880446 TOS → Ashlu

Schroeter, Tom EM:EX

From: Pinsent, Robert EM:EX
Sent: Friday, November 27, 1998 3:23 PM
To: Cathro, Mike EM:EX; Wojdak, Paul EM:EX; Wilton, Paul EM:EX; Lane, Bob EM:EX; Lefebure, Dave EM:EX; Schroeter, Tom EM:EX
Subject: Ashlu Creek.
Sensitivity: Private

O.K., Mike, try this one for size!

Last year I visited the Ashlu Mine in the Coast Plutonic Complex northwest of Squamish. It is a dormant operation with a small mill that produced a small amount of vg. It is now owned by a private company (Slim's Exploration and Mining). There is considerable confusion as to the grade "The gold is tied up in tellurides (calaverite and petzite) in blebs in the quartz so goes to tellurate on capelling and is absorded into the clay pots and doesn't show up in the fire assay..... The actual grade is around 10 oz/tonne". The telluride looked like oxidised pyrite to me, so Ray Lett ran a "high-grade" sample by Aqua Regia digestion and INA (Thermal Neutron Activation Analysis). We came up with the following:

"Me too" (TOS) ✓

Au: 673,800 ppb; (567,000 ppb by INA); Ag: 99,999 ppb; (280 ppm by INA); Mo: 7.5 ppm; Cu: 5,703 ppm; Pb: 201 ppm; Zn: 34.4 ppm; Bi: 888 ppm; Co: 583; Ni: 88; Hg: 4,000 ppb; Te: 2,349.

Given the abundance of the sulphide blebs, I would be prepared to accept that the vein is high-grade but I fail to see why it wouldn't show up on assay! It may also have the platinum group elements that they claim, although we didn't analyze for them. So what is the deposit?

It appears to be a series of stacked, shallow-dipping, bull white, fractured, quartz veins, possibly located in cooling fractures cutting both granodiorite and zenolithic blocks near the top of a batholith. The cores of the veins are less well mineralized than the margins and best mineralization occurs in stringers as disseminations in and adjacent to the vein contacts.

Tell me more about Pogo, Mike, and remind me again about the lack of exploration potential in the Coast Mountains!

Robert