

DOCUMENTS AND DATABASES AT THE GEOSCIENCE PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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UPDATE - SCANNING OF GEOFILES

In September 2008, the first shipments of mineral-exploration reports were sent offsite to Wade Atlantic in St. John's to scan and bookmark paper and transparencies, and to BPO Management Services in Winnipeg to scan the remaining microfiche (see Patey and Saunders, 2007; <http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/geosurvey/publications/cr2007/patey.pdf>). This followed the signing of contracts between these companies and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for Phase 2 of the Geofiles Scanning Project. At the time of writing (December 2008), all or major parts of 870 documents have been scanned. As these are reviewed, and if the document is non-confidential, the related .pdf files are loaded to the Mines Branch website to be accessed from the Geofiles database. To date, 69 have been added to the website.

In October 2006, over 5000 mineral-exploration assessment reports were made available online as .pdf files, after they were scanned from microfiche during Phase 1 of the scanning project. Since then, new mineral-regulation reporting guidelines require that mineral-exploration assessment reports be submitted as hardcopy and as .pdf files. Since 2007, .pdf files of these newer, non-confidential, digital reports and any older reports plus digital files that could be converted to .pdf files are being bookmarked and made available online; over 230 have been posted to the web in 2008 at the time up to December 2008. Over 5600 of the current total of more than 9500 mineral-exploration assessment reports are now available online. By summer 2009, it is planned to have the full text for the remaining non-confidential mineral-exploration assessment files available online.

DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS

There are two main geoscience document collections in the Geoscience Publications and Information Section - the *Geofiles* and the *Technical Library*. In addition, there is a small collection of *Images* (e.g., slides, photographs) and two collections of 'donated' mineral exploration documents. The *Geofiles* is a collection of over 17 000 documents per-

taining to the geoscience of Newfoundland and Labrador and the immediate offshore region. The *Technical Library* is a collection of over 9300 documents referring to areas other than this province.

DATABASES

The documents in the Geofiles collection are described in several databases including: *Geofiles* and *Drill*. About 90 percent of the documents in the *Geofiles* collection are described in, and searchable online at <http://gis.geosurv.gov.nl.ca/minesen/geofiles/>. Only records or metadata for non-confidential documents in the collection are searchable online. Currently 555 reports are still confidential; to identify 'Newly-posted Assessment Reports (Last 30 Days)', pick this 'Document Type' option on the *Geofiles* database search screen (<http://gis.geosurv.gov.nl.ca/minesen/geofiles/default.asp>) (see Patey and Saunders, 2007; <http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/geosurvey/publications/cr2007/patey.pdf>) for a more thorough description of the collections and databases, for sample of *Geofiles* online search screen, for sample online short and long description of documents, and also for a graphic representation of the numbers and variety of non-mineral-exploration assessment type documents in the *Geofiles* database.

During the year, over 300 new records for mineral-exploration assessment reports have been made searchable online. No new records have been added to other databases for other collections, although all databases have been used to locate documents and can be searched in-house by clients. Over 200 search sessions were completed for clients by staff.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Online Access: Currently, 5653 of the total of 8944 online, non-confidential, searchable mineral-exploration assessment reports can also be viewed as .pdf files with bookmarks linking to large maps and sections. Full text .pdf files for our online publications including individual articles in earlier volumes of *Current Research*, as well as online publications of the Geological Survey of Canada, are also accessible through searching of the *Geofiles* database.

GIS Online Access: In August 2008, the addition of polygons for historical claim areas to the Geological Survey's Geoscience Resources Atlas permitted GIS access to about 75 percent of the assessment reports described in the *Geofiles* database.

In-house-Access: Paper and/or microfiche originals for all non-confidential documents in the *Geofiles* and *Technical Library* collections continue to be available for client research at the Natural Resources Building, 50 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's.

Document Ordering: Mineral-exploration assessment reports and our publications can be ordered online; however, as prepayment is required, clients must contact the Geoscience Publications and Information Section to provide payment and credit card information until e-commerce is

available. The existing methods of ordering (e.g., telephone, mail, fax, online .pdf) are still available. To encourage prospecting activity in the province, copies of assessment reports and certain government publications are provided to individual prospectors free of charge.

REFERENCES

- Patey, C. and Saunders, C.
2007: <http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/geosurvey/publications/cr2007/patey.pdf>
- 2007: Documents and databases at the Geoscience Publications and Information Section. *In* Current Research. Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, Report 07-1, pages 235-240.