## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA OPEN FILE 2363 (NTS 105N) CANADA-YUKON ECONOMIC PROGRAMMING AGREEMENT (1989-1990)

# REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL RECONNAISSANCE DATA EAST CENTRAL YUKON



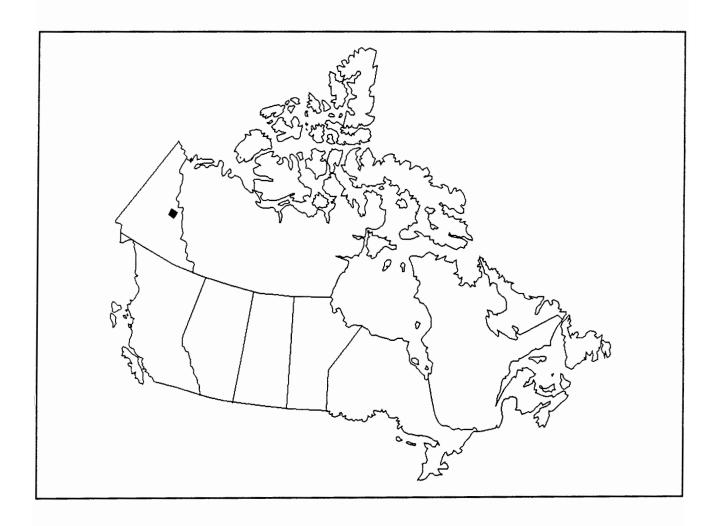
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Open File 2363

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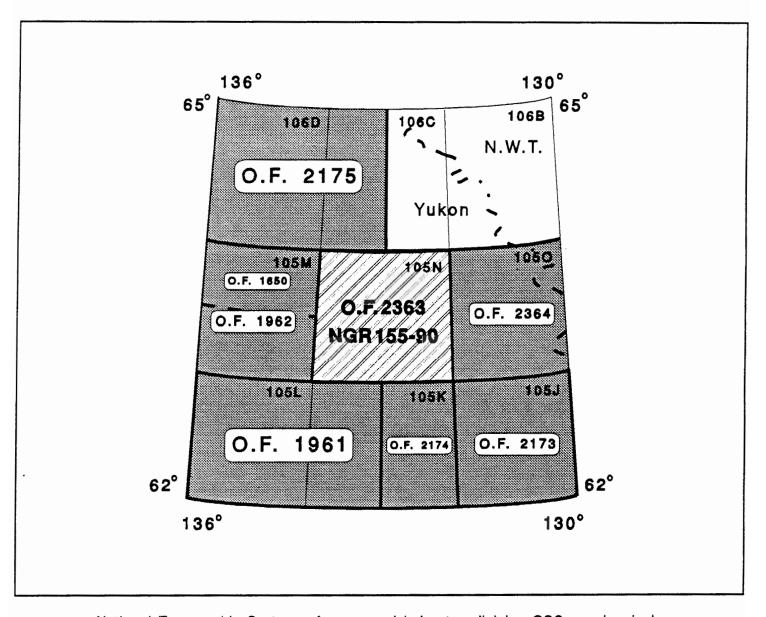


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# NATIONAL GEOCHEMICAL RECONNAISSANCE STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL DATA YUKON 1991 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA OPEN FILE 2363, NGR 155-1990 NTS 105N



National Topographic System reference and index to adjoining GSC geochemical reconnaissance surveys

Open File 2363 represents a contribution to the Canada - Yukon Economic Programming Agreement. This project was managed by the Geological Survey of Canada.

This document was produced by scanning the original publication. Ce document a été produit par numérisation de la publication originale.

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## REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL DATA, YUKON 1991, GSC OPEN FILE 2363, NGR 155-1990; NTS 105N

#### INTRODUCTION

Open File 2363 is one of three open files released in 1991 covering areas in the Yukon. National Topographic System mapsheet 105N was sampled in 1990 as part of the Canada-Yukon Economic Programming Agreement (1989-1990). Open File 2363 contains the results of analyses of stream sediments from NTS 105N for 39 elements plus loss-on-ignition. Corresponding waters are analyzed for uranium, fluoride and pH.

The reconnaissance survey was undertaken by the Geological Survey of Canada in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Analytical results and field observations are used to build a national geochemical data base for resource assessment, mineral exploration, geological mapping and environmental studies. Sample collection and preparation procedures and analytical methods are strictly specified and carefully monitored to ensure consistent and reliable results regardless of the area, the year or the analytical laboratory.

#### **CREDITS**

E.H.W. Hornbrook directed the survey.

P.W.B. Friske coordinated the operational activities of contract and Geological Survey of Canada staff.

Contracts were let to the following companies for sample preparation and analysis and were managed by the following staff of the Regional Geochemical Studies section:

Collection: Northway Map Technology

Don Mills, Ontario E.H.W. Hornbrook P.W.B. Friske

Preparation: Bondar-Clegg and Company

Ottawa, Ontario J.J. Lynch

Analysis: Bondar-Clegg and Company

Ottawa, Ontario

Activation Laboratories Ltd.

Ancaster, Ontario

Chemex Labs

North Vancouver, British Columbia

J.J. Lynch

M. McCurdy edited open files and coordinated production.

H. Gross and A.C. Galletta provided computer processing support.

Sample locations and gold values were plotted by staff at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). Symboltrend maps were prepared by GSC staff.

Pat Doyle, C.C. Durham and Helena Karam provided technical assistance.

### DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY AND SAMPLE MANAGEMENT

Helicopter-supported sample collection was carried out during the summer of 1990. Stream sediment and water samples were collected at an average density of one sample per 13 square kilometres throughout the 11 100 square kilometres of the east-central Yukon survey.

Sample site duplicate samples were routinely collected in each analytical block of twenty samples.

Field observations were recorded on standard forms used by the Geological Survey of Canada (Garrett, 1974).

The sample site positions were marked on appropriate 1:250 000 scale NTS maps in the field. These maps were digitized at the Geological Survey in Ottawa to obtain the sample site UTM coordinates.

In Ottawa, field-dried samples were air-dried and sieved through a minus 80 mesh (177 micron) screen before milling in ceramic-lined puck mills. At this time, control reference and blind duplicate samples were inserted into each block of twenty sediment samples. For the water samples, only control reference samples were inserted into the block. There were no blind duplicate water samples.

The sample site coordinates were checked as follows: a sample location map was produced on a Versatec plotter using the digitized coordinates; the original sample location map produced in the field was then overlain on the Versatec map; the two sets of points were checked for coincidence. The dominant rock types in the stream catchment basins were identified on appropriate geological maps used as the bedrock geological base on NGR maps.

Thorough inspections of the field and analytical data were made to check for any missing information and/or gross errors.

Quality control and monitoring of the analytical data were undertaken by a standard method used by the Exploration Geochemistry Subdivision at the Geological Survey of Canada.

#### **ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES**

#### Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA)

Weighed and encapsulated samples are packaged for irradiation along with internal standards and international reference materials. Samples and standards are irradiated together with neutron flux monitors in a twomegawatt pool type reactor. After a seven day decay period, samples are measured on a high resolution germanium detector. Computer control is achieved with a Microvax II computer. Typical counting times are 500 seconds. Elements determined by INAA include: Au, Ag, As, Ba, Br, Ca, Co, Cr, Cs, Fe, Hf, Hg, Ir, Mo, Na, Ni, Rb, Sb, Sc, Se, Sn, Sr, Ta, Th, U, W, Zn, La, Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Tb, Yb and Lu. The sample weight is also reported. Data for Ag, Ca, Hg, Ir, Mo, Ni, Se, Sn, Sr and Zn are not published because of inadequate detection limits and/or precision.

## Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) and Other Analyses

For the determination of Zn, Cu, Pb, Ni, Co, Ag, Mn, Fe, and Cd, a 1 gram sample is reacted with 3 mL concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> in a test tube overnight at room temperature. After digestion, the test tube is immersed in a hot water bath at room temperature and brought up to 90° C and held at this temperature for 30 minutes with periodic shaking. One mL of concentrated HCl is added and heating continues for another 90 minutes. The sample solution is then diluted to 20 mL with metal-free water and mixed. Zn, Cu, Pb, Ni, Co, Ag, Mn, Fe and Cd are determined by atomic absorption spectroscopy using an air-acetylene flame. Background corrections are made for Pb, Ni, Co, Ag, and Cd.

Molybdenum and vanadium are determined by atomic absorption spectroscopy using a nitrous oxide acetylene flame. A 0.5 gram sample is reacted with 1.5 mL concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> at 90° C for 30 minutes. At this point, 0.5 mL concentrated HCl is added and the digestion continued at 90° C for an additional 90 minutes. After cooling, 8 mL of 1250 ppm Al solution are added and the sample solution diluted to 10 mL before aspiration.

Mercury is determined by the Hatch and Ott procedure with some modifications. The method is described by Jonasson et al. (1973). A 0.5 gram sample is reacted with 20 mL concentrated HNO $_3$  and 1 mL concentrated HCl in a test tube for 10 minutes at room temperature prior to two hours of digestion with mixing at 90° C in a hot water bath. After digestion, the sample solutions are cooled and diluted to 100 mL with metal-free water. The Hg present is reduced to the elemental state by the addition of 10 mL 10% w/v SnSO $_4$  in M H $_2$ SO $_4$ . The Hg vapour is then flushed by a stream of air into an absorption cell mounted in the light path of an atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Absorption measurements are made at 253.7 nm.

Loss-on-ignition is determined using a 500 mg sample. The sample, weighed into a 30 mL beaker, is placed in a cold muffle furnace and brought up to 500° C over a period of two to three hours. The sample is held at this temperature for four hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature for weighing.

Fluorine is determined as described by Ficklin (1970). A 250 mg sample is sintered with 1 gram of a flux consisting of two parts by weight sodium carbonate and one part by weight potassium nitrate. The residue is then leached with water. The sodium carbonate is neutralized with 10 mL 10% (w/v) citric acid and the resulting solution is diluted to 100 mL with water. The pH of the solution should range from 5.5 to 6.5. The fluoride content of the test solution is measured using a fluoride ion electrode. Standard solutions contain sodium carbonate and citric acid in the same quantities as the sample solution.

Tin in stream sediments is determined by heating a 200 mg sample with  $\mathrm{NH_4l}$ : the sublimed  $\mathrm{Snl_4}$  is dissolved in acid and the tin determined by atomic absorption spectrometry after solvent extraction of the tin into methyl isobutyl ketone containing trioctylphosphine oxide (TOPO). The method is described by E.P. Welsch and T.T. Chao.

#### Water Analyses

Fluoride in water samples is determined using a fluoride electrode. Prior to measurement an aliquot of the sample is mixed with an equal volume of TISAB II buffer solution (total ionic strength adjustment buffer). The TISAB II buffer solution is prepared as follows: to 50 mL metal-free water add 57 mL glacial acetic acid, 58 g NaCl and 4 g CDTA (cyclohexylene dinitrilo tetraacetic acid). Stir to dissolve and cool to room temperature. Using a pH meter, adjust the pH between 5.0 and 5.5 by slowly adding 5 M NaOH solution. Cool and dilute to one liter in a volumetric flask. Detection limit = 20 ppb.

Hydrogen ion activity (pH) is measured with a combination glass-calomel electrode and a pH meter.

Uranium in waters is determined by a laser-induced fluorometric method using a Scintrex UA-3 uranium analyzer. A complexing agent, known commercially as Fluran and composed of sodium pyrophosphate and sodium monophosphate (Hall, 1979) is added to produce the uranyl pyrophosphate species which fluoresces when exposed to the laser. Since organic matter in the sample can cause unpredictable behaviour, a standard addition method is used. Further, the reaction of uranium with Fluran can be delayed or sluggish; for this reason an arbitrary 24 hour time delay between the addition of the Fluran and the actual reading is incorporated into this method. In practice, 500  $\mu$ L of Fluran solution are added to a 5 mL sample and allowed to stand for 24 hours. At the end of this period fluorescence readings are made with the addition of 0.0, 0.2 and 0.4 ppb U. For high samples the additions are 0.0, 2.0 and 4.0 (20  $\mu$ L aliquot of either 55 or 550 ppb U are used). All readings are taken against a sample blank.

A summary of analytical methods and detection limits is provided in Table 1.

## PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF GOLD DATA

The following discussion reviews the format used to present the gold geochemical data and outlines some important points to consider when interpreting this data. This discussion is included in recognition of the special geochemical behaviour and mode of occurrence of gold in nature and the resultant difficulties in obtaining and analyzing samples which reflect the actual concentration level at a given site.

The correct interpretation of geochemical gold data from regional stream sediment or lake sediment surveys requires an appreciation of the unique chemical and physical characteristics of gold and its mobility in the surficial environment. Key properties of gold that distinguish its geochemical behaviour from most other elements (Harris, 1982) include:

 Gold occurs most commonly in the native form which is chemically and physically resistant. A significant proportion of the metal is dispersed in a micron-sized particulate form, and the high specific gravity of gold results in a heterogeneous distribution, especially in stream sediment and clastic-rich (low LOI) lake sediment environments. Gold distribution

TABLE 1. Summary of Analytical Data and Methods

ELEMENT		DETE	CTION L	METHOD
SEDIMENTS:				
Zn	Zinc	2	ppm	AAS
Cu	Copper		ppm	AAS
Pb	Lead	2 2 2	ppm	AAS
Ni	Nickel	2	ppm	AAS
Co	Cobalt	2	ppm	AAS
Ag	Silver	0.2	ppm	AAS
Mn	Manganese	5	ppm	AAS
Mo	Molybdenum	2	ppm	AAS
Fe	iron	0.02	pct	AAS
Hg	Mercury	10	ppb	CV-AAS
F	Fluorine	20	ppm	AAS
V	Vanadium	5	ppm	AAS
Cd	Cadmium	0.2	ppm	AAS
LOI	Loss-on-ignition	1	pct	GRAV
Sn	Tin	1	ppm	AAS
Au	Gold	2	ppb	INAA
As	Arsenic	0.5	ppm	INAA
Ва	Barium	50	ppm	INAA
Br	Bromine	0.5	ppm	INAA
Co	Cobalt	1	ppm	INAA
Cr	Chromium	5	ppm	INAA
Cs	Cesium	1	ppm	INAA
Fe	Iron	0.01	pct	INAA
Hf	Hafnium	1	ppm	INAA
Na	Sodium	0.01	pct	INAA
Rb	Rubidium	5	ppm	INAA
Sb	Antimony	0.1	ppm	INAA
Sc	Scandium	0.1	ppm	INAA
Ta	Tantalum	0.5	ppm	INAA INAA
Th	Thorium	0.2	ppm	
ט נ	Uranium	0.5	ppm	INAA
W	Tungsten	1 0 5	ppm	INAA INAA
La	Lanthanum	0.5	ppm	INAA
Ce	Cerium	3	ppm	INAA
Nd C	Neodymium	0.1	ppm	INAA
Sm	Samarium	0.1	ppm	INAA
Eu	Europium	0.2	ppm	INAA
Tb	Terbium Ytterbium	0.5	ppm	INAA
Yb		0.2	ppm	INAA
Lu Lutetium		0.05	ppm	114000
WATERS:				
F	Fluoride	20	ppb	ISE
рΗ	Hydrogen ion	-	-	GCM
-	activity	0.05	ppb	LIF
U	Uranium			

atomic absorption spectrometrycold vapour (flameless) atomic absorption spectrometryglass Calomel electrode and pH meter AAS CV-AAS

GCM

GRAV - gravimetry

INAA ISE - Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis

- ion selective electrode ЦF - laser-induced fluorescence appears to be more homogeneous in organic-rich fluviatile and lake sediments.

2) Gold typically occurs at low concentrations in the ppb range. Whereas gold concentrations of only a few ppm may represent economic deposits, background levels in stream and centre-lake sediments seldom exceed 10 ppb, and commonly are near the detection limit of 2 ppb.

These factors result in a particle sparsity effect wherein very low concentrations of gold are heterogeneously enriched or depleted in the surficial environment. Hence, a major problem facing the geochemist is to obtain a representative sample. In general, areas where concentrations of gold in sediments are low, and/or grain sizes of the gold present relatively high require proportionally larger samples to reduce the uncertainty between subsample analytical values and actual values. Conversely, as actual gold concentrations increase or grain size decreases, the number of gold particles to be shared in random subsamples increases and variability of results decreases (Clifton et al., 1969; Harris, 1982). The limited amount of material collected during the rapid, reconnaissance-style regional surveys and the need to analyze for a broad spectrum of elements, precludes the use of a significantly large sample weight for the gold analyses. Therefore, to obtain representative samples, grain size is reduced by sieving and ball milling of the dried sediments.

The following control methods are currently employed to evaluate and monitor the sampling and analytical variability which are inherent in the analysis of gold in geochemical media:

- (1) For each block of 20 samples:
  - (a) random insertion of a standard reference sample to control analytical accuracy and long-term precision;
  - (b) collection of a field duplicate (two samples from one site) to measure sampling and analytical variance;
  - (c) analysis of a second subsample (blind duplicate) from one sample to measure and control shortterm precision or analytical variance.
- (2) For both stream and lake sediments, routine repeat analyses on a second subsample are performed for all samples having values that are statistically above approximately the 90th percentile of the total data set.
- (3) For lake sediments only, a routine repeat analysis on a second subsample is performed on those samples with LOI values below 10%, indicating a large clastic component. Ongoing studies suggest that the gold distribution in these samples is more likely to be variable than in samples with a higher LOI content.

The presentation of gold data, statistical treatment and the value map format are different than for other elements. Gold data listed in the open file may include initial analytical results, values determined from repeat analyses, together with sample weights and corresponding detection limits for all analyzed samples. The gold, statistical parameters and regional symbol-trend plots are determined using only the first analytical value. Gold values less than the detection limit are set to half that limit. On the value map, initial values are followed by a comma and a value obtained by a second analysis, where determined. Sample weights used can be found in the text. Following are possible variations in data presentation on a value map.

+*	No data
+27	Single analysis
+27,14	Repeat analysis
+<1	Single analysis, less than detection limit

In summary, geochemical follow-up investigations for gold should be based on a careful consideration of all geological and geochemical information, and especially a careful appraisal of gold geochemical data and its variability. In some instances, prospective follow-up areas may be indirectly identified by pathfinder element associations in favourable geology, although an analogous gold response due to natural variability may be lacking. Once an anomalous area has been identified, field investigations should by designed to include detailed geochemical follow-up surveys and collection of large representative samples. Subsequent repeat subsample analyses will increase the reliability of results and permit a better understanding of natural variability which can then by used to improve sampling methods and interpretation.

#### **FIELD DATA LEGEND**

Table 2 describes the field and map information appearing on the following pages preceding the analytical data for each sample site.

#### REFERENCES

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Uranium analysis by neutron activation delayed neutron counting; Proceedings of the 7th Annual Symposium of Canadian Mineral Analysts, Thunder Bay, Ontario, September 22-23, 1975.

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- Jonasson, I.R., Lynch, J.J. and Trip, L.J. (1973) Field and laboratory methods used by the Geological Survey of Canada in geochemical surveys; No. 12, Mercury in Ores, Rocks, Soils, Sediments and Water, Geol. Surv. Can. Paper 73-21.
- Welsch, E.P. and Chao, T.T. (1976) Determination of trace amounts of tin in geological materials by atomic absorption spectrometry; Anal. Chim. Acta., Vol. 82, pp. 337-342.

TABLE 2. Field Observations Legend

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
MAPSHEET	National Topographic System (NTS); lettered quadrangle (1:250 000 or 1:50 000 scale)	105N
SAMPLE ID	Remainder of sample number: Year of collection	90 1 or 3 001-999
REP STAT	Replicate status; relationship of the sample to others within the survey: Routine sample site	00 10 20
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator UTM co-ordinate system; digitized sample location co-ordinates	
ZN	Zone (7 to 22)	
EASTING	UTM Easting in metres	
NORTHING	UTM Northing in metres	
ROCK UNIT	Major rock type of stream catchment area:  CENOZOIC  TERTIARY  conglomerate, sandstone, shale	пѕ
	quartz monzonite, qranodiorite; alaskite South Fork: andesite, dacite, basalt	Kqm KSF
	cherty dolomite, quartzite, shale  DEVONIAN AND MISSISSIPPIAN  Sylvester Group: shale, chert arenite, conglomerate,	CPcs
	basic volcanic rocks Earn Group: undivided shale, chert arenite,	DMS
	conglomerate	DME DMss
	Earn Group (lower): slate, quartzite, limestone, shale, siltstone	DEI
	shale, siltstone	Dp
	shale, limestone (may include older)	mDpc mDc
	Delorme, Camsell, Sombre: dolomite, limestone, shale ORDOVICIAN, SILURIAN AND DEVONIAN	SDc
	Road River: black graptolitic shale, chert ORDOVICIAN AND SILURIAN	OSDR
	limestone, shale	osc
	dolomite, limestone, siltstone	COc COP
	Sekwi: dolomite, limestone, quartzite	ICS
	Backbone Ranges: quartzite, slate	ICBR ICHq
	siltstone, shale	ICp
	gritty quartzite, argillite, shale, phyllite	Нар

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
ROCK AGE	Stratigraphic age of dominant rock type in catchment basin: Tertiary - Palaeocene Cretaceous Carboniferous and Permian Devonian and Mississippian Middle Devonian Devonian Silurian and Devonian Ordovician, Silurian and Lower Devonian Ordovician and Silurian Cambrian and Ordovician Lower Cambrian Hadrynian	58 52 34 93 27 25 24 19 19 14
SAMPLE TYPE	Sample material collected: Stream bed sediment only Spring or sediment seep Heavy mineral concentrate Stream water only Natural groundwater, spring seep Simultaneous stream sediment and water Simultaneous spring or seep water and sediment	SedOnly SpgSedOnly HvMnCn Strm GrWat Sed/Water SpgSep/Sed
STREAM WIDTH	Stream width in decimetres	
STREAM DEPTH	Stream depth in decimetres	
SAMPLE CONT.	Contamination, human or natural:  None Possible Probable Definite Mining activity Industrial sources Agricultural Domestic or household Forestry activities Burned areas	- Possible Probable Definite Mining Industry Agricult Domestic Forestry Burn
BANK TYPE	Bank type; the general nature of the bank material adjacent to the sample site: Alluvial	Alluv Colluv Till Outwash Bare Rk Tal/Scr Organic
WATER COLOUR	Water colour; the general colour and suspended load of the sampled water: Clear	Clear BnTrans WhCl'dy BnCl'dy
STREAM FLOW	Water flow rate: Stagnant Slow Moderate Fast Torrential	Stagnt Slow Modert Fast Torrnt

	I	
FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
SAMPLE COLOUR	Predominant sediment colour: Red-brown White-buff Black Yellow Green Grey, blue grey Pink Buff to brown Brown	Rd-Bn Wh-Bf Black Yellow Green Gy-Blu Pink Bf-Bn Brown
SAMPLE COMP.	Sediment composition; description of the bulk mechanical composition of the collected sample on a scale of 1 to 3, the total of the column must add up to 3 or 4 or 5: Size fractions are divided as follows:  Column 1 >0.125 mm (sand) Column 2 <0.125 mm (fines - organic silt, clay) Column 3 organic material	
	Amount of size fraction: sum of amounts = 3 4 5	
	Absent 0 0 0  Minor <33% 25% 20%  Medium 33-67% 50% 40%  Major >67% 75% 60%	0 1 2 3
воттом РСРТ	Precipitate or stain; the presence of any coatings on pebbles, boulders or stream bottoms:	
	None Red-brown White or buff Black Yellow Green Grey Pink Buff to brown	- Rd-Bn Wh-Bf Black Yellow Green Grey Pink Bf-Bn
BANK PCPT	Distinctive precipitate, stains or weathering on rocks in immediate area of catchment basin or stream bank:  None Red, brown (eg. Fe) White, buff (eg. CO <sub>3</sub> , Zn) Black (e.g. Fe, Mn, sulphides) Yellow (e.g. Pb, U, Fe, Mo, REE) Green (Cu, Ni, U, Mo, As, Fe) Bluish (Zn, P) Pink (Co, As)	- Rd-Bn Wh-Bf Black Yellow Green Blue Pink
STREAM PHYSIOG	General physiography of the drainage basin: Plain Muskeg, swampland Peneplain, plateau Hilly, undulating Mountainous, mature Mountainous, youthful (precipitous)	Plain Swamp Penpln Hill Moun/M Moun/Y
STREAM DRAINAGE	Drainage pattern: Poorly defined, haphazard Dendritic Herringbone Rectangular Trellis Discontinuous shield type (chains of lakes) Basinal Others	Poor Dendrc Herrbn Rectln Trellis Discnt Closed Other

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT OODE
STREAM TYPE	Stream type: Undefined Permanent, continuous Intermittent, seasonal Re-emergent, discontinuous	Undfnd Permnt Intermit Re-emerg
STREAM CLASS	Classification based on proximity to source: Undefined Primary Secondary Tertiary Quaternary	Undfnd Pri'ary Sec'ary Ter'ary Qua'ary
STREAM SOURCE	Source of water: Unknown Groundwater Snow melt or spring run-off Recent precipitation Ice-cap or glacier meltwater	Unknown Ground Sp'gMelt RecRain Glacier
Miscellaneous	Missing data in any field no sample material for analysis parts per million parts per billion percent weight (of sample) gram	* ns ppm ppb pct Wt gm