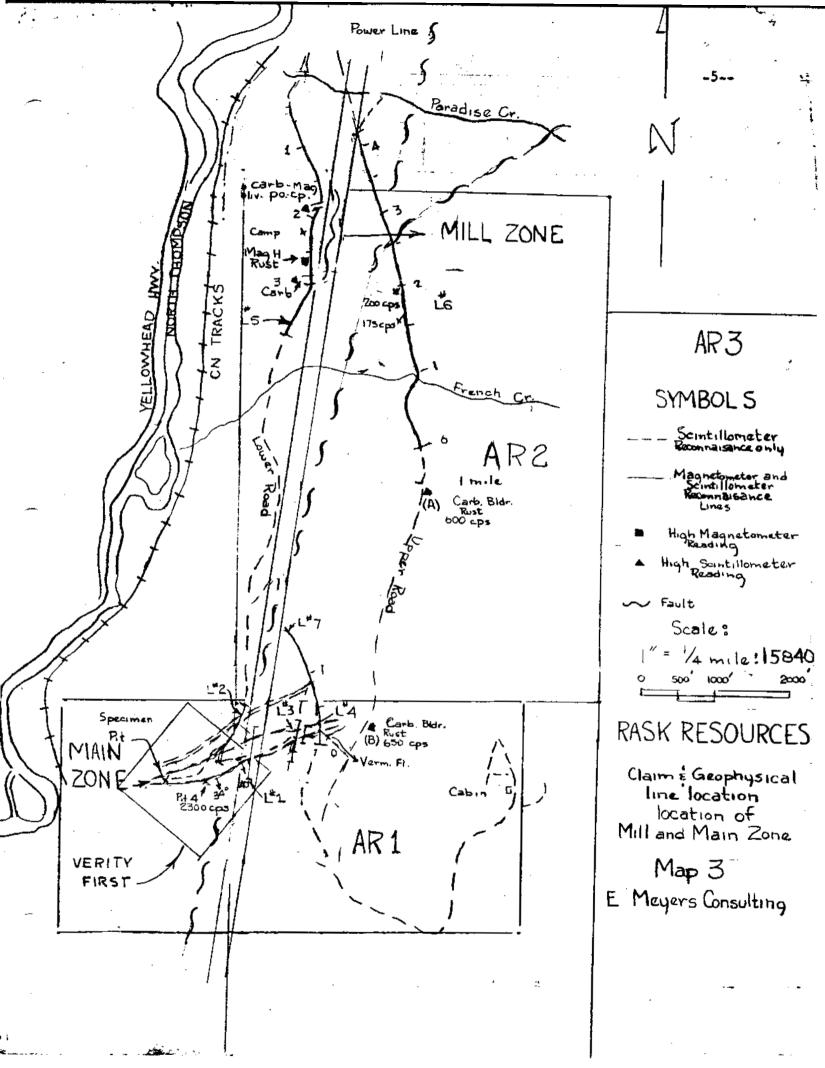
The Paradise Group of claims is some 3 miles east and at an elevation of 6500³, and received little work outside of trenching. The option was dropped by St Eugene and the property has remained idle since that time.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The claim area has been mapped and is covered by G.S.C. Map 15, 1967. The rocks in the area are mapped as the Kaza Group belonging to the Windemere Period of Late Proterozoic Age.

Locally the rock-type underlying the area is a quartz hornblende mica gneiss having a gneissosity trending from $80-120^{\circ}$ Azimith and dipping from $20-45^{\circ}$ to the south.

There are numerous pegmatitic occurences within the claim area consisting of feldspar and quartz and white in color. Of the pegmatites observed, none appear to be radioactive. G.S.C. Map 15 defines two 4.



faults (See Map 3) joining in the vicinity of the Mill Zone. The major fault. trending N 10° E, cuts both the Mill and the Main Zone.

LOCAL GEOLOGY

General Remarks About Carbonatite

Carbonatites are generally calcitic or dolomitic intrusive rocks associated with volcanism. Classic description of carbonatites described in literature are as follows:

- distinctive accessory minerals such as magnetite, apatite, and pyrochlore; minerals such as fluorite, zircon, barite are commonly present.
- 2) commonly developed ring-structure.
- 3) variation in size commonly ranging from 1 to 4 miles and roughly circular in plan.
- 4) proximity to rift valleys. (The Rocky Mountain Trench is 25 miles to the east.)

Main Zone

The carbonatite in the Main Zone has been mapped by the G.S.C., Economic Geology No. 18 (See Map 2). The carbonatite appears to be elliptical in plan view has been traced along strike for four miles over a vertical range of 4000 feet. The zone has a width of over 100 feet, highly fractured, and always in proximity to a pegmatite sill where exposed. The carbonatite is conformable with the strike of the surrounding gneiss. The carbonatite weathers to a soft, yellow to sugaryappearing rock easily crumbled in the hand. Clots and dissemination of apatite, vermiculite, hornblende, and magnetite have a preferred linear trend. The fresh rock is relatively soft, white-grey in appearance with dark minerals standing out in contrast. There are two to three other carbonatite satellite zones to the north of the main zone. They are much smaller in size and little work has been conducted on them.

Past mapping on the Paradise showings indicate they are an extension of the Main Zone. These older showings lie on a projected extension of the Main Zone some 3 miles to the east of an elevation from 6200 to 7500 feet. Their geologic settings are identical with the main zone and more than one zone appears to be present.

Mill Zone

The Mill Zone is 7000' north of the Main Zone and is exposed along a lower logging road and the lower end of the power line right-of-way. (See Map 3). The zone can be traced discontinuously in a north-south direction for 1000'. Exposures are too limited to give an accurate determination of width. The carbonatite is much fresher in appearance, relatively unfractured, and the accessory minerals are more coarsely crystalline. The carbonatite also contains olivine in coarse irregular shaped clots over 1" in diameter in addition to accessory minerals present in the Main Zone. There is also a trace amount of chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite as fracture fillings.

7.

Uranian pyrochlore occurs as disseminated crystals, and gneiss that range up to 14 inches in size. The colour varies from pale brown to brown to reddish brown to very dark brown to almost black. Some of the smaller grains have a reddish halo. A partial analysis of a specimen of the uranian pyrochlore is given in Table I.

Uranian columbite was identified by the late II. V. Ellsworth of the Geological Survey in specimens of carbonate rock that were sent to him by O. E. French. It gives an X-ray powder picture like that of columbitetantalite and occurs as small, black, metallic grains. Table I contains a partial analysis of this mineral.

TABLE I Partial Analyses of Niobium Minerals,

Verity Property, Southeastern British Columbia

Urinian pyrochlore Uranian-columbite Per cent Per cent N5₇O₁..... Ta₂O₁..... $Nb_2O_3 + Ta_2O_3$ U_3O_3 65 60 to 70 9 to 10 10 10 U,O,..... (Fe.M):0: TiO: 6 2 to 3 0.03 ZrO2..... Rare earths CaO MgO Analyst: R. J. Traill, Geol. Surv., Canada. Analyst: H. V. Ellsworth, Geol. Surv., Canada, Method: Semi-quantitative X-ray fluorescence. Method: Chemical, described by Ells-worth as "a rough diagnostic analysis".

Several samples of carbonate rock were collected by McCammon (1953 and 1955) and the results of the analyses are given in Table II.

TABLE II

Analyses of Carbonale Rock, Verity Property, Southeastern British Columbia

| Width (inches) | Per cont | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | N5-0; | U:0, | CaO | MgO | P.O. |
| A | 0-38 0-37 <0-1 <0-1 <0-1 0-00 | 0+039 <0+01 <0+01 0+23 0+017 0+101 | 27.6 36.8 42.4 33.3 | $ \begin{array}{r} 12.4 \\ 5.7 \\ 4.7 \\ 12.5 \end{array} $ | 1.38 2.75 2.02 4.85 |

ana si sa lere

MINERALOGY

The accessory mineral assemblage in order of economic significance consist of uranium pyrochlore, uraniam columbite, vermiculite, apatite, and zircon. Other accessory minerals include hornblende, magnetite, olivine pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite. The pyrochlore occurs as small disseminations, irregular small masses and octahedral shaped crystals. The presence of pyrochlore can be observed in some cases to be rimmed by a red halo. Pyrochlore ranges in color from black to a distinctive resinous brown resembling sphalerite. No uranium columbite was observed and its presence has been established by lab work conducted by the G.S.G. The presence of tentalum has been also identified in both the pyrochlore and columbite (See Table 1).

Vermiculite has three modes of occurence; as small disseminations, thin bands occuring along fractures and large books occuring in zones observed up to 27[‡] in width. Vermiculite is deep green in color.

Apatite occurs as small individual laths, off-white in color, and stand out in relief from the softer host rock.

The presence of zircon was not observed magoscopically. Miss French showed the author some crystals originating from the verity claim. The author used a fluorescent lamp to identify zircon in a hand sample taken from the Mill Zone where its presence is identified by a deep yellow fluorescent color. Magnetite occurs as either small isolated disseminations or large masses in rather erratic distribution patterns within the carbonatite host. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The economically important elements and minerals are uranium. columbium, tantalum, possible rare earths, phosphates, zirconium, and vermiculite.

Apatite is being produced for its phosphate, fluorine, rare earths from the Khibina Massif in Russia and the Palabora carbonatite complex in South Africa.

Vermiculite is an industrial mineral having application as an insulator and light weight building aggregate, kitty litter, and is sold under the trade name of ZONALITE. A more thorough treatment of the potential economics of the property is given in the Commodity Data Summary of 1977, issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and covered in Appendix A. ASSAY

No systematic assaying was conducted because of limited exposure and sloughing in of older trenching. A selected sample taken from older trenching from pit # 4, and the specimen pit. Assay results are as follows: Location Cb205 U308 P205 Ta2 05 in % 0.26 Specimen 0.005 1.80 Pit nil Pit # 4 3.68 0.03 nil. níl

A semi-quantative composite was run on both samples for a total spectrographic analysis and is included in the supplement of this report. Included in Table 1 is an x-ray analysis of a mineral sample supplied to the G.S.C. by O. French. Table 2 is an assay analysis conducted by the B.C. Dept. of Mines in the early 1950s. Values resulting from current assaying indicate that leaching has contributed to low assay results as compared to assay results of the G.S.C. and the B.C. Dept of Mines. Representative sampling must be accompanied by trenching to expose unweathered mineralization.

Scope, Equipment and Procedure

A Reconnaisance Magnetometer and Scintillometer survey was undertalem on the property to determine a) degree of response over exposed mineralization b) outline the amptitude of anomalies based on response of radioactive pyrochlore and magnetite contained within the carbonatite. c) determine degree of geophysical response in untested areas along the projected strike of the carbonatite.

The equipment used was a McPhar flux-gate M700 Magnetometer. This instrument is self-levelling; insensitive to orientation; has a temperature drift of less than 200 gammas over -35 to plus 55 degrees centigrade; and has a range of from 5 to 100,000 gammas. A latitude adjustment allows readings of the most sensituve scale by cancelling the earth"s magnetic field. All readings recorded are the vertical component cancelled to the most sensitive scale. The amptitude of the earth"s magnetic field will be reflected in a higher vertical magnetic intensity when underlying rocks contain higher concentrations of iron, in this case magnetite.

The scintillometer was an Exploranium Model GRS-101. This

11.

instrument is a total count scintillometer capable of detection of gamma radiation into a visual readout when present in sufficient intensity. It employs a $l_2^{l_1}$ diameter sodium Iodide detection crystal over a vertical range of from 1 to 10,000 counts per second visual readout. The idea is detection of gamma radioactive decay emination from a uranium source, in this case, bismuth 214, a decay series eminating from uranian pyrochlore.

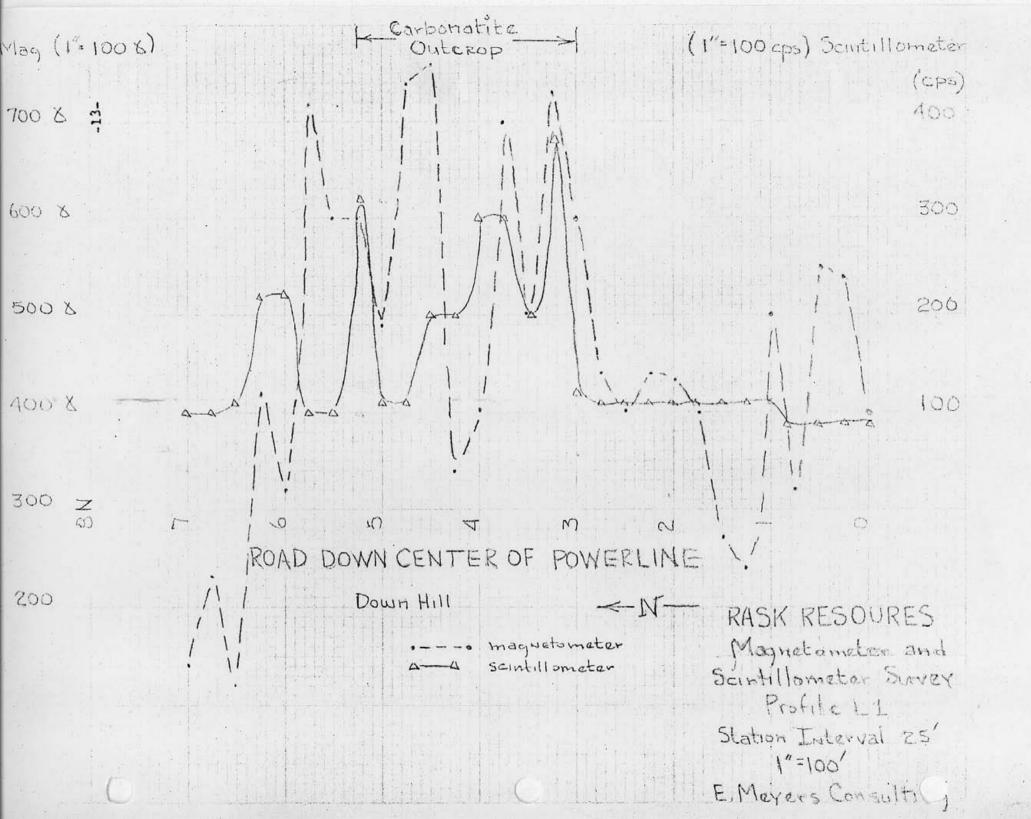
Procedure

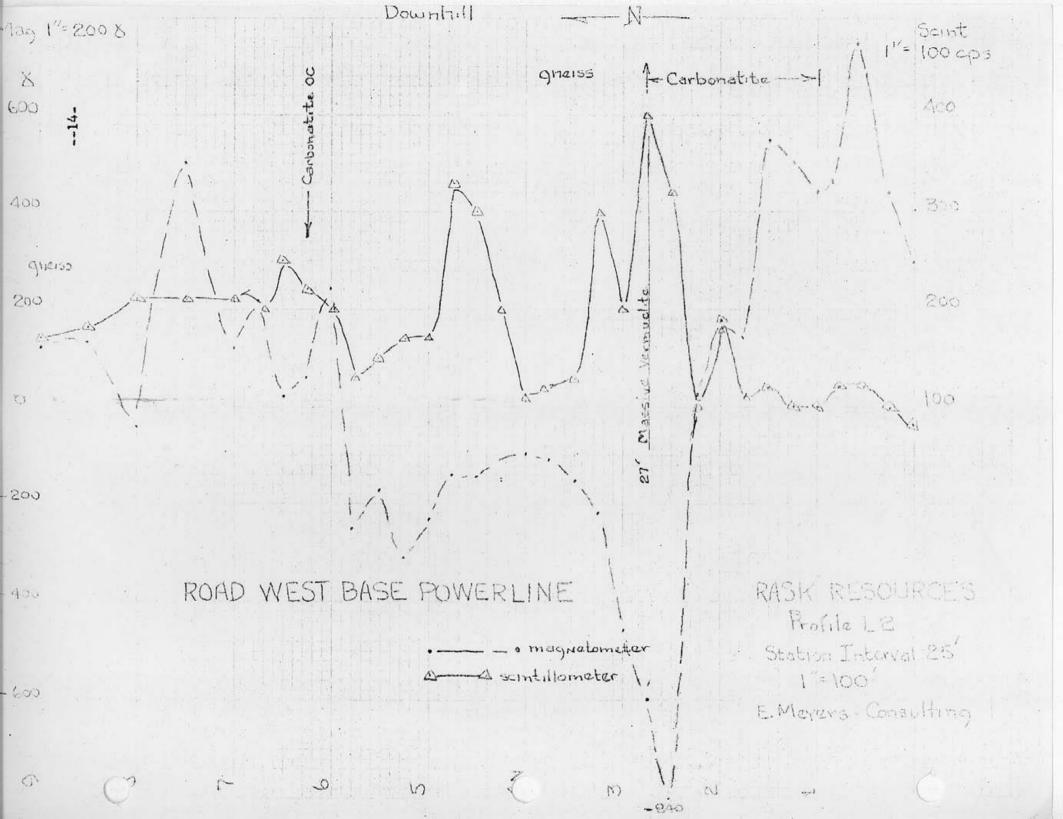
Lines were run along existing logging roads and power lines normal to the projected strike of the carbonatite. Readings were taken at 25*-50* and 100 stations depending on observed geology. Station intervals were paced off and flagged. A total of 7 lines were run employing both the magnetometer and scintillometer. The scintillometer was also used on a reconnaisance of the upper logging road. All of the geophysical lines are plotted on Map 3. No attempt was made to correct for magnetic diurnal wriation.

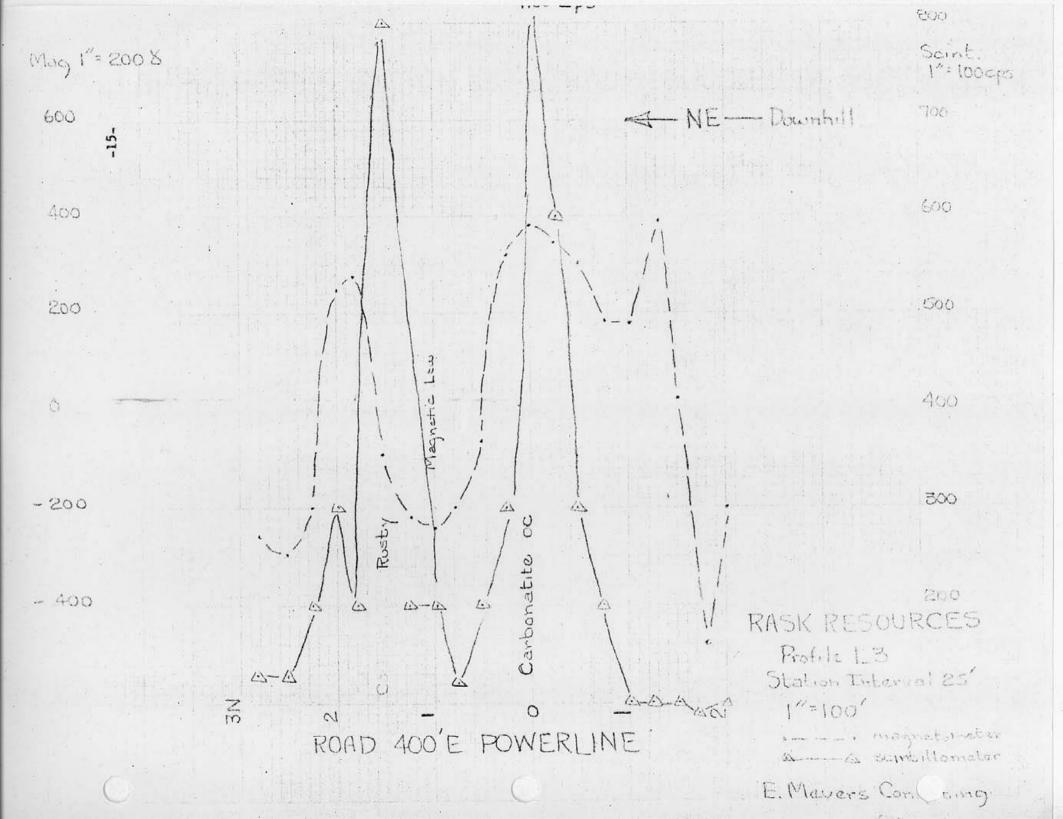
DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

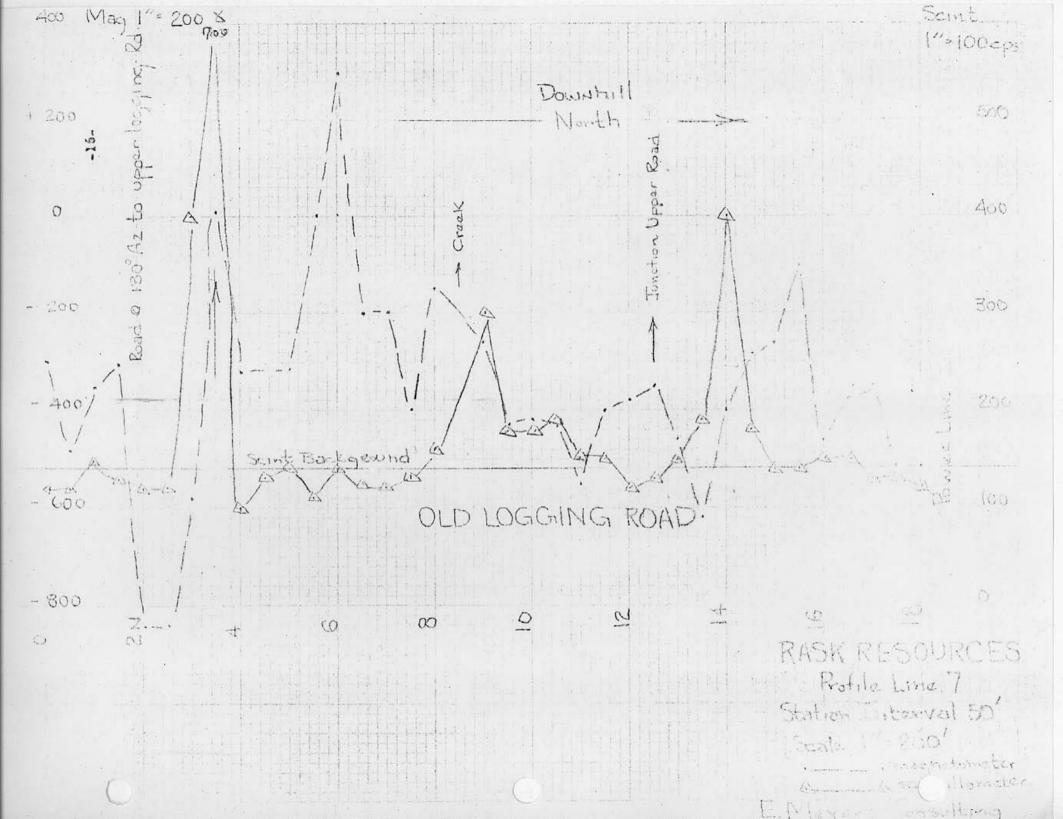
The profile of lines 1 through 7 are contained on Maps L1 through L7. Line one indicates individual amptitudes of 3 to 4 times background on the scintillometer response and high magnetic readings over the observed carbonatite outcrop.

Line 2 gives a similar response with a pronounced magnetic low over 27' of massive vermiculite. This low reflects either the southerly









dip of the carbonatite along the footwall or a lack of magnetic susceptibility in the vermiculite.

Line 3 has limited outcrop. The geophysical response indicates a split in the main zone. Again the magnetic low indicates a southerly dip.

Line 4 was started during a heavy rain in the bush about 200° east of line 3. The devils club was too thick to proceed without line cutting, so the traverse was discontinued after 300°. The significance of this aborted line was that the first radioactive response after digging about 6" into the overburden with a grub-hoe was 1000 c.p.s., plus 9 times background and a magnetic response of 650 gammas. Two hundred feet north the readings were 120 c.p.s. and 380 gammas. We had encountered the zone in our first station. Estimated depth of overburden at this location is 10-15° with no outcrop in the area.

Line 5 was run on the lower logging road along which the Mill Zone is located. The zone displays anomalous radioactive and magnetic values, although erratic, from Station 14 through 30S. Carbonatite outcrop was observed at Station 19 and 29. When contrasted with the profile of Station 0 through 14S, the anomaly can clearly be identified. Station 27S had a magnetic high of +2200 gammas and maintains a high over 3 stations. The presence of magnetite is indicated and a high probability of associated carbonatite. The strike of the Mill Zone is north which agrees with Map 2.

Line 6 was run along the upper logging road. The only significant readings appear between Line 16 and 20N. This area should be checked out in more detail using reconnaisance survey techniques.

Line 7 was conducted on an old logging road above the projected extension of the main zone. The probable existence of the main zone again gives a corresponding magnetic low and high between Station 2 to 4 north. There is a magnetic high at 6 North with no coincidental radiometric response which may again reflect a branch or concentration of magnetitic within the main zone. There are two other minor anomalous features at 8-9N and 13+75 to 14+75N which may represent a satellite zone.

Clearly the profiles indicate that geophysical prospecting employing a magnetometer and scintillometer offer an inexpensive means for tracing the carbonatite under areas of overburden.

The highest scintillometer readings of 2300 c.p.s. were obtained in the #4 pit.

Prospecting also could be useful. The unique yellow to brick red limonitic weathering of carbonatite can easily be identified on the surface where no outcrop exists.

Vermiculite float observed in locations where geophysical profiles offer evidence of carbonatite can also be a useful indicator of the presence of carbonatite.

Ultraviolet light, used during darkness is a useful indicator of zircon which fluoresces a brilliant deep yellow.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Paradise Creek Prospect contains values of uranium, columbium, tantalum, phosphorus, zirconium, and vermiculite within a carbonatite hor rock.

Pyrochlore, contained in an intrusive carbonatite host, is mined for economic concentrations of columbium in Africa, -Mrima, and Mbeya, Germany, -Kaiserstuhl, and Norway, -Sove.

The Paradise Creek carbonatite is extensive, having been traced by past mapping by the G.S.C. for over 4 miles and extending over a vertical range of 4000⁺.

No work has been conducted on the property since 1954; nor has any systematic sampling been undertaken. No assaying has been done for possible values of rare-earths.

Geophysical reconnaisance on the property using a magnetometer and scintillometer demonstrate that they are useful tools for quick, inexpensive exploration in defining suitable targets.

Access is excellent and cat trenching could be conducted with a minimal ecological impact due to the disturbance caused by power line construction and current logging activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

An exploration program be undertaken in which trenching, linecutting, reconnaisance geophysical magnetometer and scintillometer prospecting, detailed and systematic sampling, and geological mapping be undertaken along the carbonatite. The initial work program will consist of running scintillometer and magnetometer profiles on flagged lines along the inferred strike of the carbonatite.

Anomalous response will be followed up by cat trenching. Plugger trenching will be conducted in areas not accessible to cat stripping.

Stripping will be followed by systematic channel sampling in areas of high radioactivity and geological mapping.

Priority will be given to assaying for uranium and columbium with composites taken for tantalum and associated rare earths. Periodic sampling for phosphorus, vermiculite and zirconium where visual indications are favorable.

The bulk of the sampling will be confined to the more accessible areas.

Compilation of results in report form will assess the economic potential and define areas requiring additional work.

The initial work program will last 6 weeks at an estimated cost of \$40,240.00.



WORK PROGRAM

I Pre-Field - (3 days)

- Air photos & relevant maps

- Mobilization of equipment & supplies and personnel

- Travel

- II Field (1 month)
 - Flagging of lines & reconnaisance geophysics
 - Trenching
 - Sampling and mapping

- Expedite samples

- Return
- III Post Field (7 days)
 - Compilation of assaying
 - Drafting of map and report with specific recommendations

BUDGET

| I | в. | Air photos & maps Miscellaneous supplies Professional geologist - 3 days @ \$150 p/d Travel Calgary - Property | \$ lay | 50 200 450 100 | | |
|---|----|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| | | | | 800 | \$ | 800 |
| π | А. | Personnel: i) Professional geologist 1 month @ \$3000 p/month | | 3000 | | |
| | | ii) Assistantiii) Geophysical operations,flagging of lines sampling | 3 man mos. @ \$1600p/mo apiece | 4800 | | |
| | в. | Rental: 1 scintillometer @ \$220 p/mo 1 magnetometer @ \$250 p/mo 2 4-wheel drives @ \$700 apiece 1 black lamp @ \$50 | | 220 250 3400 50 | | |
| | | <pre>Helicopter - 8 hrs. @ \$250.p/hr. Camp equipment 1 D-8 catapillar tractor w/ rippers 80 hrs. @ \$65 p/br. Mob and demob</pre> | | 2000 5200 400 | | |
| | C. | Food - 120 man days @ \$15 p/day Lodging - 20 man days @ \$18 apiece Return Property - Calgary | | 1800 320 100 | - , . | |

1509

\$ 19,840

EUDGET = con't.

| III. | Ascaying A. 300 samples @ \$40 spiece B. Drafting, printing & duplication C. Professional geologist report writing, | \$ 32000 600 | • |
|------|--|----------------------|-------------|
| | drafting compilation of material 7 days @ \$200 p/day D. Fostage, phone, miscellaneous supplies | 1400 400 14400 | \$14,400.00 |

| SUMMARY | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| I 11 | \$800 19,840 |
| III | 14,400 |
| Contingency | 35,040 5,200 |
| @ 15% of total | |
| TOTAL | \$40,240. |



May 24, 1978

Mr. John Krueszewski - President Rask Resources 714 - 315 9th St. S.W. Calgary, Alberta

Dear Sir:

The pro-rated value of assessment work attributable to the Verity # 1 Claim is as follows:

| Assay cost - Pit #4, Speciment pit | | \$143.00 |
|---|-------|----------|
| Magnetometer & Scintillometer Survey | | |
| Line 2 & 4 ½ mile @ \$200.00 per mile Line Mile ½ of \$200 | | \$100.00 |
| Geological mapping ½ day @ \$250.00 p/day | | \$125.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$368.00 |

Respectfully submitted:

م~ E. Meyers P.Geol.

COLUMBIUM

(Data in thousand pounds columbium content, unless noted)

<u>Domestic Production and Use:</u> There has been no domestic columbium mining industry since

mbium. Nine companies operating ten plants, processed imported concentrates and tin stags. Consumption was mainly by the iron and steel, and acrospace industries located in the Eastern United States, California, and Washington. Total estimated value, based on metal, compounds, and ferrocolumbium production was \$22 million. Tin, tantalum, tungsten, titanium, zirconium, and rare-earth minerals were byproducts of columbite production. End uses as metals and alloys in fabricated form were: Construction, 40%; oil and gas industries, 20%; transportation, 20%; machinery, 10%; Other, 10%.

| 2. Salient StatisticsUnited States: Mine production | <u>1972</u> | <u>1973</u> | <u>1974</u> | <u>1975</u> - | <u>1976 e</u> / |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imports for consumption: Concentrates and tin slags Ferrocolumbium e/ | 2,105 | 1,917 2,120 | 2,010 3,276 | 964 1,872 | 2,100 2,000 |
| Exports: Matal, alloys, waste and scrap <u>e</u> / Shipments from Covt. stockpile exc | 15 cesses 778 | 48 2,343 | 17 2,739 | 27 463 | 33 - 70 |
| Consumption, reported; Raw material Ferrocolumbium and other 1/ Consumption, apparent Prices: Columbite 2/ Pyrochlore 3/ | 2,489 3,676 4,587 \$0.95 \$1.27 | 2,806 4,056 6,049 \$1.28 \$1.38 | 3,250 4,626 7,837 \$1.80 \$1.56 | 2,137 3,348 3,934 \$1.85 \$1.56 | 2,200 3,300 4,600 \$2.55 \$1.85 |
| Industry stocks: Processor and dealer, yearend Employment: Processor and refine | 4,240 ry <u>e</u> / 600 | 4,493 600 | 4,665 800 | 4,006 700 | 3,500 700 |

3. <u>Recycling</u>: Recycling of old scrap was not significant. Recycling of prompt industrial scrap was about 100,000 pounds columbium content.

A Import Sources (1972-75): Brazil, 76%; Thailand, 11%; Nigeria, 3%; Malaysia, 2%; Other, 6%.

| τ | ariff: | Item | Number | Rate of | Duty |
|----|--------|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2. | at the | | | 1/1/77 | Statutory |
| | | Columbium concentrate Columbium metal Perrocolumbium | 601.21 628.15 607.80 | Free 5% ad valorem 5% ad valorem | Free 25% ad valorem 25% ad valorem |

6. Depletion Allowance: 222 (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

 <u>Covernment Programs</u>: The Office of Minerals Exploration is authorized to lend up to 50% of approved exploration costs, but no applications were processed in 1976 owing to lack of funds for contract purposes.

| | Stockpile Status <u>4</u> /11-30-76 | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Material | Goal | Total Inventory | Authorized For Disposal | Sales, 11 Months | |
| Columbium: Carbide Powder | | 21,372 | 1,372 | - | |
| Concentrate | 3,131,000 | 1,780,301 | ~ | 68,908 | |
| Ferro | _ | 622,786 | - | - | |
| Metal. | - | 44,851 | | | |

In addition to data shown stockpile contained 308,125 pounds of nonstockpile grade ferrocolumbium.

2/ Estimate. 24 Not evailable. 1/ Sanludes a small tantalum content. 27 Average price per point of contained pentoxides for material having a Cb205 to Ta205 ratio of 20 rol. 37 Average contract price per pound of contained pentoxide. 47 Pounds of contained columbium. 57 Data may not add to totals shown because of redependent rounding.

repared by R. E. Stipp, telephone number (202) 634-1015.

COLUMBIUM

8. Events, Trends, and Issues: Prices of columbium mineral concentrates imported for domestic consumption increased about 32% over yearend 1975 prices. Domestic demand for columbium was expected to increase at an ennual rate of about 5% through 1980. Supply needs are expected to be met by foreign mine production and industry stocks.

Although domestic resources are not large in comparison to estimated world total, some means of employing them would minimize future supply problems. The feasibility of extracting columbium from such resources deserves attention. Fumes, gases, dust, and low-level radiation generated by columbium processing plants can be controlled by modern technology. Significant technological developments were the increased use of columbium in large-diameter pipeline steels, ship plate steels, heavy machinery steels, and offshore drilling platform steels. Alloys of columbium with tin, titanium or germanium were receiving increasing attention as superconductors of electricity at cryogenic temperatures.

| 9. | World Mine Production and Reserves: | Mine P | roduction | Reserves |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| - | | 1975 | <u>1976 e</u> / | |
| | United States | - | | - |
| | Brazil | 24,288 | 25,000 | 18,000,000 |
| | Canad a | 2,626 | 2,200 | 1,300,000 |
| | Malaysia | e/ 59 | 60 | NA |
| | Mozambique | - 18 | 30 | NA |
| | Nigeria | 961 | 950 | 650 ,000 |
| | Zaire | 43 | 35 | 910,0 00 |
| | Other Market Economy Countries | 130 | 145 | 900,000 |
| | Central Economy Countries | NA | NA | NA |
| | World Total | e/ 28,125 | 28,420 | 5/ 22,000,000 |

- 10. World Resources: Most of the world's identified resources of columbium lie outside the United States and occur mainly as pyrochlore in carbonatite deposits. On a worldwide basis, resources are more than adequate to supply projected needs. The United States had approximately 228 million pounds of columbium located in identified deposits, which were considered to be uneconomic at 1976 prices for columbium.
- Substitutes and Alternates: Vanadium may be substituted for columbium in high-strength low-alloy steels; tantalum in stainless and high-strength steel and superalloys; molybdenum, vanadium, tungsten, tantalum, and ceramics in high-temperature applications.

January 1977

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TANTALUN

(Data in thousand pounds tantalum content, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: There has been no domestic fantalum mining industry since 1959. 1. Metals, alloys, and compounds were produced from imported concentrates, tin slags, and scrap; and from Government stockpile excesses and industry stocks. Six companies with seven plants processed imported concentrates and tin slags accounting for 100% of production. End uses as metal, powder, sponge, ingot, fabricated forms, and compounds and alloys were: Electronic components, 63%; machinery, 28%; transportation, 6%; other 3%. Total estimated value of 1976 domestic production, based on metal and compounds, was about \$95 million. Tantalum minerals were produced as byproducts of tin, columbium, tungsten, titanium, zirconium and rare-earth minerals.

| 2. | Salient StatisticsUnited States: | <u>1972</u> | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | <u>1976 e/</u> |
|----|--|-------------|-----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| | Mine production | - | | - | - | - |
| | Imports for consumption: Concentrates and tin slags | 1,082 | 1,147 | 1,504 | 830 | 917 |
| | Exports: Concentrates, metal, alloys, | 228 | 280 | 400 | 412 | 410 |
| | waste and scrap e/ | | | 884 | 87 | 420 |
| | Shipments from Govt. stockpile excesses | 88 | 26 6 | | | 0 |
| | Consumption, reported | 1,280 | 2,221 | 2,425 | 1,077 | 1,350 |
| | Consumption, apparent | 1,542 | 1,513 | 1,880 | 260 | 870 |
| | Price: Tantalite 1/ | \$6.00 | \$6 .88 | \$14.13 | \$15.00 | \$16.63 |
| | Industry stocks: Processor and | | | | | |
| | dealer, yearend | 3,369 | 3,181 | 3,523 | 3,884 | 3,600 |
| | Employment: Processor and refinery e/ | 500 | 500 | 700 | 600 | 600 |

3. Recycling: Old scrap produced totaled about 50,000 pounds, which was about 4% of consump-Production of prompt industrial scrap was about 200,000 pounds. tion.

Import Sources (1972-75): Theiland, 50%; Canada, 17%; Australia, 8%; Brazil, 7%; 4. Other, 18%.

| 5. | Tariff: | Item | Number | Rate of | Duty |
|----|---------|----------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
| | | | | 1/1/77 | Statutory |
| | | Tantalum concentrate | 601.42 | Free | Free |
| | | Tantalum metal | 629.05 | 5% ad valorem | 25% ad valorem |

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign). 6.

Government Programs: The Office of Minerals Exploration is authorized to lend up 7. to 75% of approved exploration costs, but no applications were processed in 1976 owing to lack of funds for contract purposes.

| Material | Goal | Total Inventory | Authorized For Disposal | Sales 11 Months |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | |
| Carbide powder | 889,00 0 | 28,688 | - | - |
| Metal | 1,650,000 | 201,133 | . - | - |
| Minerals | 5,452,000 | 2,545,410 | · - | - |
| | | | | |

Stockpile Status 2/--11-30-76

e/ Estimate, NA Not available.

1/ Average price per pound of contained tantalum pentoxide, 60% basis.

Pounds of contained tantalum. 2/

3/ Tin slags production not available.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ Data pay not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Prepared by H. E. Stipp, telephone number (202) 634-1015.

TANTALUM

8. Events, Trends, and Issues: U.S. demand for capacitor-grade tantalum increased somewhat from its low in 1975 and prices for tantalum products and tantalum concentrate increased from 10% to 25%. Domestic demand for tantalum is expected to increase at an average annual rate of about 5% through 1980. There are no reserves of tantalum in the United States; however, tantalum resources do occur. Supply needs are expected to be met primarily by foreign production and industry stocks. New demestic tantalum deposits should be sought and new or improved methods for extracting tantalum from submarginal mineral materials and tin slags should be developed so that future requirements can be satisfied more economically and reduce our reliance on imports.

There are no known health hazards connected with production or fabrication of tantalum metals and compounds. Fumes, gases, dust, and low-level radiation generated by extraction plants can be easily controlled by modern technology.

| World Mine Production and Reserves: | | Reserves | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | • | 1976 e/ | |
| United States | - | · - | · – |
| Brazil | e/ 58 | 90 | 6,600 |
| Canada | 324 | 360 | 3,000 |
| Malaysia | e/ 26 | 30 | 8,000 |
| Mozambigue | 108 | 100. | NA |
| · · · · | 145 | 150 | 16,000 |
| Thailand | 57 | 30 | 10,000 |
| Zaire | 43 | 35 | 82,000 |
| Other Market Economy Countries | 139 | 170 | 7,000 |
| | NA | NA | NA |
| World Total (Excluding Central | * * | | |
| Economy Countries) | <u>e</u> /900 | 965 | <u>4</u> / 130,000 |
| | United States Brazil Canada Malaysia Mozambique Nigeria Thailand Zaire Other Market Economy Countries Central Economy Countries World Total (Excluding Central | (Concentra1975United StatesBrazile/ 58Canada324Malaysiae/ 26Mozambique108Nigeria145Thailand57Zaire43Other Market Economy Countries139Central Economy CountriesNAWorld Total (Excluding Central | (Concentrates only 3/)19751976 e/United States-Brazile/ 5890Canada324360Malaysiae/ 2630Mozambique108100.Nigeria145150Thailand5730Zaire4335Other Market Economy Countries139170Central Economy CountriesNANAWorld Total (Excluding CentralNA |

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- 10. World Resources: Most of the world's resources of tantalum occur outside the United States. On a worldwide basis, identified resources of tantalum are considered adequate to meet projected meeds. These resources are largely located in Zaire, Rwanda, Nigeria, Brazil, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, and Australia. The United States has about 3.4 million pounds of tantalum located in identified deposits, which were considered uneconomic at 1976 prices.
- 11. Substitutes and Alternates: Columbium can be substituted for tantalum in high-strength steel and superalloys; eluminum for electronic capacitors; silicon, germanium, and selenium in electrical rectifiers; glass, titanium, zirconium, columbium, and platinum in corrosion-resistant equipment; tungsten, rhenium, osmium, molybdenum, iridium, ruthenium, hafnium, columbium, and boron in high-temperature applications.

January 1977

PHOSPHATE ROCK

(Data in thousand short tons, unless noted)

 Domestic Production and Use: Marketable phosphate rock, with an estimated value of \$1 billion, was produced by 28 companies and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Nine companies produced 782 of the total from mines in Florida. The percent distribution pattern by State was Florida and North Carolina, 84; California, Idaho, Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, 12; and Tennessee, 4. The principal markets for phosphate rock were fertilizers and animal feed supplements, 652; industrial and food grade products, 13%; and 22% was exported.

| 2. | Salient StatisticsUnited States: | · <u>1972</u> | 1973 | <u>1974</u> | 1975 | <u>1976 e</u> / |
|----|--|---------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| | Production: Marketable | 40,831 | 42,137 | 45,686 | 48,816 | 49,000 |
| | Imports for consumption | 55 | 65 | 182 | 37 | 40 |
| | Exports | 14,275 | 13,875 | 13,897 | 12,272 | 10,500 |
| | Apparent consumption | 29,535 | 31,233 | 34,720 | 34,203 | 35,000 |
| | Value: Average per short ton, f.o.b. mine 1/ | \$5.10 | \$5.66 | \$10.98 | \$22.99 | \$20.00 |
| | Stocks yearend | 10,501 | 8,482 | 6,975 | 9,946 | 14,000 |
| | Employment (mine and beneficiation plant) | 4,173 | 4,300 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 5,000 |

3. Recycling: No significant quantity is recycled.

4. Import Sources (1972-75): Netherlands Antilles 58%, Mexico 16%, Spanish Sahara 15%, Israel 7%, Other 4%.

| 5. | Tariff: | Itea | Number | Rate | of Duty |
|----|---------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| | | | | 1/1/77 | Statutory |
| | | Phosphatés, crude | | | |
| | | and apatite | 480.5 | Free | Free |

6. Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

<u>Government Programs</u>: Although final or draft environmental impact statements on the effects of mining phosphate rock from the Los Padres, Caribou, and Osceola National Forests have been completed, the Government has not issued preference right leases pending completion of additional studies. A draft environmental impact statement on the central Florida phosphate industry was authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines are making a hydrological study of the Osceola National Forest phosphate area. A study of the international trade in phosphate rock projected to 1985 was prepared for the Bureau of Mines by Florida State University. The Bureau of Mines has initiated a study of the reserves of phosphate rock in Florida. The Bureau of Mines Metallurgy Research Laboratories are continuing investigations on phosphate rock wastes disposal systems and phosphoric acid processes.

e/ Estimate.

1/ Selling prices are not published. Effective July-December 1976 estimated export prices for 68 and 70% bone phosphate of lime (BPL) are \$18.29 and \$23.22 per short ton f.o.b. mine respectively.

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2/ Marketable phosphate rock.

Prepared by W. F. Stowasser, telephone number (202) 634-1190.

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PHOSPHATE ROCK

8. Events, Trends, and Issues: The world surplus of phosphate rock, that developed in the second half of 1975, continued through 1976. The principal causes for a significant reduction in international trade were buyer resistance to relatively high phosphate rock prices and an increase in consumption of phosphate rock in the United States that was converted into diammonium phosphate and triple superphosphate for the export market. The competition for world phosphate rock markets eroded the selling prices from January 1976 levels \$37.55 (70Z BPL) per metric ton, f.o.b. vessel, Tampa Range to \$29.55 (70Z BPL) estimated for December 1976. The trend toward converting phosphate rock to fertilizer intermediates or fertilizers increased in 1976. More than adequate supplies of phosphatic fertilizers produced in the U.S. and the world contributed to a further decline in domestic and export prices of these commodities. At yearend, prices appeared to have stabilized at \$125-\$140 per metric ton for diammonium phosphate and \$90-\$110 per metric ton for triple superphosphate.

Phosphate rock demand in both domestic and international markets is expected to increase. From an estimated production of 49 million short tons of marketable phosphate rock in 1976, production is estimated to increase to 52 million short tons in 1980. U.S. demand for phosphate rock is forecast to increase at an annual rate of about 3% per year through 1985; however, it is probable that world demand will exceed the rate of increase projected for the United States.

Strip mining phosphate rock and beneficiating crude ore in washing and flotation plants created problems for the industry. Land reclamation programs in past years were not vigorously pursued as both economic and environmental incentives were lacking. Competition for water from communities and agriculture interests has increased opposition to mining, particularly in central Florida. Systems to concomitantly dispose of process wastes, reclaim mined land, and minimize aquifer water consumption are under development.

| 9. | World Mine Production and Reserves 2/ | Production | | Reserves |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|
| | | 1975 | 1976 e/ | |
| | United States | 48,816 | 49,000 | 2,500,000 |
| | Australia | 143 | 500 | 1,000,000 |
| | Morocco | 14,934 | 15,000 | 10,000,000 |
| | Senegal | 1,986 | 2,000 | 130,000 |
| | South Africa, Republic of | 1,955 | 2,000 | 4,000,000 |
| | Spanish Sahara | 2,956 | 1,500 | 400,000 |
| | Togo | 1,279 | 1,500 | 50,000 |
| | Tunisia | 3,845 | 4,000 | 500,000 |
| | Other Market Economy Countries | 10,372 | 11,000 | 900,000 |
| | Central Economy Countries | 32,300 | _30,000 | 930,000 |
| | World Total | 118,586 | 116,500 | 20,400,000 |

- 10. World Resources: Most of the United States and world resources are in widely distributed marine phosphorite deposits. Identified resources of the world are measured in tens of billions of tons of contained phosphorus and hypothetical resources are probably many times as great. Identified resources in Morocco and Spanish Sahara alone are estimated to be about six times present reserves. Phosphate rock contains fluorine and potentially economically recoverable amounts of vanadium, uranium, and rare earths.
- 11. Substitutes and Alternates: There are no substitutes for phosphorus in agriculture. Substitutes for detergent builders are under development.

January 1977

21. 1

1 <u>Demestic Production and Use</u>: Coproduct zircon (zirconium silicate) is extracted from sand imposits, along with ilmenite and rutile, by three firms in Florida and Georgia. One company with a plant in Oregon produces primary zirconium sponge and coproduct hafnium sponge. This firm and two others, one in California and another in Massachusetts, convert zirconium sponge to ingot. Most zircon was used in the Northeastern States; 38% was used in foundry sands, 33% in refractories, 12% in ceramics, and the rest in making zirconium metal used in alloys for nuclear and refractory applications and in chemical processing equipment.

| 2. | Salient Statistics United States: | 1972 | <u>1973</u> | <u>1974</u> | <u>1975</u> | <u>1976 e</u> / | |
|----|--|---------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| | Production: Zircon | | Compan | y confide | mitial dat | a | |
| | Zirconium metal | | Compan | y confide | ntial dat | а | |
| | Imports (General): | | - | - | | | |
| | Zircon 1/ | 67,537 | 98,023 | 62,504 | 40,205 | 50,000 | |
| | Zirconium metal | 207 | 500 | 366 | 814 | 800 | |
| | Exports: Zircon | 17,360 | 28,921 | 21,487 | 18,766 | 15,000 | • |
| | Zirconium, alloys, and scrap | 659 | 508 | 830 | 820 | 800 | |
| | Apparent consumption, zircon | 168,000 | 175,000 | 167,000 | 122,000 | 130,000 | |
| | Price: Zircon, domestic, per short ton | \$54-55 | \$60 | <u>2</u> /\$300 | <u>2/</u> \$300 | 2/\$200 | |
| | Stocks: Zircon, consumer and dealer, | | | | | | |
| | yearend 3/ | 44,500 | 51,500 | 42,100 | 38,033 | 50 ,000 | |
| | Employment: Mine and mill | 475 | 550 | 500 | 550 | 550 | |
| | Metal plant | 1,000 | 1,000 | 900 | 850 | 800 | |

3. Recycling: Insignificant.

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4. <u>Import Sources (1972-75)</u>: Australia 92%, remainder from Malaysia, Republic of South Africa, and Canada.

| Tariff: | Item | Number | Rate of Duty | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | | <u></u> , | 1/1/77 | Statutory | |
| | Zirconium oxide | 422.80 | 5% ad valorem | 25% ad valorem | |
| | Other zirconium compounds | 422.82 | 5% ad valorem | 25% ad valorem | |
| | Zirconium ore & concentrate | 601.63 | Free | Free | |
| | Unwrought zirconium | 629,60 | 6% ad valorem | 25% ad valorem | |
| | Unwrought zirconium alloys | 629.62 | 7.5% ad valorem | 25% ad valorem | |
| | Wrought zirconium | 629.65 | 97 ad valorem | 45% ad valorem | |
| | | | | | |

- 6. Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).
- 7. Government Programs: None.

a/ Estimate. W Withheld to avoid disclosing individual company confidential data. 1/ Includes haddeleyite (zirconium oxide) 1972-385 tons; 1973-1,019 tons; 1974-2,950 tons;

- 1975-1,000 tons; 1976-2,000 tons.
- 2/ Yearend price.
- 3/ Excludes foundries.

Propaged by 3. G. Ampian, telephone number (202) 634-1\$80.

8. Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic zircon output declined nearly 30% in 1976. Zircon imports, mostly from Australia, were estimated at 50,000 short tons or 25% above the 1975 quantity. Zircon exports decreased in 1976 from 18,766 tons in 1975 to nearly 15,000 tons. Demand for zirconium, nonmetal and metal, is expected to return to its annual rate of increase between 3% and 5% through 1980. The major growth areas for the mineral zircon are in refractories, abrasives, and chemicals, and for zirconium metal are in material for constructing nuclear reactors, in refractory alloys, and in chemical processing plants.

| 9. | World Mine Production and Reserves: | Mine_ | Production | Zircon Reserves |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | 1975 | <u>1976 e/</u> | |
| | United States | W | W | 12,000,000 |
| | Australia | 421,000 | 400,000 | 13,000,000 |
| | Other Market Economy Countries | 30,000 | 25,000 | 8,000,000 |
| | Central Economy Countries | large | large | large |

- 10. World Resources: Identified resources of zircon in the United States are more than 14 million short tons containing about 7 million tons of zirconium. An additional 26 million tons of zircon is estimated from titanium resources in sand deposits. More than 80% of the identified zircon resources are in the States along the Atlantic Coast and the Culf Coast embayment area. Identified world resources of zircon exceed 44 million tons. Another 36 million tons of zircon is associated with titanium resources in sand deposits. Undiscovered resources similar to those already identified undoubtedly occur throughout the world. Phosphate and sand and gravel deposits especially may yield substantial amounts of zircon as a byproduct in the future.
- 11. <u>Substitutes and Alternates</u>: Chromite and some aluminum silicate-minerals in certain foundry applications.

January 1977

VERMICULITE (CRUDE)

(Data in thousand short tons, unless noted)

 Domestic Production and Use: One company operating an open-pit mine in Montana and several pits in South Carolina produced virtually the entire output of vermiculite in 1976. A second company also operated a small mine in South Carolina. A majority of the production was from Montana. Value of production was \$13.4 million in 1976. Most of the crude vermiculite was shipped to 51 exfoliating plants in 30 States. A small quantity was exported to Canadian processing plants. The major uses for exfoliated vermiculite were lightweight concrete aggregate, 32%; insulation, 31%; plaster and cement aggregate, 18%; agriculture, 16%; and miscellaneous, 3%.

| 2. | Salient StatisticsUnited States: | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | <u>1976 e/</u> |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|------------|----------------|
| | Production: Mine | 337 | 365 | 341 | 330 | 300 |
| | Imports: Crude | 26 | 30 | 42 | 33 | 30 |
| | Exports: | NA | NA | NA | 42 | 45 |
| | Consumption: Exfoliated | 247 | 293 | 275 | 235 | 225 |
| | Prices: Average per ton, f.o.b. mine | \$24.01 | \$25.93 | \$29.68 | \$41.76 | \$42.00 |
| | Producer stocks, yearend | | Nota | ava i la | ble | |
| | Employment: Mine and mill | 225 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 |

- 3. Recycling: There is no significant recycling of vermiculite.
- 4. Import Sources (1972-75): Republic of South Africa 100%.

| 5. | Tariff | Item | Number | Rate of Duty | | |
|----|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|
| | | | | | 1/1/77 | Statutory |
| | | Crude or processed | 523,81 | | Free | Free |

6. Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

7. Government Programs: None.

e/ Estimate. NA Not available. 1/ Excluding Central Economy Countries.

Prepared by S. K. Haines, telephone number (202) 634-1202.

8. Events, Trends, and Issues: The continued decline in building construction activity resulted in a drop in vermiculite production for the third straight year. Increasing use of formerly discarded fines in fireproofing cements and plasters and in agriculture encouraged development of lower-grade deposits. Continued litigation has held up the development of vermiculite deposits in central Virginia.

Demand for vermiculite is expected to increase at an annual rate of about 4.03 through 1980. Transportation costs from the source to exfoliation plants, near the point of end use, limit the size of marketing areas as well as the competitive position with regard to other commodities. The number of operating quarries is small, and the industry poses severe environmental problems.

| 9, | World Mine Production and Reserves: | Produc | Reserves e/ | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| | | 1975 | 1976 e/ | |
| | United States | 330 | 300 | 60,000 |
| | South Africa, Republic of | 229 | 210 | 75,000 |
| | Other Market Economy Countries e/ | 12 | 12 | 15,000 |
| | Central Economy Countries | NA | NA | NA |
| | World Total 1/ | 571 | 522 | 150,000 |

- 10. World Resources: Subeconomic resources of vermiculite in North Carolina, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado and Nevada are estimated to be 2 to 3 million tons. Undiscovered domestic resources are estimated to be 25 to 100 million tons. Resources other than domestic and South African have generally been found to have inferior exfoliation characteristics.
- 11. <u>Substitutes and Alternates</u>: Expanded perlite is a substitute for vermiculite in lightweight concrete and plaster. Other more dense but less costly substitutes in these applications are expanded clay, shale, or slate. Alternate materials for loosefill fireproofing insulation include fiberglass and slag wool. In agriculture, substitutes include peat, perlite, sawdust, bark, and other plant materials and synthetic soil conditioners.

January 1977

X-RAY ASSAY LABORATORIES

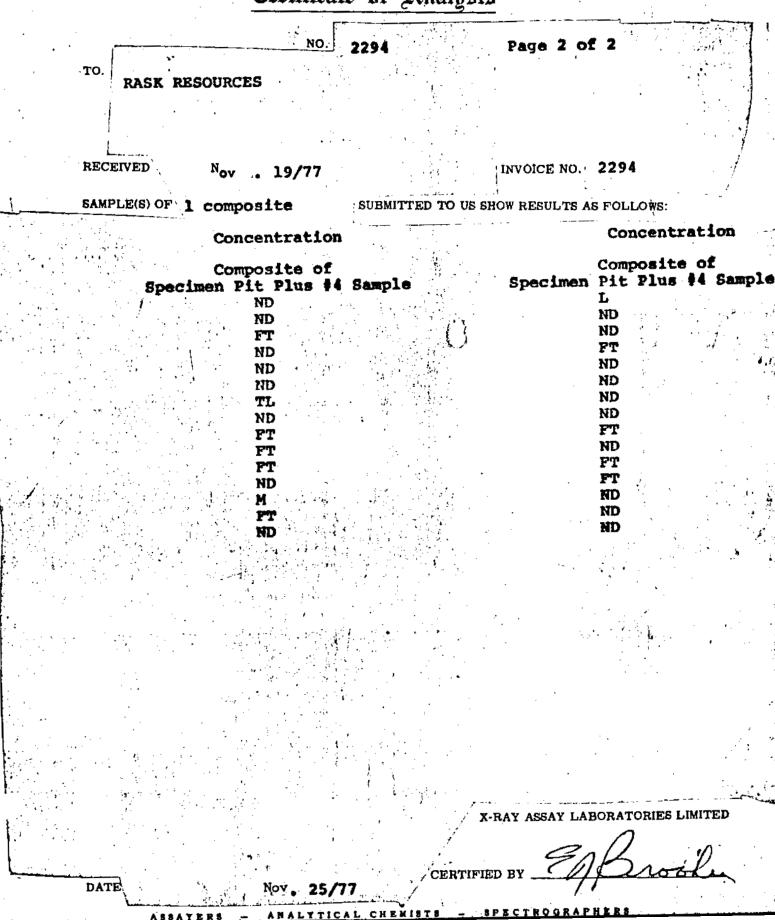
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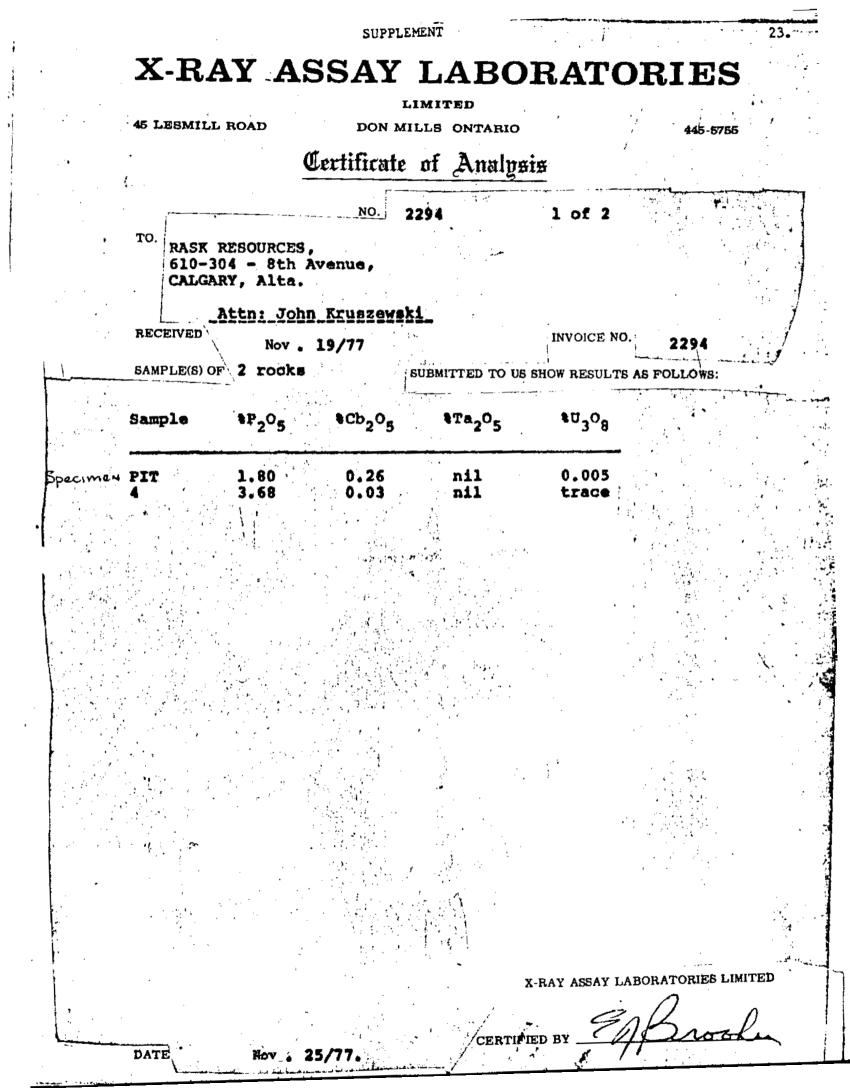
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(1)Manganese Mercury (4)Molybdenum (3) Nickel (1)(1)Silver (5)Tantalum (3)Thorium Tin (2)Titanium (2)Tungsten (4)Uranium (3)Vanadium (2)(3)Yttrium (4)Zinc Zirconium (4)

LEGEND

Key To Symbols

|] | | (limit of detection) |
|--|--|---|
| H - 10% plus MH - 5-15% M - 1-10% LM - 0.5-5% | L - 0.1-1% TL - 0.05-0.5% T - 0.01-0.1% FT - 0.01% or less ND - Not detected | 1- 0.0005-0.001% 2- 0.001-0.005% 3- 0.005- 0.01% 4- 0.01 - 0.05% 5- 0.05 - 0.1% |

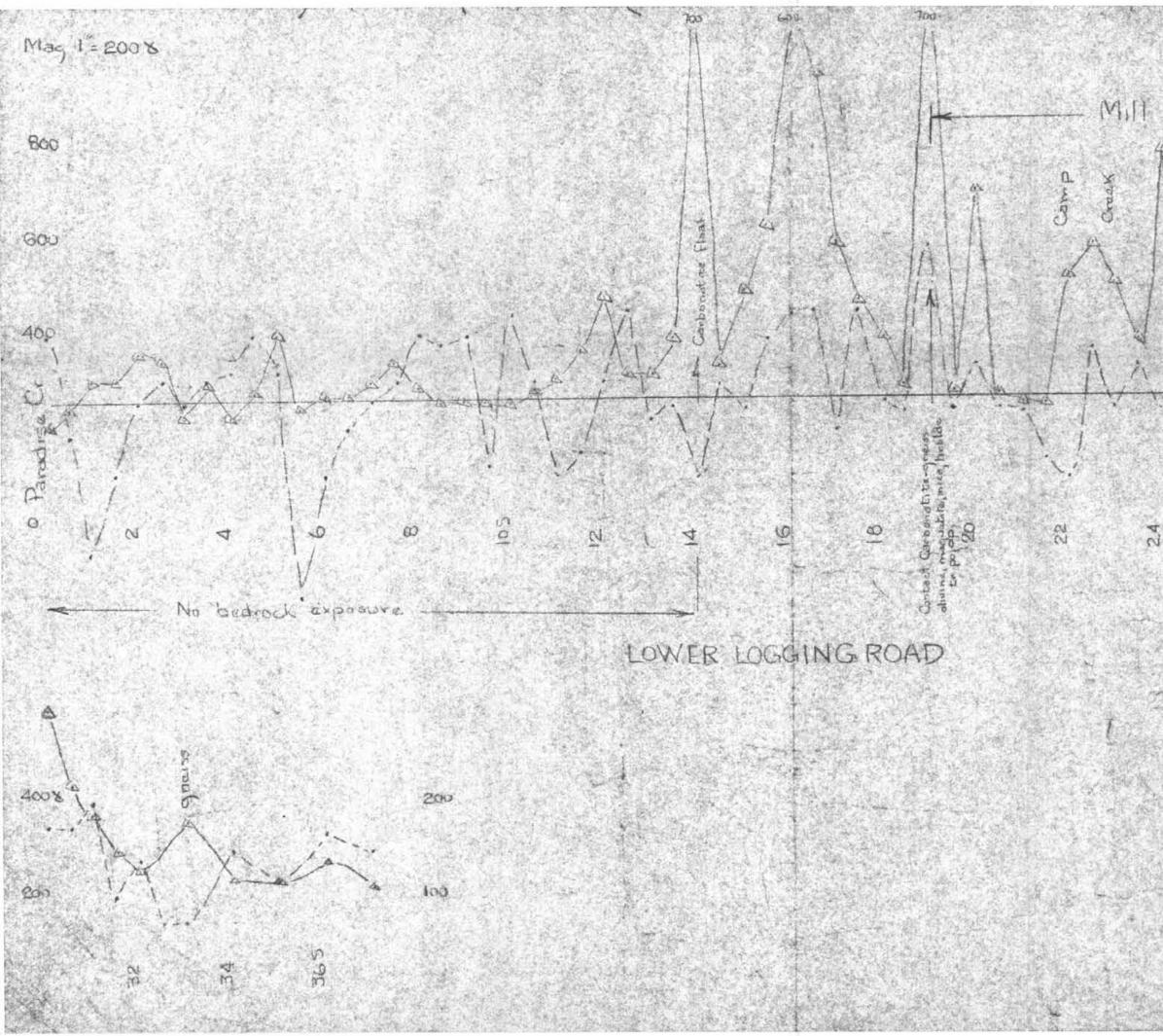
<u>Note</u>: Better sensitivities can be obtained with special techniques, if and when required.

X-RAY ASSAY LABORATORIES LIMITED

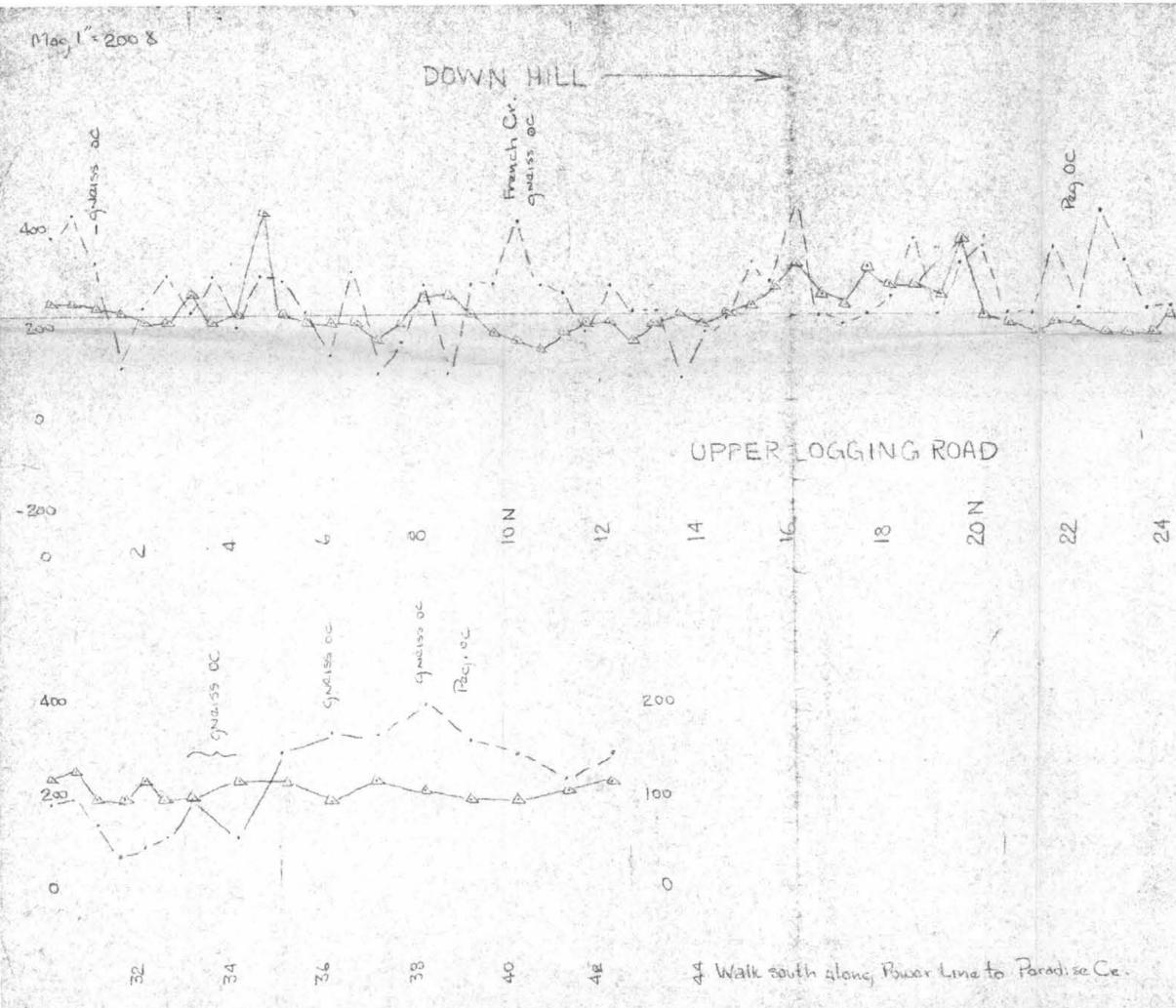
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