Sukunka Property

B.P. Exploration Canada

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# OPEN FILE

# BP EXPLORATION CANADA LIMITED

COAL DIVISION

# COMEDILEAL

B.C. Government Report on the

North East B.C. Thermal Coal Exploration Program

1980

#### Coal Licence Numbers:

Triangle Area Jilg Area 4029-4032, 5259-5266 4036-4039, 4043, 4044 5267, 5269-5274, 5277 5244-5258

Merrick Area Sukunka North

3617, 4034, 4040-4042 4045-4049, 5268, 5275, 5276, 5278

Submitted by: A. Chowdry

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GEOLOGICAL BRANCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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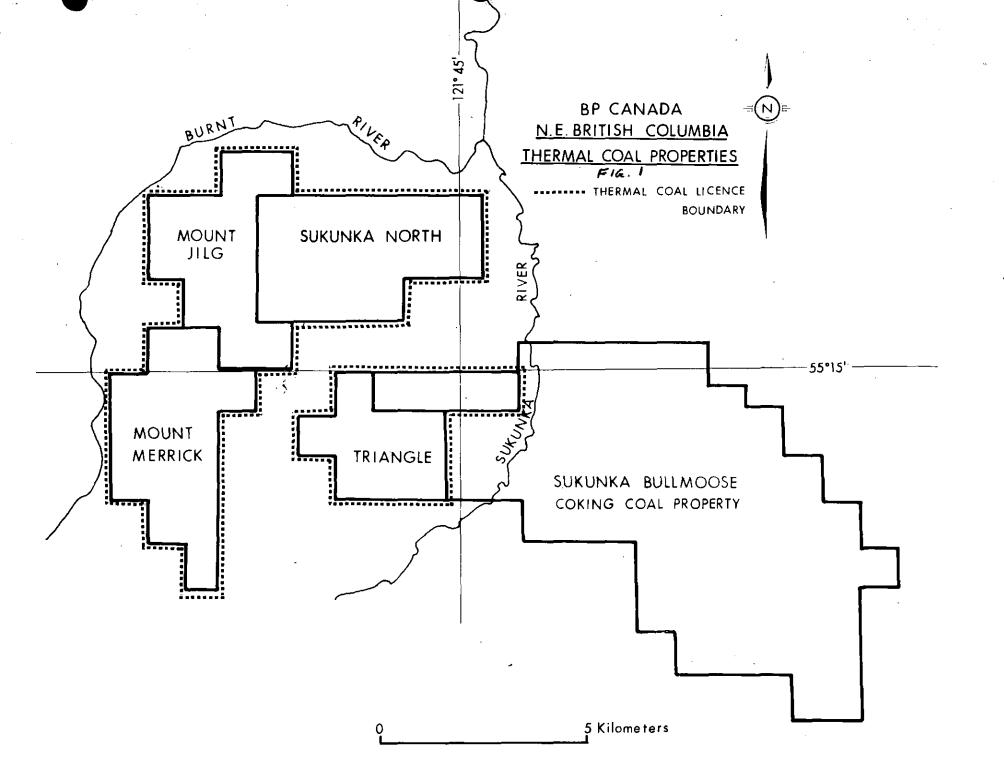
#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for presentation to the Coal Administrator of the British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, Victoria, British Columbia and in compliance with the Regulations under the Coal Act 1974. It describes the exploration program carried out from May to September, 1980, on BP's optioned Sukunka North property as well as its Merrick, Jilg and Triangle lease blocks.

The North East B.C. Thermal Coal Project consists of 55 coal licences; 20 have been optioned from Master Explorations and the remaining 35 were leased by BP in 1979. All licences have a renewal date of December 31st. For geological reporting purposes this Project has been divided into four areas; Sukunka North, Merrick, Jilg and Triangle Area. For locations see Figure 1.

The 1980 Sukunka North Exploration Program, south of Chetwynd, B.C., was conducted as a helicopter supported mapping and core drilling project. This project employed eight BP personnel and contracts were tendered for helicopter services, drilling, geophysical logging, coal analysis, drill site preparation, reclamation and staff accommodation.

This report should be read in conjunction with BP's application for work credit on the 'Application to Extend the term of Licence' forms for Sukunka North, Merrick, Jilg and Triangle licence blocks, submitted with this report.



#### 2. OBJECTIVES

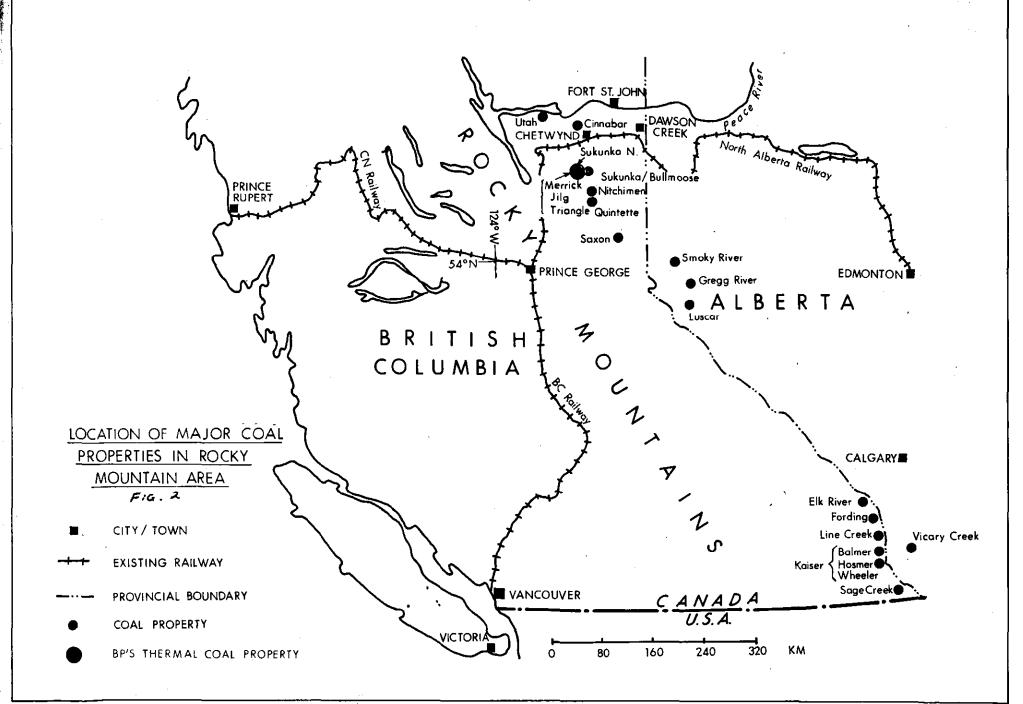
The following objectives were established for the 1980 North East B.C. Thermal Coal Exploration Program.

- 1) To define the formations and locate formation boundaries within the licence areas. Namely, the mapping of Upper, Middle and Lower Gething Formations, the Cadomin Formation and Minnes Group.
- 2) To obtain structural and stratigraphic data on the coal bearing strata, with emphasis on the Lower Gething Formation in the Sukunka North and portions of the Jilg Area and the Minnes Group in the Merrick, Jilg and Triangle.
- 3) To prove coal reserves or the existance of coal by reconnaissance mapping, trenching and/or diamond core drilling.
- 4) To establish the rank and quality of the coal encountered within each formation.

# 3. LOCATION-ACCESS-TOPOGRAPHY

The North East B.C. Thermal Coal properties, Merrick, Jilg, Triangle and Sukunka North encompass 55 coal licences; 3167, 4029-4032, 4034, 4036-4049, 5244-5278. These licences are illustrated in Figure 1, which also shows the property divisions. The division into four areas has been made to facilitate the large scale at which the area was mapped and due to natural divisions of the property with respect to geology, topography and development potential.

The study area occupies an area of approximately 16.225 ha and is located 50 km south of the town of Chetwynd in



northeastern British Columbia. Figure 2 illustrates the location of the property, its relationship to other proposed coal developments and the existing infrastructure in the region.

Access to the property can only be obtained via helicopter, with the nearest base being at Chetwynd. Access to property is restricted, as there is no bridge crossing the Sukunka River south of the Burnt River into the study area.

The terrain encompassed by the study area varies from rolling mountains, to the less rugged valleys of the Burnt and Sukunka Rivers. The surface elevation varies from 650 to 1500 metres above sea level. Three vegetation zones are present in the area; The Suboreal White Spruce - Alpine Fir Zone; The Subalpine Engelman Spruce - Alpine Fir Zone; and the Alpine Tundra Zone. A diversity of wildlife is expected on the property, including up to 46 species of mammals and 160 species of birds. The climate of the region is Humid Continental, short summer with a mean annual temperature of 0° and a total annual precipitation of approximately 69 cm.

## 4. BASE PLANS AND SURVEYING

Prior to commencement of the 1979 Sukunka North Field program, Hardy and Associates produced topographic base maps of the study area. These maps were used again during the 1980 exploration program. The maps, at a scale of

1:10,000 and contoured on 10 m intervals illustrate all streams, roads, clearings and cut lines throughout the area.

In addition, Hardy and Associates supplied air photos of the area with the same 1:10,000 scale.

With the detail afforded on the maps and air photos, drill holes and trenches could be located with little difficulty. In view of this, and because of the reconnaissance nature of the program, it was decided that detailed legal field surveying was unnecessary. See Appendix Al, A2, A3 and A4 for base maps.

#### 5. SERVICING OF PROGRAM

Major considerations in servicing the drilling and mapping programs were accommodations, transportation and field equipment. Several companies were required to service the drilling and mapping including:

Company	Personne1	
ВР	8 geologists, technologists and summer student	
Maple Leaf Helicopters Ltd.	<pre>1 to 2 pilots, partial employment of ground crew (2 men)</pre>	
Acadia Drilling	5-9 drill crew and supervisor	
BPB Instruments Ltd.	2 engineer and helper	
North Star Fabricators	2 to 3 slashers	
Northland Storage	core shed facilities	
Pine Cone Motor Inn	accomodation BP	
Chetwynd Court Motel	accomodation, Acadia Drilling	
Visa Truck Rentals	2 half ton trucks	

#### 5.1 Accomodation

Operations were conducted from field headquarters set up in the Pine Cone Motel in Chetwynd, B.C. Accomodation consisted of 4 to 5 suites being rented for approximately 2½ months with one of the larger suites serving as field office.

The Acadia drill crews stayed at the Chetwynd Court
Motel, a couple of blocks from the Pine Cone Motel.
The logging contract was shared with Teck Corporation
with the engineers being lodged in the Teck camp,
40 km south of Chetwynd.

All other contractors used in the program operations were local and were able to travel to and from their own homes.

A core shed, serviced with electricity and water, was rented in Chetwynd from Northland storage.

## 5.2 Transportation

Transportation in and around Chetwynd and to the BP Mine Camp, adjacent to the study area, was facilitated by two half ton trucks. They were especially useful in transporting extra helicopter fuel and supplies to the mine camp and hauling the core to town from the camp. Because of its proximity to the study area, the BP Mine Camp became a depot for transporting

equipment supplies and in some cases, crews to and from the field. The half ton trucks were supplied by Visa Truck Rentals through Northern Metallic Ltd. of Chetwynd.

The helicopter transportation of field mapping crews to and from the field from Chetwynd and/or the BP Mine Camp was by a Bell '206' helicopter from Maple Leaf Helicopter Ltd. In some cases, it was necessary to substitute an A-Star helicopter in place of the Bell '206' for large equipment, and/or extra men transportation.

The Bell '206' was also used to transport drill crews to and from the rigs. For drill rig equipment moves, a Bell '204' or '205' was utilized, with an A-Star being used on an occasional basis for lighter equipment. In general, the geophysical logging equipment was moved between the Teck camp and the BP field operation by the A-Star.

# 5.3 Field Equipment

Communications for the program were handled very well by tying the BP Coal radio system into the BP Oil and Gas shortwave system that utilized a repeater at the summit of Bullmoose Mountain. With this system, communication over 50 km was possible with very few problems. The suite of radios used consisted of a

40 watt base station in Chetwynd, one 40 watt truck mounted radio, two 40 watt units mounted in the rigs and five handheld portable radios for the helicopter dispatched mapping crews. With two frequencies; one relayed through the repeater and the other was for unit to unit communication, the system proved to be very reliable and effective. Field equipment not already on hand was purchased from Ribtor Sales, Caldraft and Petrocraft Ltd., all of Calgary.

#### 6. FIELD MAPPING

The Northeast B.C. coal licences were mapped in detail by three to four field parties supported by helicopter. Each party was made up of an experienced geologist and a summer student. During the two and one half month's project, over 1000 outcrop stations were plotted and described. (See Appendix A2, 3, 4 and 5 for the various base maps and Appendix B (1) for the field notes).

Outcrop stations and other general geological observations were plotted on either the enlarged air photos or 1:10,000 base maps, prepared by Hardy and Associates. Field altimetres and Burnton compases were used for accurate ( $^{\pm}5$  to 10 metres) locations of outcrops and geological features.

Traverses were generally restricted to streams, major ridges and some cutlines. As a result of dense forest cover precluded helicopter landings. 18 helicopter pads

built on the Sukunka North property in 1979 were reutilized for this year's work, and in addition, it was necessary to build one new pad on the Triangle block. Enough of the Merrick and Jilg study area was above tree line to allow access for helicopter landing.

#### 7. DRILL SITE CONSTRUCTION

Drill site construction was contracted to North Star

Fabrication Ltd. of Chetwynd. Six drill sites were constructed with only five being used during the 1980 program.

The drill pads, approximately 2400 square metres in size, were often built on or near natural clearings so that timber damage was kept to a minimum.

As the drilling program was helicopter supported, no cat work, ie. road construction or sump preparation, was undertaken. Reclamation was minimal.

#### 8. DRILLING

Acadia Drilling of Kamloops, B.C. was contracted to drill the seven proposed, HQ/NQ diamond core holes on the four licence blocks. Mid-way through the drilling program, because of logistical and geological factors, it was decided that only five of the proposed core holes should be drilled.

Acadia Drilling supplied all of the drilling equipment, and the required supplies and additives. The equipment and supplies were:

- 1 Longyear 44 rig, helicopter transportable
- 1 Longyear Super 38 rig, helicopter transportable
- Auxiliary water pump and hose
- Mud tanks
- drill stem and core barrels
- drill bits, core boxes, casing and drilling mud

BP was responsible for accommodation, site preparation and transportation of equipment and drill crews to and from drill sites.

The drilling program commenced with the Acadia drilling rigs arriving on June 14, 1980. Hampered by very bad weather, poor drilling conditions and lost time due to poor water supply, the program was completed on August 13.

Drilling commenced on June 16th with the Super 38 drill spudding on BP 80-01 and on June 20th, the 44 rig started drilling BP 80-02. On July 3, after lost circulation and tight hole conditions, BP 80-01 had to be abandoned at a depth of 113 metres with 64 metres of drill stem along with stabilizers, bits, etc. cemented in the hole.

BP 80-02 was completed on July 20th after considerable down hole problems and reducing to NQ core size to complete the hole to a T.D. of 483.71 m.

From July 7 to July 16, BP 80-03 was drilled to a T.D. of 216.97 m with bad weather and some shortage of water being the only major problems encountered.

Acadia's 44 rig was moved from site BP 80-02 to BP 80-04 on the Jilg property on July 22. Although some problems were encountered and coring was reduced to NQ, BP 80-04 was completed by August 4.

The Super 38 rig drilled BP 80-05 on the Merrick licence block. This hole, spudded on August 7, was completed on August 10 (at a depth of 127.11 m). (See Appendix B (2) for Core description and B (3) for Geophysical Logs in regard to the aforementioned drill holes.)

#### 9. GEOPHYSICAL LOGGING

BPB Instruments Ltd. was contracted to run the geophysical logs on the Northeast B.C. Thermal Coal Exploration Program. BPB supplied an engineer and helper, helicopter transportable logging unit, and the necessary logging sondes.

An arrangement was made with Teck Corporation to share the logging contract so that less standby costs would be incurred.

The standard 4 log suite consisting of a Neutron-Neutron Log (Neutron), a Coal Lithology Log (Gamma Ray-Bulk Density-Caliper), a Seam Thickness Log (Caliper-Bed Resolution Density) and a Coal Quality Log (Gamma Ray-Bulk Density) was employed.

The Neutron-Neutron and Coal Lithology Logs record the entire length of the core hole while the Coal Quality and Coal Thickness Logs were only used to record lithology in, and immediately above and below, major coal horizons. The

neutron and lithology logs were recorded at a scale of 1:200 and the coal thickness and quality logs at a 1:20 scale.

All logs were run through the open hole providing they were in a stable condition. Due to down hole problems, much of the geophysical logging was done on holes in which portions were cased.

#### 10. COAL SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

During the 1980 N.E. B.C. Thermal Coal Exploration Program five core holes and sixty trenches were described in detail. As a result 94 core samples were taken from 16 seams and 132 trench samples were retrieved from 39 trenches for proximate analysis and sulphur, Hardgroves grindability index, specific gravity, calorific value and free swelling index determination. In addition, nine samples taken from boreholes and trenches were sent out for petrographic analysis. (results are pending.) Appendix B (5) contains all of the borehole sections with analysis as well as those trench sections considered to represent mineable thicknesses of coal.

10.1 Outcrop Trenching (See Appendix A for trench locations)

Detailed description and sampling of trenches was one of the major priorities of the 1980 field program.

Seams were hand trenched across strike and then described in detail. Sample plys were then taken

with lithological changes in the coal and associated partings, roof and floor being the ply limit parameters.

On the Sukunka North licence block, coal seams could be extrapolated and trenched from existing data (eg. field mapping and boreholes). All trenches were on seams within the Lower Gething Formation.

On the Jilg property, only two significant seams were located; one within the Lower Gething Formation and the other in the Upper Minnes Group.

The Triangle property, like the Jilg, produced very few thick seams in outcrop. Three trenches were made on Gething coal seams with five trenches made on Minnes coals. Two trenches were also dug into, what has been interpreted as, Lower Gething coals in the Rocky Creek area between the Sukunka North and Triangle licence areas.

The Merrick block containing a considerable amount of steeply dipping exposure resulted in 27 trenches being dug. All the Merrick coal trenches were made in Minnes Group.

Upon completion of the trenching program, representative seams were selected and sent to Birtley Coal for analysis. The analysis was completed with the

results illustrated on the detailed Coal Section Sheets provided in Appendix B (5).

## 10.2 Core Handling and Sampling

The drilling phase of the N.E. B.C. Exploration

Program produced approximately 1385 metres of core

and 94 core samples (plys). Poor recovery rates made

description and sampling difficult, with recovery

being especially bad through the coal horizons.

Core was taken by helicopter from the drill site to the BP Mine Camp, where it was loaded onto a half ton truck and transported to the core facilities in Chetwynd. At the core shed it was measured, described in detail and coal samples were taken. The geophysical logs were used to make adjustments to drillers depths and recorded thicknesses. These corrections were generally due to core loss. (See Appendix B (2) for the geologist's core description.)

Coal samples were taken on the basis of the lithological variations within the seam depicted on the geophysical logs described by the geologist. (For analytical and detailed coal sections see Appendix B (5).) All core not sampled was sent to Charlie Lake for storage.

## 11. RECLAMATION

Due to the minimal amount of surface disturbance, very

little reclamation work was required. In drill site preparation, all damaged and cut timber was "bucked up" and limbed. Since access road construction, leveling of drill sites, and pump preparation was not required, no erosion control or backfilling work was necessary. All drilling additives were biodegradable so no extra site clean up was required other than removal of mud and cement bags, etc. All garbage and refuse was flown from the licence area and properly disposed of.

No bulldozer work or backhoe trenching was done on the licence areas. All trenches were hand dug and in many cases, consisted of reopening of old hand trenches so their reclamation only meant backfilling the small amount of material removed. Not all trenches have been backfilled with the study area as work is to be continued on these licence areas in 1981.

The only costs incurred for reclamation was in the form of man hours and helicopter time.

## 12. REGIONAL SETTING AND GEOLOGY

The study area is situated on the west side of the Sukunka River, within the Rocky Mountain Foothills, and trending northwesterly along the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains in northeastern British Columbia. The Lower Cretaceous coal-bearing rock successions are sporadically exposed over large areas and special attention was paid to locating

economically viable coal seams within these measures.

Regional stratigraphic studies have been carried out by the Geological Survey of Canada (eg. Stott 1968, 1971). In addition, localized stratigraphic mapping projects are currently being undertaken by the British Columbia Department of Mines.

It is generally known that the Cretaceous sediments were deformed during the Laramide Orogeny. The strata were moulded into a series of en echelon anticlines and synclines and locally punctuated by west dipping thrust faulting. The major fold structures constitute a regional northwesterly trend.

For the convenience of description, the area is divided into two parts: Sukunka North area; and Merrick, Triangle and Jilg area.

## 12.1 Geology of Sukunka North Area

During 1979 the prospect was mapped on a reconnaissance basis and this led to the understanding of its general rock sequence and structure. However, during 1980 additional information was obtained from several cored boreholes and this enabled the formulation of detailed stratigraphy and the recognition of the various coal zones.

# TABLE OF FORMATIONS

	GRO	UP/FORMATION	THICKNESS (meters)	LITHOLOGY	
LOWER CRETACEOUS			Sediments belonging to Fort St. John Group (Moosebar, Commotion and Hasler Formations) are entirely denuded from the west bank area.		
	Bullhead (	Gething Format	ion 400-450	Sandstone, calcareous quartzose, cherty; brackish/marine siltstone/mudstone; carbonaceous mudstone coal seams; minor conglomerate.	
	Croup Cadomin Formati	ion 25-35	Massive conglomerate, coarse-grained, sandstone minor carbonaceous mudstone.		
JURASSIC	Strong regional unconformity bevelling strata of succeedingly older age northward and eastward.				
	Minr	nes Group	800-1100	Marine and nonmarine sequence comprising sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, carbonaceous mudstone/ coals and minor conglomerates.	

## 12.1.1 Stratigraphy

## Minnes Group

The rocks range in age from Jurassic to

Lower Cretaceous and are shown on the "Table

of Formations".

The oldest rocks belonging to the Minnes
Group have very limited exposures and are
essentially confined to the valleys of Rocky
Creek and Burnt River. As well, some beds of
the Minnes are seen in the eroded core of
the tight Jilg anticline.

The Cadomin/Minnes contact is rather abrupt. However, there is no evidence of scouring or channeling, although regionally this contact marks a profound level of erosion.

The topmost succession of the Minnes invariably comprises dark grey mudstone/siltstone with an interbedding of carbonaceous shales and thin coal intervals. These are followed by a thick cyclic sequence of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone with or without coal zones. The total thickness of the Minnes exposed in this region may not exceed 100 - 150 m.

#### Cadomin Formation

The Cadomin Formation commonly consists of two or more conglomerate beds containing well-rounded pebbles, cobbles and boulders (dominantly of multi-colored cherts and quart-zites) probably representing piedmont/alluvial plain environment. Interbeds of fine-grained sandstone, siltstone and carbonaceous mudstone often comprise the middle section of the assemblage. The Cadomin invariably provides an excellent lithologic marker horizon for field geology and varies in thickness from 25 - 35 m.

### Gething Formation

This formation is readily divisible into three parts:

a) Upper Gething: This essentially comprises fine- to medium-grained, buff weathering calcareous sandstones, often with large-scale low-angle cross-bedding and cross-laminations. There are two very distinct thin (3-6 m) marine to fresh water silt-stone/mudstone units which help to delineate rock sequences. The Upper Gething rocks (8 m thick) are found only around borehole BP-2 area, as elsewhere these beds

- have been entirely eroded.
- Middle Gething: The contact of the Upper b) and Middle Gething is invariably heavily scoured and marked by abundant large mudstone intraclasts. The Middle Gething is extremely distinctive and constitutes an excellent marker lithology of (brackish/ marine condition) very fine-grained sandstone/siltstone and strongly calcareous mudstone. Certain horizons are intensely bioturbated, have pelecypod shells and usually pyritized fish scales. At least one glauconite band (0.30 m thick) occurs within the sequence and can be easily recognized in the core. It also constitutes a distinctive signature on gamma ray logs. These rocks are rarely exposed; their gross lithological characteristics are synthesized entirely from borehole BP-2 where a total of 100 m sequence has been intersected.
- Lower Gething: The contact of Middle and Lower Gething is always marked by gritty/ conglomeratic sandstone, 3-6 m thick.

  Rocks of the Lower Gething range in thickness from 290 300 m and are composed of sandstones (slight overall dominance)

siltstone, mudstones, carbonaceous mudstone coals, and conglomerates. The latter often are lenticular and highly variable in lithology. The sediments in general are dark grey, siliceous to richly argillaceous and embody a variety of current structures such as planar and trough cross-bedding, wedge-shaped, and low- to medium-angle cross-stratification, ripple-drifting cross-lamination. are numerous horizons incorporating medium- to coarse-grained sandstones with abundant plant debris (sometimes large chunks of 'woody' material leaving casts on the under-surfaces of sandstone). These sandstones are often ill-sorted, thick to poorly-bedded and generally contain abundant coal spar. Such deposits can be favourably compared with modern day channel-lag sediments.

# 12.1.2 Structure

The Sukunka North block is essentially a synclinorium within which the strata are undulating with dips commonly ranging from  $5^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$ . The overall synclinal axis trends in northwest/southeast direction along which

maximum thickness of strata are preserved.

On the whole it would appear that folding is more common than faulting. This view is further supported by the cored borehole information wherein only minor sections of the strata are occasionally disturbed suggesting little or no displacement. The only exception being the borehole DDH 1 which shows 6 - 7 m thick badly sheared and brecciated strata. However, here the surface exposures exhibit structural dips in the region of 45° - 50° and the area has been mapped to encompass a significant thrust faulting.

## 12.1.3 <u>Coal Occurrences</u>

Within the Sukunka North block, coal is restricted to the Lower Gething sequence within which several coal zones are recognized. It is very difficult to establish a correlation between these coals and those of the east bank. Only the topmost zone of the present area can be equated (with a degree of certainty) with the 'B' zone of the eastern region. Therefore the remainder of the coal occurrences have been given local names and these imply no regional correlation. Of the total coal zones of the Lower Gething, there

are four significant coal intervals that can be traced through most of the area. The lowest zone is about 30 - 35 m above the Cadomin (Cadomin Seam) and its maximum thickness is 2.2 m (average 1.5 m) in the Mt. Jilg area from where it appears to thin out gradually to the northwest and southeast. It has an abrupt sandstone roof and this factor might in part be responsible for its thinning. Floor sediments comprise carbonaceous mudstone and siltstone. The seam has been exposed in numerous trenches.

The next coal zone occurs about 115 - 120 m above the Cadomin and is designated as "Grizzly" Seam. It has been intersected in boreholes BP-1 and BP-2 and appears to have been washed out in the region of BP-3. Though the total coal zone may be 10 - 12 m thick, the total coal intervals seldom exceed 4 m. The zone has also been located in two trench sections. However, there are significant lithological variations between the trench and borehole intersections. Immediate roof and floor measures comprise highly carbonaceous mudstones.

About 30 - 35 m stratigraphically above the Grizzly zone lies the "Pump" zone. It has been intersected in boreholes BP-1, BP-2 and BP-3 and the zone thickness varies from 4 - 6 m, of which about 3 m might be coal. The zone was exposed in a trench and it also exhibits wide variation of lithologies and thickness between its trench and borehole sequence. The roof and floor sediments comprise mudstone. The topmost sizeable coal zone "B" lies about 215 - 220 m above the Cadomin or about 60 m below the Middel/Lower Gething contact. The zone is split into "B" Upper (BU) and "B" Lower (BL), the two components being seperated by about 10 - 12 m thick interseam sediments comprising mudstone and argillaceous siltstone. The total coal content of the zone varies from 1.5 to 2.5 m and the top zone appears to be more consistent though the lower zone may be considerably thicker. The zone B has been intersected only in boreholes BP-2 and BP-3 and was not exposed in trench section. Immediate roof and floor strata comprise mudstone.

For coal quality data, reference should be made to the relevant information contained in the Appendices.

# 12.2 Geology of Merrick, Jilg and Triangle Area

These licences were mapped during 1980 on a reconnaissance basis, the vast majority of which are underlain by the Minnes strata with occasional remnants of the Post-Minnes sediments being preserved within the cores of narrow synclines. The structural grain of the area broadly conforms with the regional north-west/southeast trend though some local accentuations of the structure are evidenced (eg. Merrick block because of its juxtaposition with Front Ranges has overturned structures).

## 12.2.1 Stratigraphy

Although regionally the Minnes Group comprises the Monteith (oldest), Beattie Peaks, Monach and 'Un-named'(youngest; Stott is presently proposing to assign these beds the formational status - the Bickford Formation) Formations; these stratigraphic subdivisions are not readily identifiable in field within the study area because of the profound facies changes. For example, to the northwest of this area, the Monach is well developed and is represented by clean orthoquartzites but in the study area only two orthoquartzite bands, each about 5 - 6 m thick have been identified and these have been assumed to represent the lateral

equivalents of the Monach Formation.

It was previously held by some workers that the only coal-bearing succession of the Minnes included the Bickford Formation. However, the present study shows unequivocally that coal occurrence is more widespread within the Minnes strata (including the Beattie Peaks), thereby increasing the stratigraphic range and areal distribution of potential coalbearing sediments in the areas of British Columbia Foothills.

Borehole BP-4 intersected about 285 m of undisturbed Bickford strata and these rocks compare favourably with the surface exposures. For detailed sedimentary features of the Minnes, reference should be made to the relevant field notes in the Appendices.

# 12.2.2 Structure

The Western licences of the Merrick block have very severe structures because of their proximity to the major tectonic event as manifested by the thrusting of Palaeozoic limestones against the Minnes strata. This resulted in the overturning of the west limb of a tight syncline (enclosing the Cadomin and some

Gething) where dips of 50° - 65° are quite common. Away from this zone to the northeast the Bickford strata continue dipping steeply to the southwest until this regime is replaced by another west dipping thrust throwing the Bickford against Bickford, the precise magnitude of the displacement is not known. To the east side of this thrust is a significantly large synclinal fold with dips seldom exceeding 20°. The area between this syncline and Mt. Eric is dominated essentially by steeply dipping folds with dips varying from 15° and 55°.

The Jilg block is dominated by tight anticlinal and synclinal folding with dips locally approaching  $70^{\circ}$ . These tectonic styles are best exemplified by the top of Mt. Jilg, from thence this structural pattern can be followed to the northwest, ie. around Hill 1507. Following the sequence to the southwest of Mt. Jilg along the ridge connecting Mt. Jilg and Mt. Eric, the rocks dip to the southwest. The central notch of this ridge is associated with dip reversal suggesting the presence of a thrust fault at this point, throwing the Beattie Peaks strata of Mt. Eric over the Bickford Formation.

The central portion of the Triangle block consists of synclinal structure embodying the Cadomin and a veneer of Gething sequence in core section. Dips in this region commonly range from 15° - 30°. Along its northeastern limb, there is ample evidence of structural dislocation of strata and this disturbance is most probably related to a sizeable thrust (in excess of 50 m). Further eastward another thrust fault occurs registering a much greater displacement of strata involving the Lower Bickford against the Upper Bickford successions. From then on the dips are rather gentle (5° -10°) and there is a gradual gaining of stratigraphic section - perhaps as much as 100 m thick Lower Gething may be preserved.

To the southwest of the major syncline, the strata are largely Bickford and older and are involved in a series of anticlinal and synclinal tight  $(30^{\circ} - 80^{\circ} \text{ dips})$  style of folding, punctuated perhaps by numerous west dipping thrust faults.

# 12.2.3 Coal Occurrences

There is a very limited scope for the Gething coals within the Jilg, Triangle and Merrick blocks as the Gething sediments are confined

to small tight folds. As far as the Jilg licences are concerned, only the lowermost barren Gething is preserved and inclined at steep angles and truncated off by a thrust fault.

Within the Triangle syncline, only 30 - 40 m thick lower Gething rocks have survived erosion. These rocks contain about 0.5 m thick coal seam and this coal is probably the lateral equivalent of the much thicker Cadomin Seam.

The Lower Gething sequence also outcrops to the east (area previously held under West Bank licences) and although no coal outcrops were located during surface mapping, sufficient thickness of the coal-bearing sediment are believed to be preserved.

Within the Merrick block, the Lower Gething is entirely restricted to the core of an overturned syncline. Here, at least two coal zones, each 0.5 - 1.5 m thick have been recorded. However, these were very difficult to trace laterally due to structural complexity.

## Minnes Coals

The Minnes coals occur throughout the Bickford

Formation and possibly within the Beattie
Peaks. However, the sizeable coal zones appear
to be confined to the uppermost 50 m of the
Bickford Formation. Two coal seams named
Merrick and Rusty, occur within 30 m of the
Cadomin base. These are about 8 to 10 m
apart, and are each, on average, 2 m thick.
These seams have been traced over considerable
distances but are inclined at 45° - 60°. It
appears these coals deteriorate and thin out
across the depositional strike, ie. within
the Jilg/Triangle regions. Similar situation
prevails within the Sukunka North licences, as
evidenced by the Bickford intersections found
in borehole BP-4.

It has been previously held that the Beattie

Peaks strata are entirely composed of marine

sediments. However, during these investigations,

it has been found to contain thick non-marine

sequences including coal zones. These coals

are generally thin and uneconomic. A notable

exception here being the Hill Seam which is

over 2.5 m thick and occurs within an isolated

high terrain. However, it appears to have

been washed out (upper half) by a conglomerate

channel in the environs of borehole BP-5.

A notable feature of these coals is the needle-like fabric of the constituent elements - this preservation suggesting insufficient "induration" of the vegetal matter.

For the location of various seam trenches and quality information, reference should be made to the relevent maps and Appendices.

### 12.3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Sukunka North block, over all, has large segments of gently undulating Lower Gething strata in which two coal zones, each 3 to 4 m thick of suitable thermal coal quality have been established. Some of these coals may be amenable to surface mining methods. However, considerable variations in seam thickness and quality are exhibited over short distances. Therefore further drilling is imperative to substantiate the continuity, quality and quantity of the coals involved.

The majority of strata encompassed by the Jilg block are steeply inclined. Area of low dips is restricted to a syncline located northwest of borehole BP-1 where sufficient thickness of the Lower Gething rocks exists to enclose the Grizzly/Pump zones. A borehole is required to test this structure.

The Triangle block is complexly folded and faulted and since no major coal seams have been unearthed, it

does not appear to rank among the priority areas.

One borehole may be necessary to evaluate the gentler

Gething rocks.

The Merrick is known to contain sizeable coal seams within the uppermost segment of its Bickford sequence. There are several structurally favourable areas: within the Bickford as well as the Beattie Peaks and these should be tested by a suitably located drilling program.

#### 13. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For expenditures as they apply to specific licence blocks, see "Application to Extend a Term of Licence" forms in Appendix C. The following list illustrates expense catagory, principal contractors and amount expended. Note: actual cost figures are subject to minor changes due to updates, especially in the salary and coal analysis categories.

Accomodation & Catering	Pine Cone & Chetwynd Court Motels	\$ 24,148.59
Field Equipment	Ribtor Sales, Petrocraf	t 3,112.32
Communications	Canadian Marconi	2,140.26
Helicopter Services	Maple Leaf Helicopters	139,923.57
Transportation	Visa Rentals, Pacific Western	12,058.14
Core Drilling	Acadia Drilling Ltd.	186,517.38
Geophysical Logging	BPB Instruments Ltd.	14,226.95
Drill Site Preparation	North Star Fabricators	5,680.00
Coal Analysis	Birtley Coal & Minerals	20,132.00
Contract Personnel	Summer Students, Drafts	man 7,814.78
BP Salaries, 'Field'	BP Employees	46,247.00
BP Salaries, 'Back up'	BP Employees	11,915.00
Reporting, Printing etc.	Riley's Reprographics	655.80
Total Program Expenditure	S	\$474,571.79

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hoce of British Columbia Ministry via True Wir. a and Fetroleum Resources Ministry .: Enforce Alega in Resources Province of British Columbia BRANCH Ministry of Energy Wines and Petroleum Resources INSPECTION AND ENGINEEDING CLUSCOAL LICENCE MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCHA I LICENCE INSPECTION AND PRINCIPERING DIVISION LA CENCE NOTICE OF WORK ON a COAL LICENCE in a convenience of the District of the Coal Mines This notice is to be completed by all companies or individuals carrying out exploration work prior to commencement by sold and at desirable of work and torwarded to the Chief Inspector of Mines with a copy to the District Inspector of Mines. If mechanical equipment is used in surface work, Form 8 overleaf must be completed. NAME OF PROPERTY ... MERRICK/JILG 5244 to 5258, 5267 to 5278 Coal Licence Numbers . . . . top before in the grant of the Original contract the contract of the contract Prince George .. B. George .. NTS map sheet no. . 93 . 94 . PANNERSSNING 15 ... Long 1721 ... Sep 5.6 ... Access Wie or Between Burnt. and . Suksinka. Rivers, approximately 60 km, south of Chetward, Access by heliconter. OWNER'S NAME. BP Exploration Canada .... Address .... 333 - 5th Avenue S.W. Galgary. Alta.... Telephone No. 237-1234. Astabovets .... Astabovets OPERATOR'S NAME ....

OR: ACTUAL DATE WORK COMPLETED: From June 14, 1980... to August 10, 1980... DESCRIPTION OF WORK (Use metric measure - 1 metre = 3,3 feet.) (Show on 1:50 000 scale map.) 

(b) Test Pits: No. Nil. Maximum dimensions: Widsh..... m Length ..... m Depth .... ि जिस्त्री विविधानित area of test pits Total disturbed area of adits. 

> GRAND TOTAL OF AREA DISTURBED .. 2458

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DATE FOREST SERVICE ADVISED BY OPERATOR APTTI TO 1980- POREST

Name of Official. Mr. Lorne McQueen Title Chief Forest Ranger.
Address Chetword British Columbia

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

R. J. Melin.

DATE Sept. 15 to 1080

NOTE: Owner, again, on manageris responsible for ensuring the Contractor, complies with pertinent Tegulation Act. There are section 27(6). Coel Mines Regulation Act. This was no section 8, subsection 2(a) of the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Where the employment of mechanical confinent is likely to disturb the surface of the land in charging, stripping, trenching the reclamating program and the riberta, side is. equipment is likely to disturb the surface of the land in draging, stripping, trenching, the reclamation region of the reserve side is also to be submitted.

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#### Province of British Golumbia Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources

MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH EVERSON MARKET AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

### RECLAMATION PROGRAM

(Section 8 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act)

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District Forester or Ranger Senior Reclamation Inspector, Victoria Regional Manager, Water Resources Bi District Inspector of Mines Regional Manager, Lands Branch Regional Reclamation Inspector-Technician 

and Reclamation in Coal Exploration." THIS IS: Aproposed reclamation program.

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B. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8

(Show work and reclamation on 1:50:900 seale map and include with full distribution noted above,) [\*For proposed work programs include with submissions to Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources documentation on 1:10 000 figure oxignate scale) air photograph or Minbatograph over May 1:00 3:00

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# Province of British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH
INSPECTION AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

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PERSON NO. C . TIL. . .

## NOTICE OF WORK ON A COAL LICENCE

(Section 7 of the Coal Wines Regulation Act)	
This notice is to be completed by all companies of individuals carrying out exploration work prior to commencement of work and at cessation of work and forwarded to the Chief Inspector of Mines with a copy to the District Inspector of Mines. If mechanical equipment is used in surface work, Form 8 overleaf must be completed.	
TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	
NAME OF PROPERTY SUKUNKA NORTH	
Coal Licence Numbers 3617, 4029, 4032, 4034, 4036 to 4049	
2. LOCATION 9. PRINCE GEORGE, B. C	
Lat. 55 . 18 Long. 121 . A. A. A. Acess Via Mocated between Burnt and	•
Sukunka Rivers on either side of Rocky Creek 60 km south of Chetwynd Access via helicopter.	1.
3. OWNER'S NAME . Masiens Exploration Ltd	
Address	
4. OPERATOR'S NAME BP. Explonation, Canada	
Address 333 - 5th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AltaFelephone No. (403) 237-12	234
5. ESTIMATED DURATION OF WORK: From State A.	
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8. DATE FOREST SERVICE ADVISED BY OPERATOR April 10, 1980	
Name of Official Lorne McQueen	
Address Chetwynd, British Columbia	
The state of the s	
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT CAUTANA MILE Senior Technologis	t
PRINT NAME. R.J. Melin DATE Sept. 15, 1980	
MOTE: Owner, agent, or manager is responsible for ensuring the Confractor complies with perfinent regulations large section 27(6). Coef Mines	

NOTE: Owner, agent, or manager is responsible for ensuring the Contractor complies with perfinent regulations (see section 27(6). Coal Mines Regulation Act). Pursuant to section 8, subsection 2(a) of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, where the employment of mechanical equipment is likely to disturb the surface of the land in clearing, stripping, trenching, the reclamation program on the reverse side is also to be submitted.



Province of British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Revources DESCRIPTION OF ST

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	MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH
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	*District Inspector of Mines
€13.	For advice on procedure and reclaimation methods, see booklet entitled, Handbook of Equiranmental Protection.
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5.	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8
· · ·	(Show work and reclamation on 1:50 000 scale map and include with full distribution noted above.) For proposed work programs include: with submittable too Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources documentation on 1:10 000 (approximate scale) air photograph or air photograph overlay.)
• • •	Drillsite Reclamation; All timber cut down during drillsite
	construction was limbed and bucked-up All garbage including
• •	mud and coment, was removed from the drillsite and disposed of
•	at the BP camp dumping site.
• • •	Trench Reclamation: All trenches were small, hand-dug coal trenches and in many cases consisted of reopening trenches from previous.
	exploration either by the B.C. Dept. of Mines and Petroleum Resource
	the Geological Survey of Canada, or previous coal leases holders in
	the area Since more exploration is planned for this area, not all
	of the hand trenches were filled in and reclaimed.
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When geotechnical and rectamation workshave been completed for the calendar year a final rectamation report should be submitted to the three Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources personnel noted at the top of this form. For details see the booklet entitled, "Handbook of Environmental Protection and Reclamation in Coal Exploration."

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# Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources

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### NOTICE OF WORK ON A COAL LICENCE

Section 7 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act)

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Sukunka Rivers, approx. 500 km, south of Chetwynd. Access by helicop
3. OWNER'S NAME BP Exploration, Canada
Address Surger 1833 - 5th Avenue S. W. Calgary Alta Telephone No. 237-1234
4. OPERATOR'S NAME AS above.
Address
5. ESTIMATED DURATION OF WORK SEFTEN BELL MORTHPOLICE MOR GEO BE OF THE 1910 DE
OR: ACTUAL DATE WORK COMPLETED: From June 14, 1980 to August 10, 1980
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NOTE: Owiten agreement manager is responsible for ensuring the Contractor complies with persinent regulations (see section 2716), Coal Mines Regulation Act. (where the employment of mechanical equipment is likely to disturb the surface of the land in cinaring, stripping, trenching, the reclamation program on the reverse side is also to be submitted.

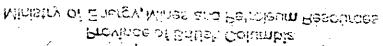


# Province of British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

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5.	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8  (Show work and reclamation on 1:50 000 scale map and include with full distribution noted above.) [For proposed work programs include with submissions to Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources documentation on 1:10 000 (approximate scale) and photograph overlay.)  (A) H617CODICI  Trenching consisted of small hand dug trenches or reopening of trenches from previous exploration in the area by the B.C. Dept.  (B) H617CODICI  Trenching consisted of small hand dug trenches or reopening of minessand Detroleum Resources, the Geological Survey of Canada,  (B) Of Minessand Detroleum Resources, the Geological Survey of Canada,  (C) Other coal licence holders in the area. Since more exploration  (C) Other coal licence holders in the area. Since more exploration  (C) Other coal licence holders in the hand trenches were filled  (C) Other coal licence for this carea, not all of the hand trenches were filled  (C) Other coal MANCO (C) AND
<b>5.</b>	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8  (Show work and reclamation on 1:50 000 scale map and include with full distribution noted above.) ["For proposed work programs include with submissions to Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources documentation on 1:10 000 (approximate, scale) and photograph overlay.)  (C) H677CCDCCI  Trenching consisted=of small hand-dug trenches or reopening of trenches from previous exploration in the area by the B.C. Dept.  of Minessand Dectmoleum Resources, the Geological Survey of Canada,  of Minessand Dectmoleum Resources, the Geological Survey of Canada,  of of Minessand Dectmoleum Resources, the hand trenches were filled consint and reclaimed for this carea, not all of the hand trenches were filled consint and reclaimed as past.  Sec. 12 V15 C. 1810 D.1 MH. Sec. 1
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When geotechnical and reclamation work have been completed for the caleboar year a limit tectamation report should be submitted to the three Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources personnell noted at the log of this form. For details see the booklet entitled, Handbook of Environmental Protection and Reclamation in Coal Exploration.





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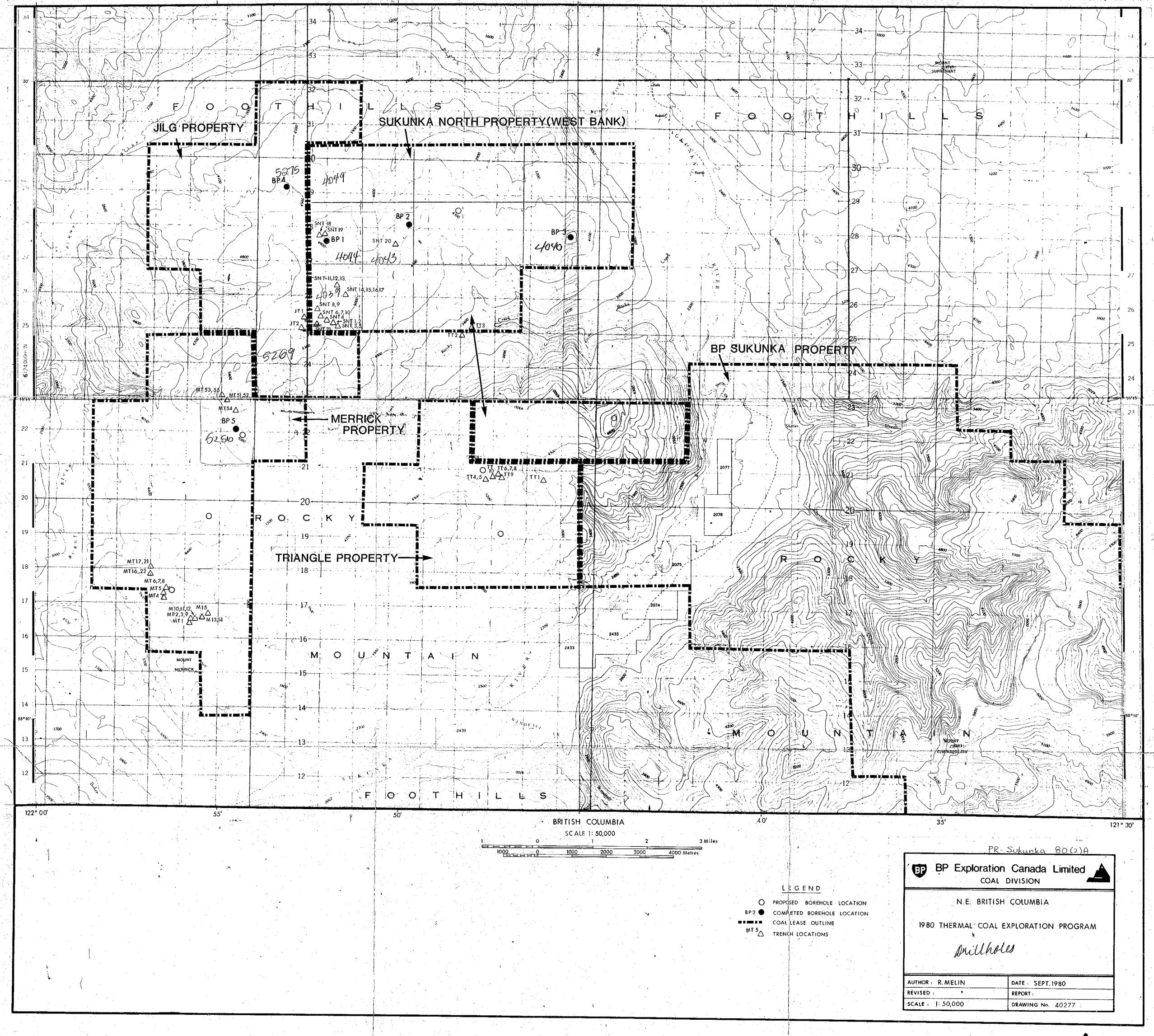


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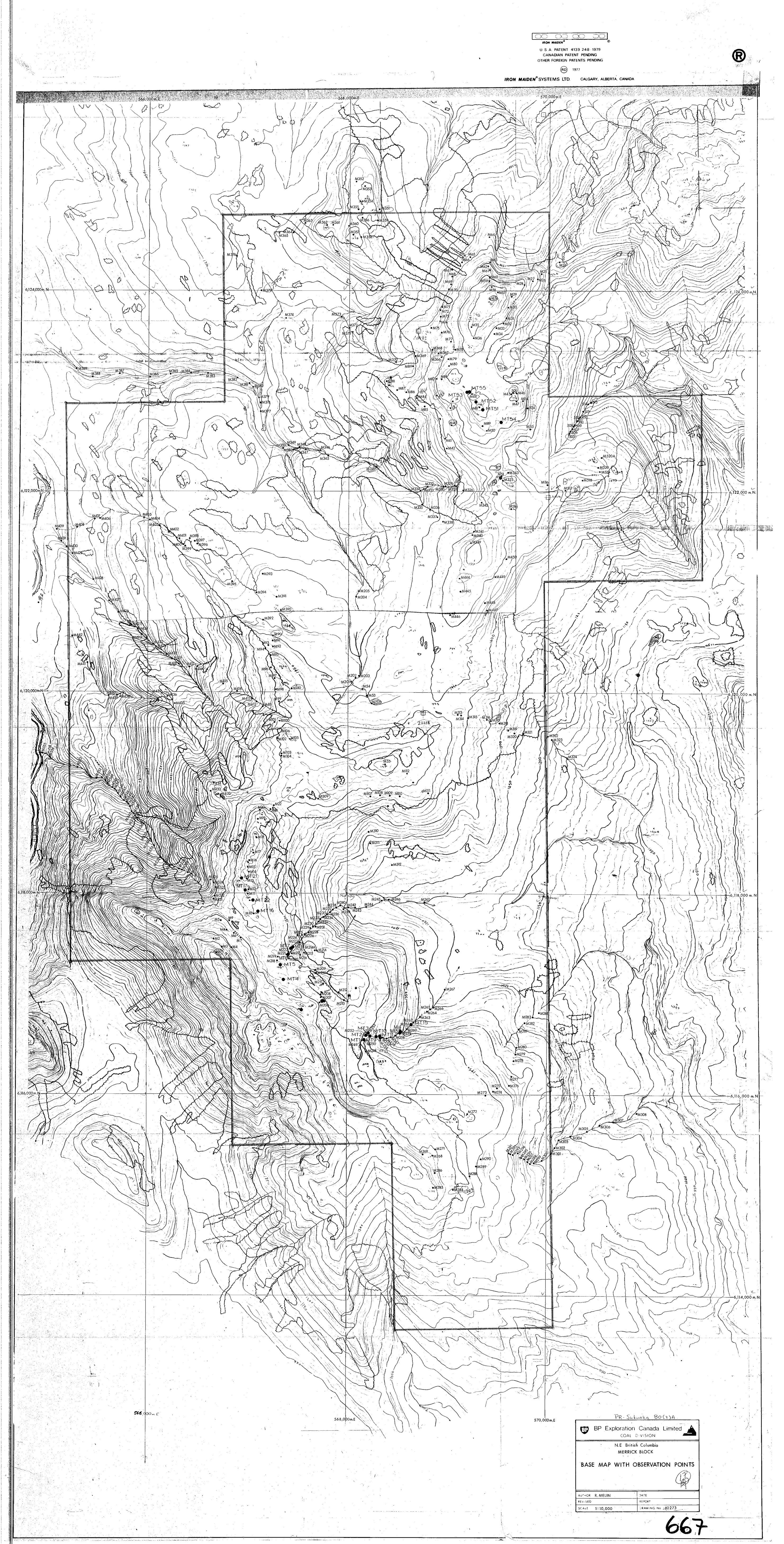
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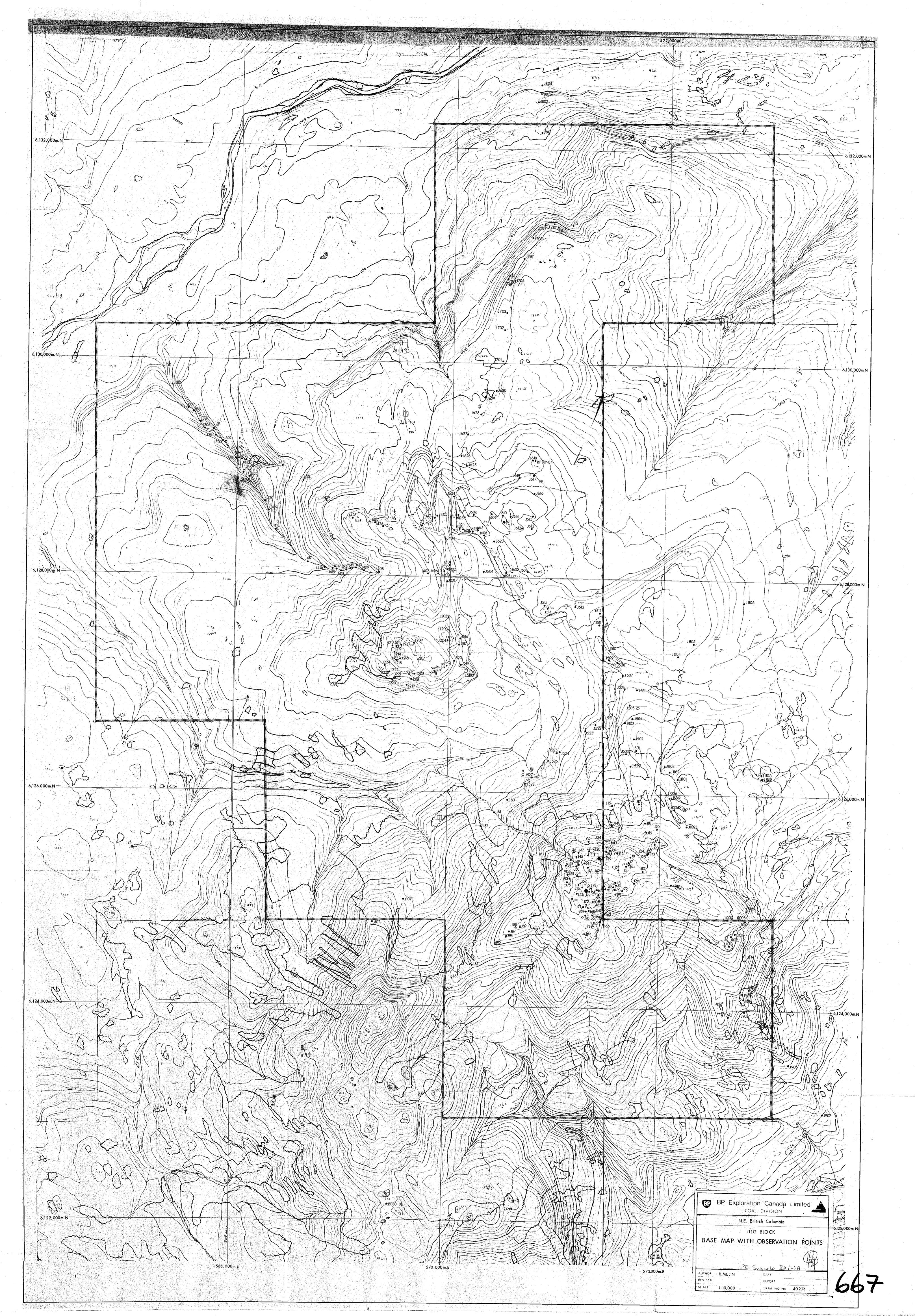
GEOLOGICAL BRANCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

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