

# DOG CLAIMS, B.C.

GEOLOGY, GEOCHEMISTRY & GEOPHYSICS, 1981 57<sup>0</sup> 22'N ]24<sup>0</sup> 50'W

N.T.S. 94F/7W

Omineca M.D.

G.D. Hodgson, September 1981

Owner & Operator: Riocanex Inc.

Work performed on: DOG 1- 11

#### SUMMARY

The 1981 Riocanex exploration programme on the Dog claims comprised 1:2000 geological mapping, soil sampling and VLF geophysics. The objective of the 1981 programme was to define drill targets for future work. The claims are underlain in part by Devonian black shale which is known to host important deposits of lead, zinc and silver.

Mapping was of limited benefit owing to the paucity of outcrop. Nevertheless, it was determined that a belt of the prospective baritic shale strikes NW - SE across the northern and central parts of the property. Geochemical soil sampling outlined a broad ill-defined zone of relatively high lead, zinc, silver and barium values. VLF geophysics was useful locally in defining major faults.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Devonian black shale in the northern Rockies of British Columbia hosts important deposits of lead, zinc and silver, eg. the Cirque deposit of Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Co. Ltd.. The Dog claims lie on strike with the Cirque, about 25 km to the southeast, and were staked by Riocanex in 1978 to cover anomalous stream-silt geochemistry. Little work was done on the Dog property in 1979 and 1980, but in 1981 a major exploration programme was launched that comprised soil sampling, VLF geophysics and detailed geological mapping.

# 2. LOCATION & ACCESS

The claims are situated in the western ranges of the northern Rocky Mountains on the Akie River, a major tributary of the Finlay (Dwg. L-6684).

> Latitude: 57<sup>°</sup> 22'N Longitude: 124<sup>°</sup> 50'W N.T.S.: 94F/7W Omineca Mining Division

The nearest towns are Fort Nelson, 205 km to the northeast, and Mackenzie, 250 km to the southeast at the southern end of Williston Lake. A 1500m gravel airstrip has been built on the Finlay River at "Finbow", the exploration camp for the Cirque property. A winter road now connects Finbow with logging roads on the west side of Williston Lake. After the spring breakup barges run from Mackenzie to the north end of Williston Lake.

Access to the Dog claims is by helicopter. In 1981 the Riocanex exploration camp was situated at Pretzel Lake, 30 km west of the property. Helicopters are permanently based at Mackenzie and Fort Nelson.

#### 3. TOPOGRAPHY & VEGETATION

The area is mountainous and elevations range from 1000m to 2000m above sea level. Part of the Dog claims is above treeline, but most of the property is forested with spruce and alder.

# 4. HISTORY & PREVIOUS WORK

In 1977 a barite-pyrite-sphalerite-galena discovery was made in Devonian black shales by geologists working for a Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation - Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Co. Ltd. exploration joint venture. This mineralization was staked as the Cirque property and drilling by the joint venture began in 1978. By the end of 1980 published reserves stood at 30 million tonnes grading about 11% Pb and Zn. The joint venture also found mineralization elsewhere within the shale belt and staked the showings as the Fluke and Elf claims. These were also drilled.

Riocanex staked the Dog claims in 1978 following a regional exploration programme. In 1979 and 1980 some reconnaissance mapping and minor geochemical soil sampling were done.

The Geological Survey of Canada has produced Open File maps of the area on a scale of 1:125,000 (Gabrielse, 1977; Taylor, 1979) MacIntyre (1981) has mapped part of the belt at 1:50,000 for the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

#### 5. WORK PERFORMED IN 1981

The 1981 Riocanex exploration programme comprised geological mapping at 1:2,000, soil sampling, whereby 1490 samples were collected, and 42.3 km of VLF geophysics. Some helicopter pad construction was necessary. Geological mapping was by G.D. Hodgson and N.G. Smith S. Gokool supervised the soil sampling and the VLF survey. Geophysics interpretation is by C.J. Campbell. Vernon Helicopters Ltd. provided helicopter support.

#### 6. GEOLOGY

#### 6.1 General Statement

Barite-pyrite-shalerite-galena mineralization occurs locally in Devonian shale. Tectonic elements trend NW-SE and the different rock units are exposed as narrow linear belts. Mapping on the Dog claims was done at a scale of 1:2,000 with a compilation map being produced at 1:10,000 (Dwg.G.7596).

There are few published accounts of the geology of the area. Regional mapping has been by Gabrielse (1962, 1975, 1977), Taylor & Stott (1973). Taylor (1979) and MacIntyre (1980, 1981). Major Riocanex reports are by Graf (1978), Hodgson (1979, 1980) and Hodgson & Thompson (1980).

## 6.2 Stratigraphy

Because there are few formal names for the rock units in the area, many of those used by company geologists have been introduced without type sections having been established. A brief description is given below.

#### Kechika Group

Talcy-lime shale and shaly banded limestone of the Kechika Group are the oldest rocks exposed in the area. They are thought to be of Cambro-Ordovician age, though their relationship with underlying older strata is not known.

The Skoki Formation overlies Kechika rocks and crops out to the north and east. It comprises banded, grey, silty dolostone. It is not exposed in the area of the claims, but at about the same stratigraphic horizon is a thinly banded tan and grey carbonate unit.

## Road River Group

The Road River Group encompasses an assortment of sediments and minor igneous rocks of Ordovician and Silurian age. Four major but informal units have been mapped:

- (IV) Muskwa siltstone
- (III) Nep formation J Silurian
  - (II) Del Creek formation Ordovician
  - (I) Road River shale -
- (I) <u>Road River shale</u>: This unit comprises dark grey, black, calcareous, graphitic shale containing an abundant graptolite fauna. Towards the base, a chert facies may be present locally, and from place to place this is associated with limestone beds up to 10m thick.
- (II) <u>Del Creek formation:</u> An orange-weathering hematitic siltstone has maximum expression in the Akie River area. It appears to be a facies equivalent of the lower part of the Road River black shale package. Iron oxides commonly occur as discontinuous laminae. Minor chert and limestone are interbedded with the siltstone. Included within this unit are distinctive agglomerates comprising limy breccias and conglomerates with clasts of various sizes and compositions in a chloritic matrix.
- (III) <u>Nep formation</u>: The Road River shale passes apparently conformably up into a unit of grey limestone locally interbedded with black chert. Siltstone with shale and limestone may occur, and these commonly bear graptolites. The unit is from place to place cut

out by thrust faulting or by an overlying unconformity.

(IV) <u>Muskwa siltstone</u>: These tan weathering, dolomitic, Silurian siltstone beds are resistant and commonly underlie the higher peaks and ridges. They vary from fissile, silty flagstone to highly bioturbated, rubbly siltstone with numerous worm burrows and spiral feeding trails. Graptolites up to lm long are locally present. Hematite or pyrite nodules and calcareous concretions lm across are not uncommon.

#### Besa River Group:

<u>Mississippian</u>? (V) Warneford facies (IV) Upper Gunsteel shale <u>Middle Devonian</u> (III) Lower Gunsteel shale

(II) Akie shale

(I) Kwadacha limestone

- (I) The middle Devonian <u>Kwadacha limestone</u> overlies the Silurian siltstone. Above a locally developed basal conglomerate there is a lower unit of reefal debris, a central unit of interbedded chert and limestone, and an upper unit of reefal limestone. Middle Devonian two-hole crinoids, corals and stromatoporoids are present. The limestone is thickest in the area of the headwaters of the Paul River. Elsewhere it is much reduced, representing little more than debris flows or thin shelf deposits, or is absent entirely.
- (II) The <u>Akie shale</u> is in part a basinward equivalent of the Kwadacha reef, directly overlying the Silurian package to the west, but spilling eastwards over the Kwadacha reef limestone. The Akie comprises a series of mudrocks varying in colour from medium-grey to black. Without having drilled through the unit a definitive description of the rocks is not possible. However, the lower beds tend to be more silty and lime nodules are common. The middle Akie contains some cherty units, and the iron content seems to increase upwards. The upper parts tend to have fewer silty beds and pyrite

is abundant. This gives rise to a characteristic bloodred weathering colour. On the Dog claims, north of Elevenses Creek, the Akie includes a thick sequence of dark grey to black sandstone.

(111) Lower Gunsteel shale: This unit is similar to the upper parts of the Akie in that it is essentially a dark grey to black shale largely devoid of coarse clastic material. The base is not seen; it is in fault contact with the Akie. The lower Gunsteel shale on surface is a fine-grained, nonsiliceous mudrock which commonly weathers to a paper shale. The unit contains abundant carbonaceous material and there is a suggestion of an upward increase in iron content.

Within the lower part of the lower Gunsteel is the so-called "Active Zone". An upper, less distinct Active Zone is present in the middle section of the lower Gunsteel shale. The Active Zone hosts the mineralization on the Cirque claims. It appears to be widely distributed but only locally developed. On the Cirque property the Active Zone has a basal, thinly bedded chert sequence, a central barite unit of mineralized, massive, bedded barite, and an upper, mineralized, siliceous black shale unit. Along strike, the 50m thick barite unit grades rapidly into shale with blebs of barite, and the upper siliceous unit is mineralized only with laminae of fine-grained pyrite- the so-called "pregnant shale."

(IV) The lower Gunsteel grades into <u>upper Gunsteel</u> rocks. The latter are characteristically siliceous, comprising medium grey to black chert and light grey to blue-grey siliceous shale. Whereas the chert is typically banded or laminated, the shale appears to be featureless. Towards the top chert becomes subordinate to shale but there is much interdigitation between the two rock types. (V) In 1980 sandstone north of Elevenses Creek was mapped as <u>Warneford</u>, the name given to a unit that elsewhere comprises black hematitic shale, quartzite, and polymictic conglomerate. The unit is not now thought to outcrop on the Dog claims. It is best developed north of the Kwadacha River.

### 6.3 Structure

The Rocky Mountain Trench to the west represents a major dextral strike-slip fault. The main ranges of the Rocky Mountains to the east comprise older strata exposed in the core of an anticlinorium. The rocks of the western ranges, which include the metalliferous Devonian black shale, lie within a NW-SE trending synclinorium. Within this synclinorium, the structure is dominated by upright folds, high-angle reverse faults and thrusts. Units are exposed in long, thin belts between these structures. Cross-cutting valleys represent the loci of NE-SW trending structures that may have been important since late Proterozoic time and which have influenced deposition throughout the Phanerozoic.

On the Dog claims outcrop is very poor and a confident structural interpretation is not possible. There appear to be important faults that trend both parallel to the strata and cross-cut it, and the strata itself is folded into westerly-dipping, overturned isoclines.

### 7. GEOCHEMISTRY

### 7.1 Objectives

The Dog claims were staked to cover Devonian shales, where stream silt sampling in 1978 had produced anomalous results with respect to lead. The objective of the 1981 programme was to sample the soils overlying the NW-SE trending Devonian shale belt on the property. The major creek running along the east of the claim group is called Silver Creek; that draining eastwards into Silver Creek at the north of the claim group is called Elevenses Creek. Silver Creek flows into the Akie River which runs through the southern part of the property.

# 7.2 Procedure

A total of 1490 soil samples was collected on the Dog claims in 1981 (Dwg. GC-8879). From a base line established on the ridge along the western side of the claims a series of lines 200m apart was run across strike. Soil samples collected in Kraft paper bags, were taken at 40m intervals. Where possible the "B" soil horizon was sampled; care was taken to avoid coarse detritus and organic material. The Riocanex laboratory in North Vancouver analyzed the samples for Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag and Ba. The Cu, Pb, Zn and Ag analyses were done as follows. Each sample was prepared by drying and sieving to -80 mesh, 0.6gm of which was placed in a test tube with 2ml of conc. nitric acid. After heating in a hot water bath at 95°C for 1/2 hour, and subsequent cooling, 1ml conc. hydrochloric acid was added and the solution, heated in a hot water bath at 95° C for  $1^{1}/_{2}$  hours, allowed to cool, and diluted with deionized water to a final volume of 12ml. The sample solutions were then analyzed by atomic absorption.

For Ba, the samples were also dried, sieved to -80 mesh, but 0.1gm of each sample was dissolved in 10ml of "extractant solution" and heated in a hot water bath at 95°C for 1 hour. Analysis was again by atomic absorption. Every 3 litres of Riocanex "extractant solution" contains 90gm Na<sub>5</sub>DTPA, 1ml Pheno1phthalein, 22.5gm Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA, 45gm KC1, 3gm NaOH. Sample locations and results are shown in Dwgs. GC-8880, 8881 and 8882.

# 7.3 Results

- Lead A zone, 100-500m wide, running northwest-southeast across the property, contains higher lead values. These peaks are scattered, however, and few are in excess of 50ppm Pb.
- Zinc Although higher zinc values tend to correlate with those of higher lead, they are distributed over a broader area. There appears to be some concentration in the Silver Creek valley.
- 3. <u>Silver</u> There is a broad correlation between high silver in soils and the higher lead and zinc values.
- <u>Copper</u> Values generally are low. A crude pattern is evident that probably represents differences in bedrock.
- 5. <u>Barium</u> An irregular zone of high barium values correlates with high lead, zinc and silver.

### 8. GEOPHYSICS

34.1 kilometres of VLF-EM were run over the Dog Claims, using the soil geochemistry grid. This grid was established by means of compass and hip-chain; line interval was a nominal 200m and stations were read every 40m. Instruments used were two EM-16's (obtained on rental basis from Geonics Limited, Toronto) utilizing transmission from Seattle NLK at 18.6 KHz.

The EM-16 uses military and time standard Very Low Frequency (radio) transmissions as primary fields which are generated as a concentric horizontal magnetic field. When these horizontal magnetic fields encounter conductive bodies in the ground, a secondary vertical magnetic field is in turn generated. The total field will then be tilted on either side of a local conductor. This local vertical field is not always in the same phase as the primary field on the ground surface. The EM-16 receiver measures the in-phase and quadrature components of the vertical field.

The VLF data has been filtered using the standard Fraser Filter operator:  $F_{2'3} = (\theta_3 + \theta_4) - (\theta_1 + \theta_2)$ . Data is presented in contour form on Dwg. GP-8878 and in profile form on Dwg. 8877 both at a horizontal scale of 1:5000.

VLF trends confirm the general northwest-southeast strike of underlying strata. A highly anomalous area is shown by the Fraser Filter Contour Map wherein the contoured highs should represent zones of relatively lower resistivity. Severe topography is certainly contributing to the anomalous patterns but the Fraser Filter tends to remove a large portion of that effect.

#### 9. CONCLUSIONS

## 9.1 Geology

Work in 1981 was primarily concerned with the Devonian shale package. Outcrop is poor and is effectively limited to the ridge running along the northern edge of the property. No lead or zinc mineralization was discovered. The shales that are exposed were divided into a lower series of silty and sandy shale (Akie shale) in fault contact with paper shale of the lower Gunsteel formation. Minor blebby barite is present. The upper Gunsteel comprises siliceous shale and chert.

## 9.2 Geochemistry

A broad, ill-defined zone of moderately high soil geochemistry runs the length of the property. Values are not particulary significant.

# 9.3 Geophysics

Rough terrain influenced VLF-EM readings, but the banding confirmed the general NW-SE strike of the underlying strata. VLF helped in mapping a prominant thrust fault.

#### 10. REFERENCES

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MACINTYRE, D.G., 1981: Geology of the Akie River Ba-Pb-Zn Mineral District. <u>B.C. Ministry of Energy</u>, <u>Mines & Petroleum Resources</u>, Preliminary Map 44

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COSTS STATEMENT		
B.C. SIKANNI - DOG CLAIN	MS	
GEOLOGY, GEOPHYSICS, GEOCHM	ISTRY	
5 May through 30 September,	1981	
GENERAL COSTS		
FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION		
10 Men, 5 May - 30 Sept, 228 Man Days @ \$18.		\$ 4,123
RIOCANEX EQUIPMENT		
228 Man Days @ \$3		684
SUPPLIES		4,978
FIXED WING		
Universal Travel, 25 May - 27 Aug, 12 Trips VCR/PG @ \$95 CP Air, 27 - 28 Aug, 3 Trips PG/VCR@\$10 Excess Baggage Northern Thunderbird, 5 May - 18 Sept Sundry, 5,716Mi @ \$1.96	5. \$662 00 299 143 <u>11,181</u>	12,285
HELICOPTER		
Northern Mountain, 206B, 6May, .93 hr Vernon, B206, 28 May - 4Oct, 71.96 Hrs @ \$325	\$400 23,387	23,787
FUEL		7,316
RENTAL EQUIPMENT		
Traeger, 2 5x5's, 22 May - 21 Sept 81, 4 Months @ \$224. 2 Pr VHF Portables, 15 May - 15 Sept @ \$186.	\$ 894 371	1.265
Bowmac Panel Truck, 1 -22 Jun, 7 Days @ \$ 35 Crewcab, 6 - 20 May, 5 Days @ \$54 MacKenzie Building Materials	\$ 246 270	-,
27 Jun - 26 Aug, 33 Days @ \$16	529	1,045
RADIO LICENCE FEES		64
TOTAL GENERAL COSTS		\$ 55,547

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GEOLOGY COSTS		
SALARIES & WAGES		
10 Men, 5 May - 30 Sept, 71 Man Days @ \$56.	\$ 3 <b>,</b> 976	
BENEFITS		
@ 20 %	795	
REPORT PREPARATION	495	
GENERAL COSTS	•	
71/228 x \$55,547	17,298	
TOTAL GEOLOGY COSTS	\$22,564	
GEOPHYSICS COSTS		
SALARIES & WAGES	¢ 440	
10 Men, 8 Man Days @ \$56	Ş 448	
BENEFITS	90	
	30	
REPORT PREPARATION	700	
$\frac{\text{GENERAL COSTS}}{8/228 \times 55.547}$		
0/220 x 300,047	1,949	
TOTAL GEOPHYSICS COSTS	\$ 3,187	
GEOCHEMISTRY COSTS		
SALARIES & WAGES		
10 Men, 149 Man Days @ \$ 56	\$ 8,344	
BENEFITS		
@ 20 %	1,669	
ANALYSIS		
Soil 671 for AG, BA, CU, PB, ZN @ \$6.25 \$4194 800 for AG,CU, PB, ZN @ \$4.50 3600		
Rock 62 for AG, CU, PB, ZN @ \$6.15 381	A A	
24 Losts on ignition $(\$ 3)$	8,257	
REPORT PREPARATION	495	

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# GENERAL COSTS

149/228 x \$55,547

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# TOTAL GEOCHEMISTRY COSTS

COSTS APPORTIONED

# TO CLAIMS

CLAI	MS	UNITS	GEOLOGY	GEOPHYSIC	GEOCHEMISTRY	TOTAL
DOG	1	8	\$2,051.28	\$289.72	\$5,005.91	\$ 7,346.91
DOG	2	8	2,051.28	289.72	5,005.91	7,346.91
DOG	3	12	3,076.91	434.59	7,508.86	11,020.36
DOG	4	6	1,538.45	217.30	3,754.43	5,510.18
DOG	5	6	1,538.45	217.30	3,754.43	5,510.18
DOG	6	6	1,538.45	217.30	3,754.43	5,510.18
DOG	7	2	512.82	72.43	1,251.49	1,836.74
DOG	8	20	5,128.18	724.32	12,514.77	18,367.27
DOG	9	8	2,051.28	289.72	5,005.91	7,364.91
DOG	10	6	1,538.45	217.30	3,754.43	5,510.18
DOG	11	6	1,538.45	217.30	3,754.43	5,510.18
		88	\$22,564.00	\$3,187.00	\$55,065.00	\$80,816.00

# \$ 36,300

\$ 55,065



DEVONIAN and MISSISSIPP 3 Besa River Group 3w Warneford Clastics 3gu Upper Gunsteel Sho 3gl Lower Gunsteel Sho	IAN - polymict, polymodal pebble conglomerates; grits and black sandstones. ales - black thinly-banded cherts and porcellanites; blue-grey siliceous shales; rare cephalopods. ales - black carbonaceous fabric laminated clay	7
3a Akie Shales – silty 3k Kwadacha Limestor SILURIAN and OLDER 2 Road River Group,	shales; rare rhythmites and turbidite beds, septarian nodules, cephalopods; pyrite and barite- as small blebs to laminae to massive beds = Active Zone mudrocks with local siltstone beds, chert and limestone nodules; hematitic near top; rare plant fragments. ne-includes limestone sands, debris flows and reefal material with stromatoporoids, corals, <u>Amphipora</u> , crinoids etc. Kechika Group - includes dolomitic siltstones and black graptolitic shales, also interbanded limestones, agglomerates, talcose phyllites.	e 3z Active Zone – siliceous black shales with laming and nodular pyrite, blebby and lo barite; locally massive barite with lead, and silver mineralization. near base of 3gl, also possible u in middle 3gl.
	<ul> <li>1<sup>25</sup> Strike direction and dip magnitude</li> <li>1<sup>29</sup> Cleavage strike and dip magnitude</li> <li>J<sup>20</sup> Strike direction and dip magnitude of overturned bed</li> <li>Thrust fault VVV Fault-indicated or assumed</li> <li>Fault- downthrown side indicated</li> <li>Anticlinal axis, overturned anticlinal axis</li> <li>Synclinal axis</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fold Axis plunge</li> <li>Cleavage/Bedding Intersection plunge</li> <li>s</li> </ul>



NTS 94 F/

SCALE 1:10,000

ASSESSMENT REPORT
9759
L NO.
6 RIO TINTO CANADIAN EXPLORATION LTD.
DOG CLAIMS
GEOLOGY 1981
DATE DRAWN BY DWG. OCTOBER.1981 GDH/dm G 7596









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![](_page_23_Picture_6.jpeg)

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![](_page_24_Picture_72.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

• RIO TINTO CANADIAN EXPLORATION LTD. DOG CLAIMS SOIL SAMPLE RESULTS Ba PPM DRAWN BY DWG. SEPT.1981 GDH/dgm GC 8880