release in 1995

James S. Dodge

SUMMARY

STEWART LAKE

Principal objective was to evaluate the eclogite body 4km north of the west end of Stewart Lake as a possible source of commercial garnet. This possibility was suggested from an examination of eclogite samples provided by Professor Philippe Erdmer of the University of Alberta who had described the several eclogite occurrences of the area in Journal of Earth Sciences, v. 24,1987.

Camp was established at the western end of Stewart Lake by float plane operated by Watson Lake Flying Services. Day prospecting was conducted north to the low hills underlain by miogeosynclinal sediments overridden by Anvil allochthon ophiolitic rocks. The latter was a succession of gabbros and serpentinite of which the eclogite was the uppermost? unit. "Crowded" euhedral orange garnet made up 25%-30% of the eclogite in discontinuous zones within the northwest inclined (35°) unit. None of these zones could be considered as economically competitive sources of garnet; particularly with the need to construct a 20 km road extension from the Mt. Hunderer area, and to compete with placer garnet from Idaho or even in-situ sources in contact metamorphic settings in southern British Columbia. Also, contacts with the Vancouver office of Mitsui & Co. pointed out the relatively small off-shore Pacific Rim market for garnet and that the truck haul costs from mine to tidewater would make the Yukon source noncompetitive.

As part of the examination of the eclogite from which Erdmer's sample 85-17 (see map) was collected, I noted an interesting contact 'zone between the eclogite and underlying? serpentinite. There appeared to be a chilled border in the eclogite with anhedral garnet and omphacite - possibly both intensely chloritized. A very thin (5cm) chlorite schist zone marked the actual boundary below which for a 3-4 meter width the serpentinite outcrop displayed a very "flashy" appearance of euhedral medium-sized (5mm) chlorite flakes. Altogether it gave a strong appearance that the eclogite was intrusive into the ophiolite, rather than having been tectonically emplaced. I have described this with reference to several rock specimens sent to Erdmer for his comments. I keep wondering if all the eclogites in ophiolitic terrane are of Coleman's Class "C" - or are they possibly from greater depths?

Of particular interest were two football sized-shaped monomineralic masses of a bladed green mineral within the eclogite about 1 meter from its contact with serpentinite. The petrographic description indicated that this was dominantly (90%) tremolite. It appears likely, therefore, that these are meta-xenoliths of serpentinite. So, did the eclogite perhaps originate at an upper mantle elevation like the peridotite parent of serpentinite? An E-W fault zone with loosely healed, weakly pyritic breccia was unmineralized (#A9021890). CANOL CREEK(112 km, South Canol Road)

The ophiolitic construction seen on earlier visits to the area took on a renewed interest from several perspectives, namely, nephrite stream boulders, garnet hornblendite, and eclogite float, together with a prominent shear zone near the metasomatic reaction zone (listwaenite) underlying a serpentinite body.

- a) Two (3-4 kg) nephrite cobbles found in 1989 were tested by the writer over last winter and found to be flawless, i.e. with respect to loose fractures which could make carving impractical. Although the matrix nephrite is of good color (grass green) there are black (pyroxene) splotches throughout, but in such a para-equidistant, yet random, distribution that the material could possibly be of unique interest in carving. It may offer a pleasing alternative to the common glass-like, uniformly green jade usually seen in curio shops on Robson Street. Several more cobbles were recovered from the creek and one large UFO-shaped slab (est. 30kg) remains undisturbed under 70cm of water. Perhaps in future I may be able to retrieve it with a winch. Much nephritic serpentine was found, but it is too soft to be of commercial use.
- b) Garnet hornblendite layers in the ophiolitic succession seemed at first enigmatic, but careful inspection invites the hypothesis that these may be meta-peridotites which were intrusive into the ophiolite (like eclogites/). The high titanium content (as sphene) points to a peridotite or basalt? as a parent rather than an eclogite in which the omphacite has retrograded to hornblende.

Again, the economics of producing garnet from these rocks appears remote in spite of being only 3 km from the South Canol Road.

- c) The presence of pyrrhotite as disseminations and accompanying stringers of quartz and calcite in the hornblendite - especially noticeable in a 3-4 meter wide zone bordering a prominent, near vertical E-W shear zone - again drew my attention. As this area was also close (5-10 meters) to the southerly inclined metasomatic reaction zone (calcite, quartz, talc) underlying a serpentinite body, a few samples were collected to test for gold/or its epithermal pathfinder elements. No anomalous values were obtained (#A9022732).
- d) A small exposure of mafic breccia was exposed at waterline near the garnet hornblendite area. A thin section description was provided by Vancouver Petrographics which indicated that originally the rock may have been a mafic pyroclastic, based on composition of clasts and matrix. It's importance as a possible host for ? appears very low.

STEWART CROSSING

Two unsuccessful attempts were made to drive (4x4) or walk to Airstrip Creek situated about 8km west of Stewart Crossing and south of the Stewart River, to investigate the syenite body reported to be exposed in the area near the Tintina Fault zone. This was to be a reconnaissance to locate mafic facies in syenite which possibly could be REE-bearing. In both attempts, exceptionally high water at Crooked Creek ford frustrated getting across safely. Plans are being made to have sufficient funding in 1991 to carry out helicopter assisted examinations of syenite bodies in this area and, as well, farther to the southwest.

MONEY CREEK

During the period 19 July-13 August, the Prospecting Program and the SLEEPER Project were intertwined both in time and expenditures. The SLEEPER Project took precedence in both categories, but after the 5th day of successful delineation of poly-metallic sulfide bedrock and float, it became apparent that stay in the area should ne extended to allow for prospecting of the perimeter of the SLEEPER and LADY LEE claim groups, i.e., for additional indications of volcanogenic sulfides.

Thereupon, as to sharing of respective costs, it was decided that the Prospecting Program would take up the vehicle costs (Whitehorse to Watson Lake and return) and the time (4 days) for mobilization-demobilization of the combined programs. While returning from one prospecting day trip to the east of the SLEEPER claims, a pyritic, quartz-calcite healed breccia zone was found just inside the existing claim blocks. A number of samples were taken and, in some specimens of float in the slide rock above the breccia zone, fine grained arsenopyrite was noted. This epithermal-type mineralization contrasted markedly to the volcanogenic sulfide horizon and it was decided that a fair distribution of expenses would be to assign all the in-out air charter costs to the SLEEPER Project (as originally proposed) and then the assay charges for precious metal suite to the Prospector Program - since these would be over and above the budgeted base-metal assay allowance proposed in the SLEEPER Project. iloreover, there was no guarantee that the highly anomalous gold/arsenic values subsequently reported out would have been found; it was a prospecting risk/judgement call to go for assaying all 13 samples found in the course of "outside" prospecting. I trust this decision meets with Department approval.

The checkerboard calendar total of 8 OEX days concentrated on two objectives, namely: 1) some indication of the relative lithologic horizon within the Nisutlin allochthon in which mineralization similar to the SLEEPER might be expected to occur in the surrounding area, 2) what was the nature of the sole of the Nisutlin plate in its contact with the underlying Simpson allochthon of meta-igneous terrane.

In answering these two questions, four days were engaged in examining a prominet outcrop area where granodiorite and migmatites (involving beds of limestone and shale which locally had been skarnized to hedenbergite and epidote) and its limonite-stained contact with the overlying thrust plate

of Nisutlin cataclastic meta-(felsic) volcanics. This was located about 4 km northeast of the SLEEPER lake at a low elevation on the east side of Money Creek valley. Some zones in the Simpson metaigneous rocks were migmatitic and pegmatitiic (see photo) with localized coarsely crystalline tourmalinized zones. Three traverses were made from the sole of the Nisutlin plate up-section to the top of the prominent rounded mountain at 2000m altitude which revealed a surprisingly uniform succession of undeformed, gently SE-inclined, meta-felsic volcanics. Because of the virtually pervasive, but sparsely distributed pyrite, these exhibit light brown limonite coated fractures. The pyrite may have been a product of greenschist facies metamorphism during the cataclastic emplacement of the felsic to intermediate composition volcanics (tuffs?) common to the Nisutlin allochthon in the Money Klippe. In any event, no marker horizon (e.g. sericite alteration) common to the SLEEPER sulfide unit was observed.

Thus, it has not yet been possible to determine the "most favored" horizon within the Nisutlin. This was not unexpected, given the typical scattered distribution of kuroko-type sulfide bodies which have been localized by clusters of ocean floor hydrothermal vents along syntectonic fault zones (commonly parallel). Nevertheless, four other long day-reconnoiters east and then southwest (up to 3 km from the SLEEPER claim block) also failed to detect float or bedrock signifying the presence of a volcanogenic mineralizing environment.

In spite of this, when one looks at the spatial distribution of Fyre Lake, North Lakes, Wolverine Lake, and now SLEEPER, step-out prospecting is clearly warranted northeast and east of the Money Klippe still in the Nisutlin terrane during 1991.

MT. GOLDEN HORN

Several days were spent examining outcrops of Tertiary basalt flows beginning in Miles Canyon then the outcrops north of the road to Whitehorse Copper mine, and finally to the south southwest at the 1,000 meter elevation 2 km east of the Whitehorse Metro area boundary.

Purpose of the field examinations was to determine the composition of zenoliths (if any) such as eclogite, peridotite, etc. in the basalt.

No confirmed zenoliths were observed. It appeared, however, that a further search to the southwest for the basalt vent may be productive.

JAMES S. DODGE

P.A.P. 1990

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15-08	Porter Creek-Stewart Crossing	369	
16-08	Stewart Crossing-Porter Creek	369	
16-08	Porter Creek-Swift River	320	
17-08	Swift River-Watson Lk. Airport	168	
25-08	Watson Lk. Airport-Porter Creek	490	
01-09	Porter Creek-Canol Road	262	
06–09	Canol Road-Porter Creek	262	
12-09	Porter Creek-Stewart Crossing	372	
13-09	Stewart Crossing-Porter Creek	369	
13-09	Porter Creek-South Canol 14Km	168	
17-09	South Canol-Porter Creek	168	
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06-09	Stewart Lake	69,00	
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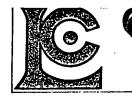
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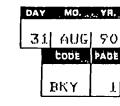
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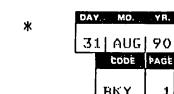
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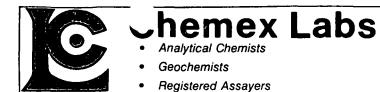
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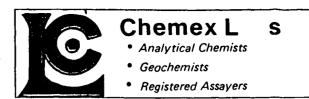
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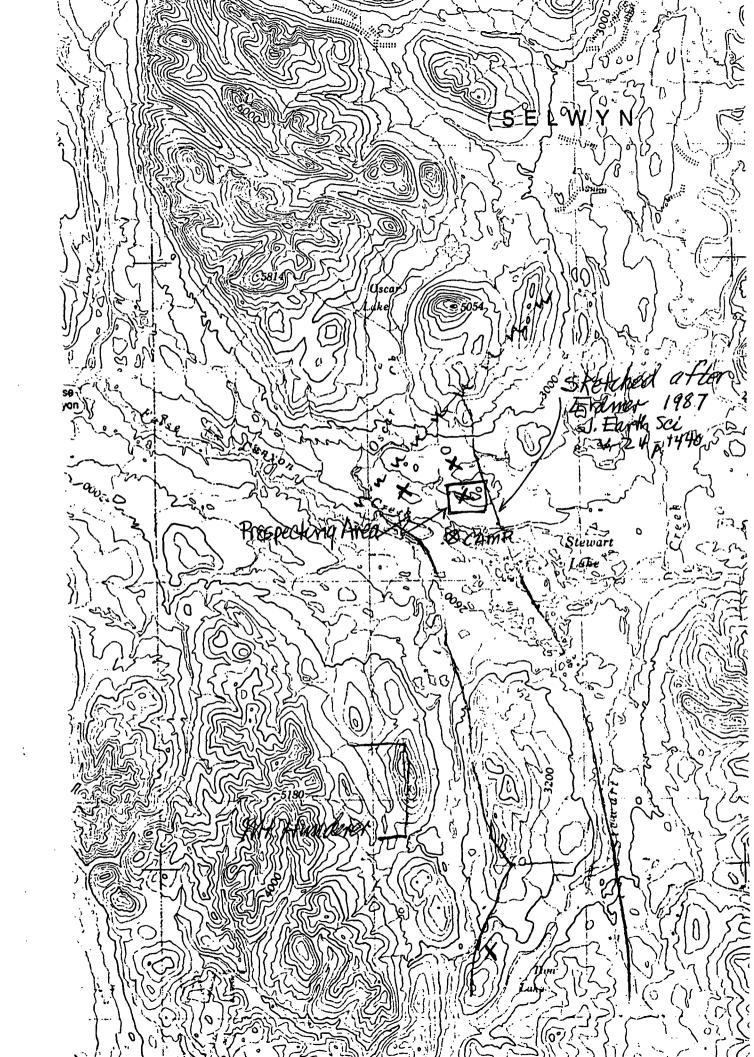
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Postan- Cherula (MAIN STREET 01 POSTAL 203 MAIN STREET WHITEHORSE, YUKON YIA 200 90/08/25 13:47 720313 OPER1 000022 PR 004 # OF ITEMS/# D'ITEMS UNIT WEIGHT/POIDS UNIT. 1.844K5 6.55 UNIT COST/COUT UNITAIRE 6.55 TOTAL COST/COUT TOTAL AMT PAID /MONTANT PAYE CASH/COMPTANT 20.00 CHANGE/MONNAIE 13.45

MAIN STREET CHANGE/MONNA IE HITEHORSE D3 MAIN S 0/09/0 9 0 CASH/COMPTANT PAID . COST/COUT UNITAIRE WEIGHT/POIDS UNIT COST/COUT WEIGHT/POIDS UNIT #/SW3 /COUT MONTANT TREE POSTAL OUTLET YUKON UNITAIRE TOTAL TEMS 720313 PAYE Y1A 2CO OPER1 0.337%6 11.30 .034Ki 15.00 3.70 6.55 4.75





SAMPLE

DESCRIPTION

420722

420723

420724

Chemex Labs Ltd.

Ag ppm

Aqua R

< 0.2 < 0.2

< 0.2

As

ppm

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Au ppb

< 5 < 5

< 5

FA+AA

212 Brooksbank Ave., North Vancouver British Columbia, Canada V7J 2C1 PHONE: 604-984-0221

PREP

CODE

205 294 205 294

205 294

DODGE, JAMES S.

14 MACDONALD RD. WHITEHORSE, YUKON Y1A 4L2 Page Nu : 1 Total Pages : 1 Invoice Date: 6-SEP-90 Invoice No. : I-9021890 P.O. Number :

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STEWART LAKE

Hg ppb Sb ppm O.2 O

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Page 3

B: COARSE, BLADED TREMOLITE ROCK

Light green, apparently monominerallic rock composed of an aggregate of bladed 3 mm laths. Described as being from a large pod in an eclogite within a few meters of its contact with serpenitinite. Suspected of being actinolite, but considering the sodium-rich character of the omphacite of the eclogite and a hardness of 6.5, the presence of jadeite considered possible. In thin section, however, the rock appears to be monominerallic tremolite -actinolite:

Tremolite-actinolite	90%
Quartz .	3%
Fibrous tremolite (?nephrite)	27.
Jadeite(?)	2%
Opaque (Fe-Ti oxides?)	2%
Chlorite	1 %

The major mineral is coarse, bladed tremoliteactinolite as subhedral to euhedral laths up to 7 mm long. It has too small an extinction angle (maximum c^Z' of 26 degrees) to be jadeite. Although tremolite is listed as having an extinction angle of 10-20 degrees and jadeite has an extinction angle of 30 to 44 degrees, and the measured angle falls between these, in my opinion it is not large enough to be a pyroxene. This is reinforced by the birefringence, which is about 0.025 (higher than jadeite at 0.012-0.023, but in the middle of the range for tremolite (0.022-0.027). Also, I do not see any 90 degree cleavage expected of a pyroxene on cross-sections. There is no colour or pleochroism in thin section, so the name tremolite seems to be appropriate.

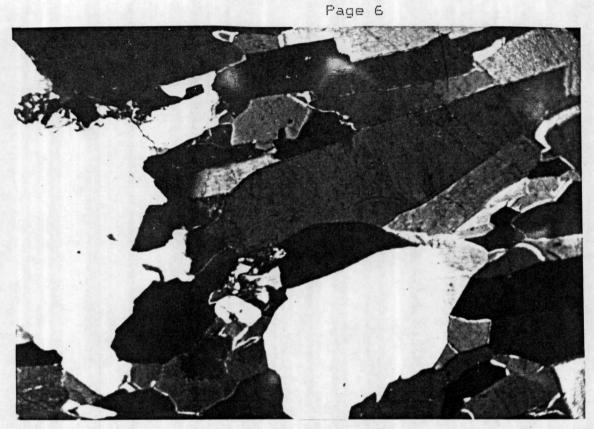
Occasional patches of fine-grained quartz are scattered through the rock. The quartz is anhedral and about 0.03 am in diameter.

There are small patches where the tremolite appears to be altered (?retrograded) to a fibrous mineral that is similar to the tremolite (but much finer grained). This could be termed "nephrite", a compact fibrous variety of tremolite-actinolite that forms the bulk of lower-grade jade. It has simila optical properties to the tremolite.

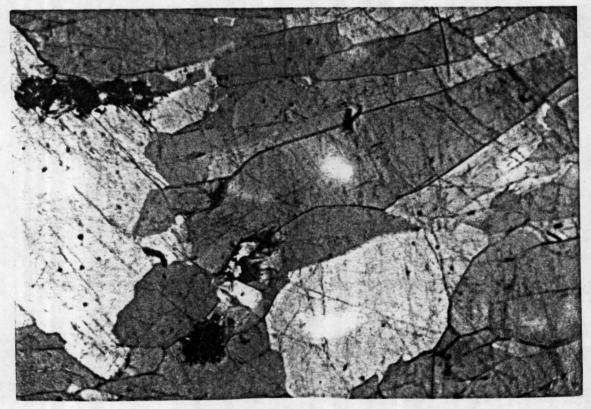
In other patches, commonly with fine (0.2 mm dfiameter) anhedral opaques at their center, the tremolite appears to be altered to pale green ?chlorite as fine 0.025 mm diameter flakes. The identity of the opaque is not certain without a polished surface to examine.

Rare grains of higher relief, euhedral grains up to 0.05 mm long have a higher extinction angle and may be ?jadeite. They do not have any colour or pleochroism.

2-12 - Frink Craig H.B. Leitch, Ph.D. P.Eng. (604) 921-8780 or 666-4902



Sample B: Thin section views (transmitted light, 3 mm wide) of coarse bladed tremolite with small patches of opaque oxides, fibrous ?nephrite and quartz (strong relief). Above: crossed polars, below: plane polarized light.





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To: DODGE, JAMES S.

14 MACDONALD RD. WHITEHORSE, YUKON Y1A 4L2

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Project : Comments:

Total Pages : 1 Invoice Date: 20-SEP-90 Invoice No. : I-9022732 P.O. Number :

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				CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS A9022732					
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	PR CO	VEP DE	Au ppb FA+AA	Ag ppm Aqua R	As ppm	Hg PPb	Sb ppm		
420764 420765 420766	205 205 205	294 294 294	555 777	1.1 < 0.2 0.4	14 3, 7	120 60 60	< 0.2 < 0.2 < 0.2 < 0.2		
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Sample C: MAFIC TO ULTRAMAFIC VOLCANIC BRECCIA, ALTERED TO CHLORITE-EPIDOTE-ALBITE-SERICITE-CARBONATE-K-FELDSPAR-QUARTZ

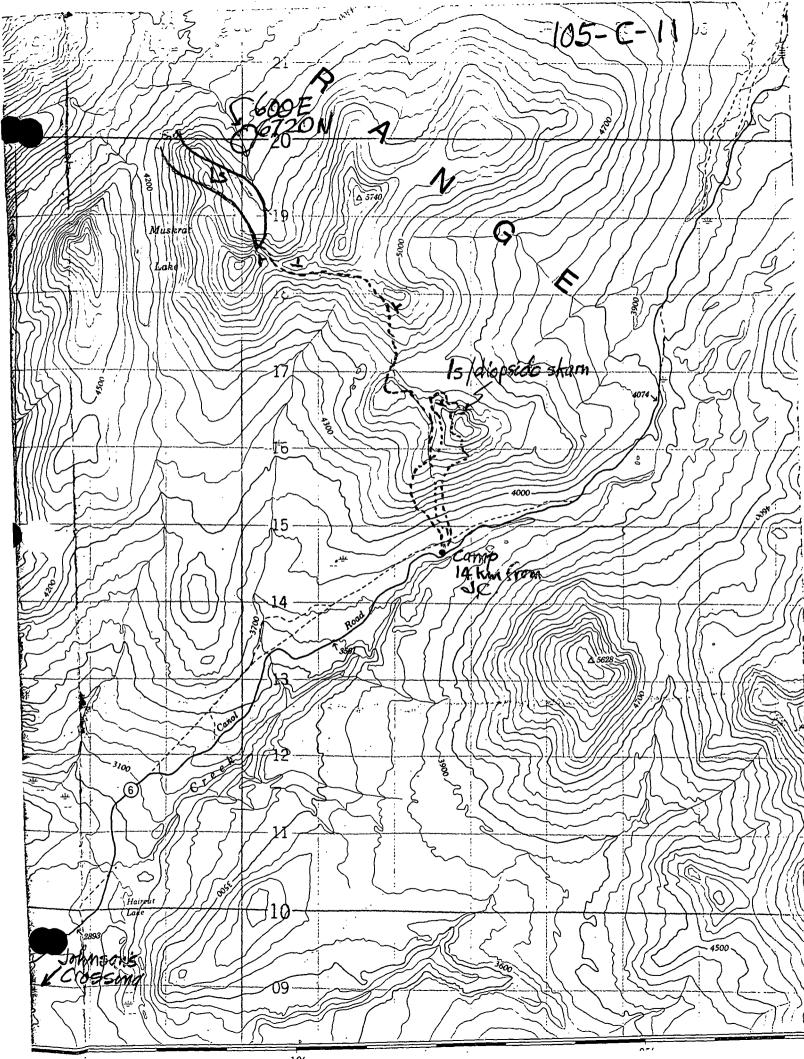
Described as a "healed mafic breccia", this is a dark green highly mafic rock with a distinctly fragmental appearance in the sawn surface. However, it shows a moderate reaction for K-feldspar in the etched slab, implying an alkalic mafic composition. It is not magnetic, but some of the mafic phenocrysts react slightly to cold dilute HCL. In thin section, the mineralogy is approximately:

Clinopyroxene	<u> 307</u>
Relict plagioclase	157
Chlorite	15%
Epidote	10%
Carbonate (magnesite, minor calcite, dolomite)	10%
K-feldspar (secondary)	5%
Quartz (secondary)	5%
Sericite (muscovite)	5%
Secondary amphibole	37
Opaque (Fe-Ti oxides)	2%

There are several prominent clast types present in this rock, but all are of highly mafic composition dominated by clinopyroxene. The most abundant clast, up to 2 cm across, is composed of major clinopyroxene and lesser plagioclase phenocrysts snf microlites in a very fine, brown matrix that may be devitrified glass. The clinopyroxene phenocrysts are euhedral and up to 5 mm across. They are cracked but generally only lightly altered to chlorite, carbonate and clay. Plagioclase forms subhedral crystals up to 2 mm long that are strongly altered to albite and flecked by sericite. A few rounded patches of chlorite (Fe-rich: strong Berlin blue birefringence, pale green pleochroism) with minor epidote may be ?amygdules or relict altered mafic phenocrysts. There are scattered opaque microphenocrysts to 0.5 mm diameter.

Other clasts with a more highly altered nature and disrupted structure may have been of similar composition (clinopyroxene and plagioclase phenocrysts in a matrix of microlites and devitrified ?glass) before extensive alteration to fine grained (0.1 to 0.5 mm) carbonate, quartz, sericite, chlorite and epidote and minor secondary amphibole (in parallel position on clinopyroxene). The Kfeldspar cannot be recognized in the section. The carbonate probably includes mainly magnesite (which does not react of cold dilute HCl) and thin veins of later calcite (that does react).

There are also fragments of ?welded mafic tuff which have a strongly foliated texture defined by wispy laminae of chlorite up to 2 mm long that look like flattened fragments. Similar phenocrysts composition to the other fragments suggests a related composition, which is almost ultramfic on the basis of the originally 65-70% mafic minerals (before alteration). The alteration appears to have healed this brecciated rock quite thoroughly.





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(o: DODGE, JAMES S.

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14 MACDONALD RD. WHITEHORSE, YUKON IKON CREEK

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Page NUmber : 1 Total Pages : 1 Invoice Date: 31-JUL-90 Invoice No. : I-9019070 P.O. Number :

Project : Comments: ATTN:JAMES S. DODGE

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SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	PREP CODE	Au ppb FA+AA	Ag ppm ICP	As ppm ICP	Bi ppm ICP	Hg ppm ICP	Sb ppm ICP	Tl ppm ICP			
420719 420720 420721	205 29 205 29 205 29	4 < 5 4 < 5 4 < 5	1.2 0.3 0.3	17 18 17	< 1 < 1 1	< 0.1 0.1 < 0.1	1.6 0.6 0.6	< 0.5 < 0.5 < 0.5			
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