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# A Columbium-Bearing Regolith on Upper Idaho Gulch, Near Tofty, AK

By J. Dean Warner, C. L. Mardock, and D. C. Dahlin



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#### **PREFACE**

This is one of a series of Bureau of Mines reports that present the findings of reconnaissance-type mineral assessments of certain lands in Alaska. These reports include data developed by both industry and government studies.

Assessing an area for its potential for buried mineral deposits is a difficult task because no two deposits are identical. Moreover, judgments prior to drilling, the ultimate test, frequently vary among evaluators and continue to change as a result of more detailed studies.

Included in these reports are estimates of the relative favorability for discovering mineral deposits similar to those mined elsewhere. Favorability is estimated by evaluation of outcrops, and analyses of data, including mineralogy, geochemistry, and evaluation of rock-forming processes that have taken place. Related prospects and the environment in which they occur are subjectively compared to mineral deposits and environments in well-known mining districts. Recognition of a characteristic environment allows not only the delineation of a trend but also a rough estimate of the favorability of conditions in the trend for the formation of minable concentrations of mineral materials.

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# UNIT OF MEASURE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Α	ampere	lb	pound
cps	count per second	min	minute
ft	foot	mm	millimeter
$\mathbf{ft}^2$	square foot	pct	percent
ft³	cubic foot	ppm	part per million
ft³/st	cubic foot per short ton	S	second
G	gauss	st	short ton
g	gram	wt pct	weight percent
in	inch	yr	year

# A COLUMBIUM-BEARING REGOLITH ON UPPER IDAHO GULCH, NEAR TOFTY, AK

By J. Dean Warner,1 C. L. Mardock,2 and D. C. Dahlin3

#### **ABSTRACT**

In 1984, as part of a project to evaluate Alaskan occurrences of certain critical and strategic minerals, the Bureau of Mines investigated a columbium-bearing regolith on upper Idaho Gulch, near Tofty, AK. The regolith is derived from weathering of a dolomitic marble and consists mostly of iron oxide minerals with accessory apatite, zircon, xenotime, rutile, monazite, and the columbium minerals aeschynite, columbite, and ilmenorutile. Two regolith lenses contain 340,000 lb of columbium resources at an average grade of 0.07 pct. Calculated composite concentrates from two regolith samples (approximately 200 lb each) contained 53 and 57 pct of the columbium at grades of 0.97 and 0.86 pct, respectively. In each case the grade could be improved to 1.1 pct Cb with a sacrifice of 9-pct recovery.

The regolith's mineralogy, trace-element geochemistry, and similarity to descriptions of other columbium-enriched regoliths suggest that the underlying marble may be a carbonatite. The lack of associated alkalic igneous rocks and the stratiform nature of the regolith, however, may be interpreted as evidence for sedimentary origin of the marble. The marble and regolith are a lode source for some of the minerals in the Idaho Gulch placer deposit.

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#### INTRODUCTION

In 1984, the Bureau of Mines investigated a columbium-bearing regolith on upper Idaho Gulch, near Tofty, Hot Springs mining district, Alaska. The regolith is a residual weathering product of marble. It was originally identified in 1956 by the Bureau as a result of investigations to locate lode sources of tin, columbium, tantalum, chromium, and radioactive minerals found in placer gold deposits of the Tofty area. Approximately 12,000 ft of trenching, comprising 40 trenches, and 1,400 ft of diamond drilling were completed in the headwaters of Idaho Gulch at that time. The results of this early study, which were not published, indicated trace amounts of columbium and tantalum were present, but concluded that the regolith was not a lode source for heavy minerals found in placer deposits of the area.

Conversely, the 1984 investigation indicates that

uniformly low-grade concentrations and minor resources of columbium but no tantalum are present in the regolith. The regolith may represent residue overlying a carbonatite and is a likely lode source for some of the heavy minerals occurring in the placer deposit on Idaho Gulch.

This investigation was conducted as part of a Bureau project to assess Alaskan reserves or resources of certain critical and strategic minerals, including those containing columbium (1). The United States relies entirely on foreign sources of columbium, which is used mainly in heat- and corrosion-resistant alloys by the metallurgical and aerospace industries (2). The resources identified in this report represent approximately 6 pct of the United States annual demand for primary columbium (2).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Although this report primarily presents results of recent investigations, it also incorporates and relies heavily on unpublished data generated by the 1956 Bureau investigation in the Idaho Gulch area conducted by R. P. Maloney (deceased) and B. I. Thomas (retired), mining engineers with the Bureau of Mines. The report also benefited from discussions with D. M. Hopkins and R. M. Chapman, geologists with the U.S. Geological Survey, concerning the regional geology of the Tofty area.

Discussion with D. T. Smith, geologist with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, helped clarify ideas about carbonatites. Field work was assisted by D. D. Southworth, graduate student, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and by J. Y. Foley, physical scientist, Bureau of Mines, Fairbanks, AK. The logistical assistance of Robert Burgess, a placer miner at Tofty, is gratefully acknowledged.

#### LOCATION AND ACCESSBILITY

Tofty is located 95 miles west-northwest of Fairbanks. AK, about 15 miles northwest of the village of Manley Hot Springs, from which it is easily reached by gravel road (fig. 1). Manley Hot Springs is accessible by road or air throughout the year from Fairbanks and by river barge

during the summer months from the railroad center at Nenana. The area investigated is located about 1.5 miles west of Tofty at the 800-ft elevation in Idaho Gulch. This area lies on the U.S. Geological Survey Tanana A-2 quadrangle (1:63,360 scale).

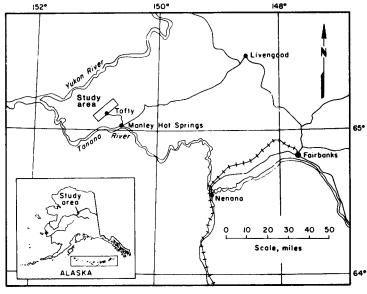


Figure 1.-Location of study area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Italic numbers in parentheses refer to items in the list of references preceding the appendixes at the end of this report.

#### **PHYSIOGRAPHY**

Tofty is located in the southwestern portion of the Yukon-Tanana upland physiographic division (3), near the confluence of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. The terrain around Tofty is extremely subdued, characterized by gently sloping, northeast-trending hills, occasional

subcircular rounded mountain tops, and broad asymmetric valleys (fig. 2). This area is entirely blanketed by vegetation and a thick mantle of perennially frozen loess covers all the valleys and lower portions of the hills.



Figure 2.—Aerial view of Idaho Gulch showing trenches.

#### **LAND STATUS**

The Tofty area lies on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Manaagement and is open to mineral entry. Ninety-five unpatented Federal placer mining claims cover most of the lower portions of the creeks near Tofty. The area investigated, however, was not claimed at the time of the investigation (August 1984).

#### **PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

Shortly after the discovery of gold in 1907, cassiterite (SnO<sub>2</sub>) was identified in placer concentrates from the Tofty area (4-6). Placer deposits containing cassiterite were found to lie within a northeast-trending belt. extending between Woodchopper Creek, to the southwest, and Cooney Creek, to the northeast, that informally became known as the Tofty tin belt (fig. 3). Subsequent studies of the tin-bearing placer deposits, spurred on by World War II and postwar tensions, were performed by Thorne and Wright (7), Wayland (8), Thomas and Herdlick, and Thomas (9). No lode source of cassiterite has ever been reported.

Columbium and rare-earth-element minerals have also been identified in placer concentrates from the Tofty tin belt. In 1934, Waters (10) identified the columbium mineral aeschynite [(Ce,Ca,Fe,Th) (Ti,Cb)<sub>2</sub> (O,OH)<sub>6</sub>], as

<sup>5</sup>Preliminary investigations of tin and radioactive minerals in gold placer deposits near Tofty, Yukon River Region, Alaska (BM-4606-1, 1955), performed by the Bureau of Mines for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

well as zircon, pyrite, magnetite, ilmenite, monazite, xenotime, apatite, anatase, tourmaline, and barite in concentrate samples from placer mines on Deep Creek, Sullivan Creek, and Cache Creek. The identification of these minerals was confirmed by Moxham, in 1954, who also identified two previously unreported minerals, ellsworthite | uranpyrochlore (U,Ca,Ce)<sub>2</sub> (Cb,Ta)<sub>2</sub> O<sub>6</sub> (OH,F)] and columbite [(Fe,Mn)(Cb,Ta)<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>] (11). Moxham found the greatest concentrations of the three columbium minerals and zircon and monazite in concentrates from placers on Idaho, Miller, and Harter Gulches. In 1955, The Bureau<sup>6</sup> confirmed Moxham's and reconfirmed Water's mineral identifications. The 1955 investigation also found from 0.2 to 7.0 pct Cb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in concentrates from test pits in tailings and from 0.15 to 1.8 pct Cb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, as well as 0.6 to 0.25 pct CeO<sub>2</sub>, anomalous concentrations of lanthanum, and trace concentrations of yttrium in concentrates from churn drill holes on Miller and Idaho Gulches.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Work cited in footnote 5.

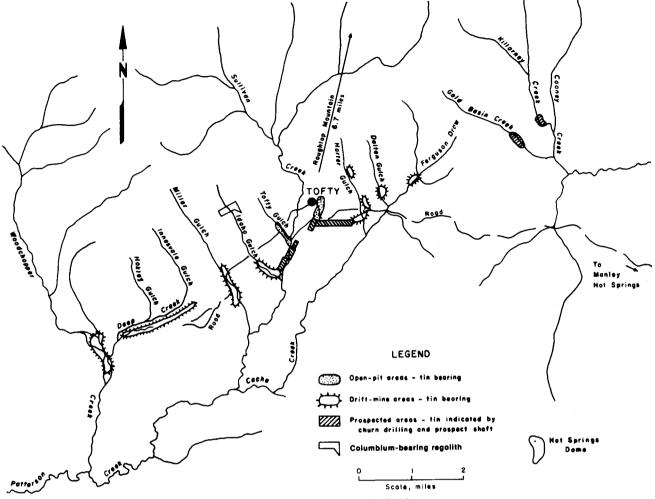


Figure 3.—Tofty tin belt, Alaska.

In 1956, the Bureau, in an attempt to locate lode sources of the placer minerals, trenched on upper Idaho Gulch and identified two bodies of radioactive ferruginous regolith (figs. 2-3). Subsequent detailed sampling and diamond drilling defined two northwest-dipping, northeast-striking lenses of material containing trace amounts of columbium, phosphorus, and zirconium, among other metals, but no uranium, which was the principal interest of its study. The results of the lode investigations on Idaho Gulch were never published, but are partially incorporated in this report.

In 1984, as part of a current Bureau project to investigate critical and strategic minerals in Alaska, Southworth (12) reanalyzed concentrates from channel samples of tailings collected in 1956 by Thomas, for columbium. Southworth found that most samples contained between 0.2 pct and 4.5 pct Cb with higher values generally in gravels from the vicinity of Deep Creek, Miller Gulch, and Idaho Gulch. Using placer reserve figures from Thomas (9) and Wayland (8), Southworth calculated an inferred reserve of 100,000 lb Cb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> within the Tofty placer deposits.

## BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF THE TOFTY AREA

Bedrock outcrops in the Tofty area are rare; most geologic observations have been limited to now-inaccessible drift-mine exposures and sparse road cuts or inferred from placer cobble lithologies. In general, however, much of the area is underlain by a succession of graywacke, quartzite, siltstone, shale, slate, slaty argillite, and polymictic complomerate that has been interpreted as being a portion of a Mesozoic-age flysch basin that extends approximately 150 miles northeastward from the Tanana River to north of Livengood (13-16). These

rocks exhibit local low grade (zeolite facies) metamorphism and severe deformation (17). Roadcut and trench exposures near Tofty and on Idaho Gulch show that bedding strikes east-northeast and dips moderately to steeply northwest; however, small hand-specimen to outcrop scale isoclinal folds are locally common.

Minor amounts of serpentinized and chloritized ultramafic and mafic rock with locally associated graphitic slaty to schistose rock are exposed along the northwest margin of the flysch basin (13). These rocks may have

either been tectonically emplaced or partially intruded within the basal flysch unit. Alternatively, some of the ultramafic, mafic, and metasedimentary rocks may underlie the flysch and be exposed in erosional windows.

Magnetite-apatite bearing limestone, similar to that identified on upper Idaho Gulch in this report, is described by Wayland on Harter Gulch (8). The relationship of this rock to other units is unknown; carbonate rocks are not reported elsewhere within the flysch belt.

The Mesozoic flysch is cut by two intrusions in the

Tofty area. A biotite granite pluton with local felsic segregations and associated tourmaline crops out on Hot Springs Dome, southeast of Tofty, and a monzonite and quartz-monozonite composite pluton crops out on Roughtop Mountain, northeast of Tofty (fig. 3). The intrusion on Roughtop Mountain shows a Late Cretaceous radiometric age of  $92\pm10$  million yr, the intrusion on Hot Springs Dome has an early Tertiary radiometric are of  $62\pm3$  million yr (13).

#### NATURE AND EXTENT OF PRESENT INVESTIGATIONS

During this investigation, data from nine trenches and nine diamond drill holes compiled by the Bureau in 1956 were reevaluated. The reevaluation comprised reanalyses of available samples, selective reexcavation of the trenches, and relogging of available core. Information resulting from the 1956 investigation is presented and acknowledged where appropriate. Figure 4 shows locations of trenches and drill holes and mapped extent of the regolith. Modified 1956 drill logs and geologic cross

sections constructed from drill data are presented in appendix A.

Additional methods used during this study include selective sampling of the 1956 trenches; optical, radiometric, scanning electron microscope (SEM), microprobe, and X-ray diffraction (XRD) studies of mineral compositions; and magnetic, radiometric, and soil sampling surveys over a 500- by 1,900-ft grid area (outlined on figure 4).

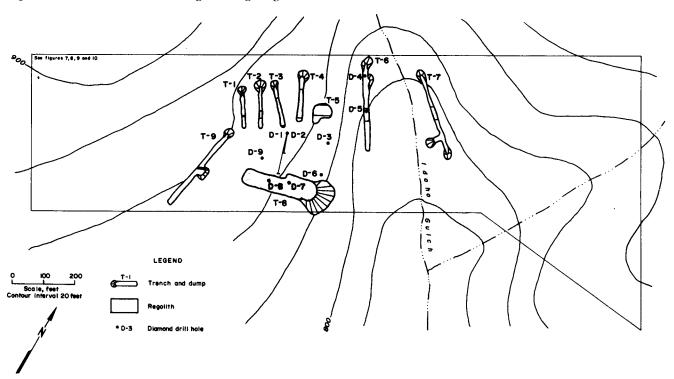


Figure 4.—Locations of trenches and drill holes and mapped extent of the regolith.

#### **GEOLOGY OF THE REGOLITH**

Two bodies of iron-rich regolith were identified on upper Idaho Gulch by Bureau trenching in 1956. Subsequent drilling indicated the regolith forms conformable lenses within the N 60° E trending wallrock units. The lenses grade downward into, and apparently have been derived by chemical weathering of dolomitic marble (figs. A-1—A-6). In plan view, both lenses are irregular in shape, varying in thickness from 3 to 80 ft. The

northwestern lens is partially exposed by trenching over a strike length of 620 ft and dips approximately 50° to the northwest (fig. A-6). The southeastern lens is partially exposed over about 350 ft of strike length and dips between 40° and 50° northwest (figs. A-1—A-4). In 1956, both lenses were mapped as pinching out to the southwest, but open ended to the northeast (fig. 4).

Cross sections in figures A-1 through A-5 show that

the southeastern regolith lens ranges in thickness from 17 to 28 ft, averaging 23 ft at trench T-8, and persists downdip for between 100 and 250 ft. The regolith, where intersected approximately 100 ft downdip in drill holes D-9, D-1, and D-6, has true thicknesses of 12, 16, and 23 ft, respectively. The increase in drill-intersected thicknesses suggests that the southeastern regolith lens may be thicker and extend deeper northeast of the trenches and diamond drill holes.

The northwestern regolith lens is approximately 31 ft thick at trench T-6 but is of unknown thickness at distances less than 200 ft downdip (fig. A-6). Where intersected at 200 ft downdip in drill hole D-3, the northwestern regolith lens consists of thin, discontinuous zones in dolomitic marble.

The footwall of the regolith grades into marble at distances of as little as 50 ft downdip in some drill holes; the regolith is generally absent at distances greater than 200 ft downdip (figs. A-3 and A-6). Because both the hanging wall and footwall were only observed in drill hole D-3, the attitude and shape of the marble body is unknown.

The marble consists of coarse, granular ankeritic (composition determined by XRD analysis) dolomite and

calcite with up to 10 pct disseminated and banded rounded magnetite and euhdral to rounded pyrite grains and up to 5 pct disseminated rounded apatite crystals. In this rock, pyrite commonly replaces magnetite. Minor amounts of biotite, some of which is partially replaced by chlorite, are also present and a trace amount of zircon occurs.

Drilling and trenching indicate the regolith and marble occur within a succession of probable intermediate grade (greenschist facies) metasedimentary and metaigneous(?) rocks consisting of variable amounts of quartz, muscovite, sericite, chlorite, and graphite and locally minor amounts of talc, serpentine, dolomite, calcite, magnetite, or pyrite. Lack of outcrop and poor core recovery from drilling preclude detailed correlations between the various rock types. In general, however, the footwalls and lower few feet of the hanging walls of both regolith lenses consist of calcareous chlorite-sericite ± talc ± quartz phyllite and schist and the section of hanging wall beginning a few feet above each lens consists of siliceous muscovite-graphite schist (cross sections A-2, A-3, and A-5 through A-7, appendix A). The footwall of the regolith lens in drill hole D-7 consists of a nonfoliated chlorite-sericite-quartz rock that may represent a metamorphosed mafic igneous rock.

#### MINERALOGY AND PETROGRAPHY OF THE REGOLITH

Most of the regolith consists of a moderate amount of pebble- to cobble-size rock fragments in a dark chocolate brown to brownish orange earthy matrix composed largely of sooty and specular hematite, exotic limonite, small fragments of limonitic boxworks after pyrite, goethite, and hematitic magnetite.

The most common rock type consists of a dark red spongelike matrix of siliceous hematite with up to 40 pct rounded to angular 0.5- to 2-mm apatite grains and trace amounts of euhedral zircon crystals. Cross-cutting veinlets of goethite and chalcedony and patches of limonitic boxworks after pyrite are also common. This hematiterich rock grades into a less common, more siliceous rock consisting of up to 40 pct euhedral to broken subhedral and finer rounded apatite and irregularly shaped hematitic magnetite grains with minor euhedral to angular zircon crystals or fragments in a matrix of iron-stained finely crystalline quartz. Rounded grains of carbonate, chert, and chlorite schist (?) also occur as inclusions in this rock

Other rocks found in the regolith include massive vuggy goethite and yellowish-orange porous limonite within which are rounded fragments of kaolinitized phyllite(?) and veinlets of goethite, hematite, quartz, chalcedony, carbonate, and apatite.

Near its wallrock contacts, the regolith is more yellow-orange in color and is composed mostly of limonitic clay. Secondary(?) apatite occurs as bluish gray to white botryoidal masses along fractures in fragments of earthy, porous limonite in these areas. An apple-green clay containing a chromiferous member of the montmorillinite-beidellite series and possible traces of anatase; is associated with limonitic kaolinite in the footwall of the southeastern regolith lens in trench T-8.

Geochemical, radiometric, optical microscope, microprobe, and SEM examination of the minus 20-mesh fraction of concentrates panned from regolith samples indicate the regolith also contains trace to minor amounts of apatite, zircon, monazite, xenotime, brewsterite(?), columbium-bearing rutile, which may locally alter to ilmenorutile, and the columbium minerals aeschynite and columbite. Results of analyses of concentrate samples are presented in table 1, and ranges of mineral content in samples are listed in table 2. Apatite occurs as fine bluish-white grains with a composition (determined by XRD analysis) intermediate between the hydroxyl

Table 1.—Results of analyses' of samples of pan-concentrated regolith, parts per million

Sample <sup>2</sup>	Cb	Sn	Та	Се	La	Nd	Υ	Description
5	5,700 9,000	<50 <50	<100 100	1,000	400 400	<500 <500	<10 20	Heaping pan reduced to 10.6 g. Heaping pan reduced to 29.4 g.
15	100	<50	<100	ND	ND	ND		Heaping pan reduced to 29.4 g.
30	300	<50	<100	ND	200	ND	ND	2 heaping pans reduced to 34.7 g.

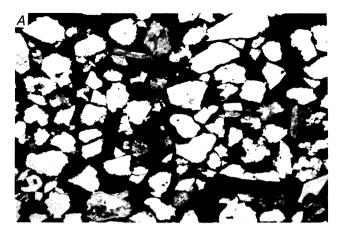
ND Not detected.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Identification of anatase and clay minerals in 1956 by H. D. Hess, formerly of the Bureau of Mines, Albany, OR.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A test procedure for characterization of the Tofty regolith concentrates is described in appendix B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Cb, Sn, and Ta analyses by X-ray fluorescence; Ce, La, Nd, and Y analyses by emission spectrography (other rare-earth elements not detected). Analyses by the Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

<sup>2</sup>Samples are numbered clockwise starting with trench T-2. Gaps between sample numbers listed here correspond to samples listed in tables 3 and 4.



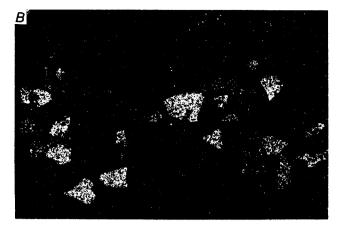


Figure 5.—Scanning electron microscope photomicrograph (A) and columbium X-ray scan (B) of columbium-rich portion of regolith concentrate.

Table 2.—Estimated ranges for mineral content in minus 20-mesh fraction of samples of pan-concentrated regolith, weight percent

Mineral	Mineral
Goethite	Feldspar1-4
Quartz	Monazite 2-4
Aeschynite	Columbite 2-4
Magnétite 8-10	Xenotime Tr
Rutile (Cb-bearing) 4- 6	Brewsterite (?) Tr
Zircon 6-15	Apatite
Fe-Mg silicates 1- 5	Rock fragments Tr

Tr Trace. 

1Samples 5, 9, 15, and 30.

 $(Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH)$  and fluor  $(Ca_5(PO_4)_3F)$  endmembers of the apatite solid solution series. Although apatite is locally abundant in the regolith, its relatively low specific gravity makes it a rare constituent of the concentrates. Zircon occurs as 0.1- to 0.5-mm, clear euhedral and yellowish subhedral bipyramidal crystals or crystal fragments with poorly developed prism faces. Microanalysis indicates monazite to be of the high-cerium and high-lanthanum and low-yttrium and low-thorium variety and locally intergrown with columbite.

An SEM photomicrograph and columbium X-ray scan of the columbium-bearing portion of a regolith concentrate is shown in figure 5. Aeschynite occurs as dark reddish brown to black, approximately 0.1-mm angular, flattened prismatic orthorhombic crystals with a general composition, based on four analyses, of  $(Ca_{0.25-0.53} Fe_{0.08-0.08})$ 

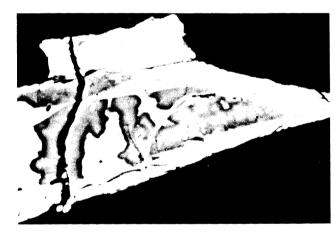


Figure 6.—Scanning electron microscope photomicrograph of broken aeschynite grain from regolith concentrate.

 $_{0.46}$  Ce<sub>0.04-0.27</sub> Mn<sub>0-0.03</sub> Ba<sub>0-0.08</sub> Th<sub>0-0.14</sub> Ag<sub>0-0.14</sub> (Cb<sub>0.53-0.90</sub> Ti<sub>0.10-0.47</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>. Aeschynite is the bright phase in figure 5A with the less intense columbium signals in figure 5B; a closeup of the aeschynite is shown in figure 6. Columbite is also a bright phase in figure 5A, but has the more intense columbite signals in figure 5B. The columbite is the high-iron, low-manganese variety and has a composition of (Fe<sub>0.9</sub> Mn<sub>0.09</sub> Ca<sub>0.01</sub>) (Cb<sub>0.95</sub> Ti<sub>0.05</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>.

#### REGOLITH SAMPLING

#### **METHODS AND RESULTS**

In 1984, samples of regolith and specimens of rocks were collected from trenches on upper Idaho Gulch for geochemical analyses. The wider trenches, T-5 and T-8, were mapped and sampled in detail (figs. 7-8). Vegetation cover and sloughing of trench walls prevented detailed mapping and sampling of other trenches; only a few samples were collected from trenches T-2, T-3, and T-4 (fig. 9).

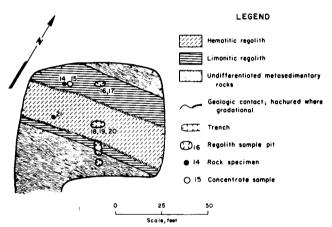


Figure 7.—Locations of samples collected in trench T-5.

Regolith samples were collected from 3- to 4-ft-deep pits (figs. 7-9). One pit was excavated in each of trenches T-2, T-3, and T-4 and a series of pits were dug in each of trenches T-5 and T-8. A vertical channel sample and a bottom sample were collected from each pit.

Regolith samples and rock specimens were crushed, split, pulverized, and analyzed by the Bureau's Reno (NV) Research Center. Regolith samples were analyzed for columbium, phosphate  $(P_2O_5)$ , zirconium, and zinc by X-ray fluorescence (XRF), tin by atomic absorption (AA), and 42 elements plus rare-earth elements by emission spectrography. Results and methods of analyses are presented in tables 3 and 4 and appendix C. Owing to the sensitivity of the analytical techniques used, some variations exist among the results presented for some individual samples.

Samples of regolith collected from pits in trenches T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, and T-8 contain <50 to 1,200 ppm Cb, 0.14 to 21.4 pct  $P_2O_5$ , <100 to 900 ppm Zr, 200 to 1,200 ppm Zn, and not detected to 900 ppm La (table 3). Low columbium values in samples from the pit in trench T-3 are likely not representative of regolith as their yellowwhite color suggests that sloughed bank material was included in the samples.

Regolith samples also contain 0.07 to >6 pct Ba, 7 to >10 pct Fe, 0.3 to >10 pct Mn, 3 to 4,000 ppm Sr, 2,000 to 20,000 ppm Ti, 50 to 6,000 ppm Cr, and 100 to 3,000 ppm Ni (appendix C). Relatively higher values of columbium, phosphate, zirconium, lanthanum, and strontium are restricted to samples from pits excavated in the red-brown

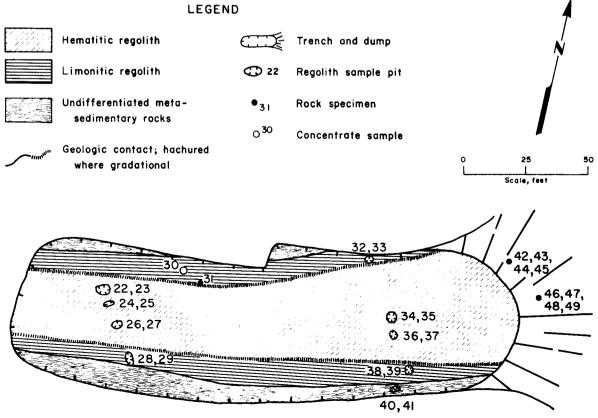


Figure 8.—Locations of samples collected in trench T-8.

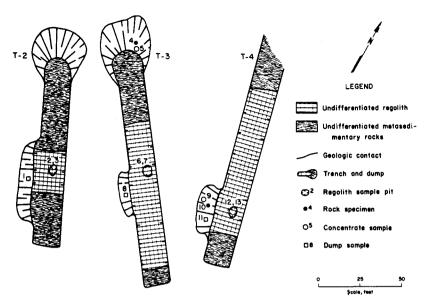


Figure 9.—Locations of samples collected in trenches T-2, T-3, and T-4.

Table 3.—Results of XRF analyses' of regolith samples, in parts per million except as noted

Sample	Cb	La <sup>2</sup>	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> <sup>3</sup>	Zr	Zn	Sample type and/or description
			7	RENCH T-2		
·	<50	NA	0.19	300	NA	3-ft channel of dump, material is well mixed and silty.
94	1.000	NA	1.95	800	NA	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
4	1,200	NA	2.03	800	NA	3.5-ft vertical channel in sample 2 pit.
		-	Т	RENCH T-3		
4	72	NA	NA	NA	NA	From bottom of pit, includes sloughed bank material.
4	<50	NA	NA	NA	NA	3-ft vertical channel in sample 6 pit.
	<50	NA	0.14	300	NA	3-ft-long, 10-in-deep channel of dump.
			T	RENCH T-4		
1	300	200	0.82	400	400	4.5-ft-long, 1-ft-deep channel of dump.
24	600	400	11.7	700	600	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith. Bulk sample A <sup>5</sup> collected from this pit.
13	500	200	7.3	900	300	3.5-ft vertical channel in sample 12 pit.
			7	RENCH T-5		
16	<50	ND	0.17	<100	500	From bottom of pit, limonitic regolith.
7	<50	ND	.26	200	400	4-ft vertical channel in sample 16 pit.
18	1,000	900	7.1	900	300	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith. Bulk sample B <sup>6</sup> collected from this pit.
19	700	400	.5	800	300	4-ft vertical channel in sample 18 pit.
20	100	ND	.8	300	300	Sample of clay from adjacent to footwall of limonitic regolith.
	, ,,,.,.,.,.,.,.,.,.,		1	FRENCH T-8		
22	300	ND	9.0	700	400	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
23	400	ND	8.1	700	400	4-ft vertical channel in sample 22 pit.
24	500	ND	1.12	200	600	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
.5	700	200	1.68	400	500	3-ft vertical channel in sample 24 pit.
<u> </u>	1,000	400	10.4	800	300	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
27	700	200	10.4	700	400	3-ft vertical channel in sample 26 pit.
28	<50	NA	.26	300	200	1.5-ft channel of limonitic clay-rich regolith.
9	<50	NA	.94	<100	250	Composite of top 1 ft of sample 28 pit.
32	300	ND	.90	100	1,200	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
33	400	40	2.60	500	900	3-ft vertical channel in sample 32 pit.
34	800	90	1.92	500	1,100	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
35	900	90	1.79	700	1.100	3.5-ft vertical channel in sample 34 pit.
36	300	400	21.4	900	300	From bottom of pit, hematitic regolith.
37	300	200	20.4	900	300	2.5-ft vertical channel in sample 36 pit.
	<50	ND	20.4 .79	200	200	From bottom of pit in graphite phyllite.
38	<50 100	ND ND	1.47	200	300	Channel in limonitic clay-rich regolith above
39	100	ND	1.47	200	300	sample 38.
40	58	ND	.69	200	400	From bottom of pit.
41	100	ND	1.06	300	500	2.5-ft vertical channel in sample 40 pit.

NA Not analyzed ND Not detected.

¹Performed by the Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno. NV; Sn analyzed by AA, but not detected.

²No other rare-earth elements detected in samples, except sample 36 contains 40 ppm Y. Analyses by emission spectrography, Reno Research Center.

All other rare-earth elements detected in Samples, except sample 55 solutions of percent.

3Percent.

4Samples 2, 3, 6, 7, and 12 also contain 2.083, 2.445, 0.05, 0.06, and 0.107 ppm Au and 1.431, 1.528, 10.6, 4.0, and <0.3 ppm Ag, respectively. All other Au and Ag values at or below detection limit. Au and Ag determined by inductively coupled plasma analyses.

3Head analysis of 0.093 pct Cb.

6Head analysis of 0.120 Cb.

Table 4.—Results of analyses,1 in parts per million, and descriptions of rock specimens

Sample	Cb	Sn	Ta	Au	Ag	Се	La	Υ	Description
4	<100	<50	<100	<0.007	<0.3	ND	ND	ND	10 pct rounded to angular apatite grains within matrix of siliceous iron oxides. Cut by chalcedony veinlets.
10	200	<50	<100	.016	.370	ND	ND	<10	Grab from dump. Mostly red-brown earthy hematite.
14	<100	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	ND	ND	<10	Orange, limonite-rich clay. Grab sample.
21	1,200	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	ND	400	20	Earthy, hematitic matrix cut by chalcedony veinlets. Representative of rocks in trench T-5.
31	200	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	ND	200	<10	4 pct rounded weathered apatite in a dark red earthy hematitic matrix cut by veinlets of goethite.
42	<100	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	ND	90	20	Dark, angular maroon-colored patches in a punky limonitic matrix. Disseminated magnetite blebs also present.
43	300	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	2,000	900	20	Rounded quartz grains in a weathered limonitic matrix. Cut by veinlets of quartz, carbonate, and secondary apatite.
44	200	<50	<100	<.007	<.3	ND	40	40	Dark-red to orange siliceous iron oxide matrix cut by some veinlets of drusy quartz.
45	700	<50	<100	NA	NA	ND	200	20	Blebs of limonite and magnetite in an iron-stained siliceous matrix.
46	400	<5	NA	0.007	0.3	<500	90	40	40 pct euhedral to angular subhedral and finer rounded apatite, irregular to rounded magnetite, and minor euhedral zircon in an iron-stained siliceous matrix.
47	200	<5	NA	<.007	<.3	<500	90	40	Rounded apatite and hematite-magnetite grains, minor angular zircon crystals, and rare fragments of chert or schist (?) in a matrix of coarse recrystallized quartz and iron oxides.
48	200	<5	NA	.020	.894	<500	200	40	Massive fine exotic limonite with rounded 3- to 7-mm fragments of clay after phyllite (?), cut by veinlets of goethite.
49	87	<5	NA	<.007	<.3	<500	ND	40	5 pct rounded apatite grains in a punky siliceous hematite matrix cut by veinlets of goethite.
50	<50	9.1	NA	<.007	<.3	<500	ND	40	Massive vuggy goethite.

NA Not analyzed, ND Not detected.

¹Cb and Ta analyses by XRF; Sn by AA (5-ppm detection limit) or XRF (50-ppm detection limit); Au and Ag analyses by inductively coupled plasma analyses. Rare-earth analyses by emission spectrography—only Ce, La, and Y detected except sample 42 also contained 1,000 ppm Nd. Analyses by the Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

hematitic regolith whereas a small number of high values of zinc, titanium, barium, chromium, and nickel are present in samples collected from both the hematitic regolith and yellow-orange limonitic regolith.

Rock specimen sample locations are also shown in figures 7, 8, and 9. Because specimens were generally collected from float, analyses are interpreted to be representative only of the specimen and not the deposit grade. Ten of fourteen specimens contained between 200 and 1,200 ppm Cb with traces of cerium, lanthanum, yttrium, or silver; three samples contained traces of gold and one sample contained detectable concentrations of tin; no tantalum was detected (table 4). The highest columbium concentration (1,200 ppm) was found in a specimen of earthy hematite cut by chalcedony veinlets.

Results of analyses for columbium in channel samples collected in 1956 from trench T-8 are presented in table 5 and sample locations are shown in figure 10. The analyses are in good agreement with those from samples collected from pits in 1984 and generally range between 300 and 700 ppm Cb with one value of 200 ppm and one of 1,000 ppm.

Results of columbium analyses in 1956 of sludge samples of regolith from drill holes are presented in table 6. Similar to results of analyses of samples from trenches, between 0.01 and 0.10 pct Cb was detected in all samples.

Results of analyses of three composite samples of marble from drill hole D-4 are presented in table 7. Between 257 and 731 ppm Cb as well as elevated concentrations of phosphate, lanthanum, zirconium, and cerium are present in the samples. These columbium concentrations are very similar to those found in samples of regolith. Unfortunately, no other drill core containing marble is available for analyses.

Table 5.—Results of XRF analyses¹ for columbium in channel samples collected from trench T-8 in 1956

Sample	Cb, ppm	Channel length, ft	Sample	Cb, ppm	Channel length, ft
51 52 53 54 55 55 56 57 58 59 60 <sup>2</sup>	300 600 400 300 200 400 300 400 300 1,000	8.8 9.5 7.0 9.3 10.0 7.4 7.4 5.8 7.5 6.3	61 <sup>2</sup> 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69	700 400 300 300 300 400 300 700 400	6.3 7.3 10.4 6.9 9.95 9.80 13.00 8.80 7.60

<sup>1</sup>Performed by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV, in 1984. <sup>2</sup>Analysis by unspecified chemical techniques in 1956.

Table 6.—Results of 1956 emission spectrographic (S) and chemical (C) analyses¹ for columbium in sludge samples of regolith

Drill hole	Interval, ft	Cb, pct			
D.III 11010	more, n	S	C		
D-1	133.2-138.1	0.01-0.10	<0.1		
	138.1-143.3	.0110	<.1		
D-7	6.8- 19.3	.0110	<.1		
D-9	70.0- 89.4	.0110	NA		

NA Not analyzed.

<sup>1</sup>Analyses performed by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

Table 7.—Results of analyses¹ of composite samples of marble from drill hole D-4, parts per million except as noted

Sample	Interval, ft	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> <sup>2</sup>	Cb	La	Zr	Υ	Се
70	174-196	1.32	257	327	653	21	529
- 71	196-225	1.86	731	219	190	21	373
72	225-245	2.74	416	927	277	26	1472

 $^{1}\text{P}_{2}\text{O}_{5}$  analyzed by emission spectrography, other elements by XRF; performed by Bondar-Clegg, Lakewood, CO.  $^{2}\text{Percent}.$ 

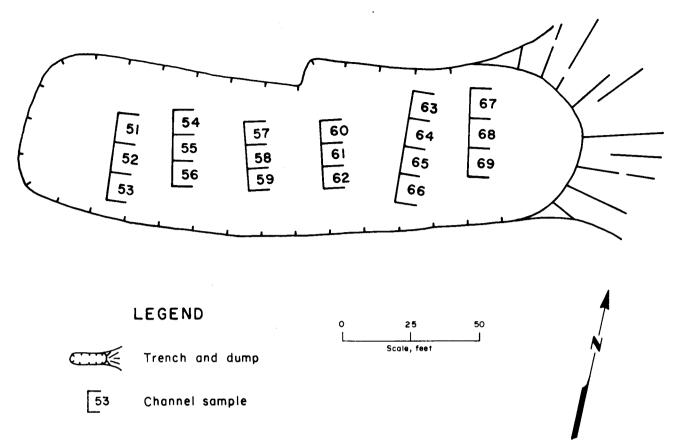


Figure 10.-Locations of 1956 channel samples in trench T-8.

#### INTERPRETATION

The average grade of the hematitic regolith on upper Idaho Gulch is probably between 0.04 and 0.07 pct Cb. Channel samples from trench T-8 contain from 200 to 1,000 ppm Cb. The weighted average of those values is 0.04 pct Cb over 160 ft comprising six channel samples with lengths varying from 19.9 to 39.2 ft. Sixteen of eighteen samples collected from pits in the hematite-rich portions of the regolith contain between 300 and 1,200 ppm Cb and average approximately 725 ppm Cb; 12 of these samples contain columbium in excess of or equal to 500 ppm. Spectrographic and chemical analyses performed in 1956 also show between 0.01 and 0.10 pct Cb in drill hole sludge samples of regolith. Columbium values similar to those in the hematitic regolith samples are also present in samples of marble.

In contrast, five of nine samples collected from pits in clay-rich limonitic regolith contain less than 50 ppm Cb and the remaining four samples contain from 50 to 100 ppm Cb.

The presence of columbium and the mineralogic similarities between rock specimens and regolith suggest that the specimens are essentially undecomposed or silicified equivalents of the regolith. Many of these rocks fit the description of "boulders of cellular iron-stained apatite-rich material" at Magnet Cove, AR, which is a well-studied, columbium-bearing carbonatite deposit (18, p. 43). At Magnet Cove, rocks with mineralogy and fabric similar to those in the regolith on Idaho Gulch grade downward into a magnetite-apatite-perovskite-bearing marble that contains approximately 300 to 400 ppm Cb. These values are very similar to those found in the marble on Idaho Gulch (table 7).

## MAGNETIC, RADIOMETRIC, AND SOIL SAMPLE SURVEYS ON UPPER IDAHO GULCH

#### **METHODS AND RESULTS**

Magnetic, radiometric, and soil sample surveys were conducted over the area known, or projected, to overlie ferruginous regolith on upper Idaho Gulch (fig. 4). Magnetic and radiometric measurements were taken at 25-ft intervals on 17 northwest-trending 500- to 900-ft-long lines spaced 100 to 200 ft apart. Soil samples were collected at 25-ft intervals on seven 500-ft-long lines spaced 200 ft apart. Survey lines are oriented N 30 W, perpendicular to the trend of the regolith lenses. Figures 11, 12, and 13 are contour maps showing the results of the three surveys. Results are also tabulated in appendix D.

The magnetic survey was performed using a Geometrics UniMag 11, model G-846 portable proton magnetometer." Measurements were corrected for diurnal variations with time-variation graphs constructed from repeated measurements at a single station. All measurements were taken facing N 30 W, perpendicular to the strike of the regolith lenses.

High concentrations of magnetite in the regolith produce strong positive magnetic responses. At intensities above 56,600 gammas, two 1,200-ft-long, N 60 E-trending areas, which merge to the southwest, are defined (fig. 11). Magnetic profiles are generally asymmetric, with steep positive slopes to the southeast and gentle negative slopes to the northwest. Peak magnetic intensities are offset to the northwest of the regolith, correlating with the northerly dip of the lenses.

Total-count gamma-ray radiation was measured using a Scintrex model G15-5 gamma-ray spectrometer. Measurements were taken at hip level over 10-s intervals. Trace amounts of radioactive minerals, including zircon, monazite, apatite, and aeschynite, in the regolith produce radiation measurements between 100 and 250 cps in trenched areas (fig. 12). Two larger irregularly shaped northeast-trending and six other smaller areas with higher radiation values were delineated.

Soil samples were collected at depths of 2.5 to 3.0 ft with a hand auger. Approximately 0.5 lb of sample material was placed in a paper envelope, dried, and screened to minus 80 mesh. Samples were analyzed by the Bureau's Reno (NV) Research Center for columbium,  $P_2O_5$ , and zinc by X-ray fluorescence.

Most soil samples consisted of gray-brown, clay-rich silt, but some also contained limonite and rock fragments and were yellow-orange to red. Organic contents of

9Reference to specific products does not imply endorsement by the Bureau of Mines.

samples ranged widely, but generally were low. Much of the soil in the surveyed area is windblown silt without a developed profile, however some of the samples containing rock chips or hematite staining may contain residual material derived from bedrock.

Drilling and a test pit at the midpoint of soil sample line 10,000 NE show that the silt ranges from 3 to 9 ft and averages approximately 5 ft in thickness. The presence of rare bedrock outcrops near Idaho Gulch suggests that the silt cover thickens away from the gulch.

The large concentrations of apatite in the regolith are reflected by soil samples with anomalously high  $P_2O_5$  concentrations.  $P_2O_5$  soil values above a threshold of 0.3 pct define two 25- to 125-ft-wide anomalous areas that are coincident with and extend beyond the known extent of the regolith (fig. 13).

In contrast to  $P_2O_5$  concentrations, anomalously large columbium or zinc concentrations were limited to samples that were collected either from trenched areas or that contained iron-stained material derived from buried regolith. Five of seven detected columbium values occur within samples collected from regolith exposed in trenches; the other two samples were noteworthy for their orange-red color. Zinc values above 240 ppm also are limited to samples collected from trenched areas or that contain iron-staining derived from regolith.

#### INTERPRETATION

The magnetic, radiometric, and soil sample surveys produced complementary results indicating that the two regolith lenses extend along strike for approximately 1,200 ft. The two lenses may join to the southwest. Asymmetric magnetic responses offset from the surface expression of the regolith suggest a moderate to steep northwest dip of the two lenses.

Comparison of the data indicates that soil  $P_2O_5$  concentrations define the area underlain by regolith better than does radiation, but neither defines the extent of the regolith as well as its magnetic signature. Higher radioactivity is generally restricted to exposed portions of the regolith.

It is likely that away from the trenched areas and Idaho Gulch, all three surveys were seriously hindered in detecting the regolith by the greater thicknesses of silt cover. There is good probability that the lenses may continue undetected along strike, especially to the northeast.

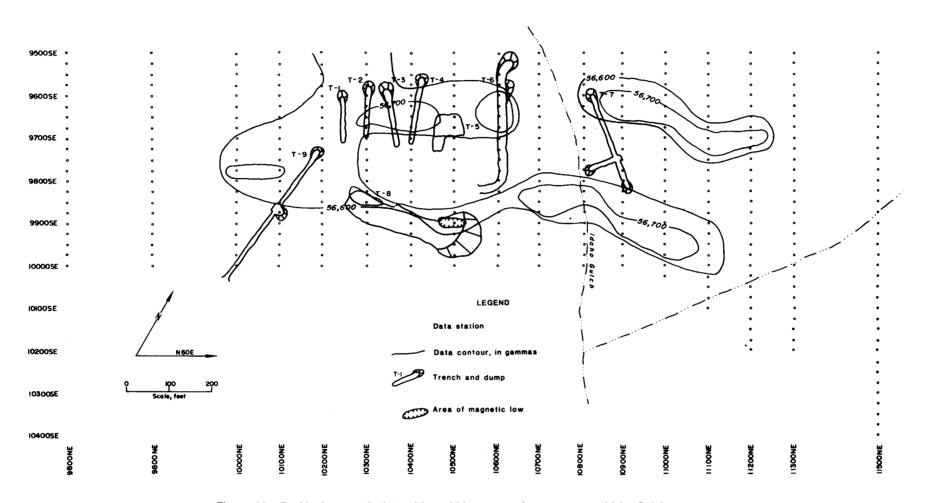


Figure 11.—Residual magnetic intensities within surveyed area on upper Idaho Gulch.

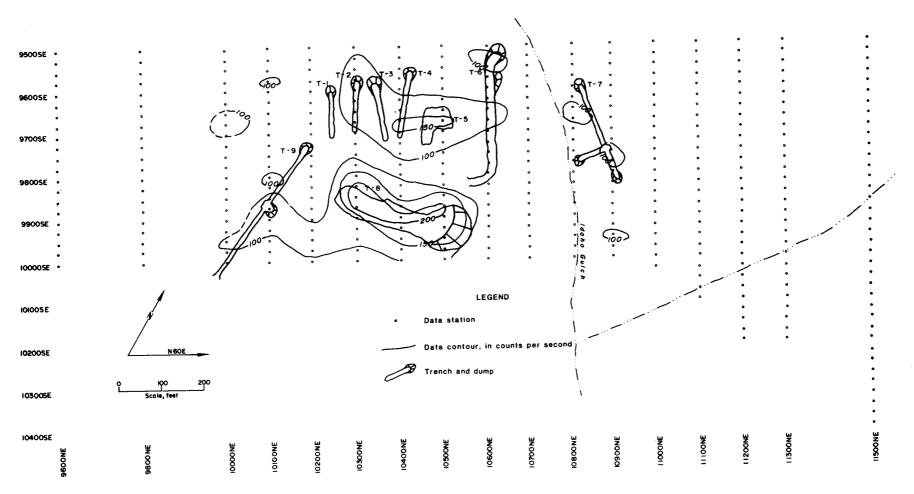


Figure 12.—Total-count gamma-ray radioactivity within surveyed area on upper Idaho Gulch.

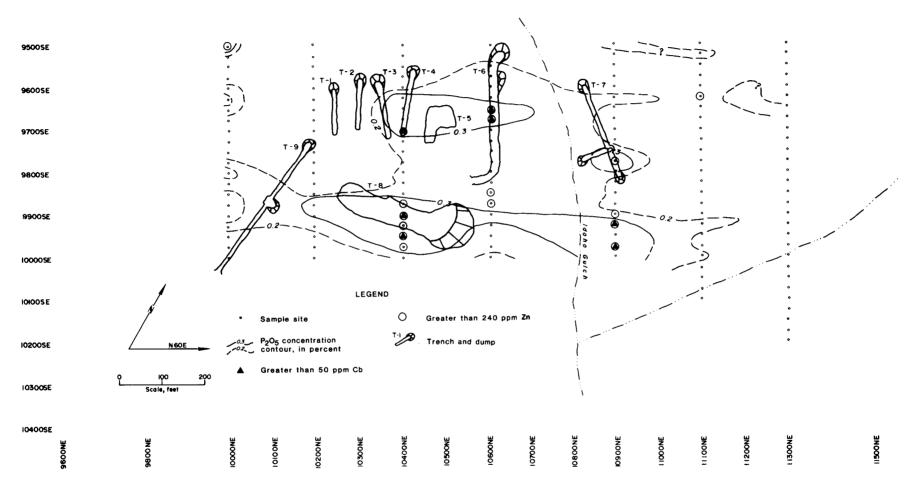


Figure 13.—Columbium, zinc, and  $P_2O_5$  concentrations in soils within surveyed area on upper Idaho Gulch.

#### **COLUMBIUM RESOURCES**

Approximately 340,000 lb of indicated and inferred columbium resources are present within the known and inferred extent of the regolith lenses on uper Idaho Gulch. According to standard guidelines, set by Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey (19), this columbium comprises approximately 30,000 lb of indicated and approximately 310,000 lb of inferred resources.

The indicated resource comprises that portion of the southeastern regolith lens exposed in trench T-8 and intersected in drill holes D-1, D-2, D-3, D-6, D-7, and D-8. Drill hole intersections show that this lens decreases from an average thickness of 23 ft at the surface to an approximate average of 17 ft at 100 ft downdip. Given the 6,900 ft<sup>2</sup> surface area and 40° north dip of the hematitic regolith in trench T-8, and assuming that the average thickness decreases by 50 pct at 150 ft downdip, the volume of hematitic regolith represented by that exposed in trench T-8 is approximately 500,000 ft<sup>3</sup>. At a measured tonnage factor of 23.5 ft<sup>4</sup>/st and a minimum grade of 0.07 pct Cb, a minimum of approximately 30,000 lb of indicated resource is present.

The inferred columbium resource comprises the remaining known or projected regolith. The average

apparent thickness, as measured in trenches, over the remaining 2,200 ft of strike length is approximately 50 ft. Subtracting 40 pct of this to account for an approximate average amount of unmineralized limonitic regolith, and given an approximately 45° northerly dip of the regolith lenses, the average true thickness is 22 ft. Assuming a weathering pattern similar to that in trench T-8 where the regolith decreases in thickness by 50 pct at 150 ft downdip, then the volume of inferred hematitic regolith is approximately 5.25 million ft<sup>3</sup>. At a tonnage factor of 23.5 and a grade of 0.07 pct Cb, a minimum of approximately 310,000 lb of inferred columbium resource is present.

The regolith also contains zirconium and  $P_2O_5$  resources. Seven of eight 1984 channel samples collected in pits contain 700 to 900 ppm Zr (table 3). At an average concentration of approximately 0.07 pct Zr and a total regolith tonnage of approximately 245,000 st, an inferred zirconium resource is approximately 340,000 lb.  $P_2O_5$  values in the same eight samples range from 0.5 to 20.4 pct. The average of these values is 6.5 pct  $P_2O_5$ ; discounting the high and low values, the average is 5.2 pct  $P_2O_5$ . At a concentration of 5 pct  $P_2O_5$  and a total regolith tonnage of 245,000 st, an inferred  $P_2O_5$  resource is approximately 12,250 st.

Good potential also exists for large additional resources of columbium in the dolomitic marble underlying the regolith. At an average grade similar to that of the regolith, the marble may contain several times the identified resource.

## BENEFICIATION OF COLUMBIUM FROM THE REGOLITH

Two large bulk samples of regolith, each weighing approximately 200 lb, were collected from trenches on upper Idaho Gulch for columbium beneficiation studies. Sample A was collected from trench T-4 from the same pit as samples 12 and 13 and had a head analysis of 0.09 pct Cb. Sample B was collected from trench T-5 from the same pit as samples 18 and 19 and had a head analysis of 0.12 pct Cb.

Figure 14 illustrates the procedure used to beneficiate the two samples. The samples were screened and ground in stages to pass 65 mesh and then tabled on a slime deck to produce a rougher concentrate, coarse tailings (those that settled and banded on the deck), and fine tailings (those that washed off the deck without settling). The rougher coarse tailings were screened and reground in stages to pass 150 mesh and then retabled in a scavenger step. A scavenger concentrate, coarse tailings, and fine tailings were produced. The rougher and scavenger concentrates were combined and scrubbed at 50 pct solids for 10 min in a 1:2 volume HCl-H<sub>2</sub>O solution (13 pct HCl by weight) to remove iron oxide staining from the mineral surfaces. The scrubbed concentrate was washed and decanted four times and then treated by magnetic separation. A hand magnet was used to remove magnetite and other highly magnetic material. The remainder was slurred and pumped through a high-intensity wet magnetic separator with a grooved-plate configuration at eight power settings. The magnetic field strength varied from approximately 500 G with the hand magnet to about 9,500 G at the maximum power setting.

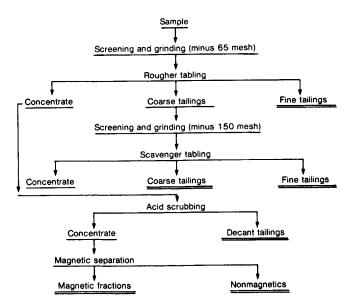


Figure 14.—Flow diagram of columbium beneficiation procedure.

Tables 8 and 9 show the results of beneficiation of samples A and B. A calculated composite concentrate from sample A contained 57 pct of the columbium at a grade of 0.86 pct Cb. A calculated composite concentrate from sample B contained 53 pct of the columbium at a grade of

<sup>&</sup>quot;Tonnage factor determined on dried, compacted material; all analyses are also on a dry basis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>The average grade was determined previously in the text to be between 0.04 and 0.07 pct Cb. Head analyses of 0.12 and 0.093 pct Cb on two 200-lb samples of the regolith suggest the higher value may be more accurate.

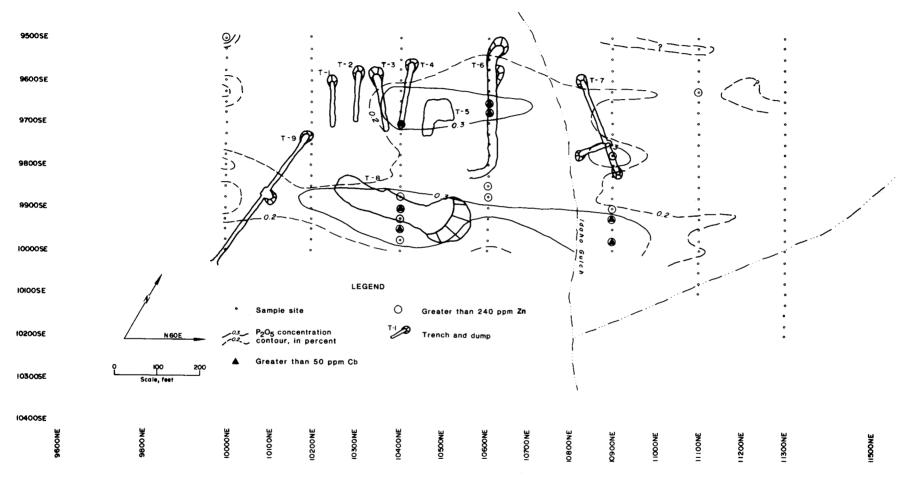


Figure 13.—Columbium, zinc, and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentrations in soils within surveyed area on upper Idaho Gulch.

Table 8.—Gravity and magnetic concentration of sample A

Product	wt not	Analysis, pct			D	istribution, p	oct
Floddet	wt pct	Cb	Zr	Sr	Cb	Zr	Sr
Rougher and scavenger concentrates: Magnetics:							
With hand magnet <sup>1</sup>	0.4	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.3	0.2	< 0.1
At 700 G	.1	.09	.04	.09	.1	- 1	. 1
At 1,500 G	.3	.42	.09	.15	1.2	.6	.1
At 2.200 G.	.3	1.06	.13	.25	3.3	.7	.1
At 4,000 G	1.6	1.06	.17	.47	17.3	5.2	1.3
At 6,200 G.	1.0	1.01	.33	.73	10.4	6.3	1.2
At 7,600 G	.4	1.10	.27	.64	4.3	2.0	.4
At 8,700 G.	.8	1.12	.67	.98	8.7	9.8	1.3
At 9,500 G.	.4	1.15	.26	.70	4.2	1.8	.4
Nonmagnetics at 9,500 G.	1.9	.42	1.39	1.99	7.8	48.1	6.1
Weight loss from acid scrubbing	2.9	NA	NA	NA	NAp	NAp	NAp
Subtotal	10.1	NA	NA	NA	57.6	74.7	10.9
Rougher table fine tailings	47.5	.04	.02	.39	18.7	17.5	30.2
Scavenger table coarse tailings	27.3	.06	.01	.97	16.2	5.0	43.3
Scavenger table fine tailings	15.1	.05	.01	.63	7.5	2.8	15.6
Composite or total	100.0	.10	.05	.61	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calculated composite concentrate <sup>2</sup>	6.7	.86	.60	1.00	57.2	74.5	10.9

Table 9.—Gravity and magnetic concentration of sample B

Product	wt pct		Analysis, p	D	istribution,	oct	
1 Todasi	wi pci	Сь	Zr	Sr	Cb	Zr	Sr
Rougher and scavenger concentrates: Magnetics:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
With hand magnet <sup>1</sup>	0.3	0.02	. 0.01	0.01	0.1	. 0.1	< 0.1
At 700 G	.1	.11	.02	.02	.2	1	4.1
At 1,500 G	.2	.65	.04	.04	1.2	.3	
At 2,200 G	.6	1.03	.05	.09	4.7	1.0	.3
At 4,000 G	.7	1.16	.07	.11	7.0	1.7	.5
At 6,200 G	1.8	1.07	.09	.15	15.8	5.6	1.6
At 7,600 G	.6	1.07	.08	.15	5.2	1.7	.5
At 8,700 G	.9	1.06	.11	.20	7.8	3.5	1.1
At 9,500 G	.5	1.05	.11	.18	3.9	1.7	.5
Nonmagnetics at 9,500 G	1.5	.65	.34	.52	7.7	17.4	4.5
Weight loss from acid scrubbing	2.3	NA	NA	NA	NAp	NAp	NAp
Subtotal	9.5	NA	NA	NA	53.6	32.9	9.1
Rougher table fine tailings	45.1	.05	.02	.11	18.3	31.4	29.4
Scavenger table coarse tailings	32.9	.08	.02	.24	21.1	22.9	46.7
Scavenger table fine tailings	12.5	.07	.03	.20	7.0	12.8	14.8
Composite or total	100.0	.12	.03	.17	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calculated composite concentrate <sup>2</sup>	6.8	.97	.14	.22	53.3	32.9	9.1

 $0.97\ pct\ Cb.$  In each case the grade could be improved to 1.1 pct Cb with a sacrifice of 9 pct in recovery.

The concentrates also contained zirconium and strontium. The calculated composite concentrate from sample A contained 74.5 pct of the zirconium and nearly

11 pct of the strontium with grades of 0.60 pct and 1.00 pct, respectively. The concentrate from sample B contained nearly 33 pct of the zirconium and 9 pct of the strontium with grades of 0.14 pct and 0.22 pct, respective-

NA Not analyzed. NAp Not applicable.

¹Additional analysis: 63.6 pct Fe.

²Mathematical combination of magnetics at 1,500, 2,200, 4,000, 6,200, 7,600, 8,700, and 9,500 G, and nonmagnetics at 9,500 G.

NA Not analyzed. NAp Not applicable.

¹Additional analysis: 62.0 pct Fe.

²Mathematical combination of magnetics at 1,500, 2,200, 4,000, 6,200, 7,600, 8,700, and 9,500 G, and nonmagnetics at

#### DISCUSSION

#### **ORIGIN OF THE REGOLITH**

The ferruginous regolith on upper Idaho Gulch is derived from chemical weathering of the underlying dolomitic marble. Most of the constituents of the regolith, including apatite, zircon, and a mixed assemblage of iron oxide minerals, are also found downdip in the less weathered marble. Columbium minerals and monazite have not been found in the marble; however, analyses show the marble contains trace amounts of columbium, cerium, and  $P_2O_5$ .

The origin of the marble is not as clear. Beds of limestone, dolomite, or marble are unknown elsewhere within the extensive Mesozoic flysch belt (17). The marble and possibly associated metasedimentary wall rocks could be older than the flysch and correlative to a unit of Paleozoic-age limestone, dolomite, argillite, phyllite, metachert, and quartz-mica and chlorite schist that is exposed west of Tofty near the Yukon River (17). Near Tofty, this material could either occur as fault-bounded slivers intercalated within the flysch, or underlie the flysch and be exposed in an erosional window. Significantly, apatite, which is characteristic of the marble on upper Idaho Gulch, has not been identified in the Paleozoic-age carbonate rocks west of Tofty.

Alternatively, the marble and regolith on upper Idaho Gulch may represent a carbonatite and its residual weathering product. Calcite, ankeritic dolomite, biotite, fluorapatite, monazite, xenotime, magnetite, pyrite, anatase, hematite, zircon, columbium-bearing rutile, ilmenorutile, columbite, and aeschynite are present in the regolith and/or marble. This mineralogy closely resembles that of the apatite-magnetite variety of carbonatite as described by Pecora (20). Similarly, the trace element composition of the marble and/or regolith closely resembles that of carbonatites (table 10). Particularly close agreement for level of concentration of trace elements exists for barium, titanium, and  $P_2O_5$ .

Magnetite and  $P_2O_5$  and to a lesser extent, columbium and zirconium, are concentrated in the regolith to levels above those in the parent marble (table 10). This upgraded material is directly comparable to upgraded concentrations of magnetite,  $P_2O_5$ , columbium, and zirconium in residual soils overlying the Sukula carbonatite complex in southeastern Uganda (21), in "apatite-francolite regolith" overlying the Sokli carbonatite complex in Finland (22), and elsewhere (23).

The overall interpreted regional geologic setting and the rock assemblages found on upper Idaho Gulch are not overwhelmingly similar to those of classic carbonatite occurrences (20, 24). In particular, no alkalic igneous rocks or alkali-rich alteration halo have been identified in the Tofty area. However, it is possible that the marble intruded along the structurally complex northwestern margin of the flysch basin and that any associated alkalic rocks or alteration halo either remain hidden beneath the extensive silt cover or have not yet been exposed by erosion. Alternatively, poorly exposed and preserved occurrences of serpentinized rock in the vicinity of upper Idaho Gulch may represent metamorphosed mafic alkalic rocks

The grade and tonnage of the identified columbium resource on upper Idaho Gulch is considerably lower than that in exploitable columbium-bearing carbonatites worldwide. However, uneconomic columbium grades similar to or lower than those on upper Idaho Gulch have been identified in carbonatites elsewhere. Specifically, at Magnet Cove, AR, only 6 of 21 samples of the carbonatite exposure in Kinsey Quarry contained detectable columbium with concentration ranging between 0.01 and 0.07 pct (18). Additionally, it should be noted that the extent of the marble that underlies the regolith on upper Idaho Gulch is unknown, and that only three samples of marble have been analyzed. Therefore there is a possibility for yet undiscovered, possibly higher grade columbium resources in the Tofty area.

#### **SOURCES OF PLACER MINERALS**

The bedrock source of the tin belt placer minerals is unknown. Wayland (8) outlines two hypotheses to explain possible origins. One suggests the northeast alignment of placer deposits reflects the trend of an ancient stream channel that has been reworked by younger streams. In this hypothesis, the placer minerals would have been derived from a source outside of the tin belt. The other hypothesis proposes that the placer constituents were derived from sources within the tin belt and that the placer deposits were formed from virtual in-place weathering. Wayland concludes that the second theory probably best explains the origin of the cassiterite, but that "the monazite, aeschynite, apatite, and zircon can be accounted for under either hypothesis" (8, p. 403).

This investigation shows that a source for some of the placer minerals lies within the tin belt, northwest of the existing placer deposits. High concentrations of radioactive minerals and columbium in placer gravels on Idaho Gulch likely result from erosion of ferruginous regolith on upper Idaho Gulch. High concentration of radioactive minerals and columbium in tailings piles on Miller and Deep Creeks and the reported presence of apatite- and magnetite-bearing dolomite on Harter Gulch (8) likewise suggest additional lode sources in the headwaters of those creeks.

Table 10.—Trace-element abundances and variations in reported (20) carbonatite deposits and marble and regolith on upper Idaho Gulch, percent

Trace element	Reported carbonatite	Marble <sup>1</sup>	Regolith <sup>2</sup>	Trace element	Reported carbonatite	Marble <sup>1</sup>	Regolith <sup>2</sup>
Ce <sup>3</sup>	0.02 - ? .05 -10.0 .50 - 2.0 .0015	0.06 -0.24 NA NA .025073	0 - 0.20 .5->6.0 040 012	Zr Ti P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.001-0.02 .10 -3.0 .10 -6.0	0.02-0.065 NA 1.32-2.74	0 - 0.09 .2 - 2.0 .14-21.4

NA Not analyzed.

Only 3 samples collected (see table 6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See tables 2 and 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Includes all rare-earth elements

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Two parallel N 60 E trending, northwest-dipping lenses of slightly radioactive iron-rich regolith were identified on upper Idaho Gulch in 1956 and investigated in 1984 by the Bureau of Mines. The regolith contains major amounts of magnetic and nonmagnetic iron oxide minerals, abundant apatite and zircon, moderate amounts of pyrite, monazite, and columbium-bearing rutile. The regolith also contains trace amounts of xenotime and the columbium minerals aeschynite, columbite, and ilmenorutile. Trace to major concentrations of barium, strontium. lanthanum, cerium, yttrium, silver, and titanium have also been identified. Each lens has a strike length of approximately 1,200 ft and persists for 200 to 250 ft downdip where unweathered magnetite-pyrite-apatitezircon-bearing dolomitic marble has been encountered in drill core.

High columbium and generally higher zirconium and  $P_2O_5$  concentrations are restricted to a central, hematiterich, red-brown portion of the regolith lenses. These mineralized zones have an average thickness of approximately 22 ft, probably decrease in thickness by 50 pct 150 ft downdip, and have average columbium grades between 0.04 pct and 0.07 pct. Given these dimensions and at a grade of 0.07 pct Cb, the regolith lenses on upper Idaho Gulch contain approximately 340,000 lb of columbium

resources. Approximately 30,000 lb of this resource is indicated whereas 310,000 lb is inferred. Large additional columbium resources are probably present in the dolomitic marble. The regolith also contains inferred resources of approximately 340,000 lb of zirconium and 12,250 st of  $P_2O_5$ .

Calculated composite concentrates from two large samples of regolith contained 53 and 57 pct of the columbium at grades of 0.97 and 0.86 pct Cb, respectively. In each case the grade could be improved to 1.1 pct Cb with a sacrifice of 9 pct recovery.

The unweathered source of the regolith, a dolomitic marble, could be of either igneous or sedimentary origin. Its mineralogy and trace-element geochemistry and the similarity of the regolith to descriptions of other columbium-enriched regoliths suggest the marble is a carbonatite. However, the lack of associated alkalic igneous rocks or alkali-rich alteration halo and the stratiform nature of the regolith can be interpreted as evidence for sedimentary origin of the marble.

The marble and regolith are a lode source for some of the minerals of the Tofty placer deposits. Similar bedrock geology or placer mineralogy suggests that additional lode sources may exist in the headwaters of Miller Gulch, Deep Creek, and Harter Gulch.

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### APPENDIX A.—MODIFIED 1956 DRILL CORE LOGS AND GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTIONS CONSTRUCTED FROM DRILL CORE DATA

Tables A-1 through A-9 are logs of diamond drill holes D-1 through D-9. Geologic cross sections through drill holes D-1 through D-9 and trench T-8 are presented in figures A-1 through A-6.

#### Table A-1.-Log of diamond drill hole D-1, Idaho Gulch

Bearing Inclination Collar elevation		S 14: E Depth
interval. ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 9.8	0.70	Muscovite-quartz schist, weathered with limonite on fractures.
9.8 to 39.7	5.15	Dark quartz-muscovite schist with up to 1-in-wide quartz veins and limonite on fractures.
39.7 to 56.6	.30	White quartzose phyllite with partings of muscovite phyllite and quartz veins.
56.6 to 126.5	2.45	Black graphite-muscovite schist, minor pyrite and quartz veins.
126.5 to 132.2	.0	Black phyllite with limonite on fractures.
132.2 to 143.3	.35	Limonite (regolith).
143.3 to 162.8	10.70	Gray to light-green calcareous quartz-chlorite-sericite phyllite.
162.8 to 194.0	6.85	Dark-gray argillite and chloritic schist, limonite after pyrite and on fractures.

#### Table A-2.—Log of diamond drill hole D-2, Idaho Gulch

Bearing Inclination Collar elevation ft	S 15° E 68°30′ 52	Depth	179.4
Conai Gievation			

Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 3.0	0.00	Silt with fragments of phyllite.
3.0 to 14.5	1.5	Muscovite-quartz schist, weathered with limonite on fractures.
14.5 to 38	(1)	Dark guartz-muscovite schist with local guartz veinlets.
38 to 105	16.88	White to gray quartzose muscovite phyllite grading downward to thinly laminated quartz and muscovite schist with minor pyrite and muscovite-graphite phyllite.
105 to 179.4	21.34	Muscovite-graphite pyllite grades downward into graphite-muscovite schist, and then, to graphitic argillite. Pyrite disseminated throughout.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Included with recovery from 38- to 105-ft interval.

#### Table A-3.—Log of diamond drill hole D-3, Idaho Guich

278.0

Inclination Collar elevation		-90° Depth		
Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description		
0.0 to 9.0	0.0	Frozen silt.		
9.0 to 58.0	.99	Gray phyllite with limonite on fractures.		
58.0 to 60.0	.98	Quartz with limonite after pyrite.		
60.0 to 190.7	8.80	Interlaminated dark-gray to black quartz and muscovite-graphite schists, thin bands of quartz, some with pyrite.		
190.7 to 192.0	.45	Calcareous chlorite-sericite schist with limonite after pyrite and calcite veinlets.		
192.0 to 193.3	1.0	Granular limonite (regolith).		
193.3 to 264.7	( <sup>2</sup> )	Dolomitic marble, weathered, yellow color with abundant quartz and magnetite grains, limonite after pyrite, and veinlets of limonite, calcite-dolomite, and apatite.		
264.7 to 278.0	38.97	Quartz-chlorite-sericite schist with disseminated magnetite and pyrite.		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rock type identified from coarse cuttings in sludge. <sup>2</sup>Included with 264.7- to 278.0-ft interval.

#### Table A-4.—Log of diamond drill hole D-4, Idaho Gulch

Inclination	−90° 811	Size: NX, 0 to 20.0 ft; BX, 20.0 to 50.4 ft; AX, 50.4 to 184.7 ft; EX, 184.7 to 259.8 ft.
Depth	259.8	

Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description		
0.0 to 5.0	10.0	Frozen silt.		
5.0 to 40.0	1.0	Black phyllite.		
40.0 to 50.4	.25	Kaolinized phyllite.		
50.4 to 65.4	.43	Siliceous light gray phyllite with pyrite.		
65.4 to 75.4	.48	Decomposed Phyllite.		
75.4 to 135.4	10.71	Gray to black phyllite with thin quartz seams.		
135.4 to 174.1	15.86	Slightly calcareous quartz-chlorite-muscovite ± (talc-serpentine) phyllite with quartz along foliation.		
174.1 to 191.0	( <sup>1.2</sup> )	Unweathered moderately coarsely crystalline dolomitic marble with disseminated magnetite, pyrite and pyrrhotite, and rare quartz veins.		
191.0 to 259.8	16.36	Limonite-stained calcareous dolomite marble with disseminated magnetite. More altered intervals include 225 to 228 ft and 232 to 245 ft.		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rock type identified from coarse cuttings in sludge. <sup>2</sup>Included with 191.0- to 259.8-ft intervals.

#### Table A-5.—Log of diamond drill hole D-5, Idaho Gulch

Inclination  Collar elevation ft  Depth ft	−90° 801 155.1	Size: NX, 0 to 45.7 ft; BX, 45.7 to 75.4 ft; AX, 75.4 to 95.4 ft; EX, 95.4 to 155.1 ft.
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Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 5.0	10.0	Frozen silt, granular dolomite, and limonite.
5.0 to 10.0	.15	Phyllite, quartz, and granular limonite.
10.0 to 27.9	8.84	Weathered, granular rock with coarse dolomite grains in a fine limonitic matrix. Contains fragments of chloritic material, magnetite, limonite after pyrite, pyrite, limonite on fractures, and guartz veins.
27.9 to 65.4	20.39	Coarse dolomitic marble with disseminated magnetite, pyrite, and trace pyrrhotite. Minor hematite after magnetite and local limonite on fractures. Chloritic at base.
65.4 to 80.4	3.85	Gray calcareous phyllite.
80.4 to 155.1	1.01	Black phyllite with quartz veinlets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rock type identified from coarse cuttings in sludge.

#### Table A-6.—Log of diamond drill hole D-6, Idaho Gulch

Inclination	−90°	Depth ft	134.6
Collar elevation ft	827	Size: NX, 0 to 5.0 ft; BX, 5.0 to 45.0 ft; AX, 45.0 to 134.6 ft.	

Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 5.0	0.0	Frozen silt and schist fragments.
5.0 to 18.0	.17	Frozen, fractured and altered muscovite-graphite phyllite.
18.0 to 25.0	.78	Fractured and weathered muscovite phyllite, minor guartz veins and limonite.
25.0 to 61.0	.30	Frozen granular limonite, some magnetite (regolith).
61.0 to 70.0	(¹)	Weathered and fractured limonitic marble, locally chlorite- and sericite-rich with disseminated magnetite, hematite, and limonite after pyrite and veinlets of limonite and calcite.
70.0 to 74.4	(')	Porous limonite with calcite veinlets.
74.4 to 75.0	(1)	Kaolinitic schist
75.0 to 95.4	24.9	Interfoliated muscovite ± chlorite ± sericite schists with minor limonite after pyrite and on fractures
95.4 to 110.4	5.68	Chlorite-quartz-calcite schist.
110.4 to 134.6	6.00	Interfoliated dolomitic limestone and pyritic graphite schist.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Included with 75.0- to 95.4-ft interval.

#### Table A-7.—Log of diamond drill hole D-7, Idaho Gulch

Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 14.3 14.3 to 19.3 19.3 to 19.8 19.8 to 43.3	(¹) 3.71 .5 16.55	Dark, goethite-limonite hematite-bearing regolith, nonmagnetic. Orange earthy limonitic regolith with fragments of chloritic phyllite. Kaolinitic clay with a few fragments of metallic goethite. Nonfoliated, chlorite-sericite-quartz phyllite with segregations of chlorite-serpentine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Included with 14.3- to 19.3-ft interval.

#### Table A-8.-Log of diamond drill hole D-8, Idaho Gulch

Inclination Collar elevation	ft	-90° 836	Depth				
Interval, ft	Recovery, ft		Description				
0.0 to 5.0 5.0 to 13.8 13.8 to 50.3	(¹) 2.64 4.95	Nonmagne	onitic magnetic regolith. tic limonitic regolith. c-sericite-(serpentine) schist, locally calcareous and altered to kaolinite	and			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Included with 5.0- to 13.8-ft interval.

### Table A-9.—Log of diamond drill hole D-9, Idaho Gulch

Inclination ft	90° 851	Depth	143.9
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Interval, ft	Recovery, ft	Description
0.0 to 45.3	3.08	Dark-gray to blue-colored weathered and fractured phyllite; locally limonitic.
45.3 to 50.3	1.85	Chloritic schist.
50.3 to 74.3	2.60	Dark-gray to blue-colored decomposed phyllite with iron-stained quartz.
74.3 to 89.4	1.63	Frozen granular limonite (regolith).
89.4 to 93.7	1.85	Dark-gray calcareous schist.
93.7 to 109.6	.70	Chlorite schist, slightly calcareous, with thin quartz seams that contain pyrite.
109.6 to 110.4	10	Talc schist.
110.4 to 112.8	1.0	Granular limonite
112.8 to 143.9	5.30	Gray, slightly calcareous schist

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rock type identified from coarse cuttings in sludge.

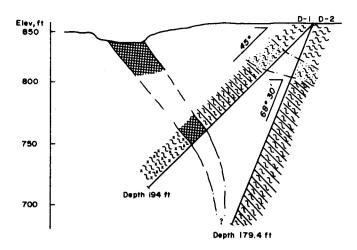


Figure A-1.—Geologic section through drill holes D-1 and D-2 and trench T-8.

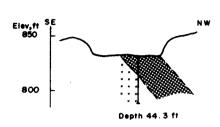


Figure A-3.—Geologic section through drill hole D-7 and trench T-8.

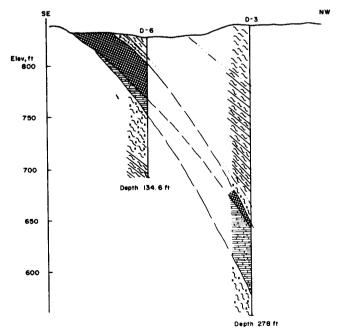
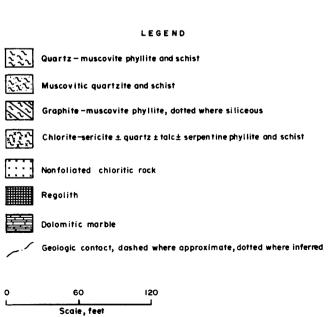


Figure A-2.—Geologic section through drill holes D-3 and D-6 and trench T-8.



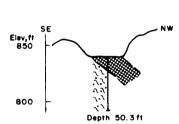


Figure A-4.—Geologic section through drill hole D-8 and trench T-8.

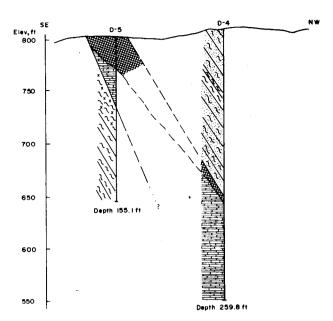


Figure A-6.—Geologic section through drill holes D-4 and D-5 and trench T-6.

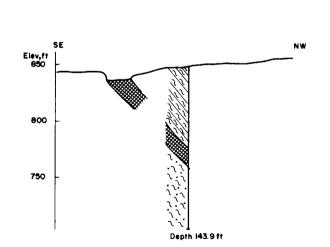
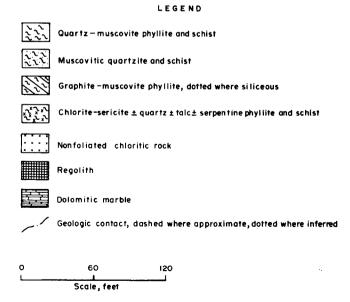


Figure A-5.—Geologic section through drill hole D-9 and trench T-8.



# APPENDIX B.—TEST PROCEDURE FOR CHARACTERIZATION OF TOFTY REGOLITH CONCENTRATES 5, 9, 15, AND 30

Planned concentrate samples were acid leached in a 1:1 HCl solution to remove excess iron oxide. The material was then screened at 20 mesh. The plus 20-mesh fraction was optically, radiometrically, and spectroscopically examined and was found to contain no properties characteristic of the suspected columbium-bearing minerals. The remaining minus 20-mesh fraction of each sample was run through a laboratory-model isodynamic magnetic separator at 0-, 0.1-, 0.2-, 0.3-, 0.4-, 0.5-, 0.6-, 1.0-, and 1.7-A settings to isolate minerals of similar magnetic susceptibilities. These fractions were examined optically, radiometrically, and spectroscopically to determine possible concentrations of columbium-bearing minerals. The fractions determined to contain the highest concentration of columbium were prepared in polished grain mounts for scanning electron microscope (SEM) and microprobe studies. Aeschynite was positively identified by SEM methods and found to be well concentrated in the 0.7-A magnetic fraction. Columbite was also identified and found concentrated in the 0.5-A magnetic fraction. Columbium-bearing rutile (possibly altered in part to ilmenorutile) was also concentrated in the 0.5-A fraction. Table B-1 summarizes the results of the analyses.

Table B-1.—Mineralogical analyses of magnetic¹ fractions of samples representative of the regolith concentrates selected for SEM studies, weight percent

Magnetic fraction A	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0
Magnetite	35	ND	ND	ND	ND
Goethite	35	60	ND	ND	ND
Miscellaneous silicates	20	25	15	10	25
Columbite	6	6	20	ND	ND
Monazite	4	4	ND	ND	ND
Aeschynite	ND	2	5	70	45
Rutile	ND	ND	ND	10	10
Zircon	ND	ND	60	10	15
Other	ND	ND	ND	NĎ	5

ND Not detected.

Separated on a laboratory-model isodynamic magnetic separator.

# APPENDIX C.—RESULTS OF EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSES¹ OF REGOLITH SAMPLES

Sample	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	26
				CON	CENTRA	ΓΙΟΝ, ppn	1						
Ag	<70	<10	<100	60	100	<80	<40	<60	<400	<400	<100	< 300	<300
	<200	1,000	900	<200	<200	<500	<400	<100	<1,000	<800	<90	< 700	<800
	<20	<40	<40	<20	<20	<50	<30	<20	<400	<400	<20	< 30	<50
	<60	<100	<100	<40	<40	<100	<80	<30	<100	<100	<200	< 100	<100
	6	7	4	4	5	<3	<2	4	4	<3	4	5	5
Bi	<100	<100	<500	<2,000	<1,000	<100	<400	<200	<500	<100	<100	<6,000	<2,000
	<400	600	200	<200	<300	<100	400	<100	300	400	600	<100	700
	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	50	100	50	60	80	200	100	<30	200	200	200	100	100
	100	700	200	1,000	400	800	500	70	300	400	1,000	2,000	600
Cu	30	10	6	10	30	20	20	30	10	<6	9	<6	40
Ga	20	30	20	<9	30	60	30	20	20	20	40	<2	20
La	<300	1,000	<300	<100	<100	1,000	1,000	<100	<100	<200	<200	<100	800
Li	<30	<20	<20	<20	<30	<30	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Mo	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Ni	200	700	600	1,000	400	900	800	100	<400	500	2,000	3,000	800
Pb	<50	100	<40	<60	<50	90	<20	<40	<20	<20	<50	<20	<20
Pd	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Pt	<40	<100	<80	<70	<50	<100	<100	<40	<100	<100	<200	<200	<100
Sb	<2,000	<2,000	<2,000	<1,000	<2,000	<1,000	<1,000	<2,000	<3,000	<3,000	<2,000	<3,000	<3,000
Sc Sn Sr Ta	<4	10	<4	<4	<5	10	<8	<4	<8	<8	<4	<4	<7
	<200	<200	400	<200	<200	<200	<80	<200	<800	<70	<300	<200	<100
	100	4,000	1,000	3	10	1,000	700	300	300	200	40	30	1,000
	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	<300
	<500	<400	<500	<400	<400	<400	<400	<400	<400	<400	<700	<400	<600
Ti	5,000	10,000	5,000	3,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	4,000	9,000	10,000	4,000	2,000	6,000
V	300	500	500	200	400	800	500	400	500	600	600	200	500
Y	<9	<10	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9	<9
Zn	100	90	40	100	100	<10	<4	<20	<10	<10	<50	<40	60
Zr	100	1,000	300	<30	60	400	200	100	2,000	1,000	100	<30	500
				CON	CENTRA	ΓΙΟΝ, pct							
Al Ba Ca Fe K	>5 .6 <.5 10 10	>3 >6 3 10 5	0.6 .8 1 10 7			>3 .7 3 10 7	1 .5 <.6 10 4	>6 1 <.4 10 7	0.6 .1 <.6 >10 6	.08		.1	.5
Mg Mn Na P	.4 >4 <.3 <1 >10	.3 >5 <.3 3 5	.3 >4 <.3 <2 >10	1 >2 <.3 <.7 >10	1 >2 < <.3 <.7 >10	.9 >6 <.3 <.7 >10	.4 >5 <.3 <1 >10	.4 >4 <.3 <.8 >10	<.0 >10 <.3 <.7 >10	5 <.0° >10 <.3 <.7 >10	1 .2 >3 <.3 <.9 >10	.2 >9 <.3 <1 >10	.2 >10 <.3 2 >10

<sup>1</sup>Analyses by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

RESULTS OF EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSES' OF REGOLITH SAMPLES—Continued

San	nple	27	28	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			CONCENTE	RATION, pp	m					
Ag As Au B Be		<300 <800 <40 <90	<30 <100 <20 <50 4	<80 <200 <20 <50 8	<300 <800 <40 <100 <3	<70 <800 <50 <100 <3	· 5 · 90 · 100 · 300 5	40 90 50 100 4	<70 <90 <20 <200 8	<100 <100 <20 100 7	<50 <100 <20 <70 6	200 <1,000 <20 100 4	100 <90 <20 100 9
Bi Cb Cd Co Cr		<200 300 <5 100 400	<600 <200 <5 <20 100	<100 <300 <5 200 6,000	<2,000 <200 <5 90 600	<200 800 <5 100 200	200 1,000 5 400 300	100 200 · 5 60 200	<ul><li>700</li><li>70</li><li>5</li><li>80</li><li>500</li></ul>	<100 <100 <.5 <10 50	<100 <100 <5 <10 200	<100 <100 <5 100 200	<100 <200 <5 70 100
Cu Ga La Li Mo		6 30 300 <20 <1	100 <10 <100 <20 <1	30 20 <100 <20 <1	20 <9 <100 <20 <1	40 20 300 <20 -1	100 70 300 20 1	20 <10 <100 <20 <1	50 <10 <100 <20 <1	40 √8 <100 <20 <1	50 <2 <100 <20 <1	100 60 300 80 <1	100 40 <300 70 <1
Ni Pb Pd Pt Sb		400 <20 <1 <100 <2,000	100 <20 <1 <6 <600	3,000 <60 <1 <300 <3,000	1,000 <20 <1 <100 <3,000	800 <20 <1 <100 <3,000	2,000 60 1 300 3,000	400 30 1 70 3,000	600 < 70 - 1 < 90 < 4,000	200 <30 <1 <20 <600	400 <:20 <:1 <:30 <:600	200 100 <1 <20 <700	400 <80 <1 <6 <2,000
Sc Sn Sr Ta Te		<4 <20 400 <200 <400	<4 <80 20 <200 <400	<9 <300 100 <300 1,000	<4 <200 80 <200 <400	200 50 200 200 400	20 800 70 200 900	200 1,000 300 600	600 2,000 100 900	<4 <100 8 <200 <400	<4 <100 60 <200 <400	<5 <300 100 <200 <400	<5 <300 100 <200 <900
Ti V Y Zn Zr		7,000 500 <9 <1 2,000	10,000 400 <9 <30 40	3,000 400 <9 200 90	10,000 500 <9 40 200	10,000 600 < 9 < 60 400	20,000 1,000 9 20 4,000	10,000 600 9 40 90	10,000 800 9 20 100	6,000 200 < 9 80 < 30	6,000 100 < 9 80 30	7,000 700 <10 <2 200	6,000 400 <9 200 100
						CONCENT	RATION, p	ct					
Al Ba Ca Fe K		1 ∴3 <∴6 10 6	>6 .1 1 7 10	>3 .3 <.4 10 8	>3 4 ≤.8 10 9	0.8 .1 .2 >10 9	2 .3 .1 10 4	0.7 .2 -10 -10 7	1 ∴3 ≥10 ≥10 <1	>5 .2 .9 8 >10	<5 ∴1 2 9 >10	>7 1 <.1 9 >10	>6 .6 .7 >10 10
Mg Mn Na P Si		.2 >10 <.3 <2 >10	1 .3 2 <.7 >10	.4 >4 <.3 <2 >10	.3 >8 <.3 <1 >10	.2 >5 <.3 <1 >10	.2 -7 3 -2 -10	.5 ≥5 ≤.3 6 3	.4 >5 3 8 4	1 7 <.3 <.7 >10	1 >2 <.3 <.7 >10	.4 >3 <.3 <.7 >10	.4 >2 <.3 <.7 >10

¹Analyses by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

# APPENDIX D.—RESULTS OF MAGNETIC,¹ RADIOMETRIC,² AND SOIL SAMPLE³ SURVEYS

Station	Magnetic intensity, gammas	Radioactivity,	Cb,	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , pct	Zn,	Station	Magnetic intensity,	Radioactivity,	Cb,	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ,	Zn,
	gammas	LINE 9,600					gammas	cps LINE 10,000	ppm	pct	ppm
9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	524 507 521 522 520	73 72 73 72 68 76 76	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9.500 SE 9.525 SE 9.550 SE 9.575 SE 9.600 SE 9.625 SE 9.650 SE	536 536 569 580	80 87 97 106 93 83 85	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	531 526	76 83 74 73 72 67 66	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9.675 SE 9.700 SE 9.725 SE 9.750 SE 9.775 SE 9.800 SE	653	79 86 86 86 95 110 93	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	520 508 504 465 514 515 530	66 70 70 78 71 76 71	XS XS XS XS XS XS XS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	9.850 SE 9.875 SE 9.900 SE 9.925 SE 9.950 SE 9.975 SE 10.000 SE	602 524 586 537 536 524 444	113 102 114 103 87 94 96	28 28 28 28 28 28 28	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,500 SE	526	LINE 9.800		110				LINE 10,200	NE		
9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	526 522 526 522 530 528 530	75 70 72 72 71 84 72	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	602 600 595 607 620 630 641	91 90 89 87 88 95 96	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.14 .12 .18 .16 .15 .13	170 190 210 200 180 190
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	545 521 530 535 529 539 523	74 70 75 75 72 72 72 78	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,755 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	641 661 672 661 643 627 616	88 95 90 89 85 88	<50 <50 <50 NS <50 <50 <50	.12 .10 .10 NS .10 .12	180 200 180 NS 180 200
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	527 540 524 520 520 524 526	77 78 82 87 88 81 83	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	9.850 SE 9.875 SE 9.900 SE 9.925 SE 9.950 SE 9.975 SE 10.000 SE	610 583 557 537 553 523 508	88 94 93 111 109 102 83	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.14 .36 .10 .29 .11 .13	180 210 170 220 170 180 190
9,500 SE	566	LINE 10,000 86	NE <:50	0.25	070	0.500.05		LINE 10,300			
9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	559 536 531 562 565 447	87 84 81 88 92 107	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.35 .16 .18 .13 .23 .16	270 190 230 200 180 190	9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	632 611 622 630 685 694 868	96 101 102 108 116 124 115	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	578 685 605 648 895 645 538	106 100 91 89 87 89 91	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.16 .12 .16 .17 .20 .11	200 170 190 190 200 190 210	9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	636 576 586 569 545 544 626	117 86 99 96 114 190 204	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE NS No sar	512 494 519 525 546 551 540	89 92 97 99 102 97 86	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.12 .14 .12 .20 .16 .14	170 200 190 220 200 200 220	9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	816 527 518 519 511 489 501	214 220 147 134 110 93 92	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS

NS No sample, NR No reading.

¹Total-field magnetic intensity, all readings have a base of 56,000 gammas.

²Total-count gamma-ray radiation.

³Soil sample analyses by XRF by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

## RESULTS OF MAGNETIC, 1 RADIOMETRIC, 2 AND SOIL SAMPLE 3 SURVEYS—Continued

Station	Magnetic intensity, gammas	Radioactivity, cps	Cb,	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , pct	Zn, ppm	Station	Magnetic intensity, gammas	Radioactivity, cps	Cb.	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , pct	Zn. ppm
		LINE 10,400	NE					LINE 10,700	NE		
9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	581 576 645 738	86 88 92 92 96 113	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.19 .16 .13 .13 .13 .77 .32	180 190 180 190 190 210 220	9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	527 521 508 507	73 75 78 73 74 70 81	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	576 545 397 504 548	174 149 112 105 98 98 106	NS 250 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	NS 5.40 .29 .28 .17 .20	NS 460 180 230 170 200	9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	535 543 576 694	79 78 73 81 86 84 63	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	602 560 507 510	133 167 250 179 189 124 100	<50 <50 180 <50 70 <50 <50	.26 .56 2.60 .52 .89 .31	210 330 1160 280 320 290 200	9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	712 548 521 519	71 62 60 63 63 63 61	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
		LINE 10,500						LINE 10,800			
9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	551 539 636 624 659	94 91 86 81 87 103 108	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,555 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	. 592 . 633 . 662 . 600	78 81 79 75 73 82 104	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	. 587 . 586 . 595 . 594 . 585	159 112 107 90 87 90 98	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	544 532 564 594 643	101 88 65 62 87 71 60	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	. 631 . 591 . 601 . 545	174 208 196 188 165 139	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	. 655 . 591 . 594 . 567	57 NR 66 63 61 62 62	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
		LINE 10,600	) NE					LINE 10,900			
9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	. 547 . 553 . 592 . 715 . 954	86 101 102 90 92 99 127	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.18 .17 .22 .21 .16 .28 5.10	200 200 200 220 190 210 480	9,500 SE 9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	. 577 . 651 . 735 . 909	83 90 88 84 85 79 84	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.26 .13 .13 .14 .13 .25	210 190 200 200 190 200 180
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	. 593 . 540 . 555 . 568 . 586	142 98 97 99 98 87 83	480 270 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	1.85 .26 .17 .22 .20 .22	290 220 200 230 170 190 160	9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	. 572 . 581 . 557 . 574 . 587	84 89 87 114 117 90 81	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.17 .15 .10 .23 .39 .20	180 180 180 220 390 210
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	558 560 556 553 543 563	95 86 77 81 76 83 83	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.26 .25 .36 .21 .25 .24	250 250 170 180 200 230 190	9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	. 588 . 736 . 724 . 566	79 72 82 86 140 91 85	<50 <50 <50 340 <50 100 <50	.19 .13 .25 2.43 1.05 .21	180 180 280 390 220 260 230

NS No sample, NR No reading.

¹Total-field magnetic intensity, all readings have a base of 56,000 gammas.

²Total-count gamma-ray radiation.

³Soil sample analyses by XRF by Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, NV.

RESULTS OF MAGNETIC,1 RADIOMETRIC,2 AND SOIL SAMPLE3 SURVEYS—Continued

Station	Magnetic intensity, gammas	Radioactivity, cps	Cb. ppm	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> .	Zn. ppm	Station	Magnetic intensity, gammas	Radioactivity, cps	Cb, ppm	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , pct	Zn, ppm
		LINE 11,000	NE			-	-	LINE 11,	300 NE		
9.500 SE 9.525 SE 9.550 SE 9.575 SE 9.600 SE 9.625 SE 9.650 SE	554 577 575 646 700	82 82 89 93 86 97 95	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	9,575 SE . 9,600 SE . 9,625 SE .	523 524 516 521 525 528 540	70 66 75 70 69 70 68	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	0.17 .16 .15 .19 .16 .15	200 190 190 190 200 200 220
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	571 556 545 563 569	87 79 80 76 76 79 74	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,700 SE   9,725 SE   9,750 SE   9,775 SE   9,800 SE	536 540 551 519 528 530 526	65 71 77 65 77 76 76	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.14 .13 .14 .15 .12 .13	220 180 180 210 190 200 200
9.850 SE 9.875 SE 9.900 SE 9.925 SE 9.950 SE 9.975 SE 10.000 SE 10.025 SE	623	80 81 82 83 79 79 78 75	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS N	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	9,875 SE . 9,900 SE . 9,925 SE .	535 540 535 527 525 516 549	83 87 81 66 75 82 81	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.11 .20 .14 .14 .16 .17	190 200 200 190 180 200 200
9.500 SE 9.525 SE 9.550 SE 9.575 SE 9.600 SE 9.625 SE	523 507 506 520 536 562	83 93 85 90 85 87	<pre></pre>	0.17 .20 .14 .15 .10	200 200 200 180 190 240	10,025 SE 10.050 SE 10,075 SE 10,100 SE 10,125 SE 10,150 SE 10,175 SE 10,200 SE	531 532 538 528 527 556 565 545	73 74 76 88 81 85 76	50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	.18 .16 .16 .17 .20 .13 .15	190 190 190 190 190 190 200 180
9,650 SE	562	84	<50	.15	190			LINE 11,	500 NE		
9,675 SE 9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE 9,775 SE 9,800 SE 9,825 SE	771 946 660 585 566	85 82 86 85 78 82 86	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.12 .11 .15 .18 .15 .14	180 190 190 190 200 210 200	9,550 SE . 9,575 SE . 9,600 SE .	540 528 533 528 519 520 519	69 69 69 77 77 82 84	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE 10,000 SE	580 611 594	87 82 88 86 84 82 75	<50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50 <50	.12 .17 .15 .20 .14 .17	200 210 200 200 190 190 190	9,700 SE 9,725 SE 9,750 SE		81 82 74 79 85 85 84	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
10,025 SE 10,050 SE 10,075 SE 10,100 SE	595 551 530 539	NR NR NR NR	<50 NS NS NS	NS NS NS	180 NS NS NS	9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE	511 512 502 506	85 80 82 77 77	NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS
9,500 SE	547	84	NS	NS	NS	9,975 SE 10,000 SE	510 . 51 <b>1</b>	76 75	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS
9,525 SE 9,550 SE 9,575 SE 9,600 SE 9,625 SE 9,650 SE	550 536 530 543 557	81 90 88 92 85 82	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	10,025 SE 10,050 SE 10,075 SE 10,100 SE 10,125 SE 10,150 SE	533 527 521 521 521 514 531	81 81 79 81 87 88	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS
9.675 SE 9.700 SE 9.725 SE 9.750 SE 9.775 SE 9.800 SE 9.825 SE	808 625 498 506 508	80 82 87 92 77 78 70	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	10,175 SE 10,200 SE 10,225 SE 10,250 SE 10,275 SE 10,300 SE 10,325 SE	. 535 . 532 . 532 . 539 . 531 . 535 . 531	80 81 85 81 79 78 82	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS
9,850 SE 9,875 SE		79 82	NS NS	NS	NS NS	10,350 SE	530	64	NS	NS	NS
9,875 SE 9,900 SE 9,925 SE 9,950 SE 9,975 SE	543 540	82 82 88 87 82	NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS	10,375 SE 10,400 SE NS No	531 535 sample,	69 72 NR No reading	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS
10,000 SE 10,025 SE 10,050 SE 10,075 SE 10,100 SE 10,125 SE 10,150 SE 10,175 SE 10,200 SE	518 527 527 527 526 519 522 522 521	76 78 77 78 75 77 80 75 81	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS NS	<sup>2</sup> Total-cou	unt gamma ple analyse	intensity, all rea ray radiation. ss by XRF by Bu overnment Print	reau's Ren	o Research (	Center, Reno, I

NV.