

GEOFILES - MICROFICHE PROJECT

by

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The Mineral Development Division maintains a geological and mineral resource assessment file system commonly referred to as the "Geofiles". The geofiles presently consist of approximately 8,500 geological reports, maps, journal articles, and mineral assessment files, making them the largest and most comprehensive collection of geoscience documents on Newfoundland and Labrador to be found anywhere.

With the current high level of mineral exploration activity throughout the province, the amount of new data being submitted continues to increase substantially. This trend is expected to continue over the next few years, as more land comes open for claim staking and as new geological and geochemical reports and maps are published by the Mineral Development Division on the mineral potential of various regions of the province.

Mining and exploration companies, geotechnical and consultant firms, government agencies, universities, libraries and the general public are continually making use of the geofiles and requesting information from them. Requests for information have tripled in the past few years.

During the past 2 years, the Publications and Information Section has been putting all of the geofiles on microfiche. This will provide a much more efficient system of maintaining the geofiles. Requests for information will be handled much easier, with relatively inexpensive charges for files.

The project has involved daily filming of batches of files. The files are cross-checked before filming for

quality, content and reproducibility. Two fiche originals are made for each file and are cataloged and placed in microfiche file cabinets. Filing follows the standard NTS system presently used in the Department. Duplicates can be copied from the original fiche upon demand. One set of fiche originals for the geofiles will be stored offsite for security and fire protection.

Presently, over 90% of the microfiching has been completed on the project. The remaining work consists essentially of cross-checking for old and missing files and having old reports retyped and poor quality maps redrafted. Attempts will be made to obtain old company data from various mining company offices. Also, each month, new assessment files and publications which have been received are microfiched to keep the geofiles up-to-date.

Over the past year, the Department has been providing microfiche copies of new open files and reports as they become available. Also, a number of requests from mining companies for geofile data have been filled with microfiche. During 1981, microfiche viewers and readerprinters have been obtained which can handle both reports and maps (16 mm and 35 mm).

This past year, microfiche copies of nonconfidential geofiles have been made available for several areas on the Island. These releases pertain to those open geofiles that have produced top quality film. There will be further updates to these initial releases as other files are upgraded to produce good quality microfiche.

Microfiche of files on map areas 1K, 1L, 1M, 1N, 2C, 2F, 2L, 2M, and 2D

are on sale now at a total cost of \$342.00 per set; files for area 2E will be released shortly. We expect to complete the rest of the Island during the first half of 1982, at least for initial releases.

For more information on the microfiche project, please contact Norman Mercer (709-737-3159). We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bob Muggridge and Brian Fleming are thanked for their work on the microfiche project over the past 2 years.

The Department of Mines and Energy acknowledges the continued participation and cooperation of Ches Hapgood and staff of the Micrographic Section, Department of Public Works and Services, on the microfiche project, especially in filming and duplicating the geofiles.