



MEDIA RELEASE

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Tom Irwin, Commissioner
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-269-8431

DNR Public Information Center
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1260
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3557
(907) 269-8400

DIVISION OF: Geological & Geophysical Surveys
(DGGs)

CONTACTS: Larry Freeman, 451-5027
Susan Seitz, 451-5052

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SUBJECT: Online Geochemical Data Now
Available

ALASKA STATE GEOCHEMICAL DATA NOW ONLINE

WebGeochem integrates geochemical data into a single internet-accessible search utility

Geologists, prospectors, and land planners now have an improved web-based tool for evaluating land in Alaska for mineral development, with the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys' (DGGs) roll-out of a new geochemical data search utility, "WebGeochem: DGGs Geochemical Sample Analysis Search."

Accessed through the DGGs website at www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/webgeochem, the WebGeochem utility brings together data resulting from laboratory tests on rock and sediment samples collected throughout Alaska. The data include trace metal analyses that can be used to show areas of mineral concentrations and whole-rock geochemistry for characterizing igneous rocks for mineral favorability.

The WebGeochem search utility guides internet users through a customized query to display geochemical data based on sample type, analysis type, and either a geographic area or a preexisting collection of geochemical data. The search results are displayed in a table of geochemical data that meets the user's criteria, with links to additional tables that document the sample and locality, laboratory, bibliographic citation, and chemical methods used for each sample analysis.

The data reside in the central DGGs database that integrates geochemical data and documentation from multiple published sources. Currently the DGGs database only includes published data from the 1991 Land Selection Project. Over the next year DGGs expects that most geochemical analyses published by DGGs during the past two decades will be integrated into the DGGs central database and will be available through WebGeochem.

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Prior to WebGeochem, exploration geologists and prospectors had to comb through DGGs publications for geochemical data, and transcribe the data into their databases; with WebGeochem, those data are already compiled and ready for use. Targets for detailed exploration projects are more quickly identified when there is ready access to geochemical data. Geochemical data have led to many important mineral discoveries. The intent of compiling these data and making them available on the Web is to facilitate the economic development that results from successful mineral exploration.

WebGeochem is a product of the DGGs database project, which is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey through the Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska (MDIRA) program.

Contact: Larry Freeman, Geologist, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, (907) 451-5027, lawrence_freeman@dnr.state.ak.us.

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