

QUEST-NORTHWEST SAMPLE REANALYSIS (INAA)

Geoscience BC Report 2012-06

Release Date: April 2012

Data Files: GBC Report 2012-06.PDF & GBC Report 2012-06.XLS

PROJECT SUMMARY

The QUEST-Northwest Project includes a continuation of a series of large-scale reanalysis initiatives that have been sponsored by Geoscience BC since 2007 (Figure 1). Recognized as a cost-effective means of updating information collected during older government funded regional geochemical surveys, these programs have significantly improved the BC geochemical database by providing a wide range of new analytical information at improved detection levels plus greater data compatibility with analytical methods currently being employed (Jackaman, 2012).

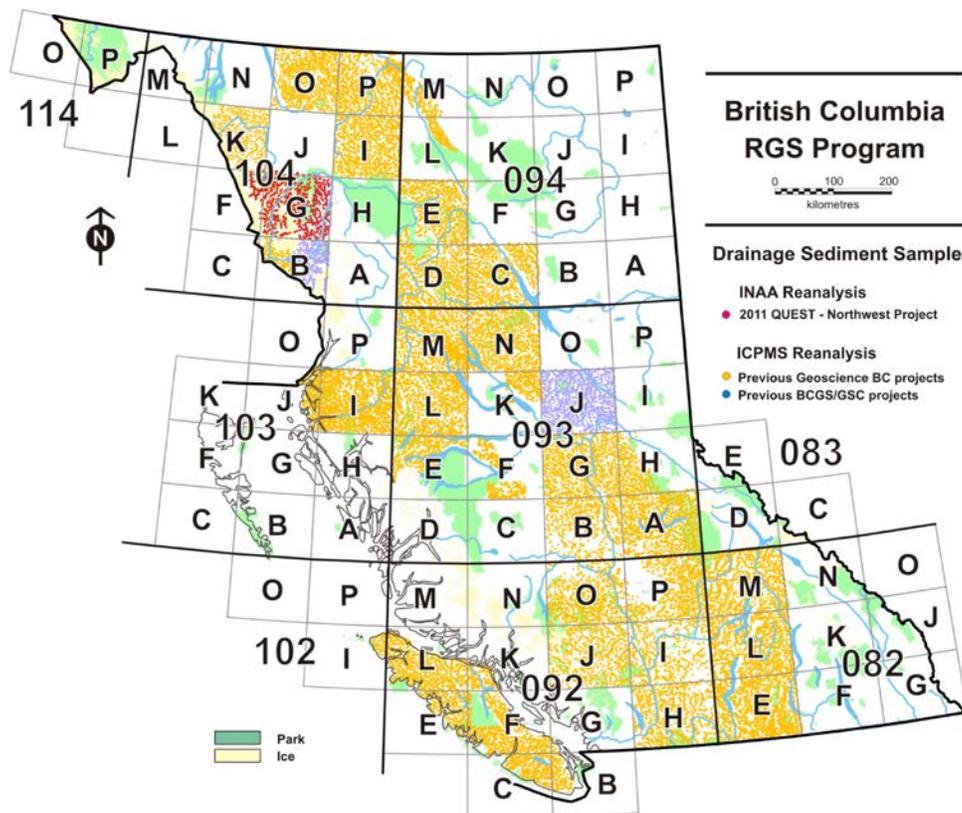


Figure 1. Location of Geoscience BC sponsored INAA and ICP-MS reanalysis work. (Abbreviations: BCGS, British Columbia Geological Survey; GSC, Geological Survey of Canada; ICP-MS, inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometry; INAA, instrumental neutron activation analysis; RGS, Regional Geochemical Survey).

PROJECT METHODS

The original regional geochemical survey targeted for this project was conducted in 1987 and included parts of the Sumdum and Telegraph Creek map areas (NTS 104F and G). In cooperation with the BC Geological Survey (BCGS) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), samples saved from the survey work were retrieved from storage facilities in Ottawa. A total of 1414 drainage-sediment and quality-control samples were subsequently delivered to Becquerel Laboratories Inc. (Mississauga, ONT) and analyzed by instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) for 35 elements. Due to a deficiency of available material, 17 samples were not able to be included in the reanalysis work. Weighed and encapsulated samples were packaged for irradiation along with internal standards and international reference materials. Samples and standards were irradiated together with neutron flux monitors in a two-megawatt pool type reactor. After a seven-day decay period, samples were measured with a high-resolution germanium detector. Typical counting times were 500 seconds. Table 1 provides a complete listing of the elements and method detection levels.

Table 1. List of INAA elements and associated detection levels, QUEST-Northwest Project area.
(Abbreviations: ppm, parts per million; ppb, parts per billion; pct, percent; g, gram)

Element		Detection Levels	Units	Element		Detection Levels	Units
Gold	Au	2	ppb	Nickel	Ni	10	ppm
Silver	Ag	2	ppm	Rubidium	Rb	5	ppm
Arsenic	As	0.5	ppm	Antimony	Sb	0.1	ppm
Barium	Ba	50	ppm	Scandium	Sc	0.2	ppm
Bromine	Br	0.5	ppm	Selenium	Se	5	ppm
Cadmium	Cd	5	ppm	Samarium	Sm	0.1	ppm
Cerium	Ce	5	ppm	Tin	Sn	100	ppm
Cobalt	Co	5	ppm	Tantalum	Ta	0.5	ppm
Chromium	Cr	20	ppm	Terbium	Tb	0.5	ppm
Cesium	Cs	0.5	ppm	Tellurium	Te	10	ppm
Europium	Eu	1	ppm	Thorium	Th	0.2	ppm
Iron	Fe	0.2	pct	Titanium	Ti	100	ppm
Hafnium	Hf	1	ppm	Uranium	U	0.2	ppm
Iridium	Ir	50	ppb	Tungsten	W	1	ppm
Lanthanum	La	2	ppm	Ytterbium	Yb	2	ppm
Lutetium	Lu	0.2	ppm	Zinc	Zn	100	ppm
Molybdenum	Mo	1	ppm	Zirconium	Zr	200	ppm
Sodium	Na	1	pct	Weight	Wt	0.01	g

DIGITAL DATA FILE: GBC REPORT 2012-06.XLS

New INAA results generated by the QUEST-Northwest Project have been provided in the Microsoft® Excel (XLS) file GBC REPORT 2012-06.XLS. The data has been carefully checked for analytical quality using blind duplicate samples and control reference material. When determined to be complete and accurate, the reanalysis data were merged with sample site location information acquired from the original survey publications (Lett, 2005). Detailed information on data structure, abbreviations and field observation codes has been provided in Appendix A. In addition, code definitions have been included as a tab in the XLS file.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2011 QUEST-Northwest Project was funded by Geoscience BC and managed by W. Jackaman (Noble Exploration Services Ltd.) in cooperation with M. McCurdy (NRCan), D. Lefebure (BCGS) and R. Lett (formerly BCGS).

REFERENCES

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Disclaimer

While every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this release package, the data is provided in an 'as-is' basis, without any warranty, guarantee or representation of any kind, whether expressed or implied. It is the responsibility of the user to check the facts before entering any financial or other commitment based upon this information.

Appendix A

QUEST-NORTHWEST PROJECT SAMPLE REANALYSIS

Geoscience BC Report 2012-06

Digital data file *GBC Report 2012-06.XLS* includes new INAA results plus all published survey field and analytical data. Initially conducted in 1987, the joint federal-provincial regional geochemical survey included the collection of 1286 stream sediment and 1254 stream water samples from 1218 sites. At this time, the sediment samples were analyzed for 19 metals plus fluorine and loss on ignition. Water samples were determined for pH, uranium and fluoride. This package also includes ICP-MS results from previous reanalysis initiatives completed by the BCGS in 2003 (Lett and Jackaman, 2004) and by Geoscience BC in 2010 (Jackaman, 2011).

The following comments provide additional information on the file structure and data composition of the digital data file *GBC Report 2012-06.XLS*.

- Data file structure has been standardized to accommodate all possible data reporting options for all completed surveys. As a result, data compiled by various government funded regional geochemical programs may not include information for all fields listed in the XLS file. Unless otherwise noted, missing analytical data is reported as a '-1' and missing field information is listed as a blank cell.
- In most cases, analytical data reported by the contract lab's method detection level (MDL) has been listed at the MDL. As noted above, missing data is listed as a '-1'.
- New INAA results are also provided as reported by the lab. Data reported at less than the MDL is preceded by a '<' sign and missing data has been left blank.
- Although efforts have been made to include all samples from the target survey area, there may be gaps in the final analytical data set due to missing archive material.
- For more detailed descriptions regarding sample collection methods, analytical techniques and element detection levels refer the original published report at:

URL <<http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/Geochemistry/Pages/default.aspx>>

DATA FILE FORMAT

The XLS file includes the following six (6) tabs:

1. ORIGINAL FIELD DATA: all original recorded site location information and observations.
2. ORIGINAL LAB DATA all original survey analytical data in sediments and waters.
3. SEDIMENT ICPMS DATA: all ICP-MS data in sediments.
4. *SEDIMENT INAA DATA1*: all INAA data in sediments, as reported by lab.
5. *SEDIMENT INAA DATA2*: all INAA data in sediments, < MDL set to MDL.
6. CODES: explanation of codes and abbreviations.

Table 4 lists the sample site identification and location attributes provided in the first 21 data fields for each XLS data TAB. The various analytical data summarized in Tables 2 to 5 are listed starting at field 22.

Table 2. Common data fields provided for each XLS data TAB.

Field	Name	Description
1	IDORDER	Sequential order of data records in the compilation.
2	REPORT	Report designation of original published data.
3	NAME	NTS map name of survey area.
4	TYPE1	Survey type: STRM = stream.
5	TYPE2	Survey scale: RGS = regional, TS = targeted.
6	MASTERID	Unique ID number listed for each data record.
7	MAP250	National Topographic System (NTS) 1:250,000 scale map underlying site.
8	MAP50	National Topographic System (NTS) 1:50,000 scale map underlying site.
9	MAP20	National Topographic System (NTS) 1:20,000 scale map underlying site.
10	YEAR	Year sample was collected.
11	ID	Unique sample site ID.
12	STATUS	Identifies the collection of multiple samples from a single site.
13	UTMZ	Site location UTM zone.
14	UTME83	Site location UTM easting (NAD83).
15	UTMN83	Site location UTM northing (NAD83).
16	LAT	Latitude (decimal degrees) calculated from NAD83 UTM coordinates.
17	LONG	Longitude (decimal degrees) calculated from NAD83 UTM coordinates.
18	ELEV	Site elevation in metres.
19	STRAT	Underlying geology at sample site (field STRAT1 from Massey et al., 2005).
20	LAB	Analytical laboratory conducting listed sediment analysis.
21	MTHD	Primary sediment analytical method used.

ANALYTICAL ATTRIBUTES

Table 3. Standardized Format for Original Sediment and Water Analytical Data XLS TAB.

Field	Element	Method	Units	Field	Element	Method	Units		
22	Gold (1st Analysis)	Au1	FA	ppb	38	Antimony	Sb	AAS-H	ppm
23	Gold (Repeat)	Au2	FA	ppb	39	Selenium	Se	AAS-H	ppm
24	Silver	Ag	AAS	ppm	40	Tin	Sn	AAS	ppm
25	Arsenic	As	AAA-H	ppm	41	Uranium	U	NAD	ppm
26	Barium	Ba	XRF	ppm	42	Vanadium	V	AAS	ppm
27	Bismuth	Bi	AAS-H	ppm	43	Tungsten	W	CLR	ppm
28	Cadmium	Cd	AAS	ppm	44	Zinc	Zn	AAS	ppm
29	Cobalt	Co	AAS	ppm	45	Fluorine	F	AAS	ppm
30	Chromium	Cr	AAS	ppm	46	Loss on Ignition	LOI	GRV	pct
31	Copper	Cu	AAS	ppm	45	Fluorine	F	AAS	ppm
32	Iron	Fe	AAS	pct	46	Loss on Ignition	LOI	GRV	pct
33	Mercury	Hg	AAS-F	ppb	47	pH (water)	pH	GCE	
34	Manganese	Mn	AAS	ppm	48	Uranium (water)	U	LIF	ppb
35	Molybdenum	Mo	AAS	ppm	49	Fluoride (water)	F	ION	ppb
36	Nickel	Ni	AAS	ppm	50	Sulphate (water)	SO4	TRB	ppm
37	Lead	Pb	AAS	ppm	51	Conductivity (water)	CND	GCE	uS

Table 4. Standardized Format for Sediment INAA Data XLS TABS 1 and 2.

Field	Element	Method	Units	Field	Element	Method	Units		
22	Gold (1st Analysis)	Au1	INAA	ppb	43	Neodymium	Nd	INAA	ppm
23	Gold (Repeat)	Au2	INAA	ppb	44	Nickel	Ni	INAA	ppm
24	Silver	Ag	INAA	ppm	45	Rubidium	Rb	INAA	ppm
25	Arsenic	As	INAA	ppm	46	Antimony	Sb	INAA	ppm
26	Barium	Ba	INAA	ppm	47	Scandium	Sc	INAA	ppm
27	Bromine	Br	INAA	ppm	48	Selenium	Se	INAA	ppm
28	Calcium	Ca	INAA	pct	49	Samarium	Sm	INAA	ppm
29	Cadmium	Cd	INAA	ppm	50	Tin	Sn	INAA	ppm
30	Cerium	Ce	INAA	ppm	51	Strontium	Sr	INAA	ppm
31	Cobalt	Co	INAA	ppm	52	Tantalum	Ta	INAA	ppm
32	Chromium	Cr	INAA	ppm	53	Terbium	Tb	INAA	ppm
33	Cesium	Cs	INAA	ppm	54	Tellurium	Te	INAA	ppm
34	Europium	Eu	INAA	ppm	55	Thorium	Th	INAA	ppm
35	Iron	Fe	INAA	pct	56	Titanium	Ti	INAA	ppm
36	Hafnium	Hf	INAA	ppm	57	Uranium	U	INAA	ppm
37	Mercury	Hg	INAA	ppm	58	Tungsten	W	INAA	ppm
38	Iridium	Ir	INAA	ppb	59	Ytterbium	Yb	INAA	ppm
39	Lanthanum	La	INAA	ppm	60	Zinc	Zn	INAA	ppm
40	Lutetium	Lu	INAA	ppm	61	Zirconium	Zr	INAA	ppm
41	Molybdenum	Mo	INAA	ppm	62	Sample Weight	Wt	GRV	g
42	Sodium	Na	INAA	pct					

Table 5. Standardized Format for Sediment ICP-MS Data XLS TAB.

Field	Element	Method	Units	Field	Element	Method	Units		
22	Gold	Au	ICPMS	ppb	49	Selenium	Se	ICPMS	ppm
23	Silver	Ag	ICPMS	ppb	50	Strontium	Sr	ICPMS	ppm
24	Aluminum	Al	ICPMS	pct	51	Tellurium	Te	ICPMS	ppm
25	Arsenic	As	ICPMS	ppm	52	Thorium	Th	ICPMS	ppm
26	Barium	Ba	ICPMS	ppm	53	Titanium	Ti	ICPMS	pct
27	Bismuth	Bi	ICPMS	ppm	54	Thallium	Tl	ICPMS	ppm
28	Boron	B	ICPMS	ppm	55	Uranium	U	ICPMS	ppm
29	Calcium	Ca	ICPMS	pct	56	Vanadium	V	ICPMS	ppm
30	Cadmium	Cd	ICPMS	ppm	57	Tungsten	W	ICPMS	ppm
31	Cobalt	Co	ICPMS	ppm	58	Zinc	Zn	ICPMS	ppm
32	Chromium	Cr	ICPMS	ppm	59	Beryllium	Be	ICPMS	ppm
33	Copper	Cu	ICPMS	ppm	60	Cerium	Ce	ICPMS	ppm
34	Iron	Fe	ICPMS	pct	61	Cesium	Cs	ICPMS	ppm
35	Gallium	Ga	ICPMS	ppm	62	Germanium	Ge	ICPMS	ppb
36	Mercury	Hg	ICPMS	ppb	63	Hafnium	Hf	ICPMS	ppm
37	Potassium	K	ICPMS	pct	64	Indium	In	ICPMS	ppm
38	Lanthanum	La	ICPMS	ppm	65	Lithium	Li	ICPMS	ppm
39	Magnesium	Mg	ICPMS	pct	66	Niobium	Nb	ICPMS	ppm
40	Manganese	Mn	ICPMS	ppm	67	Palladium	Pd	ICPMS	ppb
41	Molybdenum	Mo	ICPMS	ppm	68	Platinum	Pt	ICPMS	ppb
42	Sodium	Na	ICPMS	pct	69	Rhenium	Re	ICPMS	ppb
43	Nickel	Ni	ICPMS	ppm	70	Rubidium	Rb	ICPMS	ppm
44	Phosphorus	P	ICPMS	pct	71	Tin	Sn	ICPMS	ppm
45	Lead	Pb	ICPMS	ppm	72	Tantalum	Ta	ICPMS	ppm
46	Sulphur	S	ICPMS	pct	73	Yttrium	Y	ICPMS	ppm
47	Antimony	Sb	ICPMS	ppm	74	Zirconium	Zr	ICPMS	ppm
48	Scandium	Sc	ICPMS	ppm					

Table 6. Abbreviation Definitions.

Code	Description	Code	Description
AAS	atomic absorption spectroscopy	GCE	glass combination electrode
AAS-F	flameless AAS	LIF	laser-induced fluorescence
AAS-H	hydride generation AAS	ION	specific ion electrode
XRF	x-ray fluorescence	TRB	turbidimetric
CLR	colourimetrically	GRV	gravimetric (weight difference)
NAD	neutron activation, delayed neutron counting	ppm	parts per million
FA	fire assay	ppb	parts per billion
INAA	instrumental neutron activation analysis	pct	percent
ICPMS	inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy	g	gram

EXPLANATION OF CODES FOR FIELD OBSERVATIONS – STREAM SITES

SAMPLE MATERIAL (MAT):

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Stream Sediment | 6 - Water and Sediment |
|---------------------|------------------------|

STREAM SOURCE (SORC):

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 0 – Unknown | 2 - Spring Run-off |
| 1 – Groundwater | 3 - Glacier Melt Water |

STREAM ORDER (ORDR):

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 0 – Undefined | 3 - Tertiary |
| 1 – Primary | 4 - Quaternary |
| 2 – Secondary | |

STREAM TYPE (TYPE):

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 0 – Undefined | 2 - Seasonal |
| 1 – Permanent | 3 - Re-emergent |

PHYSIOGRAPHY (PHYS):

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0 - Lowland Plain | 3 - Hilly, Undulating |
| 1 - Muskeg, Swamp | 4 - Mountains, Mature |
| 2 - Peneplain, Plateau | 5 - Mountains, Youthful |

DRAINAGE PATTERN (DRNP):

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 0 - Poorly Defined | 4 - Interrupted |
| 1 – Dendritic | 5 - Glacially Deranged |
| 2 – Herringbone | 6 - Basinal |
| 3 – Rectangular | 7 - Other |

CONTAMINATION (CONT):

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 0 - None | 5 - Industrial |
| 1 - Possible | 6 - Agriculture |
| 2 - Probable | 7 - Domestic |
| 3 - Definite | 8 - Forestry |
| 4 - Mining | 9 - Burned |

STREAM WIDTH (WDTH): Width of the stream at the sample site in metres.

STREAM DEPTH (DPTH): Depth of the stream at the sample site in centimetres.

STREAM FLOW RATE (FLOW): Visual estimate of stream flow velocity.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0 - Stagnant | 3 – Fast |
| 1 - Slow | 4 - Torrent |
| 2 - Moderate | |

STREAM WATER COLOUR (WTRC):

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 0 - Colourless | 3 - Brown Cloudy |
| 1 - Brown, Clear | 4 - Other |
| 2 - White Cloudy | |

EXPLANATION OF CODES FOR FIELD OBSERVATIONS – STREAM SITES Continued

BANK TYPE (BANK):

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 0 - Unknown | 4 - Glacial Outwash |
| 1 - Alluvial | 5 - Bare Rock |
| 2 - Colluvial | 6 - Talus, Scree |
| 3 - Till | 7 - Organic |

BANK PRECIPITATE (BNKP): Presence of stain, weathering on rocks surrounding the sample site.

- 0 - None, otherwise same codes as sediment colour.

SEDIMENT COMPOSITION (COMP): Bulk composition of sand\finer\organics.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 0 - Absent | 2 - Medium 33-67% |
| 1 - Minor < 33% | 3 - Major >67% |

SEDIMENT COLOUR (SEDC): General colour of collected sediment.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 - Red | 5 - Green |
| 2 - White, Buff | 6 - Gray, Blue |
| 3 - Black | 7 - Pink |
| 4 - Yellow | 8 - Tan, Brown |

SEDIMENT PRECIPITATE (SEDP): Presence of any coatings on the sample or on stream bed materials at the sample site.

- 0 - None, otherwise same codes as sediment colour.

CHANNEL BED (CBED):

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Boulders | 3 - Sand and Gravels |
| 2 - Fine Sand to Clay | 4 - Organics |

CHANNEL PATTERN (CPTN):

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 - Shoots and Pools | 3 - Meandering |
| 2 - Braided | 4 - Disturbed |

DATE (DATE): Day and month sample collected.

EXPLANATION OF CODES FOR FIELD OBSERVATIONS – OTHER

The following additional information was generated for each sample record by overlaying the sample site location point file with various digital polygons using simple GIS routines.

- ECO REGION NAME:** Major physiographic & minor macroclimatic variation, from Ecoregion Classification of BC.
- ECO SECTION NAME:** Minor physiographic/macroclimatic variation, from Ecoregion Classification of BC.
- ZONE NAME:** Major biogeoclimatic zone, from Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification of BC.
- SUB ZONE NAME:** Minor biogeoclimatic zone, from Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification of BC.
- TECTONIC BELT:** Geological feature underlying sample site, from Massey et al., 2005.
- TERRANE:** Geological feature underlying sample site, from Massey et al., 2005.
- STRAT NAME:** Geological feature underlying sample site, from Massey et al., 2005.

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