



AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE
TERRENCEVILLE AREA, SOUTH COAST, NEWFOUNDLAND

Map Sheet 3 - Parts of NTS
1M7, 1M8, 1M9, and 1M10

RATIO OF EQUIVALENT THORIUM TO POTASSIUM

Open File NFD3443, Map 2024-96
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ABOUT THE SURVEY

Introduction
The aeromagnetic gradient, gamma-ray spectrometric, and VLF-EM airborne geophysical survey of Terrenceville area, Newfoundland, was completed by Terraquest Ltd. Acquisition commenced on August 10, 2023 and was completed by October 1st using a Piper Navajo PA31-310 (C-GABQ) and a Beechcraft King Air C90 (C-GCFZ). The nominal traverse and control line spacings were 150 m and 1000 m respectively and the aircraft flew at a pre-planned drop surface at a mean terrain clearance of 13.4 m at a mean speed of 73.8 m/s. Traverse lines were oriented 135° with orthogonal (045°) control lines. The flight path was recovered using a real-time differential GPS navigation system. Terraquest uses a DAARC500 (RMS Instruments Inc.) for magnetic compensation and data acquisition.

Gamma-ray Spectrometer Data
The airborne gamma-ray measurements were made by a gamma-ray spectrometer using a RS-501 and RSX-5 system by Radiation Solutions Inc. This system included the downward detector of 33.6 L (8 NaI crystals) and an upward detector of 8.4 L (2 NaI crystals). The upward detector was used to monitor variations in background radiation caused by atmospheric radon and was positioned such that it was shielded by the downward crystal array. Each crystal was individually gain stabilized using a sophisticated multi-peak approach, effectively eliminating the need for any pre-stabilization with external sources (Terraquest also uses external sources).

Potassium is measured directly from the 1460 keV gamma-ray photons emitted by potassium-40 (40K), whereas uranium and thorium are measured indirectly from gamma-ray photons emitted by daughter products, namely 214 (214Pb) for uranium and thorium-232 (232Th) for thorium. These daughter products are assumed to be in equilibrium with their parents, thus gamma-ray spectrometric measurements of uranium and thorium are referred to as equivalent uranium and equivalent thorium (i.e. eU and eTh). The energy windows used to measure potassium, uranium and thorium are: 1370-1570 keV, 1660-1860 keV and 2410-2810 keV, respectively.

Gamma-ray spectra were acquired at one-second intervals. Data processing followed standard procedures as described in IAEA (1991) and IAEA (2003). During processing, the spectra were energy calibrated, and counts were accumulated into the windows as described above. Counts from the radio detectors were recorded in a 1680 - 1860 keV window and radiation at energies greater than 3200 keV was recorded in the cosmic window. The window counts were corrected for background activity of cosmic radiation, radioactivity of the aircraft and atmospheric radon decay products. The window data were then corrected for spectral scattering in the ground, air and detectors. Corrections for deviations from the planned terrain clearance and for variation of temperature and pressure were made prior to conversion to ground concentrations of potassium, uranium and thorium, using factors determined from calibration flights over the Brocktonridge, Quebec calibration range.

Results of the airborne gamma-ray spectrometer survey represent the average surface concentrations in the region. These results were influenced by overburden, vegetation cover, soil moisture and surface water. As a result, the measured concentrations are typically lower than the actual concentrations in the survey area.

Magnetic Data
The measured magnetic field was sampled 10 times per second using three split-beam cesium vapor magnetometers (Geomatrix 822A) mounted inside two wingtip pods of the aircraft and a tail boom. This sensor array forms a horizontal magnetic gradiometer. By knowing the precise location of the three magnetic sensors in space the in-Line and Cross-Line gradients are calculated. This calculation can be extended to produce the East-West and North-South gradients referenced to geographic North. Furthermore, a Reconstructed Total Field (RTF) is calculated from horizontal gradient data using a method described by Nelson (1994).

The tail magnetometer is used to produce a Total Magnetic Intensity (TMI). For the TMI, the data is lag corrected, and statistically leveled using the differences in magnetic variance at the intersections of traverse and tie lines. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) defined at the average elevation of 320 m for the date October 10th, 2023 was then removed from the statistically leveled corrected magnetic data. Removal of the IGRF, representing the magnetic field of the Earth's core, yields a residual component related essentially to magnetizations within the Earth's crust. The first vertical derivative of the magnetic field is the rate of change of the magnetic field in the vertical direction. Computation of the first vertical derivative removes long wavelength features of the magnetic field and significantly improves the resolution of closely spaced and superimposed anomalies (Hood, 1985). Similar to the first vertical derivative, the analytic signal of the total magnetic intensity is calculated to highlight regional gradients in the data and to help resolve overlapping anomalies (Miller and Singh, 1994). The tilt derivative is calculated to identify shallow basement structures.

VLF-EM Data
Very low frequency (VLF) electromagnetic data were measured by a Matrix-Plus™ VLF-EM system, consisting of 3 orthogonal receiver coils mounted in the tail stinger and a recorder in the cabin of the aircraft. The outputs are the Total Field Amplitude (to the transmitter), the Tilt Angle of the field, Azimuth (to the transmitter), and the Vertical and Planar Ellipticity. From these data, the In-Phase and Quadrature components of the vertical magnetic field can be calculated - as a percentage of the horizontal primary field (i.e. the tangent of the Tilt Angle and Ellipticity).

The VLF stations monitored during survey are selected prior to the start of survey based on expected station availability and accessible signal. However, not all stations monitored yielded usable signal. Generally, the quality of the signal is dictated by the transmitter source power and its distance from the survey area. Furthermore, as with all electromagnetic (EM) wave propagation, the quality and/or power of the signal may be further degraded by the natural earth features between the transmitter source and the receiver. During this survey, only the recorded signal from the NAA-Culter, Maine (24.0kHz) transmitter provided consistent data with a suitable signal to noise ratio.

References
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Data Accessibility
Data compilation and initial map preparation were performed by Terraquest Ltd., Markham, Ontario. Contract and project management were provided by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Industry, Energy and Technology.

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Copies of the map may be obtained from the Geological Survey, Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, PO Box 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1B 4J6. This map is subject to revision and modification. Comments to the author concerning errors or omissions are invited.

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