

To
À
 Dr. D.J. Templeman-Kluit
 Director, Cordilleran Division

Security Classification - Classification de sécurité

Our File - Notre référence

M-TEMPLE.2

Your File - Votre référence

Date

9 February 1993

From
De

R.V. Kirkham

Subject
Objet**Proposed Fieldwork in the Sulphurets Area**

Thank you for your response to my memorandum of January 12, 1993 outlining plans for fieldwork in the Sulphurets area. To date, you are the only person to respond in writing.

Needless-to-say I am somewhat surprised and disappointed in your lack of support for the proposed work. Your position seems to be one of a manager of regional geology with little regard for other types of geological work.

You state "...that much of this area is mapped recently and in quite a lot of detail by Peter Lewis of the MDRU and by several B.C.G.S. individuals". Within the area outlined in the proposal by far the most mapping has been carried by our group and John Payne and not by the people that you indicated. Amongst many important findings it was our group that indicated that the Upper Triassic Stuhini Group was folded, uplifted and eroded prior to deposition of the Lower Jurassic Jack formation. This angular unconformity is rather fundamental in documentation of the basic geology of the area. Others can put out their reports and maps but how can you rely on them when they miss such fundamental features? I can assure you that rather basic features of the stratigraphy and structure of the area are still poorly understood and require more work. We have done our best to co-operate with all other workers in the area and indicate planned close liaison with Bob Anderson, Peter Lewis and companies working in the area. Your negative reaction unfortunately puts us in a confrontational environment with other workers, a situation that I find distasteful.

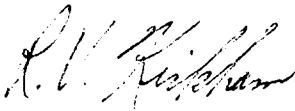
I am a mineral deposits geologist and have no desire to duplicate other's regional mapping. Nevertheless, to accurately place mineral deposits into their regional context one must look beyond the mineral deposits. Sulphurets geology is not simple and has required persistence to bring it to the current level of understanding. I cannot emphasize too much that we have been seeking understanding of the deposits and their settings and are not just simply carrying out a series of surveys (e.g. geological,

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geochemical, mineralogical). We want to apply what we learn from this study not only at Sulphurets but to other areas as well. In this regard the GSC and Quebec Government are initiating a joint study of porphyry deposits and Cu-and Au-bearing shear zones at Chibougamau in Quebec. The Chibougamau deposits, although much older in a greenstone belt setting, have distinct similarities to those at Sulphurets. We hope that studies in both areas will lead to a better understanding of deformed and metamorphosed porphyry deposits and concentration of metals in shear zones. We need solid field-based observations upon which to develop general concepts.

Work on mineral deposits in remote areas is best carried out while companies are active in the area. Both Placer Dome and the Newhawk Joint Venture have significant programs planned for Sulphurets this summer but there are no guarantees that they will be back in future years. For mineral deposits work that is meant to be thorough and comprehensive one must stay abreast of large-scale exploration programs. We would be remiss not to stay abreast of this exploration. Some of the zones to be drilled this summer were discovered and mapped by me, so perhaps you can appreciate one reason why I want to return to the area. The companies seem quite eager to continue the working association with the GSC. Since the multidisciplinary GSC Sulphurets study was initiated in 1986 (1988 and 1992 field seasons were largely lost as a result of workshop commitments in China and 1990 as a result of the IAGOD meeting in Ottawa) the Kerr and Eskay Creek deposits were discovered and sufficient additional encouragement existed for more exploration in the area. Under our project the GSC helped contribute to the discovery process and to maintain exploration interest in the area. Our group has had a close partnership with industry in the area and feel that we have been making useful timely contributions.

You and your staff obviously have other opinions but I think that you sell short our contributions to the geology and mineral exploration in the area.



R.V. Kirkham

cc: J.M. Duke

RVK/cb