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and some first walio a Onion Lake Coal Exploration 1980* Shell Canada Resources Ltd. by Dennis E. Bell March 31, 1981 NTS, 98IIOW C.L.# 4220 - 4223, 4749



PR-Onion Lake 80 (1)A



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ONION LAKE

COAL EXPLORATION

<u>-1980-</u>

Coal Licences 4220 - 4223 Inclusive and 4749 (5 total) Peace River Land District Northeast British Columbia National Topographic Series 93 I/10 W (Wapiti Lake) Latitude and Longitude: 54 degrees, 44 minutes north 120 degrees, 48 minutes west Owner: Shell Canada Resources Limited Operator: Crows Nest Resources Limited Consultant and Author: Dennis E. Bell, P. Geol.(Alberta) Max Air Exploration Limited P.O. Box 878 Jasper, Alberta, TOE 1E0 Field Work: June 9th through August 29th, 1980 Submission Date: March 31, 1981

CNRL Coal Land Disposition Map HC-18B



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PROFESSIONAL VERIFICATION OF REPORT

Entitled: Onion Lake Coal Exploration, 1980 Peace River Land District Northeast British Columbia B.C. Coal Licences 4220-4223 Inclusive and 4749 (5 total)

Mr. Dennis E. Bell carried out the 1980 geological field program on the Onion Lake, northeast British Columbia coal licences held by Shell Canada Resources Limited and operated by Crows Nest Resources Limited.

Dennis E. Bell, B.Sc., graduated in Geology from Dalhousie University in 1965. Since 1968 he has specialized in basic field mapping, structural interpretation, and exploration supervision in the coking coal belt of British Columbia and Alberta. He has worked on projects similar to this property for this Company and for such major coal companies as Manalta Coal Ltd., Luscar Ltd., Fording Coal Ltd., and Petro-Canada. Mr. Bell is registered as a Professional Geologist in the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta.

I consider the aforementioned geologist to be well qualified to have undertaken the responsibilities he was assigned for this project. I am satisfied that the attached report dated March 31, 1981, has been competently prepared and justly represents the information obtained from this project.



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J. J. Crabb, P. Eng.

March 31, 1981



| Crows | Nest Resource | es Limited |
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| LC | CATION | MAP |
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| AUTHOR A WHITE | SCALE | ENCLOSURE NO |
| DATE 81 03 05 | REVISED | |
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1.0 SUMMARY

During the field season of 1980, Crows Nest Resources Limited conducted a surface detail geological mapping program over a 7 km x 3 km stretch of the coking coal belt of northeastern British Columbia. The area is called Onion Lake after the lake of the same name situated 1 km southward. Cost of the project was approximately \$39,000.

Two mapping pairs, led by Dennis Bell, consultant, and Alan White, geologist, Crows Nest Resources, spent 15 days in the area, mapping on a base of 1:5,000. As the region has not yet been mapped on a 1:50,000 scale by the Geological Survey of Canada, the particular objective was to define and map the two known coal-containing formations - the Gething and the Commotion - as they may (or may not) exist under the five licences composing the property.

The Onion Lake area is bordered on the north and south by older McIntyre Mines-Canadian Superior Exploration licences operated by Petro-Canada, and on the east by licences held outright by Petro-Canada. To the west (and forming the western edge of the property) is one of the Paleozoic non-coal front-range Rocky Mountains (Bone Mountain).

1.0 (continued)

Mapping shows that approximately one-third of the licence area (the western third) is underlain by the non-coal Paleozoic mountain, but the remainder appears to contain both of the coal formations. Outcrop exposure is relatively poor, but there is enough to show that while there is a normal formational sequence at the eastern edge of the property which dips west under the mountain as the west flank of the Wapiti Anticline, the sequence is folded and contorted within 1 km of the major front-range thrust separating the coal sequence from the carbonate mountain.

The area is still wilderness, and it exists mostly near or above the treeline zone. No trails enter the area. The work was helicopter-supported from the Kinuseo Creek-Duke Mountain (Monkman) Petro-Canada camp 17 km to the northeast, where the crew stayed as guests.

Three contiguous 1:5,000 geologic map sheets have been prepared. A grid on paper has been established, based on stereographic analysis of the uncontorted northeastern half of the area. A structural crosssection has been prepared, using this grid. These maps and this section form the foundation of this report.

With 1980's basic detail mapping program completed, Crows Nest is presently (March, 1981) planning a first helicopter-supported diamond drill hole for the 1981 season. Further detail mapping on the 1:5,000 scale by two mapping pairs is also planned.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Coal Land Tenure

Five licences (4220-4223 Incl. and 4749) compose Group 242, 1425 hectares. The project is named after Onion Lake, situated 1 km south.

The following table entitled "B.C. Coal Licences Tenure Standing, Onion Lake" gives details of tenure.

TABLE NO. 1

CROWS NEST RESOURCES LIMITED EXPLORATION

B. C. COAL LICENCES BLOCK: ONTON LAKE TENURE STANDING GROUP: # 242

DATE: MARCH 5, 1981

YEAR: 1980

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2.2 Location, Geogaphy, and Physiography

Onion Lake is a more or less rectangular area measuring approximately 7 km by 3 km and oriented southeast-northwest.

Some location descriptions are:

- Situated on the lower northeast slopes of Bone Mountain, 2270 m, one of the front-range Rockies of northeastern British Columbia.
- Centered about latitude 54 degrees, 44 minutes north, longitude 120 degrees, 48 minutes west.
- 3) 140 km west-southwest from Grande Prairie, Alberta.
- 4) 155 km east-northeast from Prince George, British Columbia.
- 45 km south-southeast from the proposed townsite of Tumbler Ridge.

Relief in the coal formation part of the licences varies from 1300 m to 1830 m; the majority of the area tends towards the top of this range.

The area, as befits its position on the northeast flank of a front-range Rocky, is rugged and sometimes heavily forested. Much of the higher ground is barren alpine, supporting only lichens and moss. Bone Mountain supports an active sheep range, and any mining plan would have to take this into account. There is a treeline zone supporting alpine meadow and alpine fir below the barren ground. This is followed by often swampy, often sharply-gullied forest down and northeast to the base of the coal section. Lower yet the forest cover is more patchy. Onion Creek, draining Onion Lake, winds through the southeast corner of the licences, and supports an alluvial-flats environment.

Much of the upper-elevation barren and meadow zone ground is mantled by glacial outwash tills and small moraine-like sand and gravel deposits. This has confused aerial photographic interpretation and left a large amount of ground with no outcrop exposure.

2.3 Access

This 1980 field mapping by two pairs was done from helicopter. There are no trails into the area, although a seismic line running from the Duke block to the east across Onion Creek ends approximately 1 km downslope towards the center of the Onion Valley on the south bank of Gorge Creek (see 1:5,000 map Q22).

Road building to the area from Kinuseo Creek, 12 km to the north, would be difficult, as Onion Creek itself contains a long canyon along this stretch. To avoid this, road access would have to cross Feller's Creek, which also does not have gentle banks. In addition there is a rise of 300 m to 500 m involved.

The Kinuseo Creek Valley, part of the Murray River drainage, contains all-weather 40 kph gravel road access. The Monkman Pass coal camp of Petro-Canada, servicing the Duke coal area, is situated 13 km northeast of the area. The mapping crew stayed as guests in this camp, keeping helicopter time to five minutes either way.

The camp is serviced from Grande Prairie, 158 km northeast down the Redwillow River in Alberta. The turnoff from the Grande Prairie - Dawson Creek highway is 37 km west of Grande Prairie at Beaverlodge, Alberta. The drive is approximately 2-1/2 hours in dry weather.

8

2.4 Environment

Onion Lake is relatively high, cold, and windy compared to the average ground covering the coal belt in this part of northeast British Columbia. Petro-Canada finds that June 15th is the earliest starting date for post-breakup work. As Onion Lake is higher and right on the front of the mountains, such work should be delayed to July 1st in any year. Snow covers the most prospective ground until late May. 1980's work ended with the descent of the snow line to 1450 m on August 24th.

Bone Mountain supports a large and active sheep range. It also supports a large grizzly population, frequently seen by the staff and pilots of other minerals crews in the area throughout the 1980 season.

3.0 WORK DONE

3.1 Summary of Previous Work

Previous work on Onion Lake consists of two geologic studies; there has been no drilling or other equipment work by any company in the area.

The first item of geologic work is the 1:50,000 regional geologic map (CNRL No. HJ-21A ~ see enclosures) from company stock. It shows essentially the same information as is on the 1:50,000 Index and Compilation Map included with this report.

The second geologic work is Georgia Hoffman's 1979 "Onion Lake Coal Property" report, also on company file. It describes field mapping of a reconnaissance nature, somewhat fleshing out the 1:50,000 regional map, but includes no work at a smaller scale. The scope did not involve detail mapping leading to drill site selection or structural delineation.

It is notable that the Geological Survey of Canada has not mapped this stretch of northeastern British Columbia on a scale as small as 1:50,000; therefore both reconnaissance and detail mapping necessarily had to start at a more basic level than is usual where a G.S.C. base is available. The delineation and selection of mappable units had to be (and was) first accomplished.

3.2 Scope and Objective of 1980 Exploration

With 1:50,000 reconnaissance mapping in hand, the 1980 Onion Lake geologic mapping program was intended to provide detail mapping on a 1:5,000 scale. The immediate objective was to do sufficient ground work to identify the best possible site for a single diamond drill hole in 1981.

In addition, such mapping was intended to outline the structural setting, the lithologic nature of the rock units, and the most prospective parts of the licences from a mining point of view.

3.3 Work Done in 1980

With the help of average weather, a good base camp, and the experience carried into the area from the other parts of the coal belt nearby by the mapping crew, the program was a success. The worst problem encountered was a relative lack of outcrop. There was enough exposure, however, to be able to pick several suitable spots within the licences from which to penetrate the known most prospective section. Detailed costs of the 1980 Onion Lake geologic program are contained in the Application to Extend Term of Licence on the following two pages.

Total cost of the 1980 program is calculated to be \$39,143.



-

APPLICATION TO EXTEND TERM OF LICENCE

| I. Bolton Agnew | agent forShell C | anada Resources Ltd. |
|--|--|---|
| P.O. Box 100 (Address) | | (Address) |
| Calgary, Alberta, T | 2P 2H5 | • |
| | Valid FMC No. | |
| hereby apply to the Minister to exten Five Licences, Grou | nd the term of Cost Licence(s) No(s)423 p #242 in the Peace River Lar | 0 to 4223 Incl. and 4749; d District - 1425 hectares |
| for a further period of one year. | | |
| 2. Property name Onion Lake | N.E. B.C. | ••••• |
| 3. I am allowing the following Coal Lice | ence(s) No(s). to forfeitNQNG | • |
| | | · |
| 4. I have performed, or caused to be per | rformed, during the period | |
| December 31, | | at least \$ |
| on the location of coal licence(s) as fi | otiows: | |
| CATEGORY OF WORK | | • |
| | Licence(s) No(s). | Apportioned Cost |
| Geological mapping | 42204223.Incl4.4749 | \$ 38,743 |
| Surveys: Geophysical | •••••••• | ····· |
| Geochemical | *************************************** | |
| Other | *** | •••• |
| Road construction | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| Surface work | | |
| Underground work | •••• | · |
| Drilling | •••••• | • |
| , Logging, sampling, and testing | ••••••• | •••••• |
| Reclamation | •••••••••••• | ••••• |
| Other work (specify) | ••••• | |
| Off-property costs | | To Date 400 |
| 5. I wish to apply \$ | of this value of work on Coal Licence(s |) No(s). 4220 - 4223 Incl. |
| | | |
| 6. I wish to pay cash in fieu of work in t | the emount of \$ | on Cost Licence(s) No(s). |
| ••••••••••• | | • |
| 7. The work performed on the location | (s) is detailed in the attached report entitled | I |
| Onion. Lake. Coal. Pro | perty - Geological Report 198 | 0 will be submitted in |
| ninety. days | •••••• | ••••• |
| | | |
| (Date) | •••••• | (Signature) |
| | Land 6 | montion |

Land Supervisor

(FORMS AND REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE)

CATEGORY OF WORK

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,

| GEOLOGICA | L MAPPING | | Yes | ø | No | • C | כ | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| | - | Area | (Hectares) | | | | Scale | | Duration | |
| Reconnaissar | ice: | | | | •••• | • • • | | | | • • |
| Detail: | Surface | ••••• | | | | ••• | • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • | 676 7A | |
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| Uther (specif | ¥} | •••• | • • • • • • • • • | | ••••• | • • • | | | ••••• | ••• |
| * * * * * * * * * * | | | •••••• | | | ••• | | Total Cost | \$38,74 | 3 |
| | | | | | | _ | _ | | | • - |
| GEOPHYSICA | L/GEOCHEMIC | AL SURVEY | E Yes | ۵ | No | o C | 8 | | | |
| Method | | •••• | • • • • • • • • • | | • • • • • • | ••• | • • • • • • | •••• | ••••• | •• |
| Topographic | | | | | | ••• | | | •••••• | •• |
| *Other (specif | Y) | | • • • • • • • • • • • | | | | | •••• | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | • • |
| | | | | | | | | Total Cost | \$ | •• |
| BOAD CONS | TRUCTION | | ¥ | - | N | ~ C | 7 | | | |
| Length | INCLION | | | . Wi | dth | | | | | |
| On Licence(|) No(s) | | | | | | | | | |
| Access to . | | | | | | • • • | | . | | |
| | | | | | | | | Total Cost | \$ | |
| | OPK | | V | - | . | - 6 | 9 | | | |
| SURFACE W | URK | Length | T US Wildeb | , u | TN (| 0 4 | Centh | | Cost | |
| Trenching | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seam Tracing | | | | | | ••• | | | | |
| Crosscutting | | | | | | • • • | | | ••••• | |
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| | | | | | | | | Total Cost | • • • • • • • • • • • | •• |
| UNDERGRO | UND WORK | | Yes | ۵ | N | οŌ | 2 | | | |
| | A 1- | - 4 4 - | Maximum | | No. of | | T | | 6 | |
| Tast Arline | NO. | | Length | | HOHES | | 101 | il mietres | Cost | |
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| UNILLING | | | T #5 | ۲ <u>۲</u> | nı lo.of | | | | | |
| | | H | ole Size | Ĩ | ioles | | Total | Metres | Cost | |
| Core: | Diamond | | ••••• | ••• | • • • • • • | • | ••••• | • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • • • • | •• |
| Rotery' | Conventional | •••• | • • • • • • • • | •• | | • • | ••••• | | • • • • • • • • • • • • • | ••• |
| 11000.7. | Reverse circulati | ion | | ••• | | • • | •••• | • • • • • • • • • • • | | |
| *Other (speci | fy) | | | | | | | | | |
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| Contractor . | | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • | | | ••• | • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • | | |
| Where is the | core stored? | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • • • • • • • | •••• | | | • • • • • • | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Total Cost | •••••• | ••• |
| LOGGING, S | AMPLING AND | TESTING | Yes | ۵ | N | lo 1 | 0 | | | |
| Lithology: | Drill samples | 0 | Core same | ples | | | Bulk san | nples | | |
| Logs: | Gamma-neutron | | Density | | | | | | | |
| -Other (speci | TY} | | | •••• | •••••• | ••• | warhahi | Illen | | |
| restay. | Carbonization | | Petrograg | hic | - D | | Plasticit | v. | ŏ | |
| *Other (speci | fy) | <i>.</i> | | | | ••• | | | • | |
| | | | | | | | | | . . | |
| OTHER WO | RK (specify detail | [2] | | | | | | | Cost | |
| | | • • • • • • • • • • • | ••••• | • • • • | | ••• | • • • • • • • | | • • • • • • • • • • • | • • • |
| | | | | | | • • | | Total Cos | t \$ | |
| | | | | | | | On-p | roperty cost | \$38,743 | |
| | | | | | | | Off-p | roperty cost | | |
| | | | | | | | Total | Expenditure | \$39,143 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 80.12.22 | | | | | | | | | |
| | (Date) | | | | | | | (Signature) | | |
| | | | | | м | lana | ager - | Account | ing, CNRL | |
| | | | | | | | | • • • <u>•</u> • • • • • | | |

*A full explanation of other work is to be included.

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4.0 GEOLOGY

4.1 Regional Geology

A problem encountered in planning exploration on the Secus Mountain, Onion Lake, and Five Cabin Creek properties was that there existed no Geological Survey of Canada detail 1:50,000 geologic maps covering that portion of the coking coal belt in northeastern British Columbia. The G.S.C. has done detail work to the northwest up the belt, as have other coal exploration companies, but distance and facies changes have confused identification of mappable units in this region.

The generally accepted nomenclature is that of the Survey's Stott (Bulletin 152, 1968) dividing the section of interest into the Bullhead and Minnes Groups, with further subidivisions into formations and members. This is as reproduced on the two following pages in formational diagrams of both groups.

The Petro-Canada staff has fit its intensive Duke Mountain drilling into this nomenclature and also used it for its six drill holes of previous years in the Secus Mountain area.

FORMATIONAL DIAGRAM LOWER CRETACEOUS SERIES BULLHEAD & MINNES GROUP

| STOTT (this report) | FEAD GROUP | BULL CADOMIN FORMATION UNNAMED | MONACH FORMATION BEATTIE FEAKS | SINNIN | FORMATION | | FORMATION |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ZIEGLER AND POCOCK 1960 | | CADOMIN FORMATION | KOOTENAV FACIES | NO1 S3NN | FACIES | | FERNIE FORMATION |
| WARREN AND STELCK 1958 | GETHING FORMATION | | | MONTEITH | SHALY BEDS | NIKANASSIN FORMATION | FERNIE FORMATION |
| ALBERTA STUDY GROUP 1954 | GET GROUP GET MING FORMATION | EDRMATION | | NIKANASSIN FORMATION | _ | | FEANIE FORMATION |
| MATHEWS 1947 | 093אזינאפ | | FORMATION BEATTIE PLAKS | | FORMATION | | FERNIE FORMATION |
| BEACH AND SPIVAK 1944 | GETHING FORMATION | HONE | | | | | FERNIE FORMATION |
| WICKENDEN AND SHAW 1943 | GETHING MEMBER | ROUP | BULLHEAD GI | R FMBER | | | FERNIE |
| MCLEARN 1923 | GETMING WEMBER | | | | | | FEANIE |
| McLEARN 1918 | A3440 UPPER MEMBER | NOITAMRO3 | | х х х х х х х | | | |

- This nomenclature (Stott, Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 152) is used in this report and on all maps and sections.

FIG. 2

Nomenclature Builhead Group

Nomenclature of Fort St. John Group

| SELWYN UPR, PEACE R | DAWSON UPR. PEACE R. | MECONNELL LWR. PEACE R | MELEARN UPR. PEACE R. | NCLEARN UPR. PEACE R. | MCLEARN UPR PEACE R. | WICKENDEN AND SHAW | MCLEARN AND HINDLE | ALBERTA STUDY GROUP | STO (this re | TT port) |
|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| 1877 | 1681 | 1893 | 1918 | 1923 | 1932 | 1943 | 1950 | 1954 | PINE R. | UPR PEACE R |
| | DUNVEGAN SS | DUNVIGAN SE | DUNYI GAN FM | DUNVEGAN IN | CHINNEGAN FM | DUNYEGAN FU | DINVEGAN IN | DUNVEGAN PM | DUNYEGAN FM | DINWEDAN FM |
| l | | | | | | С ФОНТЬ В НОММАТНИМ | Chuist A FOrmation | | CRUISER FORMATION | CRUISER |
| | | /081 51 JOHN SHATS | | | | - Gickinnech Frimma techn | State . | SHAFTESHURV | COOCHICH FORMASICH | U CO |
| OWNERS B | FORT SF. JOHN SHALES | | Linnen Gudu,t | ST JOHN SMALLS | FORT ST HONN - LONWATION | HANLER B FORMATION | | | NABLER S FORMATION | 60 |
| | | | 101 | | | Q | R HASLER | R PADOV | BOULDER | R FORMATION |
| | | PEACE MILE | Q | | | 2 | tont St | CADOTYE E MY MON A | S CREEN | |
| | , i | SANDSTONE | | | ļ | COMMOTION COMMOTION | | | | |
| ······································ | | | SANDSTONE MEMBER | GATES FORMATION | GATES FORMATION | | GATES FORMATION | NOTIKEWIN SILWIN E MILWIN E FALHER | D D D C D C D C D C D C D C D C D C D C | GATES FORMATION |
| Drivijacjie pr (includes obšer hedu) | (Arristianus)y dépadéné Manan bada satih Durintgan nabihinana) | LOOM Bruft Skink 53 | LOWER | MORE BAR FORMATION | | n MOC/SLBAR FORMATION | NOUSE BAR FORMATION | Bildine R C WIL BILCH S WIL BILCH BILSIT BILT BILSIT BILT FORMATION | strides was rommarides | NOOSE BAR FORMA HON |
| | L | | | | L | L | - L | | ····· | - GSC |

This Pine River nomenclature (Stott, Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 152) is used in this report and on all maps and sections.

FIG. 3

18

FORMATIONAL DIAGRAM UPPER/LOWER CRETACEOUS SERIES FORT ST. JOHN GROUP ł

4.1 (continued)

The 1980 Crows Nest mapping crew decided to continue this nomenclature, to fit in with the work of G.S.C. and Petro-Canada as Crows Nest and Petro-Canada may continue to exchange some parts of their information in the future. The Secus Mountain area in particular is one logical mining area, but it is divided into intertwined fashion between the two companies.

The 1980 mapping crew divided the total section yet further into units mappable through all three Crows Nest properties and throughout the Petro-Canada licences (including the Duke Mountain Block). Should Petro-Canada institute a detailed mapping program on any of its properties in this region of northeast British Columbia (it has not done so in the past, including within the Duke Mountain block), continuity between the companies exploring and developing in the same belt can be maintained.

The Onion Lake and Secus Mountain 1:50,000 compilation maps (enclosures) and 1:25,000 compilation maps were constructed by overlaying the 1:5,000 grids on the topography, and placing the formations and members as measured on these grids from the 1:5,000 maps and sections. 19

4.2 Stratigraphy

Minnes, Bullhead, and lower Fort St. John Group strata in the region stretching from Secus Mountain through Onion Lake and Five Cabin Creek contain an unusually high proportion of conglomerate. Identification and mappability of the two target units, the Gething Formation in the Bullhead Group and the Gates Member of the Commotion Formation of the Fort St. John Group, has been hindered by the vastly increased footages of conglomerate they contain, compared to the remainder of the betterstudied part of the coal belt to the northwest (which also contains the type section for the nomenclature).

In fact, not only the Gates and Gething contain many thick conglomerates, but the Minnes, Cadomin, and Boulder Creek also contain unusually thick units of conglomerate. This character is unique to this part of the coal belt, and Stott treats it with some attention in his 1968 bulletin.

The most noticeable conglomerate thicknesses have been centered around Mt. Belcourt, one of the four foothills in the Secus area. To the northwest, at Onion Lake and Five Cabin Creek, the total mass of conglomerate is less and it has less effect on the mappability of the standard nomenclature, but the number of conglomerate occurrences remains high.

4.2 (continued)

Secus Mountain itself, situated right next to Mt. Belcourt, has a long, striking west slope composed of dip-slope units of conglomerates, deeply incised by small canyons and gorges, all of it basically exposed and barren. The general concept and question of how to divide and follow the conglomerates has thus become known in the local mapping trade as "the Secus Mountain conglomerates."

The effect of the conglomerates has been to defeat identification of the standard formations and members, to the point that over the years various crews making quick geological examinations with the idea of locating drill sites to prospect the Gething and Gates ended up often by drilling a completely wrong formation.

The problem is mostly centered along the part of the belt containing Five Cabin Creek, Onion Lake, and Secus Mountain, which are all located along the innermost line of inner foothills. Those properties situated along the outer side of the inner foothills (i.e. the Duke Mountain Block of Petro-Canada, as well as the Belcourt and Saxon properties of Denison Mines) on the east flank of the Wapiti Anticline have less conglomerate. The Geological Survey maintains an active interest in "the Secus Mountain Conglomerates", and the crew was visited for one day by one of their geologists (D. Gibson), who wished to see the division of the units by the crew.

Since the mapping was completed and the 1:5,000 maps and structural cross-sections finished in November of 1980, the logs (drill core and geophysical) of the six Petro-Canadian holes at Secus Mountain have been acquired by Crows Nest. The positions and altitudes of the holes have never been surveyed (this will be done in 1981), but the author can see that they fit the sections closely, and therefore the basic interpretation and conception of the stratigraphy are valid.

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4.2.1 The Stratigraphic Section

As it appeared that an academic style of mapping by the Geological Survey and reconnaissance-level mapping by coal company geologists had not in the past produced a workable division of units in the stratigraphic section, Crows Nest Resources' 1980 crew decided instead, as it was the first crew on the west side of the Wapiti Anticline to do detail mapping, to use a different approach.

The concept was to concentrate instead on building up a structural framework containing the whole of the sequence from Minnes up through Boulder Creek, and while so doing to attempt to divide the total section into smaller and smaller units, eventually sandwiching possible coal horizons into smaller and smaller spaces.

This entailed leaving aside most notions of academic interest, (such as paleoenvironments and unconformities), and also leaving aside the notion that particular coal beds should be followed. As coal beds are usually recessive and unexposed, the problem came to be to find identifiable units close by in the section.

4.2.1 (continued)

The mapping was thus carried out from the point of view of the most basic principle: if enough exposures are looked at, and each exposure is compared to all others on the most fundamental geological points such as grain size, bedding characteristics, and so on, then eventually it would be possible to follow certain (and also probably prominent) units close to the coal horizons and so locate drill sites no matter what the discussions on the formal nomenclature would have to say concerning the identify and origin of the units. In other words, the whole problem could be by-passed.

Being able to separate and follow the prominent units in the total stratigraphic section became, then, essentially the study of "the Secus Mountain Conglomerates". The stratigraphic descriptions following the next couple of pages of the stratigraphic section are oriented to this question.

The two pages of stratigraphic section are meant to be used by the reader for six different locations: four within the Secus Mountain area, and one each at Onion and Five Cabin Creek. The nomenclature remains the same, but the reader must substitute the appropriate thickness for each location from the table. The sketch presented is for the 7,000 South structural cross-section on the west slope of Secus Mountain itself.



| INU | H | Ксđ | Kgt | д шХ | Kcg | Kbc | Torrens ss* | TOTALS |
|------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | 7,000 S | 31 | 123 | 23 | 386 | 331 | 50 | 894 |
| | S/N 000 | 77 | 104 | 23 | 396 | 204 | 51 | 804 |
| | 4,000 N | SAXON TI T B 152 165 | HRUST PL T B 260 184 | ATE: T = T B = 23 23 | Top Plats Bottom Pl T B 435 - | T B - 12 | atji Tevj 43 79 | T B 947 - |
| | N 000'6 | 96 | 58 | 23 | 362 | 61 | 64 | 600 |
| NOL | LAKE | 36 | 100 | 30 | Top Missing | Missing | Gray 6.5 Brown 166 | |
| CABL | n creek | | | | | | | |
| ME: | Torrens | sandstone | fiqures i | nclude Tre | unsition B | eds | | |

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STRATIGRAPHIC THICKNESSES BY AREA

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4.2.2 Stratigraphic Descriptions

4.2.2.1 Minnes Group

The Minnes Group is the term used for any section stratigraphically beneath the Cadomin Formation, the base of the overlying Bullhead Group. Minnes strata throughout this portion of northeastern British Columbia have not been mapped in detail, and the group is undivided.

The Minnes Group is composed of a sequence of both marine and non-marine sediments; often coal or coaly beds occur, but they are rarely thicker than one or two meters, and seem to have little extent laterally.

The nature of the Minnes section immediately beneath the Cadomin at any particular location is often different from the last. At Onion Lake there are massive, thick conglomerates beneath the Cadomin; along the 30 km of Secus it varies from conglomerates to interbedded sandstones, siltstones, and shales, with coal often showing up. The 1980 Crows Nest Resources crew used a definition of the Cadomin somewhat different than that used by both past coal company workers and the Geological Survey. It was found that by restricting the name to a particular conglomerate within the overall succession, it was possible to divide the question of "the Secus Mountain Conglomerates" into Minnes conglomerates, Cadomin conglomerates, and Gething conglomerates.

The problem has been that if the geologist includes all thick massive conglomerates in the Cadomin, he will have almost no Gething before the Moosebar is encountered. Georgia Hoffman, in her 1979 "Onion Lake Coal Property", states that "the Cadomin is ... unusually thick ... in the Onion Lake area". Also, in regard to the Cadomin-Gething part of the problem, she states "mapping problems ... indicate that a more consistent unit for this area is the Bullhead Group as a whole". The trouble is that if all conglomerates are called Cadomin, then there is very little left to call Gething, and the Gething is what is supposed to be drilled as it contains coal.

28
Crows Nest Resources' crew restricts the name Cadomin to a unit mostly conglomeratic which stands apart in a set of fundamental mapping characteristics from all other conglomerates within the Minnes-Bullhead-Fort St. John succession. The conglomerate must be light-gray weathering, ring hard to the pick, be so tough that the rock breaks off through the pebbles, cobbles, and boulders, rather than around them, and must always form the basic backbone for the whole succession (Minnes to Boulder Creek) in the topography and structure.

In addition, it must contain particular shades of rosey pink, a jade-like green, and a particular smooth, light gray in the constituents. Cadomin sandstones contain these particular colours, within the sand grain sizes. This character of the Cadomin is the same, in the author's view, as he has seen in the Cadomin from the Alberta town of Cadomin north through the coking coal belt as far as the Peace River. It is very like the Cadomin anywhere through the Luscar and McIntyre Mines properties. All section below this unit, including conglomerates, is called Minnes. The conglomerates tend to be less tough, browner in overall aspect, slightly less topographically prominent, and they do not ever contain the pink and green constituents.

The top of the Cadomin is taken at that centimeter where the tough, light-gray, massive conglomerate or sandstone gives way to something softer and browner; it may be a conglomerate or a sandstone, but it will be much browner, pebbles and cobbles can be more easily extracted, and the pick hits with a thud.

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In addition to colour and hardness, Gething conglomerates bear another relation to the Cadomin beds beneath: whatever the average largest constituent size in the Cadomin, the Gething will have similarly large sizes, but always slightly smaller. For example, if the Gething has boulders to 20 cm in length, expect 25 cm in the Cadomin beneath.

Up to half of the Gething at any point along the length of the region can be expected to be conglomerate, occuring in one or more massive, prominent units. Gething cliffs can often be followed for several kilometers at a time.

It would appear that in the stretch covering Five Cabin Creek all the way southeast through Secus, there may be expected to be only two coal zones - an upper and a lower - within the Gething. The crew did not find any place where it seemed there could be room for more than that, and each of these zones probably contains no more than a meter or two each. (The lately-acquired Petro-Canada drill logs from Secus are now known to bear this out.)

The Gething is thus judged to be less prospective at this point, and therefore the first drilling on these properties by Crows Nest Resources will be aimed at the Gates Member of the Commotion, lying some distance above. The Moosebar Formation is notable mostly because of its very characteristic recessive effect on the topography. It is thicker in the Sukunka area to the northwest, is thinning southwards towards Onion Lake, where it is 30 m, and is thinnest in the Secus area. At Secus the crew used 23 m for the Moosebar in constructing the cross-sections, as the actual marine beds in two complete exposures (complete exposures of the Moosebar are almost unheard of, and warrant special examination anytime) were that thickness. The exposure measured at Onion Lake (in The Gorge) is the only other complete exposure known in the region.

Coal crews through the years have followed "the Moosebar recession" in the topography, and through Crows Nest Resources licences the effect remains.

4.2.2.5 Commotion Formation

The Commotion Formation is divisible into a coal-bearing Gates Member, a marine Hulcross Member overlying the Gates, and then the Boulder Creek Member, an often-coaly sandstone unit. The Hulcross was found to be almost non-identifiable in the Secus area (it was found near the peak of Mt. Belcourt). A section this high has not been identified in the Onion Lake area, but it is thick at Five Cabin Creek and thickens northwestward.

Mapping was generally stopped in the base of the Boulder Creek, as there is no prospective coal known above the Gates.

4.2.2.5.1 Gates Member, Commotion Formation

The Gates Member is perhaps the most consistent in thickness of all the units between Secus Mountain area and Onion Lake; the range appears to be 362 to 435 m. It is composed of alternating sequences of conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, and coal beds. As a general rule the coal seams, while remaining numerous, get uninterestingly thinner towards the top of the member. Individual conglomerate units, while massive and often prominent, are thinner and more well-bedded than Gething and Cadomin conglomerates. The constituents remain the same, but at smaller diameters. The crew found that it could not distinguish between Gates conglomerates individually, but it could generally differentiate them from Gething conglomerates.

The Torrens Submember consists of an extremely distinctive sandstone occurring at the bottom of the Gates. It is the most prominent unit in the succession besides the Cadomin. Typically, the top five or ten meters of Torrens may be folowed for kilometers at a stretch. The upper unit within the Torrens is a hard gray sandstone, which overlies and is always thinner than the underlying softer brown main part of the unit. The brown sandstones have an extremely distinctive weathering which etches out a particular cross-bedding. The sequence from Moosebar through the Torrens and into the coal above is very reminiscent of the Weary Ridge - Moose Mountain - coal member sequence in southeast British Columbia.

The combination of distinctive topography, distinctive outcrop and distinctive colouring make the Torrens an ideal marker. The Transition Beds are both part real outcrop and part a notion of conception. The name is applied by the crew to those beds which are "transitional" or "passage" from the marine Moosebar into the terrestial cross-bedded Torrens sandstones above.

They are composed of very evenly-bedded siltstones and very fine sandstones, which grade upwards into the Torrens. The cross-bedding and increased grain sizes appear imperceptibly. Nothing else in the sequence is as evenly bedded.

This unit is quite recessive, and always forms the gentler ground where the Moosebar is rising up to the Torrens prominence above. It is not included in the Moosebar as that name is reserved for the striking moosebar topographic recession. 4.2.2.5.1.3 Gates Coal Zone No. 1, Gates Member, Commotion Formation

Mapping (and the logs of the Petro-Canada holes) shows that the thickest coal in the Gates may be found in the 20 to 30 meters above the Torrens Sandstone. In places the coal lies directly on top of it. Sometimes there is one thick bed (estimated at 14 m at one ridge on Mt. Belcourt); more often there are two or more thinner beds.

No further seam or zone designations have been made above this lowermost No. 1 Zone, as in the 1980 season the crew did not conduct more than a few traverses to describe the Gates to that level of detail. This can be done as drilling and future work progresses. Any drilling will be placed to end in the Torrens, and so the seams above the No. 1 Zone can be catalogued at the same time.

36

Very often there is a somewhat prominent Gates conglomerate forming a massive unit above the Coal Zone No. 1. It is often mappable through a kilometer at a time, and forms a convenient top to the recessive coal zone. It has been mapped where appropriate.

4.2.2.5.2 Boulder Creek Member, Commotion Formation

The Boulder Creek is a prominent sandstone unit above the Gates. The contact (where the Hulcross is not present) is drawn at the beginning of hard, generally gray-weathering, massive, often pebbly sandstone.

The Boulder Creek can often also be followed through many kilometers, and forms the cap on the mapping. Only once was its top mapped, although often it can be seen from the air to be giving away to Shaftesbury shales.

4.3 Geological Structure

The Crows Nest Resources-operated areas in the Five Cabin Creek-Onion Lake-Secus Mountain region of northeastern British Columbia were licenced because of their possibility of containing considerable mileage of the two known prospective formations, the Gething and the Commotion.

The region is approximately 90 km in length. To cover this distance in 64 days of field season, counting all time lost to mobilization and demobilization, weather in a northern Rocky Mountain climate, and incidental losses, the two mapping pairs decided to take a structural approach to the mapping, treating the belt as a whole. This meant acquring actual, measured thickness on the formations and their parts individually. In this manner, drilling with reasonable expectations of being at about the right sites could be planned for the future with no extra effort - the proper positions would become revealed.

Efforts were concentrated in the beginning at traverses across the formations, from Minnes up to Boulder Creek. As the units became clearer, they were extended longitudinally. In this fashion, by chain-measuring selected good exposures across the sequence, and then rapidly following their longitudinal extensions in the topography, the thicknesses for the formations and their parts as expressed in the cross-sections became apparent.

4.3 (continued)

There is a natural rhythm apparent in the thickening and thinning of the formations along the belt.

In the latter part of the season, efforts were directed at refining the sections in the lower part of the Gates, so that the excellent Torrens marker can be used as a guide for the Gates Coal Zone No. 1 immediately above it.

4.3.1 Structural Setting

The problem in mapping on the Onion Lake licences is lack of good outcrop exposure. This is partly due to a glacial mantle, partly due to topography, and partly due to its northeasterlyfacing direction (which results in heavy forest and deep overburden).

The basic approach was to box in, volumetrically, the area that could contain coal, whittling down that which is unknown. The thrust limiting the succession along the southwestern long side was mapped in to 200 m horizontal accuracy. The Cadomin and Torrens along the northeastern long side were mapped by chain at selected locations. Where any outcrop was found in the mostly-covered ground elsewhere, it was located as accurately as possible (usually to within 10 m) and examined very carefully. The sequence continues northwest and southeast out of the licences into Petro-Canada licences, and so these property lines define the section at either end of the property.

It is judged at this time that, while continued detail traversing is of course desirable, most of the major features that will be found have been found.

40

4.3.1 (continued)

In general, there is indeed room for a considerable amount of Gates to be present. This may be seen on the cross-section. Also, however, there appears to be a system of faulted folds almost completely hidden from view. This is due to the close proximity of the Rockies' front-range thrust, which experience shows causes contorted folding northeast of it within 1 km all through this belt of northeastern British Columbia. The hidden part of Onion Lake is about that width.

Maping the thrust position showed that the fault is bevelling the available Commotion section so that there is much more room at the south end of the property than the north. This would mean that the fold axes in the 1 km distorted zone should be converging with the fault to the north (rather than south). From the several partially exposed folds found within the zone, this indeed appears to be the case.

The first drill hole has been planned to penetrate the undisturbed Gates section (hopefully it is undisturbed) along the northeastern long side of the property. If seams of mineable thickness are found, then continued work may be planned with a better idea of the section.

4.3.2 <u>Stereographic Analysis</u>

137 bedding attitudes (strikes and dips) were plotted by computer in scatter and pole plot contour diagrams.

46 of these were run as a separate set entitled ONWA - Onion Wapiti Anticline. These were taken on the regularly-dipping west flank of the Wapiti Anticline, but not from within the mostly-hidden disturbed zone which forms the bulk of the property. The computed average attitude is a strike of 320 degrees and a dip of 44 degrees southwest.

This average strike is used as the baseline for the grid, and the average dip direction is used as the cross-section's strike. A structural framework for future drilling and mapping is now in place.

The remaining 91 attitudes were run as WEON, or West Onion, so that a stereoplot of these attitudes would be available as work progresses.

Finally, both sets were run together, to provide a total for the season: ONWA & WEON.

These diagrams are presented on the six pages following.

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/ MEAN VECTOR # 43.87/ 230.24

FIG. 4

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TRAVERSE - UNWA



45 ***STERFO*** 8021559 -- WEST UNJON AND ONLON PAPITI ANTICLINE -- STRUCTURAL MAPPIN -AVERSE - WEON

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FIG. 6

STERED 8021559 -- WEST OFJUM AND ONION WAPITE ANTICLINE -- STRUCTURAL MAPPE TRAVERSE - WEUN



FIG. 7

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47 ***STEREO*** 8021559 -- WEST ONION AND ONION WAPITE ANTICLINE -- STRUCTURAL MAPPE TRAVERSES -- ONWA + WEON



FIG. 8

+++STEREDA** 8021559 -- WEST UNION AND ONION WAFTIT ANTICLINE -- STRUCTURAL WAPPI

TRAVERSES -+ ONWA + WEON

-



FIG. 9

48

Hoffman, Georgia, 1979: "1979 Geological Report, Onion Lake Coal Property"; internal Crows Nest Resources Limited filed at the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Reosurces

PR-Onion Lake 80(2)A -

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* Onion hake Coal Exploration" 1980

Maps, Cross Sections CL# 4220-4223, 4749



APPENDIX A

Abbreviations Legend, Geological Base Maps 1:5,000

This part of the legend for the 1:5,000 map sheets is included here because of space limitations on the map sheets themselves. GEGICAL BRANCH ASSESSMENT OFPORT



ABBREVIATIONS LEGEND

GEOLOGICAL BASE MAPS

SCALE 1:5 000

| 1. | Sizes | Ċm . m | centimeters true thickness . meters true thickness |
|------------|----------------------|-----------|---|
| 2. | Lithologic Types | cg, cgs | conglomerate, -s |
| | | md | mudstone |
| | | sh | shale |
| | | slt | siltstone |
| | · • | SS | sandstone |
| | | qzt | quartzite, -itic |
| 3. | Grain Sizes | bld, blds | boulder, -s |
| | r | cb, cbs | cobble, -s |
| | • • • | pb, pbs – | pebble, -s |
| | ·. | cs | coarse-grained sandstone |
| | _ | ms | medium-grained sandstone |
| | _ | fs | fine-grained sandstone |
| | | vfs | very fine-grained sandstone |
| •• , | Bed Thickness | fiss | fissile |
| | • | flgy | flagy |
| | • • | msv | massive |
| | | plty | placey |
| J. | Bealing | bd, bds | bed, -s |
| | | incbd | interbeddel |
| | | x-bd | cros-bedded |
| . . | Colours | blk | black |
| | | brn | brown " |
| * | | grn | green - |
| | | gry . | gray |
| | , | rsty | rusty . |
| | | 1t | lijnt |
| , | · . | drk | darx |
| 7. | <u>Miscellaneous</u> | otc, otcs | outerop, -s |
| • . | | occ | occasional |
| | | mnr | minor |
| | · · | cov- | covered |
| | - <i>-</i> | rev | recessive |
| | | res | resistant |
| | × | hd | nard |
| | | ovin | overlain |
| | | unln | underlain |
| | | wth,wthg | weathers, weathering |

APPENDIX B

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1:250,000 Location Map

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APPENDIX C

1:50,000 Index and Geological Compilation Map



APPENDIX D

1:25,000 Index and Geological Compilation Map

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APPENDIX E

Regional 1:50,000 Geologic Map



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23A. BRAMEDA RESOURCES LTD. OPTIONED TO BANGER OIL (CANADA) LIMITED (30% CARRIED INTEREST TO BRAMEDA 49. GULF OIL CANADA LIMITED

238. BRAMEDA RESOURCES LTD. - BURNT RIVER PROPERTY

24. BRAMEDA RESOURCES LTD. & TECK CORPORATION LTD. 25.

MCINTYRE MINES LIMITED 25A. MCINTYRE MINES LIMITED & CANADIAN SUPERIOR EXPLORATION LIMITED OPTIONED TO PACIFIC PETROLEUMS LTD.
26. CINNABAR PEAK MINES LTD.

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- 28. UTAH MINES LTD. 288. UTAH MINES LTD. --- BRI PROPERTY 29. BELCOURT COAL LIMITED (DENISON COAL LTD. – 60%, GULF OIL
- 30. QUINTETTE COAL LIMITED (DENISON COAL LTD. 60%, GULF ()]L
 30. QUINTETTE COAL LIMITED (DENISON COAL LTD. 384%, WITH PARTNERS MITSUI MINING CO. 22½%, TOKYO BOEKI LTD. 22%%, AND IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED 16 3/4%)
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- 31. SAXON COAL LIMITED (DENISON COAL LTD, WITH PARTNERS BUHRKOHLE AG, MITSULAND CO. LTD., UNION SIDERURGIQUE

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- GATES COAL MEASURES) BULLMOOSE PROPERTY 44C. BP EXPLORATION CANADA LIMITED - CHAMBERLAIN PROPERTY 47. NORCEN ENERGY RESOURCES LTD. RESOURCES LTD.) – MOUNT SPIEKER PROPERTY AND RANGER 53. DUPONT OF CANADA EXPLORATION LTD. OIL (CANADA) LIMITED 60. PAN OCEAN OIL LTD. 60A PAN OCEAN OIL LTD. OPTIONED TO NORCEN ENERGY RESOURCES LTD. 69. PACIFIC PETROLEUMS LTD. 78. J.W. MACLEOD

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 BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY
 BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY & AYLARD, GETHING, AND CREEN



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APPENDIX F

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Coal Land 1:50,000 Disposition Map (1)

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APPENDIX G

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1:5,000 Geologic Base Maps (4)

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1. Companya and Sector and Se Sector and






APPENDIX H

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1:5,000 Structural Cross-Section (1)

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