# STATE OF ALASKA

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# GEOCHEMICAL REPORT NO. 23

Geochemistry and Geology, Boundary Area, Fortymile District
Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska

Ву

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# GEOCHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY, BOUNDARY AREA, FORTYMILE DISTRICT

EAGLE A-1 QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

Ву

R. R. Asher

# ABSTRACT

Geological and geochemical field investigations were conducted in a 38 square mile area near Boundary, Alaska on the Taylor Highway. Rich placer deposits were formerly mined in the area, and reconnaissance geochemistry done in 1966 indicated lode mineralization.

Metamorphic rocks in the area were referred to as Birch Creek Schist of Precambrian age by early workers. Recent work by the U. S. Geological Survey has shown that the rocks may in part be Paleozoic in age. Mapping for this report was done on the basis of lithology, and formal stratigraphic units are not used. There are ultramafic rocks in the area as well as metamorphic rocks.

The area has been subjected to several episodes of metamorphism. At least three directional trends of fold axes can be recognized. Tight isoclinal folds and a left lateral fault are the main structural elements.

Mapping, rock sampling, and geochemical sampling reveal a possible lead-zinc deposit between Brophy and Camp Creeks near Boundary. Some anomalous geochemical samples are related to lithology; however copper and nickel anomalies associated with an ultramafic plug may warrant further investigation. Sources of some anomalous samples are probably across the Canadian border.

### INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This project was undertaken to investigate the mineral potential of part of the Fortymile district, Alaska. The map area was selected because of extensive placer operations there in past years and because Saunders (1966) found several geochemical anomalies on some of the creeks draining the area. In addition the area is within the projected extension of Dawson Range copper belt in the Yukon Territory.

A field party of two men spent 21 days in the field. During this period about 38 square miles of geology were mapped and 176 stream sediment geochemical samples were collected from approximately 20 streams.

# LOCATION, ACCESS, POPULATION

The area studied is in the southeast part of the Eagle A-1 quadrangle about 100 miles east of Tetlin Junction, which is on the Alaska Highway (fig 1). The map area is located on the Taylor Highway and includes the small settlement of Boundary, Alaska. It is within the region known generally as the Fortymile district. The eastern edge of the map area follows the international boundary between Canada and the United States. Dawson, Yukon Territory, is located about 55 miles to the east. The map area extends from 64° 00' to 64° 06' N latitude and from 141° 00' to 141° 10' W longitude.

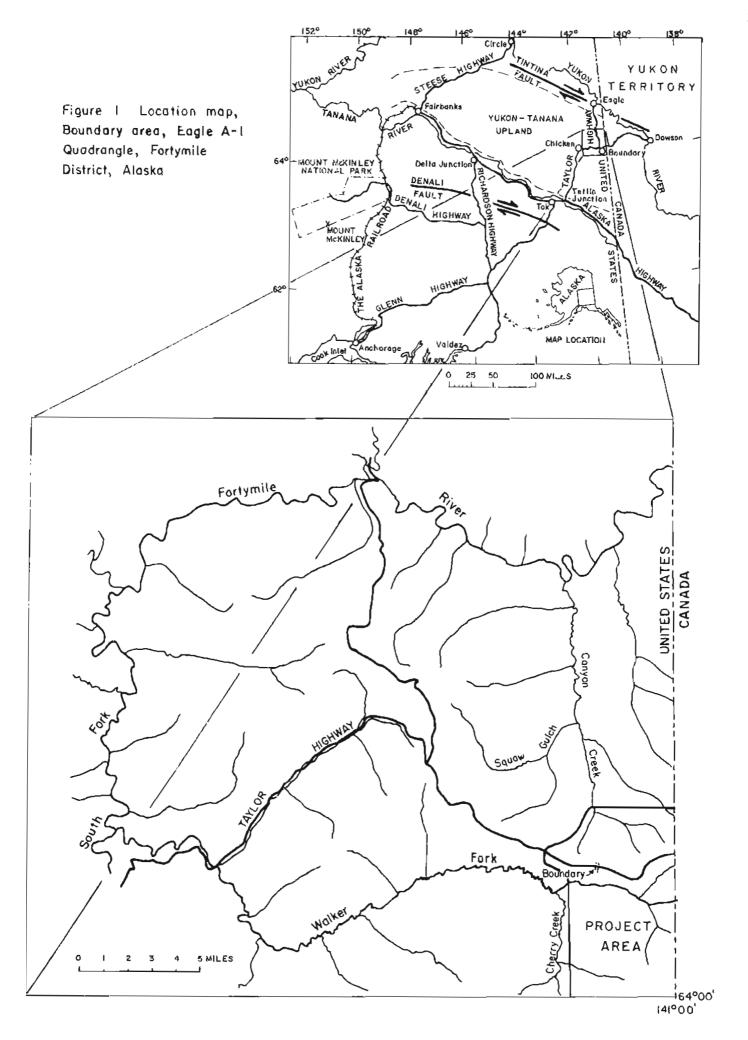
Access to the area is by the Alaska Highway to Tetlin Junction, where the Taylor Highway begins  $(fig\ 1)$ . The region is also accessible from Canada by the road that extends west from Dawson and joins the Taylor Highway near Boundary  $(fig\ 1)$ . Within the area there are a few unimproved roads that can be traveled in a pickup truck or four wheel drive vehicle.

The region is sparsely populated. Two groups of placer miners were in the Canyon Creek drainage during the summer of 1969, and there were six residents at Boundary.

# CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Climate in the region is typical of interior Alaska. Winters are severe with deep snow, and subzero temperatures from November through March. High winds cause deep snow drifts along parts of the Taylor Highway. Summers are warm and pleasant with few rainy days.

Spruce trees grow on the higher slopes and ridge tops. Birch, alder brush, and willows are found along the lower slopes and stream valleys. Above an elevation of about 3000 feet, ridge tops are generally free of dense vegetation and rocks are better exposed than at lower elevations.



### TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

The topography of the map area is hilly to mountainous. Foster (1969, p 26) states that the high, benched, ridge surfaces which are present may be the result of altiplanation.

The Taylor Highway follows a ridge that forms a divide between Walker Fork and Canyon Creek the principal streams in the area. Both streams are tributary to the Fortymile River  $(fig\ 1)$ .

Throughout the Yukon-Tanana upland, youthful streams are incised into a mature topography. The Fortymile country is part of this upland (Mertie, 1937, p 32). Throughout much of its length the Fortymile is deeply entrenched, and there are terraces above the present valley floor. According to Mertie (1937, p 30-31) the Fortymile is a rejuvenated stream that once was in adjustment to the topography, but because rejuvenation is fairly recent the effects have not yet progressed into the upper valleys of the Fortymile. In the map area second and third order streams flow in steep V-shaped valleys with steep gradients. The valleys of primary streams have lower gradients and wider valley floors.

A description of the Walker Fork Valley from Mertie (1938, p 159) is given below:

In its Upper Valley, where the course of the stream is west, Walker Fork has an elevation above sea level ranging from 1,600 to 2,200 feet. (Author's note: recent topographic maps indicate that the elevations cited by Mertie are about 500 feet too low.) East of Cherry Creek, where mining operations are in progress, the elevation is about 2,000 feet and the gradient of the stream is about 100 feet to the mile. In this stretch the valley is asymmetric, with a rather steep south wall and gentle slopes and spurs forming the north wall. The valley floor in general is a wide alluvial flat, but it narrows considerably for short stretches. A terrace about 400 feet above the creek level is recognizable on both sides of the Creek; and a lower terrace, about 100 feet high, is developed farther downstream, in the vicinity of Twelvemile Creek.

Some streams in the region such as Canyon Creek  $(fig\ 1)$  are remarkably straight. Foster (1969, p 26) suggests that this is the result of structural control, but the evidence is not conclusive.

Historically, the most important streams in the area are Davis Creek, Poker Creek, and the main Walker Fork where some of the earliest mining in interior Alaska took place. Davis and Poker Creeks are in the headwater portion of Walker Fork (fig 2). On the north, Canyon Creek and Squaw Gulch are important in regard to previous mining activity (fig 1).

# HISTORY

The Fortymile country is the oldest mining area in interior Alaska. Howard Franklin discovered gold on gravel bars of the Fortymile in 1886. The river was formerly the Shitando River, but early prospectors and traders gave it the name Fortymile because the mouth of the river is 40 miles downstream from the old Hudson Bay Trading Post at Fort Reliance (Mertie, 1938, p 157). About one year after Franklin's discovery, gold was found in Franklin Gulch on the South Fork of the Fortymile near Chicken (Mertie, 1938, p 157). Mertie (1938, p 157) remarks that mining has continued in the region from the time of the original discovery until the present (1938) without interruption. That statement is probably still accurate today although mining in recent years has been at a low level.

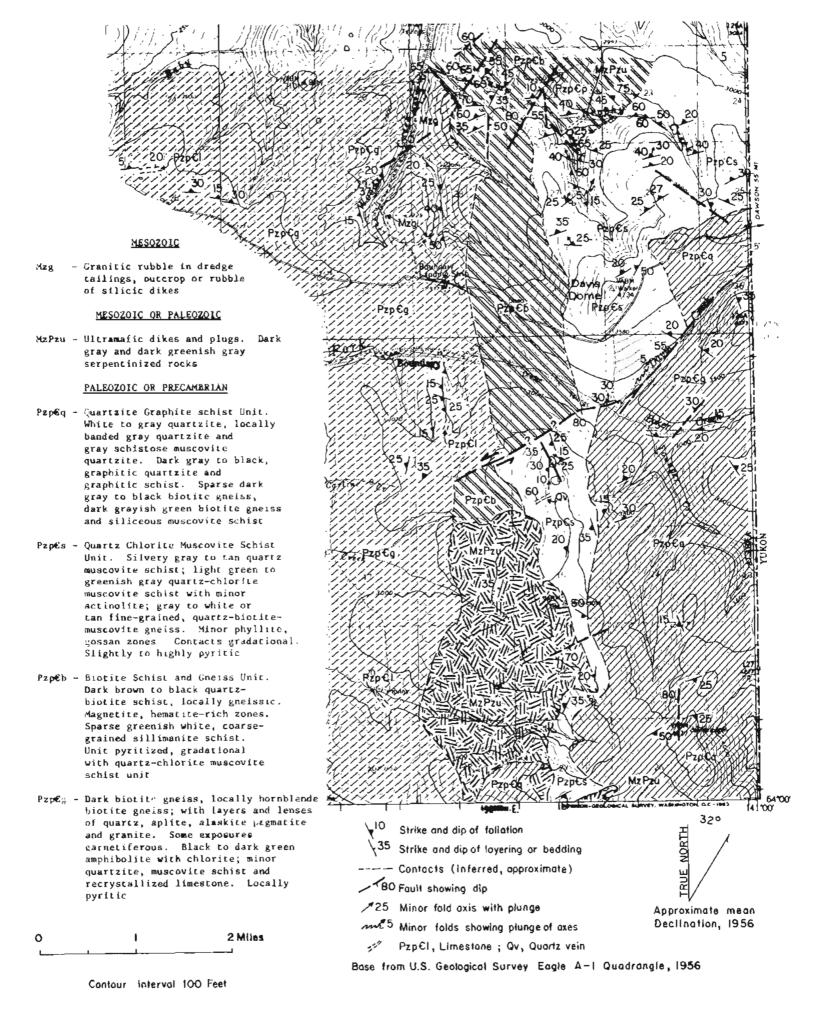


Figure 2 Geologic map, Boundary area, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska

Within the map area gold was discovered on Davis Creek in 1888 and on Poker Creek and the main Walker Fork about a year later (Mertie, 1938, p 157). In 1892 gold was discovered on the Canadian side of the border on Miller and Glacier Creeks. These creeks head against the Walker Fork and drain southeast into the Sixtymile River.

In 1893 a stampede caused by these gold strikes brought a great influx of prospectors into the region. In the next 10 years a great many claims were staked and the important pay streaks were found (Mertie, 1938, p 157).

Large-scale, sustained mining was carried out on the Walker Fork for a number of years. The gravel thickness was moderate and early mining was done by hydraulic open-cut methods. The highest grade material was mined fairly quickly, and mechanical devices were brought to the Walker Fork early in its mining history. In 1903 a steam scraper and bucket conveyor were being used on one claim. In 1907 a dredge was installed on Walker Fork, about one mile above the mouth of Twelvemile Creek, by Russel King. This dredge operated until 1909. During the winter of 1907-1908, a second dredge was installed on Walker Fork between the mouths of Davis and Poker Creeks by Robert Mulvane. This dredge operated until 1912. (Mertie, 1938, p 160).

A steam shovel with a 50 foot boom and a  $l_{\pi}^{\perp}$  yard bucket was operated on Walker Fork from 1923 until 1934 when it was replaced by a dredge. Hydraulic giants were used for stripping. The dredge operated at least through 1938 (Mertie, 1938, p 160). It is not known how many years after 1938 the dredge operated. Mertie (1938, p 158) remarks that the landing strip on the ridge at the present side of Boundary was completed in 1938 and mining was still in progress.

Less is known concerning the mining history of Canyon Creek  $(fig\ 1)$  and other drainages on the north side of the Taylor Highway. According to Mertie (1938, p 187) the most work was done in the main valley of Canyon Creek and in Squaw Gulch. In 1938 very little work was in progress, but a high bench with auriferous gravels was being prospected on the west side of Canyon Creek.

Mining has continued until the present in the project area. For the past 15 to 20 years, mining operations have been relatively small undertakings utilizing bulldozers and sluice boxes. In the summer of 1969, a placer deposit was being worked on Woods Creek near the mouth of Brophy Creek, and another placer mine was in operation on Canyon Creek several miles north of the project area (figs 1 and 2). There is no recorded production from lode deposits in the region.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Tom Bundtzen took the responsibility of collecting stream sediment samples and doing field analyses as well as performing other duties of a field assistant. His services are gratefully acknowledged. Jack Corbett of Boundary and many other residents of the Fortymile country extended courteous and hospitable treatment to the field party during the course of the work and their help aided greatly in completion of the project.

# PREVIOUS WORK

Because of placer gold discoveries on the Fortymile in 1886 and discoveries at Circle  $(fig\ 1)$  in 1893, the Yukon gold district received attention from the U. S. Geological Survey as early as 1898, when J. E. Spurr published "Geology of the Yukon Gold District, Alaska" in the 18th Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey, part 3, p 87-392

(Mertie, 1938, p 135). After Spurr's work a number of investigations dealing with the Yukon-Tanana area were conducted by the federal government. Mertie (1938, p 135) includes a list of the more important of these. Prindle (1905, 1909) and Mertie (1937, 1938) did extensive work in the Fortymile country and their publications include studies of the map area.

In 1966 Saunders made a geochemical study along the Taylor Highway that included part of the map area. In 1969 Foster published the first geologic study of the area since Mertie's 1937 work.

### GEOLOGY

# REGIONAL SETTING

The Fortymile country is in the Yukon-Tanana uplands section of the Northern Plateaus geomorphic province (fig 1). This province is part of the larger Intermontane Plateaus province, a major geomorphic subdivision (Wharhaftig, 1965, p 22). The Intermontane Plateaus are between the Rocky Mountain system on the north and the Pacific Mountain system on the south. In Alaska these mountain systems are represented by the Brooks Range and the Alaska Range respectively. The Yukon-Tanana uplands are bordered on the north by the Tintina valley and on the south by the Yukon-Tanacross lowland (Wharhaftig, 1965).

The north side of the Yukon-Tanana upland consists of highly deformed Paleozoic sedimenary and volcanic rocks with conspicuous limestone units. The rocks in the northern part are overturned and overthrust to the north. The remainder of the upland is mostly Precambrian(?) schist or gneiss with scattered granitic intrusions in the northwest part. Large irregular batholiths make up the southeast part (Wharhaftig, 1965, p 24). Wind blown silt mantles the lower slopes of the hills in the western part of the upland and deep accumulations of muck overlie stream gravels (Wharhaftig, 1965, p 24).

The schists and gneisses that make up much of the bedrock in the upland were collectively called Birch Creek schist by Mertie and assigned a Precambrian age (Mertie, 1937, p 46). Foster (1969, p 3, 4) cites Roddick (1967) and points out that the original basis for assigning these rocks to the Precambrian may no longer be valid because of structural complications. The Tintina fault, which is north of the map area  $(fig\ 1)$ , separates unmetamorphosed rocks of known age on the north side of the fault from metamorphic rocks of unknown age on the south side. Green and Roddick (1962, p 18) state that in the vicinity of the Tintina fault age relationships based on differences in metamorphism cannot be considered valid.

Foster (1969, p 4) cites several other reasons why the name Birch Creek schist is undesirable. It includes many different lithologies of several origins and probably different ages so that workers in different areas have different concepts of the Birch Creek schist.

Foster (1969) mapped the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles in reconnaissance fashion. The metamorphic rocks were broken down into a gneiss and schist unit, a quartz-graphite schist unit, and metamorphic rocks of the Chicken area. The first two units were what Mertie called the Birch Creek schist and are Precambrian or Paleozoic in age. The metamorphic rocks of the Chicken area are Paleozoic in age. Foster also mapped two sedimentary formations of Tertiary age, granitic intrusive rocks of Mesozoic age, and ultramafic rocks of Paleozoic or Mesozoic age.

# GEOLOGY OF THE MAP AREA

# Metamorphic Rocks

Foster's gneiss and schist unit and the quartz-graphite schist unit are present in the map area. Foster grouped several rock types together in each of the above units. Because lithology may be an important ore control some of the rock types included in the quartz-graphite schist unit were mapped separately for this report. Table 1 is a comparison of the units established by Foster and the units used in this report.

Table 1 - Comparison of Precambrian or Paléozoic rock units mapped by Foster (1969) and the rock units used in this report. Boundary Area, Eagle A-1 quadrangle, Alaska.

Units Mapped	Ъу	Foster	(1969)
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# Units Used in This Report

Quartz-Graphite-Schist Unit:	Quartzite-Graphite Schist Unit: (Pzp€q)
Quartz graphite schist, quartzite, quartz muscovite and quartz sericite schists, phyllite and cataclastic	Quartz-Chlorite-Muscovite Schist Unit: (Pzp€s)
gneiss.	Biotite Schist and Gneiss Unit: (Pzp€b)
Gneiss and Schist Unit:	Gneiss-Amphibolite Unit: (Pzp€g)

Gneiss-Amphibolite Unit (Papeg)

The gneiss-amphibolite unit is present throughout the western half of the map area. According to Foster's map (1969) the eastern contact swings easterly just north of Brophy Creek ( $fig\ 2$ ), slightly beyond the north edge of the map area, and the unit makes up almost all of the bedrock to the northern boundary of the Eagle A-1 quadrangle.

Dark biotite gneiss and locally hornblende-biotite gneiss are the predominant rock types. Lenses and layers of quartz, aplite, alaskite, pegmatite, and granite are interbedded in the gneiss as dikes and sills. Many exposures are highly garnetiferous. Just north of the Taylor Highway near the head of the east fork of Baby Creek are good exposures of these rocks.

The biotite gneiss is made up of hornblende, biotite, quartz, and garnet. At places, as near the mouth of Camp Creek, magnetite and specular hematite are fairly abundant. Pyrite is common as disseminations along foliation planes.

In general the gneisses are dark gray to black and weather dark green to black. At some places gneiss grades into muscovite schist and is lighter in color. Throughout the map area, gradational contacts are common.

Lesser amphibolite, minor quartzite or chert, recrystallized limestone and muscovite schist are also included in this unit. Foster (1969, p 6) notes that mapping to date suggests that there may be only one main group of quartzites and marbles interbedded in the gneiss.

The amphibolites are made up of hornblende, minor chlorite, quartz, and some muscovite or sericite. Locally magnetite and hematite are common. They are generally fine-grained schistose rocks, but may be massive to granular. The amphibolites are dark grayish green rocks that weather light tan.

The quartzite is composed mainly of quartz but minor sericite, limonite, and sparse pyrite are not uncommon. The quartzite is associated with the recrystallized limestone, and the two are gradational from quartzite through limy quartzite and siliceous recrystallized limestone to recrystallized limestone. The quartzites are granular fine-grained rocks. At places they are so fine-grained that they lose their granular appearance and they resemble chert. Commonly the quartzite is light gray to light tan and weathers silvery gray or light brown.

The recrystallized limestones are present as complexly folded, discontinuous beds within the gneiss. Some layers are up to 50 feet thick. The limestones are white or light gray; they weather darker gray. Calcite and more or less quartz are the principal constituents. Flakes of graphite are present in some specimens.

Muscovite schist makes up a minor part of the gneiss-amphibolite unit. It is composed essentially of quartz and muscovite or sericite, with sparsely disseminated pyrite. These are fine-grained, schistose, brown rocks that weather light gray.

The biotite gneiss can be difficult to distinguish from the biotite schist and gneiss unit or the quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist unit. In general it is coarser grained and likely to be garnetiferous. Foster (1969, p 5-9) discusses the petrography and mineralogy of the unit in more detail. Foster (p 5) also points out that the metamorphic grade is mostly middle or upper amphibolite facies and is higher than that of the other metamorphic rocks in the area. The rocks in the unit are polymetamorphic but details of the metamorphic history are unknown (Foster, 1969, p 5).

# Biotite Schist and Gneiss Unit (Pzp&b)

The biotite schist and gneiss unit forms a narrow belt that trends northerly across the area. It is bordered on the west by the gneiss-amphibolite unit and on the east by the quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist unit. Rocks in this unit are not well exposed except near the north end of the map area. Because its presence was determined mostly from float, contacts are mainly inferred.

The biotite schist and gneiss unit is made up of dark brown to black quartz-biotite schist that is gneissic in part. There is also sparse greenish white, coarse-grained sillimanite schist. Foster (1969, p 5) cites the presence of sillimanite and abundant biotite as a distinguishing feature of the gneiss and schist unit, and the biotite schist and gneiss might more properly belong with the gneiss-amphibolite unit. However, the contact with the quartz-calcite-muscovite schist to the east appears to be gradational, therefore the biotite schist and gneiss unit is included as a member of Foster's quartz-graphite schist unit (table 1).

A typical specimen of quartz-biotite schist is a dark brown to black foliated rock with quartz, biotite, and minor sericite. Pyrite is fairly common as disseminations along foliation planes.

# Quartz-Chlorite-Muscovite Schist Unit (Pzp&s)

East of the biotite schist and gneiss unit is a belt made up of light colored quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist with minor actinolite. There is also minor gray to white or tan fine-grained, quartz-biotite-muscovite gneiss, minor phyllite and a gossan zone. Pyritization is common. Contacts within the unit are gradational as is the contact with the biotite schist and gneiss unit to the west. It is in contact with the quartzite-graphite schist unit to the east and south. On Davis Creek the contact between the two units is formed by a fault  $(fig\ 2)$ .

Rocks included in this unit are variable in texture and composition. On the ridge between Camp and Brophy Creeks the rocks are fine-grained foliated schists composed of quartz and sericite that are light gray and weather tan or brown. Farther down the ridge the rocks are composed of quartz, muscovite, and sericite with abundant limonite. There are numerous sulfide casts that are lined with dark red limonite.

At the head of Camp Creek quartz, muscovite, chlorite, and sparse biotite are the megascopic minerals. Quartz is present as small rounded pods or "eyes". The rocks are foliated and dark gray with a faint greenish cast. Disseminated pyrite is common.

To the south the belt of quartz-muscovite schist narrows because a mass of ultramafic rocks is intruded into the sequence. The rocks on the ridge north of Minnesota Peak are made up of abundant quartz, biotite, and sericite. The rocks are fine-grained with a gneissic texture, and are grayish brown to light tan.

# Quartzite-Graphite Schist Unit (Pzp€q)

Except for a small part of the map area at the north end, quartzite and graphite schist were mapped along the Canadian boundary  $(fig\ 2)$ . The unit is made up of white to gray quartzite, that is locally a banded gray quartzite or gray schistose, muscovite quartzite. The quartzite contains varying amounts of graphitic material and grades into graphitic quartzite and graphitic schist. There are sparse black biotite gneiss, dark, grayishgreen, biotite gneiss, and siliceous muscovite schist.

The quartzites form rugged cliffs like on the north side of the Taylor Highway near the customs station at the Canadian border and elsewhere. At Ptarmigan Peak they form a steep sided peak with elongated projecting ridges (fig 2). Long scree slopes of slabby graphitic quartzite are common on hillslopes in the southeastern part of the area.

# Age Relationships

In regard to the age of the gneiss and schist unit Foster (1969, p 9) presents isotopic age dates for some of the rocks in the area and reaches the following conclusion:

Although Mertie (1937, p 55) considered these rocks (his Birch Creek Schist) as Precambrian, a Paleozoic age is also a possibility for all or part of it.

The quartz-graphite schist unit, of which the quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist unit, the quartzite-graphite schist unit, and possibly the biotite schist and gneiss unit are a part, is of unknown age. According to Foster (1969, p 11):

Although of lower metamorphic grade, they could be part of the same sequence of metamorphosed rocks as is the gneiss and schist unit. However there are sufficient differences in lithology and mineralogy to suggest that they could be from an entirely different part of the stratigraphic section.

# Igneous Rocks

# Ultramafic Rocks (MzPzu)

In the south-central part of the map area there is a large body of ultramafic rocks. It is irregular in outline, and varies from about a mile to a mile and three-quarters in width east to west; it is about three miles long north to south.

In hand specimen magnetite, serpentine, and minor magnesite were noted. The rock is fine-grained and compact; at places it is layered. Fresh surfaces are dark green to black; it weathers light can to brown.

According to Foster (1969, p 12, 13) magnetite occurs as large grains surrounded by alteration rims of brucite and chlorite in a matrix of antigorite with relicts of olivine. There are late veins of magnetite and magnesite and no evidence of pyroxene. Foster (1969, p 13) concludes that the rock is a metamorphosed serpentinized dunite. The age of the ultramafic body is probably Paleozoic or possibly Mesozoic.

About two-tenths of a mile southeast of the confluence of Brophy and Camp Creeks there is probably a small ultramafic dike. At the locality mentioned the waters of both streams are rusty red. Minor serpentinite float in the vicinity leads to the conclusion that these streams intersect an iron-rich ultramafic body.

# Silicic Intrusive Rocks

Silicic intrusive rocks are abundant in the Eagle A-2 quadrangle to the west, and they are not uncommon in the western part of the Eagle A-1 quadrangle. In the remainder of the A-1 quadrangle silicic intrusive rocks are sparse.

On Woods Creek, just above the mouth of Camp Creek, granitic rocks are abundant in old dredge tailings (fig 2). This probably indicates the presence of a small intrusive in the vicinity. At various localities throughout the area igneous rubble and a few outcrops indicate the presence of dikes of monzonite or aplite. In general these were too small to show on the map.

# Alluvial Deposits

The valleys of larger streams in the region are floored by alluvial gravel deposits. In addition, high-level gravel-covered terraces border Walker Fork. These materials were not mapped for this report.

# STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

# Regional Setting

Foster (1969, p 24-26) discusses the regional structure of the Yukon-Tanana upland. The following is a brief summary of Foster's remarks.

The Eagle A-1 quadrangle is a minor part of a structurally complex metamorphic terrain that is bounded on the north by the Tintina fault and on the south by the Denali fault (fig 1). Both of these faults are structures of regional extent. The Tintina fault or trench is a possible continuation of the Rocky Mountain trench, and it separates metamorphic rocks of the Yukon-Tanana upland from unmetamorphosed Precambrian and Paleozoic rocks. It is estimated that there are 220 to 260 miles of right-lateral displacement along the Tintina fault (Roddick, 1967, p 29). The Denali fault (St. Amand, 1957, p 1351) separates metamorphosed and unmetamorphosed rocks in the Alaska Range. St. Amand (1957, p 1343) estimates over 150 miles of right lateral movement on the Denali fault.

In the eastern part of the Yukon-Tanana upland are some of the highest grade metamorphic rocks recognized in this metamorphic terrain. These are the sillimanite-bearing amphibiolite facies rocks of the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles. The amphibolite facies rocks are bordered on either side by lower metamorphic grade, greenschist facies rocks. Foster (1969, p 26) presents two possible explanations:

- 1. The rocks in the eastern part of the metamorphic terrain between the Denali and Tintina faults are different metamorphic facies of the same general stratigraphic sequence, and the age of the rocks is not related to their degree of metamorphism.
- 2. The area of the metamorphic terrain may be a geanticline with older higher grade metamorphic rocks near the center and younger lower grade metamorphic rocks on the flanks.

# Structure in the Map Area

In the map area the structural pattern appears to be tight, small-scale isoclinal folds. There may be large-scale isoclinal folds as well because strong foliation is evident and bedding is generally obliterated. Tight minor folds and crinkles are common; in some outcrops multiple minor fold axes are developed. There are at least three sets of minor folds in the area.

Figure 3 is a form contour map that was constructed to depict the locations of fold axes. Lack of outcrops necessitated generalizing the form contour lines in some portions of the map, but it gives a general idea of the structure.

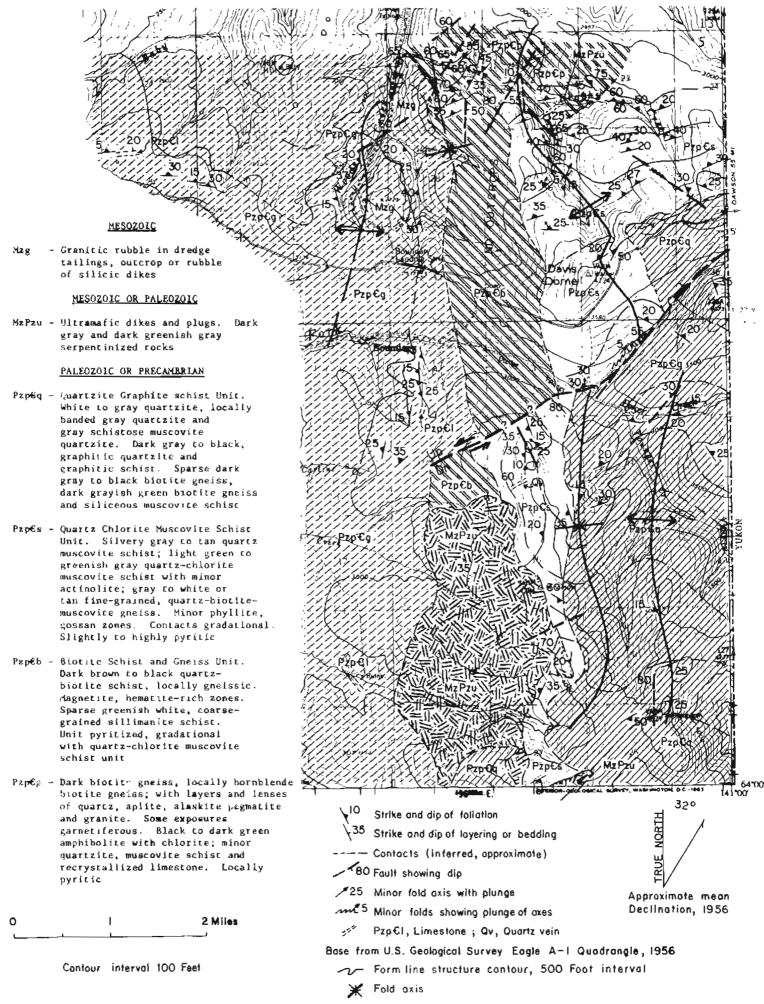


Figure 3 Form line structure contour map, Boundary area, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska

The southern part of the area shows folds that plunge north with minor folds on the limbs that are oriented west or northwest. These fold axes are offset near Davis Creek by a left-lateral fault that probably extends completely across the map area.

On the north side of the Davis Creek fault, the fold axes continue north in the same manner, but the flanks are more crinkled by minor folds than on the south.

The Davis Creek fault appears to be a fault that strikes N  $30^{\circ}$  to  $50^{\circ}$  E and dips  $80^{\circ}$  S, and has a left lateral movement of about a mile. The amount of vertical movement is not known. There are parallel faults and fractures in the map area that can be traced for short distances. Another prominent fault direction is N  $40^{\circ}$  to  $50^{\circ}$  W. Fractures of this trend are not well exposed and can be traced for relatively short distances.

The Davis Creek fault post-dates the major folding in the area. This folding was probably caused by east-west compression and could be related to movement along the Tintina and Denali faults. After development of the Davis Creek fault a northwest-directed force caused minor folding on the flanks of the major folds and probably caused the flexure or bend in the Davis Creek fault.

# ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

In the project area mineral production has been derived from placer gold deposits. There is no recorded production from lode deposits nor are there any lode prospects. However, placer deposits must have bedrock sources and one objective of this project was to investigate the lode possibilities in the area.

Thick brush in valley bottoms and on hillslopes hampers conventional methods of ore search in the map area, consequently a heavy reliance was placed on geochemical sampling techniques. Early in the study it became evident that pyritization of the rocks is a widespread feature. To determine its significance rock samples were taken from the various units for analysis.

Rock samples were analyzed in the Division's laboratory for gold, copper, lead, and zinc by atomic absorption. Samples were also analyzed by semiquantitative emission spectrographic methods. Results of the atomic absorption analyses and selected elements from the emission spectrograph analyses are shown in table 2. Rock sample locations are shown in figure 4.

# ROCK SAMPLES, GNEISS-AMPHIBOLITE UNIT

Rock samples from the gneiss-amphibolite unit include quartzite, gneiss, limestone, and schist. All of the twenty-two selected samples taken from this unit showed some feature suggesting the presence of ore minerals, such as pyritization or limonite, silicification, brecciation, or other alteration.

Table 2 - Rock sample analyses, Boundary area, Eagle A-1 quadrangle, Alaska

Map No.	Field No.	Au(1) ppm	Cu(1) ppm	Pb(1) ppm	Zn(1) ppm	Ni(1) ppm	Mo(2) ppm	Ag(2) ppm	Co(2)	Cr(2) ppm	Ni(2) ppm	Remarks
							GNEISS-AMP	HIBOLITE (	UNIT			
1	9A227rf	ND(3)	9	9	50	NA (4)	5	ND	20	100	20	Gossan with quartz, limonite, manganese
IA	<b>9</b> A227Arf	ND	5	24	18	NA	MD	ND	ND	50	5	Limestone with manganese, limonite
2	9A24rf	ND	55	15	100	NA	5	ND	20	50	10	Altered muscovite schist with limonite, calcite, fine disseminated pyrite
3	9A143rf	0.08(5)	7	3	100*	NA	10	ND	10	200	20	Granular quartzite, red limonite, pyrite
4	9A26rf	0.08	12	13	45	NA	5	ND	ND	100	10	Brecciated quartzite, minor limonite
5	9A27rf	0.12	15	10	48	NA	ЙK	ND	10	50	10	Altered quartzite, disseminated pyrite
6	9A28rf	ND	10	8	40	NA	ND	ИD	10	100	10	Altered quartzite with fine spongy limonite
7	9A1rf	ND	14	13	27	NA	5	ND	10	100	20	Quartzite with sparse pyrite, minor limonice
8	<b>9</b> A109rf	0.12	44	13	105	NA	5	ND	50	50	10	Quartz biotite gneiss, pyrite along folia
9	<b>9</b> Allirf	0.10	170	10	70	NA	10	ND	100	200	20	Quartz biotite gneiss, pyrite along folia, from debris along creek
10	9A2rf	ЙD	18	14	15	NA	10	ND	10	200	20	Cherty brecciated quartzite, disseminated pyrite
11	9A4rf	0.08	18	15	60	NA	10	ND	100	1000	500	Amphibolite
12	9A5rf	0.08	45	10	45	NA	10	ND	50	300	20	Biotite gneiss with pyrite along folia
13	9A6rf	ND	22	11	38	NA	ND	ND	10	100	10	Altered felsic dike, sparse pyrite
14	9A115rf	0.10	30	12	100*	NA	5	ND	20	50	10	Brecciated quartz sericite schist, sulphide casts
15	9A8rf	ND	40	7	28	NA	5	ND	10	100	20	Quartz biotite gneiss with sparse pyrite
16	9Al7rf	ND	52	18	122	NA	10	ND	20	200	20	Quartz biotite gneiss, sparse pyrite

Remarks	Quartz sericite schist, sparse pyrite	Quartz muscovice schist, with d inch granitic stringers, disseminated pyrite	Altered quartz biotite gneiss, abundant pyrite	Altered quartz biotite gneiss with calcite veinlers	Brecciated quartzite, vuggy with secondary quartz	Altered quartzite, secondary quartz veinlets	Silicified quartzite breccia, finely disseminated sulphides		Biotite gneiss with magnetite, $2\%$ iron	Amphibolite with pyrite	Biotite gaeiss with pyrite	Sheared, brecciated biotite gneiss	Biotite schist minor pyrite along folia	Biotite schist, minor disseminated pyrite		Quartz sericite schist, limonite, pyrite casts, weak gossan	Phyllice with minor pyrite	Weak gossan in quartz muscovite schist	Composite grab sample from gossan in quartz muscovite schist
N1(2) PP <sup>®</sup>	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		10	10	20	20	20	20		200	20	20	20
Cr(2) ppm	100	200	200	200	200	200	200		100	100	200	100	500	20	ы	20	100	100	200
Co(2)	SN SN	20	20	20	20	10	10	ISS UNIT	10	50	20	20	20	20	SCHIST UNIT	100	20	52	S
Ag(2) ppm	ND	2	S	QN QN	S.	S	£	ST AND GNEISS	2	2	Ð	S.	S	S S		S S	QX	S	2
Mo(2)	5	20	м	М	īV	Δ.	ī	BIOTITE SCHIST	ιń	10	ŀΛ	20	10	М	QUARTZ-CHLORITE-MUSCOVITE	<b>1</b> 71	Ś	10	'n
Ni(1) ppm	NA	NA	07	57	NA	NA	NA	BI(	NA	NA	¥	14	NA	NA	QUARTZ-	NA	NA NA	NA	NA
Zn(1) PPm	15	85	07	100*	36	35	885		100*	7	85	32	180	170		145	28	80	130
Pb(1) Ppm	12	20	23	22	7	17	50		۲	10	42	80	13	59		35	10	20	720
Cu(1) PPm	70	110	11	7	12	11	10		14	24	28	125	79	27		17	78	45	290
Au (1) ppm	QN.	2	B	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08		ĀN	0.08	0.28	QN	S S	Ę		0.08	0.10	Ø.	0.12
Field No.	9A9rf	9A16rf	9A114r£	9All4Arf	9Allrf	9Al2rf	9Al4rf		9A213rf	9A215rf	9A217rf	9A218rf	9A68rf	9A74rf		9A212rf	9A50rf	9A45r£	9A40r£
Мар No.	17	18	19	19A	20	23	22		24	25	56	27	28	29		30	31	32	33

Map No.	Field No.	Au(1)	Cu(1) ppm	РЬ(1) ррщ	Zn(1)	Ni(1) ppm	Mo(2)	Ag(2) ppm	Co(2)	Cr (2) ppm	Ni(2) ppm	Remarks
34	9A39rf	0.12	195	80	210	NA	5	2	10	500	20	Quartz muscovite schist with indigenous limonite
35	9A4lrf	0.08	170	57	120	NA	5	ND	ND	200	20	Grab sample, gossan in quartz muscovite schist
36	9A42rf	0.08	63	26	110	NA	5	ND	10	100	10	Composite grab sample, gossan in quartz muscovite schist
37	9A85rf	0.10	19	140	29	NA	20	5	10	200	20	Quartz muscovite schist, disseminated pyrite crystals
38	9A81rf	0.08	6	14	63	NA	5	ND	10	200	20	Biotite gneiss, disseminated pyrite
38A	9A81Arf	0.08	7	24	15	NA	5	ND	10	100	10	Silicified quartz sericite schist, disseminated pyrite
39	9A95rf	0.08	25	12	60	NA	5	ND	10	100	10	Quartz sericite schist, limonite pseudomorphs after pyrite
40	9A209rf	0.08	16	27	100*	NA	10	ND	ND	200	20	Quartz sericite schist, spongy yellow limonite
41	9A33rf	0.10	115	20	100	NA	10	ND	20	200	50	Quartz muscovite schist, sulphide casts, limonite
42	9A129rf	ND	10	8	100*	NA	5	ND	10	200	20	Vein quartz
43	9A128rf	ND	5	6	100*	NA	5	ИD	10	200	20	Fine grain biotite gneiss, sparse pyrite
44	9Al3lrf	ND	6	7	100*	NA	5	ND	10	100	10	Biotite gneiss with pyrite, calcite
45	9A132rf	0.08	7	7	100*	NA	5	ND	10	100	10	Altered biotite gneiss with muscovite, pyrite
						Q	UARTZITE-GI	RAPHITE SCI	HIST UNIT			
46	9A187rf	0.08	16	18	100*	NA	10	ND	20	200	10	Banded gray quartzite with pyrite veinlets up to 1/8 inch, calcite
47	9A184rf	ND	30	12	200*	NA	20	ND	20	500	20	Biotite gneiss, sparse pyrite
47A	9A184Arf	0.08	30	8	200*	NA	5	ND	20	500	20	Biotite gneiss, sparse pyrite
48	9A140rf	0.12	8	4	100*	NA	ND	ND	ND	100	5	Vein quartz very sparse stibnite
49	9A157rf	0.08	43	11	100*	NA	10	ИD	ND	200	20	Brecciated quartzite, yellow limonite

18					
Remarks		Contact, ultramafic rocksbiotite schist, magnetite, 5% iron	Ultramafic rocks with magnetite, 7.6% iron	Ultramafic rock	Ultramafic rock, serpentine, magnetite, 8.0% iron
Ni(2) ppm		2000	2000	2000	10
Cr(2) ppm		2000	2000	2000	20
Co(2) ppm	STRES	100	200	100	100
Ag(2) ppm	IKES AND F	R	QN	QN QN	<b>Q</b>
Mo(2) ppm	ULTRAMAFIC DIKES AND PLUGS	ON .	Ю	Q <sub>N</sub>	ī
Ni(1) ppm	In	NA	1900	NA	NA
$\operatorname{Zn}(1)$ Ppm		100*	100*	30	75
Pb(1) ppm		10	20	12	12
Cu(1) ppm		360	10	15	26
Au(1) ppm		Ø	0.08	0.08	QN Q
Field No.		9A165rf	9A200rf	9A65rf	9A220rf
Map No.		20	51	52	53

<sup>(1)</sup> Analysis by atomic absorption

<sup>(2)</sup> Analysis by emission spectrograph

ND - None detected because concentration below detection limit of anlaytical apparatus  $\widehat{\mathbb{S}}$ 

NA - Not analyzed **E** 

<sup>0.08 =</sup> lower detection limit for gold; for detection limits and analytical intervals of emission spectrograph see appendix I (2)

Zinc analysis by emission spectrograph

Metal values are generally low. Many samples show a trace of gold, but hardly in amounts sufficient to yield the rich placers on some of the creeks in the area. Sample 9 contains 170 ppm (parts per million) copper and 10 ppm molybdenum. These are relatively low values, but are significantly higher than the values for copper and molybdenum in most of the other rock samples from the unit. Sample 9 consisted of scattered fragments of float littering a moss-covered area near a small draw about a half mile north of Boundary (fig 4). Because of the limited exposure and lack of outcrop its full significance is not known.

Samples 16 and 18 are from Woods Creek about a mile and a half northwest of Boundary (fig 4). Sample 16 shows 122 ppm zinc and 10 ppm molybdenum. Sample 18 contains 110 ppm copper and 20 ppm molybdenum. Again these values are relatively low for rock samples but are higher than most other samples from the unit.

Samples 16 and 18 were collected from an outcrop in Woods Creek just upstream from an abandoned cabin and are about 500 feet apart. The outcrop shows quartz-biotite gneiss with sulfides along foliation planes through 3 feet. A small stringer of granitic rock about 2 inches wide is exposed in the outcrop. It is thought that the values in these samples are related to local enrichment associated with the minor granitic intrusive and are of little significance. There is a possibility that other granitic stringers cut the gneiss below surface and the zone may be extensive vertically. Values would also be higher below the zone of surface leaching.

# ROCK SAMPLES, BIOTITE SCHIST AND GNEISS UNIT

In the map area the biotite schist and gneiss is the most poorly exposed rock unit. Consequently only six samples were collected. Along lower Camp Creek near the point where Camp and Brophy Creeks join  $(fig\ 4)$  the biotite schist and gneiss unit is in fault contact with the quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist unit. Rock samples 27, 28, and 29 were collected near this contact. Sample 27 contains 125 ppm (parts per million) copper and 50 ppm molybdenum. Samples 28 and 29 show 180 and 170 ppm zinc respectively. These values are probably related to weak mineralization along the fault zone and do not represent an important ore occurrence. Stream sediment samples from this general area are anomalous in lead and zinc, but the anomalies are thought to be related to a gossan zone in quartz sericite schist in the vicinity of sample 32 through 36  $(fig\ 4)$ . The fault however may have exerted some control on the localization of any ore associated with the gossan zone.

# ROCK SAMPLES, QUARTZ-CHLORITE-MUSCOVITE SCHIST UNIT

On the ridge between Camp and Brophy Creeks (samples 33 through 36, fig 4) a gossan is developed in quartz-muscovite schist. Outcrops are sparse and most of the sampling was done by collecting float fragments that litter the surface.

In this gossan zone the rocks show isolated cubical pseudomorphs filled by black limonite with a vitreous luster. In some of these, vertical striations are present, and it appears that the limonite replaces pyrite. The surface of the rock between the crystal psuedomorphs is stained by light tan to red smeary limonite. Some sulfide casts are present that are lined by a thin hair-like fibrous mineral that was not identified.

Sample 33 is a composite sample of rock fragments taken across the gossan zone. The sample contains 290 ppm (parts per million) copper, 720 ppm lead, 130 ppm zinc, and 2 ppm silver. Samples 34 through 36 represent grab samples from several places within the gossan zone. Values range from 63-290 ppm copper, 26-80 ppm lead, 110-210 ppm zinc, and less than 1 (ND) to 2 ppm silver. This gossan zone may be a leached cap overlying a lead-zinc deposit.

Lead is less mobile in a weathering environment than either copper or zinc, and copper is less mobile than zinc. Thus if the gossan overlies a lead-zinc deposit a higher concentration of lead in the leached zone is expected. Further testing of this zone is warranted.

Outcrops in the vicinity are too sparse to determine any structural control for the deposit. There is faulting in the vicinity and at least two faults trend in the general direction of the gossan zone. One of these faults (samples 27, 28, and 29) is known to be weakly mineralized. It is also possible that a favorable horizon in the unit carries lead and zinc minerals rather than the usual pyrite and the deposit is not related to faulting.

Sample 37 in the same general area but farther west carries 140 ppm copper and 20 ppm molybdenum. It is on the trend of the fault mentioned in connection with samples 27, 28, and 29 and probably represents a southern extension of the same fracture zone.

Sample 41 was collected on the crest of the ridge that forms the main drainage divide in the area  $(fig\ 4)$ . It contains 1.15 ppm copper and 10 ppm molybdenum. Loose rubble at the locality is composed of rocks that are transitional from quartz muscovite schist to graphitic schist. The rocks are stained by limonite and they contain casts formerly occupied by sulphide minerals, probably pyrite. This probably represents a local enrichment of bedrock and is not significant.

# ROCK SAMPLES, QUARTZITE-GRAPHITE SCHIST UNIT

Sample 47 (fig 4) was collected from a local occurrence of pyritized, chloritic, siliceous biotite gneiss (quartzite-graphite schist unit) on Poker Creek. Sample 47 contains 20 ppm molybdenum. Sample 47A, taken in the same general locality, contains only 5 ppm molybdenum. It is concluded that the rocks at this locality are only weakly mineralized.

# ROCK SAMPLES, ULTRAMAFIC DIKES AND PLUGS

Chromium and nickel are concentrated to a much greater degree in the ultramafic rocks in the area than in the metamorphic rocks. Samples 50 and 51 are from the ultramafic body in the southern part of the map area  $(fig\ 4)$ . Both samples indicated contain 5000 ppm chromium and 5000 ppm nickel. According to the atomic absorption results the nickel value for sample 51 is 1900 ppm, and this is probably the more accurate value. Iron, in the form of magnetite, is also an abundant constituent of these samples. These samples do not indicate ore grade concentrations of metallic minerals. However sample 50 was taken at the contact of the ultramafic body and biotite schist (quartz-chlorite-muscovite schist unit).

There are visible sulfides in the sample and it contains 360 ppm copper in addition to relatively high nickel, chromium, and iron. Further prospecting in the vicinity of the contact might be worthwhile.

# CONCLUSIONS, ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

- 1. Lode deposits of gold in bedrock of sufficient size to yield the placer deposits formed in the creeks of the vicinity were not recognized. The source of the placer deposits is unknown.
- 2. Pyritization of the rocks in the area is common, and at a few places base metals are associated with the pyrite. Such localities may be fault zones, areas where there are small granitic stringers, or areas where there is no obvious connection between mineralization and structure or between mineralization and intrusive rocks.
- 3. Based on rock samples, only the gossan zone between Brophy and Camp Creeks is thought to be significant. Stream sediment sampling indicated several additional areas however, and these are discussed in the chapter on geochemistry.
- 4. Ultramafic rocks in the vicinity are enriched in chromium, nickel, and iron, but no ore grade concentrations were found. Copper may be concentrated at ultramafic contacts.

# GEOCHEMISTRY

# SAMPLING METHOD, FIELD ANALYSES

A total of 170 stream sediment samples were gathered in the map area from the active beds of most streams. Samples were taken at one-quarter mile intervals. Sample locations are shown on figure 5.

At each site a composite sample was taken from an area about 50 feet in length on both sides of the stream. Where possible fine sand or silt was taken and organic material avoided. Samples were collected in cloth bags which in turn were placed in plastic sandwich bags to prevent contamination from other samples during transportation,

All samples were tested by a colorimetric dithizone field test described by Hawkes (1963). If a sample required 6 or more milliliters of dye to reach an end point, it was tested at least three more times for certainty. Subsequent laboratory analyses show a good correlation of the field test and samples with a high zinc content. The field test is less sensitive to copper and lead.

# LABORATORY ANALYSES

Samples were analyzed by atomic absorption techniques for copper, lead, and zinc in the Division laboratory at College. They were then run for 30 elements by emission spectrograph at the University of Alaska Mineral Industry Research Laboratory. L. E. Heiner, WIRL mining engineer, supervised the work; Larry Shafford and Jane Bryant performed the analyses. Laboratory analytical results were not available to the field party until the field season was over.

Appendix I shows the limits of detection and estimating intervals for the emission spectrograph. Appendix II is a computer printout that shows the analytical results, results of field tests, and field notes. There are two sets of values for copper, lead, and zinc. One set is atomic absorption data; the other is emission spectrograph data.

### COMPUTER PROGRAM AND CALCULATION OF ANOMALOUS VALUES

All analytical and field results including field tests and notes taken at the sample site were punched on IBM cards for computer data processing. The computer program was written and managed by L. E. Heiner, Mining Engineer, University of Alaska. The computer tabulated the printout shown in Appendix II.

The computer program was also designed to compute the average value, the standard deviation, the threshold value, and the anomalous value for each element. For computing the average, values below the detection limit of the spectrograph (ND) were taken as the crustal average for the element or one half of the lower detection limit, whichever was smaller. Threshold or the possibly anomalous value was taken as the average plus two standard deviations. The highly anomalous value was taken as the average plus three standard deviations. This technique is described in Hawkes and Webb (1962, p 30). The average, standard deviation, threshold, and highly anomalous value were calculated using the given concentration of an element and also using the logarithm of the concentration.

The computer plotted frequency histograms for atomic absorption values of copper, lead, and zinc. The histograms were plotted using the numerical data and the logarithmic data. Through study of these histograms it was possible to determine if the sample population was normally or lognormally distributed for a given element. Histograms were not plotted for elements determined by emission spectrograph because the reading intervals increase geometrically.

Because the data for copper, lead, and zinc by atomic absorption were neither normally nor lognormally distributed a cumulative frequency diagram was constructed to determine the threshold and anomalous value for each of these elements ( $figs\ 6$ , 7, and 8). For elements determined by emission spectrograph the threshold and anomalous values used are those calculated by the Hawkes and Webb (1962, p 30) method using numerical rather than logarithmic data. The average, standard deviation, threshold, and anomalous values for each element are given in table 3. The locations of threshold and anomalous samples are shown on figure 5.

# DISCUSSION OF ANOMALIES

The geochemistry of the area can be discussed in terms of anomalous samples related to variations in lithology and anomalous samples related to ore mineral occurrences.

Table 3, Threshold and anomalous values, stream sediment samples, Boundary area, Eagle A-1 quadrangle, Alaska (all values in parts per million unless indicated otherwise; for discussion of methods of calculating threshold and anomalous value see text).

ATOMIC ABSORPTION DATA	Element	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Threshold Value	Anomalous Value
Lead         18.75         7.9         36         50           Zinc         116.70         85.5         180         260           EMISSION         SPECTROGRAPH DATA           Copper         31.49         22.5         77         100		ATOMIC	ABSORPTION DA	ATA	
Zinc 116.70 85.5 180 260 <u>EMISSION SPECTROGRAPH DATA</u> Copper 31.49 22.5 77 100	• •				
Copper 31.49 22.5 77 100					
* ·		EMISSION	SPECTROGRAPH	DATA	
* ·	Copper	31.49	22.5	77	1.00
10,01 10.11 40 50					
Zinc 127,26 98.0 323 500				· <del>-</del>	
Molybdenum 8.72 4.8 18 20					
Silver 0.11 0.2 0.5					
Cobalt 27.83 17.4 50 100			–		_
Chromium 498.57 588.1 1000 2000					
Nickel 90,11 164,9 420 500					
Manganese 1328.57 1411.9 4152 5000					
Titanium 4985,71 2059.7 9105 10000	-				
Iron % 4,61 1,9 8 10					
Magnesium % 1.93 1.4 5 5					
Calcium % 1.33 1.0 3 5					
Barium 903.43 464.5 1832 2000					
Strontium 167.71 150.6 468 500					
Boron 25.60 28.0 82 100					
Beryllium 1.87 1.3 4 5	-				
Tin 2,19 1.6 5					
Tungsten 1.50 0.0 2					
Zirconium 168,40 95.9 360 500	_				
Lanthanum 37.66 15.9 70 100					
Niobium 19.37 4.4 28 50					
Scandium 18.23 5,3 29 50					
Yttrium 25.26 21.5 68 100					
Vanadium 104.29 25.1 154 200					
Arsenic 1.80 0.0 2 2					
Antimony 68.85 107.6 283 500					
Bismuth 0.34 0.9 2 2					
Cadmium 0.20 0.0 0.2					

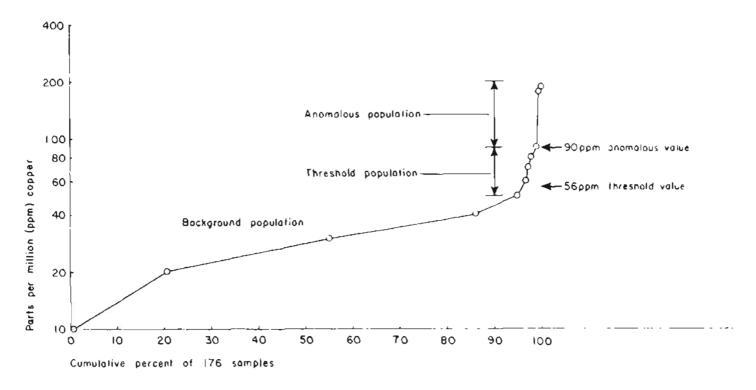


Figure 6 Cumulative frequency curve for copper. Plotted on 5 cycle X 10 divisions semi-logrithmic grid. Shows threshold and anomalous values. Atomic absorption data, stream sediment samples, Boundary area, Eagle A-I Quadrangle, Alaska.

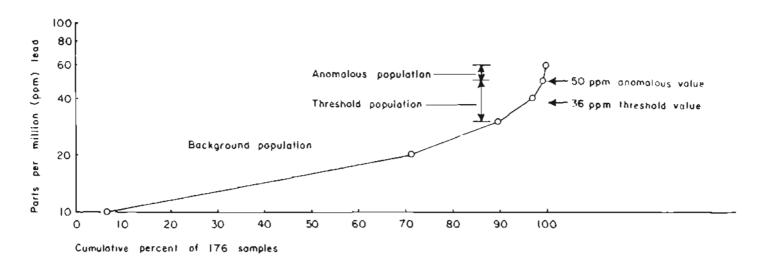


Figure 7 Cumulative frequency curve for lead. Plotted on 5 cycle X 10 divisions semi-logrithmic grid. Shows threshold and anomalous values. Atomic absorption data, stream sediment samples, Boundary area, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska.

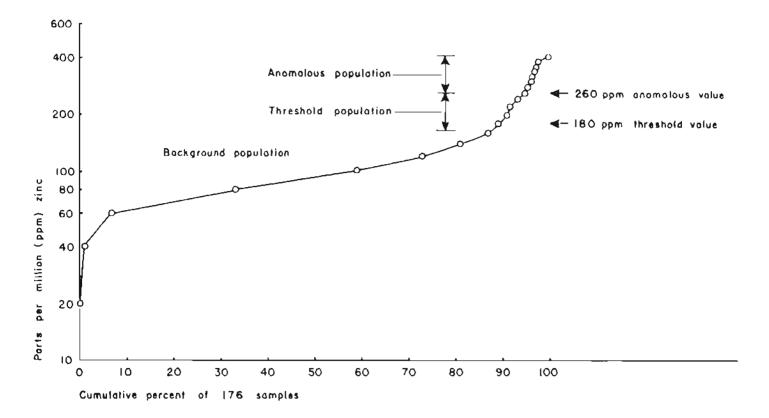


Figure 8 Cumulative frequency curve for zinc. Plotted on 5 cycle X 10 divisions semi-logrithmic grid. Shows threshold and anomalous values. Atomic absorption data, stream sediment samples, Boundary area, Eagle A – 1 Quadrangle, Alaska.

# ANOMALOUS STREAM SEDIMENT SAMPLES RELATED TO LITHOLOGY

# Metamorphic rocks

Sediment samples from streams flowing across the metamorphic rocks of the Boundary area tend to be anomalous in elements such as vanadium, titanium, iron, magnesium, and manganese  $(fig\ 5)$  unless they are influenced by probable ore mineral occurrences or bodies of ultramafic rocks. Less commonly samples are anomalous in tin, bismuth, zirconium, calcium, barium, and rare earth elements. Lead, molybdenum, and chromium are present as anomalous elements in a very few samples.

Most of these anomalies are related to variations in lithology of the metamorphic rock units. Granitic and pegmatitic phases in the gneiss are not uncommon and local occurrences of these rock types are probably reflected by anomalous titanium, tin, zirconium, and rare earths in stream sediment samples. Vanadium may be related to the amount of organic matter in stream sediment samples; the mobility of vanadium is limited by organic material, and its dispersion thus prevented. Calcium and magnesium reflect local beds of limestone and dolomite; magnesium is also derived from ultramafic rocks.

Molybdenum may be related to igneous intrusions, and chromium is almost certainly related to unexposed ultramafic dikes or small plugs. Samples anomalous in lead are isolated and do not persist from one sample to the next. Consequently local isolated lead anomalies are not considered important.

### Ultramafic rocks

Turk and Cherry Creeks drain the west side of the ultramafic intrusive body exposed in the southern part of the area, and samples from these streams are enriched in nickel, chromium, and lesser cobalt. No sulfides were noted in association with the ultramafic body, and the nickel is probably derived from the decomposition of rock silicates. Lack of associated copper adds strength to this conclusion. Chromium is probably derived from chromite in the ultramafic body.

Sample 140 is at the head of Cherry Creek near the east contact of the ultramafic body with a gneissic phase of the quartz-chlorite muscovite schist unit. The sample is anomalous in copper, zinc, lead, and silver. No sulfides were noted at the sample site, but a rock sample from this contact contained an uncommonly high copper value. Further checking might be justified.

Samples 149 and 150 on the north fork of Cherry Creek and several samples on Turk Creek are anomalous in antimony. No stibnite was found when the area was mapped, but according to Hawkes and Webb (1962, p 363) antimony is associated with nickel and cobalt in sulfide deposits. Thus the possibility of a sulfide deposit in the vicinity based on an association of nickel, cobalt, and antimony, cannot be completely discounted.

### ANOMALOUS SAMPLES ASSOCIATED WITH POSSIBLE ORE OCCURRENCES

# Camp and Brophy Creeks

From the mouth of Camp Creek to the head of Brophy Creek samples are anomalous in lead and zinc. Sample 28 at the mouth of Camp Creek contains 220 parts per million (ppm) zinc. The concentration of zinc increases gradually upstream to 600 ppm in sample 34 at the confluence of Camp and Brophy Creeks. The zinc value decreases to 230 ppm on upper Brophy Creek. Sample 44, which is on Camp Creek about a quarter of a mile above its confluence with Brophy Creek, shows 530 ppm zinc.

Lead has a distribution pattern similar to that of zinc. Lead values range from 30 ppm at the mouth of Camp Creek to a high of 55 ppm at the head of Brophy Creek. Values cited above were determined by atomic absorption. These values are most likely derived from the gossan on the ridge between Camp and Brophy Creeks.

Some of the anomalous samples noted above show high values in chromium and cobalt that is related to a small ultramafic dike that is intersected by both creeks. Other anomalous elements in these samples are also related to lithology.

# Poker Creek, Davis Creek, Younger Creek

Samples from Poker Creek, Davis Creek, and the east branch of upper Younger Creek are anomalous in copper, lead, and zinc. At the head of Younger Creek molybdenum and silver are anomalous. These creeks head in the Yukon Territory, Canada and mapping did not extend across the boundary. The source of the samples is probably on the ridge just east of the border.

# CONCLUSIONS, GEOCHEMISTRY

Geochemical sampling in the area leads to the following conclusions;

- There is probably an occurrence of lead and zinc minerals on the ridge between Camp and Brophy Creeks,
- The source of the anomalies on Davis, Poker, and Younger Creeks is probably in Canada.
- 3. The geochemical samples differentiate the metamorphic rocks from the ultramafic rocks. Nickel is present in samples influenced by the ultramafic body, but it is probably derived from rock silicates rather than sulfide minerals.
- 4. On the west side of the ultramatic body there is an association of nickel and antimony with minor cobalt that could be indicative of a sulfide orebody.
- 5. Minor copper occurs at the eastern contact of the ultramafic body, but its significance is not known.

# CONCLUSIONS AND EXPLORATION SUGGESTIONS

As a result of this study the following conclusions are reached:

- 1. The mapping of more restricted rock units than has been done previously makes faults and other structures more apparent. However, reconnaissance-scale mapping such as that done by Foster (1969) is the most efficient for interpretation of regional geology.
- The area is a polymetamorphic terrain with at least three folding directions. Eastwest compression was followed by a stress that caused faulting and a north or northwest directed force caused further folding.
- 3. A gossan zone between Camp and Brophy Creeks probably overlies a deposit of lead and zinc, but the economic potential cannot be predicted without further work. The ore controls are not known, but the quartz-muscovite schist unit is probably the most favorable lithology for prospecting in this area.
- 4. Nickel is associated with an ultramafic plug in the area, but the nickel is probably not present in economic concentrations. There are indications of copper mineralization near the eastern contact of the ultramafic body.
- 5. Broad scale reconnaissance geochemical sampling such as that done by Saunders (1966) is an effective exploration technique if more detailed work is done where anomalies are indicated.
- 6. In geochemical sampling too heavy a reliance must not be placed on field tests.

  Laboratory analyses are essential to extract maximum information from the samples.

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INTERVALS OF ESTIMATION AND DETECTION LIMITS

# SEMIQUANTITATIVE SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSES

Strontium Ppm 5,000 2,000 1,000 200 100 50 50	Arsenic Ppm 10,000 5,000 1,000 500
Barfum PPm 5,000 2,000 1,000 100 200 200 50 20 50 50	Antimony Ppm 10,000 5,000 2,000 1,000 2,000 1,000 200 1,000
Calcium (%) 20 20 10 5 60.2 0.1 0.05	Cadmium Ppm 500 200 100 L
Magnesium (%) 10 10 2 2 2 0.1 0.1 0.05	Bismuth Ppm 1,000 200 200 100 50 20 10
1ron (2) 20 20 20 0.5 20 0.5 20 0.1 0.1	Cold PPm 500 200 50 50 20 10
Titanium ppm 10,000 5,000 1,000 200 200 200 100 100 100 100 100 100	Vanadium Ppm 10,000 5,000 1,000 200 200 100 50 20 100
Manganese Ppm 5,000 2,000 1,000 1,000 200 200 100 20	Yttrium PPm 200 100 50 20 10 L
Nickel M PPm 5,000 2,000 1,000 100 500 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	Scandium PPm 100 50 20 10 5
Chromium	Nichium PPB 2,000 1,000 500 200 100 50 20
Cobalt ppm 2,000 1,000 200 200 200 100 100 100 100 100 100	Lanthanum     ppm     1,000     500     200     100     50     20     10
Silver PPB 5,000 2,000 1,000 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200	Zirconium PPm 1,000 200 200 20 20 20 20 L
Molybdenum ppm 2,000 1,000 200 200 100 500 200 100 50 20 100 50 20 100 50 20 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Tungsten Z; Ppm 10,000 5,000 2,000 1,000 200 100 200 100
Zinc ppm 10,000 5,000 2,000 1,000 200 100 100	Tin ppm 1,000 200 200 100 50 20 10
lead Ppm 20,000 10,000 5,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 200 100 20 100 10	Beryllium PPm 1,000 200 200 100 50 20 20 20 10
Copper ppm* 20,000 2 10,000 1,000 2,000 2000 2000 2000 2000 2	Boron PPm 2,000 1,000 200 200 100 50 20 100

\*ppm indicates parts per million \*\*L = Lowest limit of detection

Appendix II Analytical Results (1), Results of Field Test (2), and Field Data.

Stream Sediment Samples, Boundary Area, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska

Zirconium	Lenthenus	Niobium	Scandium	Yetrium	Venedius	Arsenic	Antimony	Manuth	Cadestum	Pield Test	Strang Width	Location (4)	Organic Contest Sediment Size	bedrock (4)	Sediments in Streen Bed im Percent (4)	Nep No.
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Appendix II (continued)

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<sup>(1)</sup> Values are in parts per million unless indicated otherwise

<sup>(2)</sup> Field test values in milliliters of dye

<sup>(3)</sup> Atomic absorption results; values for remaining elements are emission spectrograph results

<sup>(4)</sup> LS, Limestone; PEG, Pegmatite; SEDS, Sediments; CNST, Greenstone; GR, Granite; QTZ, Quartz

<sup>(5)</sup> NA indicates not analyzed

<sup>(6)</sup> ND indicates none detected

2irconium	Lanthane	Michium	Scandium	Yttrium	Vanadius	Arsenic	Antimony	Pinneth Codelin	Field Test Stream Width Location (4) Organic Content Sediment Size Medrock (4)	Sediments in Stream Bed in Percent (4)	Hap No.
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# STATE OF ALASKA

Keith H. Miller - Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Thomas E. Kelly - Commissioner

DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

James A. Williams - Director



PRELIMINARY REPORT TO GEOCHEMICAL REPORT NO. 23

A GEOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION IN THE EAGLE A-1 QUADRANGLE,

FORTYMILE DISTRICT, ALASKA

By

R. R. Asher

College, Alaska

May, 1970

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A GEOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION

IN THE EAGLE A-1 QUADRANGLE,
FORTYMILE DISTRICT, ALASKA

Βy

R. R. Asher

# INTRODUCTION

The following is a brief summary of a geological and geochemical investigation in the Southeast quarter of the Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska. This preliminary report was prepared because a geochemical anomaly was found in the area, and it is desired to get this information to the public before the beginning of the 1970 prospecting season. A regular Division report is in preparation which will be published in due course. Figure 1 is a sketch map showing sample locations and the location of anomalous samples; it does not conform to Division editing standards.

### GEOLOGY

Quartzite, phyllite, graphite schist, muscovite schist, biotite schist, biotite gneiss and amphibolite are the main rock types in the region. The rocks are crumpled and distorted and faulting is common. Pyrite is a common constituent of the rocks throughout the area. In the southeastern part of the area an ultramafic body intrudes these metamorphic rocks. The geologic setting and lithology are similar to those at Anvil in the Yukon Territory.

On the ridge separating Camp Creek and Brophy Creek (figure 1) a gossan is developed in quartz-muscovite schist. Sulphide casts and limonite are abundant in the debris that mantles the slope. The gossan covers an area about 2500 feet by 1500 feet.

# GEOCHEMISTRY.

Stream sediment samples are anomalous in lead and zinc in both Camp Creek and Brophy Creek downstream from the gossan zone. Because of the gossan and the anomalous samples it is thought that the area should be examined carefully.

Samples were analyzed by atomic absorption and by emission spectrograph. The emission spectrograph gave results for 30 elements but only atomic absorption copper, lead and zinc are presented in this preliminary report. In general the results from the separate methods correlate well.

Anomalous and threshold values for stream sediment samples were calculated by methods described in Hawkes and Webb, (1962, p. 30). The threshold is taken as the average plus two standard deviations and the anomalous value as the average plus three standard deviations. Table I shows the calculated threshold and anomalous values for copper, lead and zinc. Table II shows the value in parts per million for individual anomalous or threshold samples.

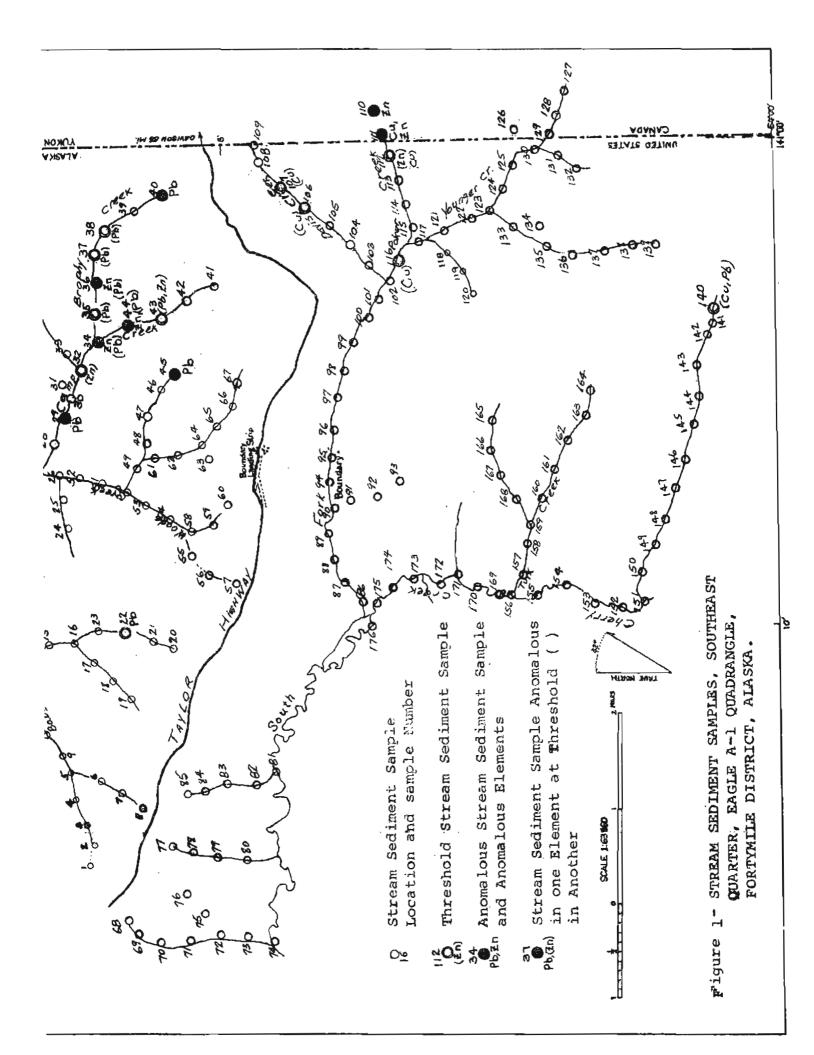


Table I

Calculated Threshold and Anomalous Values for Copper, Lead and Zinc in Parts Per Million. Southeast Quarter, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska.

Atomic Absorption								
	Average	Standard Deviation	Threshold	Anomalous				
Copper	30.65	16.58	63.81	80.39				
Lead	18,75	7.92	34.59	42.51				
Zinc	116.70	85.46	287.62	373.08				

Table II

List of Anomalous and Threshold Samples, Copper, Lead and Zinc in Parts Per Million. Southeast Quarter, Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, Alaska.

	Atomic Absorption								
Sample No.	Copper	Lead	Zinc						
22	20	40	95						
29	45	45	250						
32	30	30	335						
34	35	45	600						
35	35	40	285						
36	45	40	370						
37	35	40	195						
38	35	40	230						
40	45	55	180						
43	30	35	150						
44	40	40	530						
45	30	45	95						
106	75	15	140						
107	75	20	190						
110	50	30	550						
111	180	30	450						
112	75	20	365						
116	65	30	150						
140	85	35	270						