

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 single collection of geoscience documents about Newfoundland and Labrador.

With the high level of mineral exploration activity experienced over the last few years throughout the province, the amount of new data submitted has increased substantially. This trend is expected to continue as more land comes open for claim staking, and as new geological and geochemical reports and maps are published by the Department 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 have tripled in the past few years.

During the past three 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 more easily, with relatively inexpensive charges for microfiche duplicates.

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 and cataloged for each file. 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 is stored offsite at the Torbay Core Library for security and protection from fire.

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 are microfiched to keep the geofiles up to date.

Over the past two years the Department has been providing microfiche copies of new open files and reports as they become available. Also, many requests from mining companies for geofile data have been filled with microfiche. During 1982, several new microfiche viewers were purchased, including several portable models for use by geologists in the field. These complement the microfiche viewers and reader printers (16 mm and 35 mm) available for office use.

This past year, microfiche copies of nonconfidential geofiles have been made available for several new areas on the

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Island. The releases pertain to those open geofiles that have produced top quality film. There will be future updates to the initial releases as other files are upgraded to produce good quality microfiche.

As of early October, 1982, microfiche sets of geofiles covering all 1:250,000 NTS blocks in insular Newfoundland are available at a total cost of \$1,122. We expect to complete the Newfoundland General series of geofiles by the spring of 1983, 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.

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