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AIRBORNE ELECTROMAGNETIC SURVEY
BURNS LAKE AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
CHEVRON RESOURCES LIMITED
PROJECT \#22085840350 MARCH 1981

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## INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of an airborne electromagnetic survey flown in the Burns Lake Area, British Columbia on December 12, 1980.

A brief description of the survey procedure together with recommendations for ground follow-up is included.

The survey mileage was 357 line kilometres and the survey was performed by Questor Surveys Limited. The survey aircraft was a Shorts Skyvan C-FQSL and the operating base was Prince George, British Columbia.

The area outline is shown on a $1: 250,000$ map at the end of this report. This is part of the National Topographic Series sheet number 93 K .

The following were the personnel involved with the airborne survey:

| Pilot | M. Portalier |
| :--- | :--- |
| Co-pilot | G. Robertson |
| Operator | W. Schieman |
| Engineer | P. Melen |
| Geophysicist | D. Isherwood |

## MAP COMPILATION

The base maps are uncontrolled mosaics constructed from National Air Photo Library 1:60,000 photographs. These mosaics were used to produce maps at a scale of $1: 20,000$ on a stable transparent film from which white prints can be made.

Flight path recovery was accomplished by comparison of 35 mm film with the mosaics in order to locate the fiducial points. These points are approximately 1310 metres apart.

## SURVEY PROCEDURE

Terrain clearance was maintained as close to 122 metres as possible with the E.M. bird at approximately 45 metres above the ground. A normal S-pattern flight path using approximately one mile turns was used. The equipment operator logged the flight details and monitored the instruments.

A line spacing of 305 metres was used for the lines.
During the course of the survey, an attempt was made to fly the flight lines in alternate directions. This procedure aids in the interpretation of a dip of a conductor. Double peaks occur on the up-dip flight line while only one intercept usually occurs on the down-dip flight line. If more than one anomaly occurs on the down-dip flight line, then more than one conductor is suspected. Where the conductor is considered to be vertical, a small response usually precedes the larger second response. This will occur no matter what direction the flight line is flown. The ratio in channel 2 amplitudes between the first and second anomalies is approximately 1:10. For a conductor dipping at $45^{\circ}$, the ratio is roughly l:1.5.

Conductor axes have been plotted as accurately as possible on the map. They should not be construed as being in the exact location. Ground geophysical surveys are definitely needed to pinpoint them accurately on the ground. The axes on the INPUT maps should be used as a guide only.

## INTERPRETATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This area has a heavey layer of conductive overburden which made it difficult to interpret bedrock conductors with a reasonable degree of confidence. Anomalies that show the strongest responses
may turn out to be just the edge effect of a change in depth of the overburden. The anomalies that have axes drawn through, I feel mostly represent contacts between rock types. In this area, there are acid, intermediate, and basic volcanics, and sediments comprised of conglomerates, sandstones and shales. Also, the entire region is overlaid with glacial drift, which appears to be the source of the conductive background.

ZONE 1
In this area, the conductors are associated with the magnetic lows, reflecting, possibly, contacts between a sedimentary region and an acid volcanic region. The conductors display moderate conductivity-thicknesses, from 4 to 17 siemens and they dip vertically to near vertically. The anomalies appear to be multiple or thick conductors, but there is a great deal of cultural noise in the area which could provide the same responses. The magnetic lows indicate a possible graphitic or pyritic source. The strongest E.M. responses are displayed from conductor E. A follow-up survey could be initiated from that vicinity.

ZONE 2
In this area, the anomalies have relatively poor shapes and conductivity-thickness products. This zone is in a region of contact between granitic rocks and acid to intermediate volcanics. There is an old lead-zinc showing here, as well. These anomalies flank a broad, medium gradient, magnetic high. The channels, in this zone, go negative following an anomaly, which usually indicates a flat-lying structure. The strongest responses, here, are 10290A and l0290AZ. Further work could be initiated from those areas.

ZONE 3

## Group A

These are moderate strength responses in an area of granitic rocks. They flank a more basic igneous intrusion. This intrusion is relatively resistive, indicating that it has penetrated further up into the drift cover. Therefore these anomalies probably just reflect basement topography. I would not recommend further work in this area.

## Group B

Flanking the above mentioned intrusion on the other side, are these four conductors. They are on the outer edge of the heavier overburden area. The anomalies are broad, and of increasing amplitude, indicating that they are more likely due to overburden responses than bedrock. Also they end at the intrusion. I would not recommend further work here.

ZONE 4
This zone edges a less conductive background area. These anomalies are not very strong, 4 to 8 siemens, and the dip is into the increasing overburden cover, a possible reflection of the slope of the basement floor. However, they also correlate to a definite magnetic trend in an area of intermediate to basic volcanics, possibly reflecting a contact. Any further work could be initiated in the region of 10041 B , the strongest E.M. response, but this area would be a low priority target.

ZONE 5
This zone contains a series of weak to moderate strength conductors, in the range of 4 to 16 siemens. Anomalies l0041D, 10041E, l0050B, and l0050C have the strongest E.M. responses while also having strong magnetic responses. These anomalies have good shapes and appear to be in a more resistive area in a region of basic volcanics. I would recommend a follow-up survey.

ZONE 6
In this area, there is a series of short strike length conductors. They are of moderate strength and they correlate with magnetic features. The anomalies are in an area of contacts between acid and basic volcanics. The anomaly with the best conductivity-width product is 1006lC. Within this area, there is an anomaly on the tie line, l9020D, which has the appearance of being flown oblique to strike. I would recommend a follow-up.

## ZONE 7

This is a moderate strength conductor, 7 to 10 siemens in a region of contacts. There are no associated magnetic features for these anomalies which would indicate either a pyritic or graphitic source. If there is any further work on this conductor, it could be initiated from the area of l0170F, the strongest E.M. anomaly. This is a low priority target.

Anomalies in the survey area which have not been specifically discussed or had axes drawn through, I feel, have a relationship
to overburden or culture. They have not been eliminated from the map since they may, ultimately, be of some interest. To be able to glean more information out of the survey results, I would recommend one or more of the following alternatives: normalizing the channels to channel 2; contouring the ratio of channel 2 to channel 4; contouring channel 2.

Normalizing to channel 2 removes the altitude effect and most of the overburden effect. Bedrock anomalies have lower ratios than the background.

Contouring the ratio of channel 2 to channel 4 would provide what could be used as a conductivity map.

Contouring channel 2 would provide an indication of extent of the conductive overburden.

QUESTOR SURVEYS LIMITED


Douglas Isherwood, Geophysicist.

## APPENDIX

## EQUIPMENT

The aircraft is equipped with a Mark VI INPUT (R) airborne E.M. system and Sonotek P.M.H. 5010 Proton Magnetometer. Radar altimeters are used for vertical control. The outputs of these instruments together with fiducial timing marks are recorded by means of galvanometer type recorders using light sensitive paper. Thirty-five millimeter continuous strip cameras are used to record the actual flight path.
(I) BARRINGER/QUESTOR MARK VI INPUT (R) SYSTEM

The Induced Pulse Transient (INPUT) system is particularly well suited to the problems of overburden penetration. Currents are induced into the ground by means of a pulsed primary electromagnetic field which is generated in a transmitting loop around the aircraft. By using half sine wave current pulses and a loop of large turns-area, the high output power needed for deep penetration is achieved.

The induced current in a conductor produces a secondary electromagnetic field which is detected and measured after the termination of each primary pulse. Detection is accomplished by means of a receiving coil towed behind the aircraft on four hundred feet of cable,
and the received signal is processed and recorded by equipment in the aircraft. Since the measurements are in the time domain rather than the frequency domain common to continuous wave systems, interference effects of the primary transmitted field are eliminated. The secondary field is in the form of a decaying voltage transient originating in time at the termination of the transmitted pulse. The amplitude of the transient is, of course, proportional to the amount of current induced into the conductor and, in turn, this current is proportional to the dimensions, the conductivity and the depth beneath the aircraft.

The rate of decay of the transient is inversely proportional to conductivity. By sampling the decay curve at six different time intervals, and recording the amplitude of each sample, an estimate of the relative conductivity can be obtained. By this means, it is possible to discriminate between the effects due to conductive near-surface materials such as swamps and lake bottom silts, and those due to genuine bedrock sources. The transients due to strong conductors such as sulphides exhibit long decay curves and are therefore commonly recorded on all six channels. Sheet-like surface materials, on the other hand, have short decay curves and will normally only show a response in the first two or three channels.

The samples, or gates, are positioned at 310, 490, 760, 1120, 1570 and 2110 micro-seconds after the cessation of the pulse. The widths of the gates are $180,180,360,360,540$, and 540 micro-seconds respectively.

For homogeneous conditions, the transient decay will be exponential and the time constant of decay is equal to the time difference at two successive sampling points divided by the $\log$ ratio of the amplitudes at these points.

## (II) SONOTEK P.M.H. 5010 PROTON MAGNETOMETER

The magnetometers which measure the total magnetic field have a sensitivity of 1 gamma and a range from 20,000 gammas to 100,000 gammas.

Because of the high intensity field produced by the INPUT transmitter, the magnetometer results are recorded on a timesharing basis. The magnetometer head is energized while the transmitter is on, but the read-out is obtained during a short period when the transmitter is off. Using this technique, the head is energized for 0.83 seconds while the precession frequency is being recorded and converted to gammas. Thus a magnetic reading is taken every 1.13 second.

For this survey, a lag factor has been applied to the data. Magnetic data recorded on the analogue records at fiducial 10.00 for example would be plotted at fiducial 9.95 on the mosaics.

The symbols used to designate the anomalies are shown in the legend on each map sheet, and the anomalies on each line are lettered in alphabetical order in the direction of flight. Their locations are plotted with reference to the fiducial numbers on the analog record.

A sample record is included to indicate the method used for correcting the position of the E.M. Bird and to identify the parameters that are recorded.

All the anomaly locations, magnetic correlations, conductivity-thickness values and the amplitudes of channel number 2 are listed on the data sheets accompanying the final maps.

## GENERAL INTERPRETATION

The INPUT system will respond to conductive overburden and near-surface horizontal conducting layers in addition to bedrock conductors. Differentiation is based on the rate of transient decay, magnetic correlation and the anomaly shape together with the conductor pattern and topography.

Power lines sometimes produce spurious anomalies but these can be identified by reference to the monitor channel.

Railroad and pipeline responses are recognized by studying the film strips.

Graphite or carbonaceous material exhibits a wide range of conductivity. When long conductors without magnetic correlation are located on or parallel to known faults or photographic linears, graphite is most likely the cause.

Contact zones can often be predicted when anomaly trends coincide with the lines of maximum gradient along a flanking magnetic anomaly. It is unfortunate that graphite can also occur as relatively short conductors and produce attractive looking anomalies. With no other information than the airborne results, these must be examined on the ground.

Serpentinized peridotites often produce anomalies with a character that is fairly easy to recognize. The conductivity which is probably caused in part by magnetite, is fairly low so that the anomalies often have fairly large response on channel \#l; they decay rapidly, and they have strong magnetic correlation. INPUT E.M. anomalies over massive magnetites show a relationship to the total Fe content. Below 25 - 30\%, very little or no response at all is obtained, but as the percentage increases the anomalies become quite strong with a characteristic rate of decay which is usually greater than that produced by massive sulphides.

Commercial sulphide ore bodies are rare, and those that respond to airborne survey methods usually have medium to high conductivity. Limited lateral dimensions are to be expected and many have magnetic correlation caused by magnetite or pyrrhotite. Provided that the ore bodies do not occur within formational conductive zones as mentioned above, the anomalies caused by them will usually be recognized on an E.M. map as priority targets.


Representative INPUT ${ }^{\text {® }}$, Magnetometer and Altimeter Recording







| ANOMALY | FID | CHS | CH2 AMP | MHOS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10011L | 282.67 | 6 | 1800 | 1 |
| 10020FX | 298.40 | 5 | 1660 | 2 |
| 10020H | 300.87 | 6 | 1900 | 4 |
| 10020GX | 299.75 | 6 | 1750 | 7 |
| 10030 B | 286.12 | 6 | 1340 | 8 |
| 10030BX | 284.87 | 5 | 810 | 1 |
| 10030CX | 286.95 | 6 | 1260 | 7 |
| 10030 CZ | 288.95 | 3 | 320 | 1 |
| l0030BY | 285.55 | 6 | 1340 | 7 |
| 10041 G | 261.35 | 4 | 1560 | 3 |
| 10041 H | 261.55 | 4 | 1980 | 7 |
| 10041 J | 263.25 | 4 | 2000 | 1 |
| 10050BX | 239.92 | 5 | 760 | 5 |
| 10050G | 246.52 | 3 | 480 | 1 |
| 10061AX | 266.50 | 4 | 460 | 1 |
| 10061BX | 268.78 | 4 | 520 | 1 |
| 10061BY | 268.92 | 4 | 520 | 1 |
| 10061EX | 271.05 | 4 | 420 | 1 |
| 10061EY | 271.32 | 4 | 580 | 1 |
| 10061G | 273.05 | 5 | 600 | 7 |
| 10070CY | 225.40 | 4 | 540 | 1 |
| 10070Cz | 225.60 | 4 | 600 | 3 |
| 10080AX | 249.90 | 4 | 630 | 1 |
| 10080AY | 250.75 | 3 | 450 | 2 |
| 10080GX | 252.92 | 6 | 940 | 4 |
| 10080GY | 253.70 | 6 | 1440 | 4 |
| 10090EX | 208.97 | 6 | 1480 | 4 |
| 10090EY | 210.10 | 6 | 1600 | 4 |
| 10090EZ | 210.40 | 6 | 1540 | 4 |
| 10090EW | 211.05 | 6 | 1360 | 4 |
| 10090EV | 211.60 | 6 | 1420 | 4 |
| 10090G | 213.05 | 4 | 390 | 3 |
| 10090H | 213.65 | 4 | 300 | 2 |
| 10090F | 212.45 | 5 | 420 | 4 |
| 10100B | 235.18 | 5 | 840 | 4 |
| 10100C | 235.85 | 4 | 1770 | , |
| 10100D | 236.57 | 5 | 1080 | 4 |
| 10100E | 236.95 | 6 | 1780 | 4 |
| 10100F | 237.20 | 6 | 2190 | 4 |
| 10100G | 237.90 | 6 | 1350 | 4 |
| 10100H | 238.30 | 5 | 1800 | 4 |
| 10100 J | 238.70 | 5 | 1470 | 4 |
| 10100CX | 235.60 | 6 | 1110 | 4 |


| ANOMALY | FID | CHS | CII2 AMP | MHOS | MAG | VALUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10110CX | 191.85 | 4 | 1380 | 3 |  |  |
| 10110DX | 192.75 | 6 | 3000 | 3 |  |  |
| l0110E | 194.55 | 6 | 1240 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120A | 218.28 | 5 | 820 | 8 |  |  |
| 10120B | 219.82 | 6 | 2200 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120C | 220.58 | 6 | 1780 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120D | 221.05 | 6 | 3040 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120F | 222.20 | 6 | 2080 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120H | 222.75 | 6 | 2980 | 4 |  |  |
| 10120E | 221.35 | 6 | 2620 | 3 |  |  |
| 10120G | 222.43 | 6 | 2050 | 4 |  |  |
| 10130EX | 174.08 | 6 | 1790 | 4 |  |  |
| l0130EY | 174.82 | 6 | 1600 | 4 |  |  |
| l0130EZ | 175.22 | 6 | 2380 | 4 |  |  |
| 10130GX | 176.89 | 6 | 3280 | 4 |  |  |
| 10130GY | 178.12 | 6 | 1720 | 4 |  |  |
| 10150ET | 156.75 | 6 | 1600 | 4 |  |  |
| 10150EV | 157.33 | 6 | 1840 | 4 |  |  |
| 10150 EW | 158.07 | 6 | 2880 | 4 |  |  |
| 10150EX | 158.45 | 6 | 2820 | 4 |  |  |
| 10150EY | 159.15 | 6 | 2940 | 4 |  |  |
| l0150EZ | 160.40 | 6 | 2640 | 4 |  |  |
| 10160CX | 183.35 | 5 | 270 | 17 |  |  |
| 10150 CY | 183.98 | 5 | 750 | 5 |  |  |
| 10160DS | 184.47 | 6 | 2430 | 4 |  |  |
| 10160EX | 188.30 | 4 | 200 | 15 |  |  |
| 10170EY | 136.62 | 6 | 1410 | 4 |  |  |
| 10170FY | 138.60 | 6 | 1830 | 4 |  |  |
| 10170GX | 140.70 | 6 | 810 | 4 |  |  |
| 10180BX | 165.40 | 5 | 300 | 7 |  |  |
| 10180BY | 166.28 | 4 | 780 | 3 |  |  |
| 10180CX | 167.85 | 6 | 960 | 6 |  |  |
| 10180DX | 168.55 | 5 | 1280 | 2 |  |  |
| 10190 BX | 117.10 | 4 | 1120 | 1 |  |  |
| 10190 BY | 117.55 | 6 | 1450 | 8 |  |  |
| 10190BZ | 120.80 | 6 | 720 | 5 |  |  |
| 10200CY | 147.85 | 4 | 180 | 1 |  |  |
| 10200CZ | 148.50 | 3 | 150 | 1 |  |  |
| 10210AZ | 96.47 | 6 | 1010 | 6 |  |  |
| 10211AW | 102.10 | 3 | 1780 | 1 |  |  |
| 10211AY | 103.18 | 4 | 2010 | 1 |  |  |
| 10211AZ | 103.60 | 6 | 2310 | 6 |  |  |
| 10211D | 105.50 | 6 | 4280 | 6 |  |  |
| 10220BX | 125.35 | 5 | 2060 | 6 |  |  |


| ANOMALY | FID | CHS | CH2 AMP | MHOS | MAG | VALUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10220EY | 128.43 | 4 | 300 | 1 |  |  |
| 10220G | 132.62 | 3 | 80 | 3 |  |  |
| 10230AV | 78.27 | 4 | 720 | 1 |  |  |
| 10230AX | 81.40 | 3 | 280 | 5 |  |  |
| 10230AZ | 82.15 | 6 | 870 | 7 |  |  |
| 10240AX | 106.92 | 5 | 2100 | 6 |  |  |
| 10240AY | 107.85 | 6 | 3210 | 5 |  |  |
| 10240C | 111.24 | 4 | 600 | 1 |  |  |
| 10240D | 111.48 | 3 | 480 | 1 |  |  |
| 10240G | 112.55 | 3 | 300 | 1 |  |  |
| 10250AX | 58.48 | 4 | 170 | 4 |  |  |
| 10260CY | 89.65 | 3 | 400 | 1 |  |  |
| 10270AX | 37.00 | 5 | 1180 | 1 |  |  |
| 10270BX | 38.15 | 6 | 610 | 4 |  |  |
| 10270BY | 40.90 | 4 | 300 | 1 |  |  |
| 10280DX | 69.28 | 4 | 690 | 6 |  |  |
| 10280DY | 70.20 | 6 | 1940 | 6 |  |  |
| 10280EY | 72.83 | 6 | 2110 | 6 |  |  |
| 10280EZ | 73.10 | 6 | 2240 | 5 |  |  |
| 10290AX | 20.10 | 5 | 2100 | 1 |  |  |
| 10290AY | 21.40 | 6 | 1620 | 11 |  |  |
| 10290AZ | 22.12 | 6 | 2250 | 4 |  |  |
| 10290BX | 23.55 | 4 | 1250 | 3 |  |  |
| 10200BX | 49.25 | 6 | 1950 | 4 |  |  |
| 10310AX | 29.22 | 6 | 3770 | 7 |  |  |
| 10310BX | 30.40 | 5 | 1220 | 5 |  |  |
| 19010AX | 302.62 | 6 | 450 | 7 |  |  |



