We present preliminary physical property data (density, porosity, and magnetic susceptibility) from a representative suite sample of Chilcotin Group basalts collected in south-central British Columbia (NTS map sheets 092O, P, 093A, B). The Chilcotin Group overlies and buries 55,500 km² of the Intermontane Belt, including potential mineral and hydrocarbon reserves in the Quesnel Trough and Nechako Basin respectively. Exploration within the area covered by the Chilcotin Group has been hindered by a lack of geological data concerning the thickness and distribution of the basalts, and on the nature and depth of the basement; as a result there are very few mineral deposits recorded in MINFILE, and a corresponding lack of staked land.

As part of our on-going efforts to constrain the thickness and lateral distribution of the Chilcotin Group, we have collected a geo-referenced sample suite with which to characterize spatial variations in physical properties. Our initial sample suite (n = 55) has been analyzed for density, porosity (both isolated and connected), and magnetic susceptibility. These data are of immediate use to exploration geophysics projects in the area, and will enable better constrain of the basalt signature in gravity, magneto-telluric, and aeromagnetic surveys. It is our intention to expand our physical property database in 2008 to include basement samples, and to measure for electrical conductivity, seismic velocity, and permeability.

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