ESSO RESOURCES CANADA LIMITED RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

8**3** 08 13

Mr. A.R. Peach Esso Minerals Canada, Coal Department, Room 646, East Tower, Esso Plaza

#### British Columbia Coal Reconnaissance

Processing and glemental analysis of the above samples has now been completed. The material is currently being examined for palynology, and it is hoped to complete this within the next two weeks.

In general, elemental analysis indicates that the sediments have quite similar chemical composition, suggesting that they were all formed under the same depositional regime and may be about the same age. Hopefully, this will be confirmed by palynological analysis. Three of the samples are significantly different from the remainder.

H 0013

This sample is rich in calcium (present in the form of  $CaCO_3$ , otherwise similar to the bulk of the samples submitted. This could be a primary feature or the result of later induration. In any case, it is probably of only local significance.

#### R 0001

This rock comprises 97% pure silicon dioxide with a little calcium and a trace of iron.

#### R 0002

This is a most interesting sample, baing extremely rich (33%) in manganese. It is also abnormally rich in calcium(18\%). Because of the abundance of manganese in this sample, which is most unusual for Canadian material, and because this element, in addition to having possible commercial value itself, could be an indicator for other commercially valuable deposits, it is suggested that an assay be undertaken on this sample and further investigation of the locality be considered.

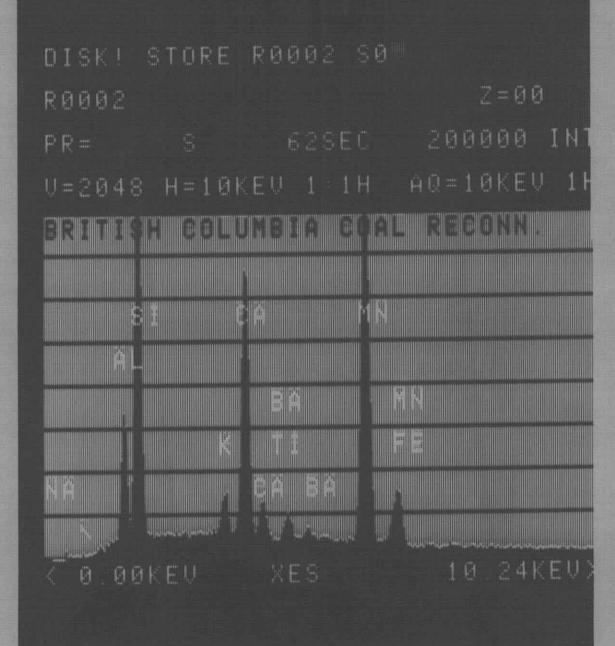
Juny ty first

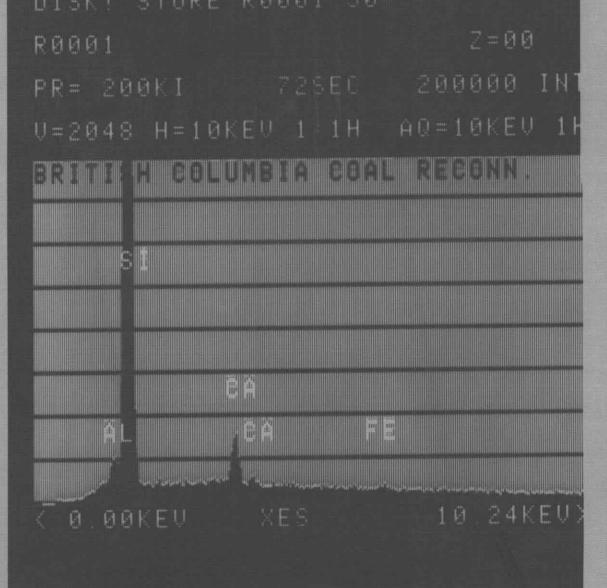
Stanley A.J. Pocock

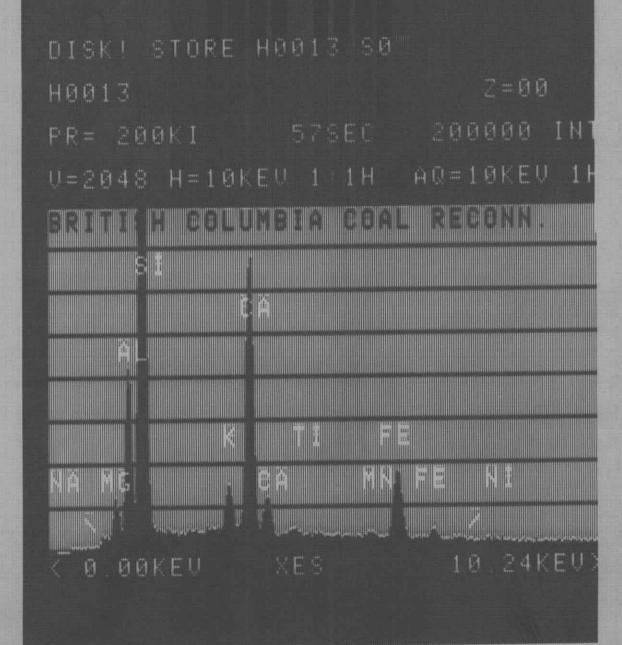
SAJP/sajp Attach.

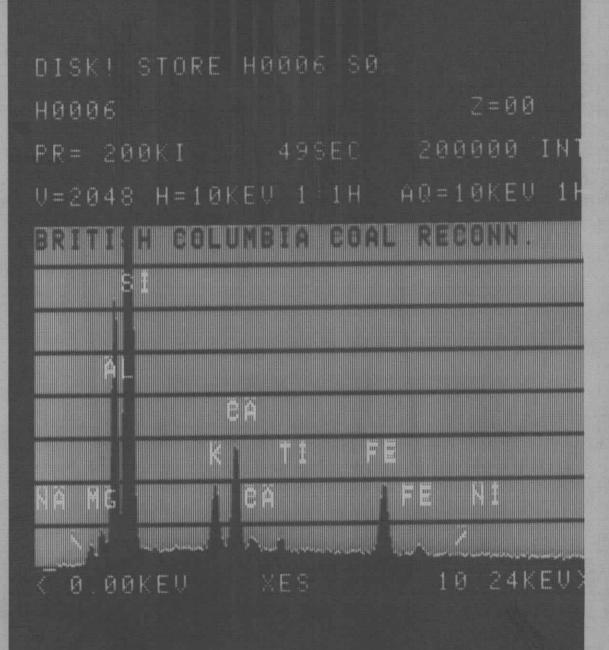
Note: We have now completed programing of out elemental analysis equipment to express output in digital form standardised to 100%. All output is, threefore, comparable from sample to sample.

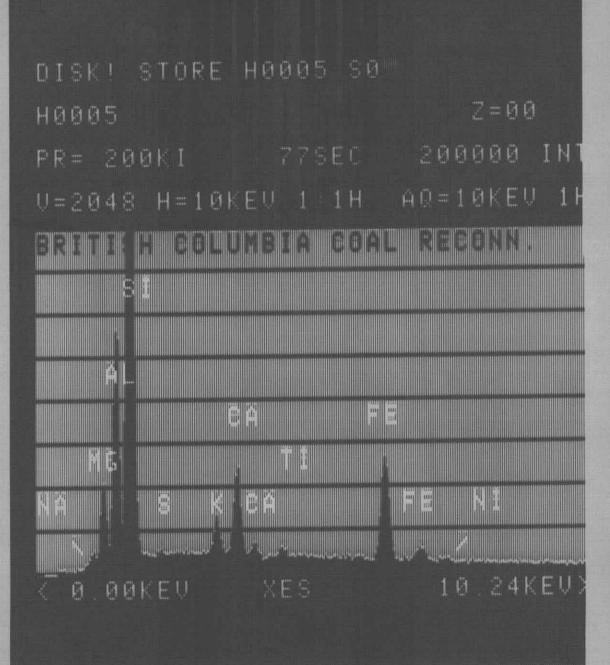
	Na	Mg	Al	Si	S	K	Ca	Ti	V	Mn	Fe	Ni	Cu	Ba
HOOOO4A	.044	1.79	12.52	68.42	-6.3	3.2	4.8	0.75	0.3	0.14	7.4	0.68	-0.3	0.7
H00004B	.052	1.20	9.27	74.3	-0.2	4.3	2.32	0.74	-0.03	0.4	6.57	0.31	0.12	0.7
H00005	0.16	3.80	12.8	65.4	0.27	1.8	4.84	0.91	0.01	0.13	8.41	0.35	0.25	0.8
H00006	0.21	1.03	13.71	67.9	-0.06	3.1	6.11	0.72	0.18	0.43	5.66	0.12	0.08	0.74
H00007	0.08	1.65	12.6	70.58	-0.02	2.86	4.17	0.91	0.09	0.13	5.70	0.15	0.22	0.88
H00008	0.21	1.35	13.8	66.2	0.09	3.67	5.9	0.67	-0.07	0.51	7.00	0.11	0.34	0.58
Н0010	0.24	1.52	13.99	60.17	0.04	2.84	9.4	0.81	0.20	0.20	9.64	0.12	0.13	0.74
HOO11A	0.22	0.89	15.48	67.74	-0.02	4.61	3.77	0.61	0.1	-0.09	5.81	0.07	00.11	0.61
H0012	0.13	1.68	16.15	64.01	-0.12	2.63	5.27	0.99	0.11	0.25	8.74	0.24	-0.04	0.93
HOOL3	0.05	1.74	9.01	60.51	-0.01	2.48	17.74	0.62	0.30	0.58	6.02	0.22	0.20	0.53
HOO14	0.17	1.19	14.3	66.1	. 0.2	2.6	4.26	1.17	0.15	0.05	8.47	0,25	-0.06	1.09
H0015	0.15	3.5	13.7	63.9	-0.08	2.12	5.99	0.81	0.32	0.11	8.46	0.17	0.06	0.74
H0017	0.15	0.66	17.8	61.36	0.07	4.45	5.65	1.05	0.16	0.21	7.23	0.23	0.09	1.01
HOO19	0.13	0.96	15.94	64.3	-0.26	6.01	5.17	0.37	0.02	0.24	6.7	0.11	-0.04	0.33
HOO10B	0.12	1.42	14.52	65.1	0.20	3.24	7.52	0.76	0.31	0.22	6.14	-0.04	-0.21	0.72
HOOL 1B	0.14	1.32	17.8	62.7	0.07	2.34	6.13	1.34	-0.03	-0.14	6.90	-0.006	-0.004	11.42
R00001	-0.004	0.10	-0.27	97.0	0.02	0.18	2.60	-0.04	0.86	0.22	0.22	0.084	-0.11	-0.07
R00002	0.10	0.01	0.84	32.0	0.22	2.42	18.4	1.63	-0.34	<b>33</b> 411	2.22	0.08	0.04	1.72
R0014	0.25	4.04	12.55	64.4	0.07	2.13	5,55	0.77	0.28	0.19	8.52	0.26	0.11	0.8
ROO24A	0.11	1.53	11.77	69.54	-0.01	2.93	2.38	0.84	0.24	0.45	9.10	0.25	0.07	0.8
ROO24B	0.19	1.55	16.1	62.03	0.06	2.38	3,56	1.05	0.17	0.27	11.6	0.13	-0.08	1.00
ROO25A	0.05	1.14	13.68	65.7	2.74	2.00	4.12	0.95	0.07	0.14	8.15	0.2	0.12	0.91
R0025B	0.06	1.01	14.73	64.16	11.59	1.59	2.28	0.89	0.17	-0.01	12.34	0.21	0.07	0.90
R0025C	0.05	0.79	12.81	65.03	3.23	1.75	4.57	1.07	0.04	0.09	9.20	0.33	-0.06	1.01
R0027	0.09	1.01	17.74	59.6	-0.08	1.66	7.41	1.63	0.23	-0.15	9.85	0.26	0.06	1.62
R0039	0.08	1.22	13.0	69.78	-0.06	3.00	4.50	0.56	0.03	0.39	6.63	0.19	0.14	0.57
_R0040	0.09	1.15	13.89	68.82	0.25	3.06	<b>}</b> 83	0.50	-0.01	0.42	7.53	0.08	-0.06	0.42
	7						,							1

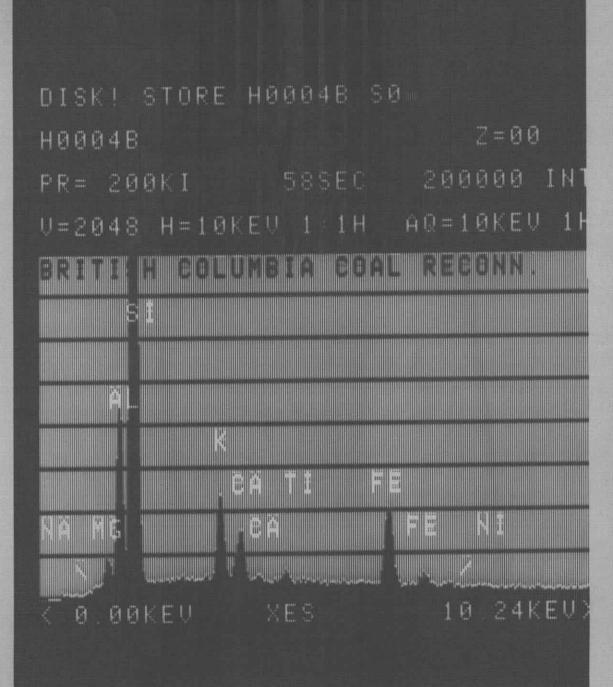


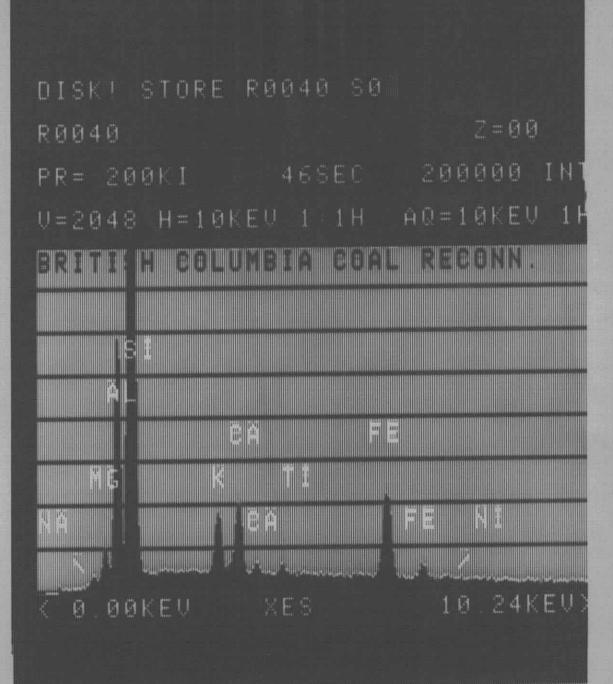


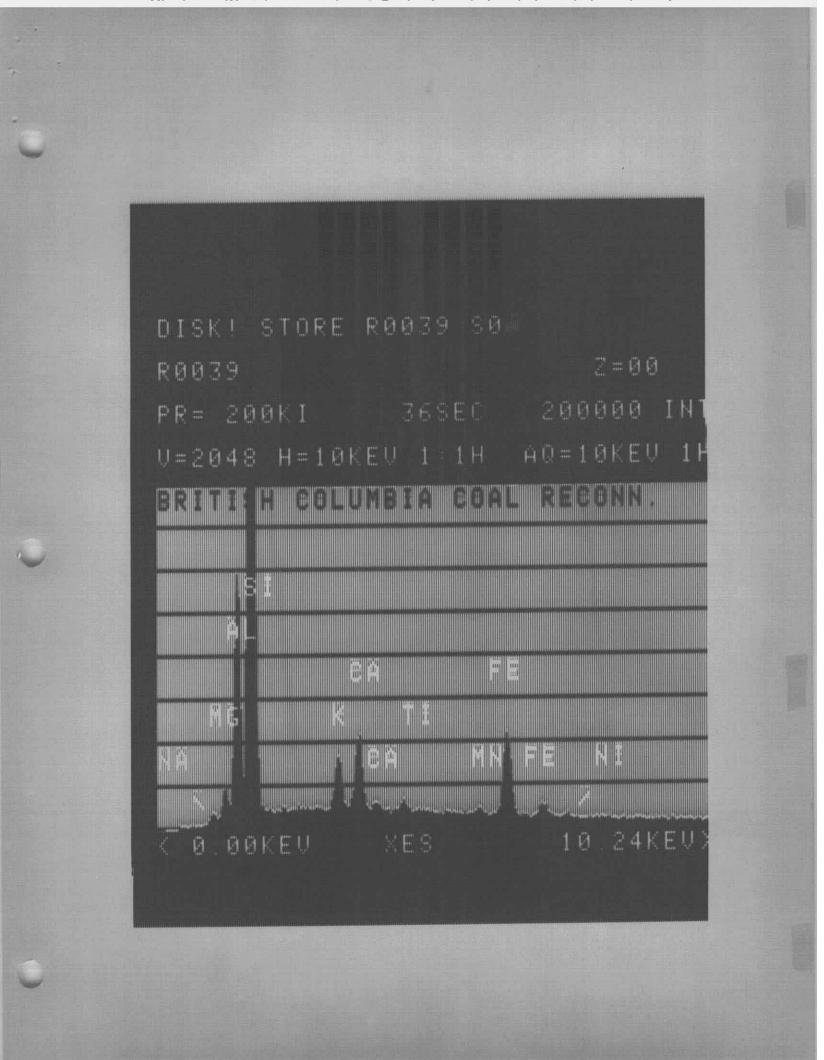


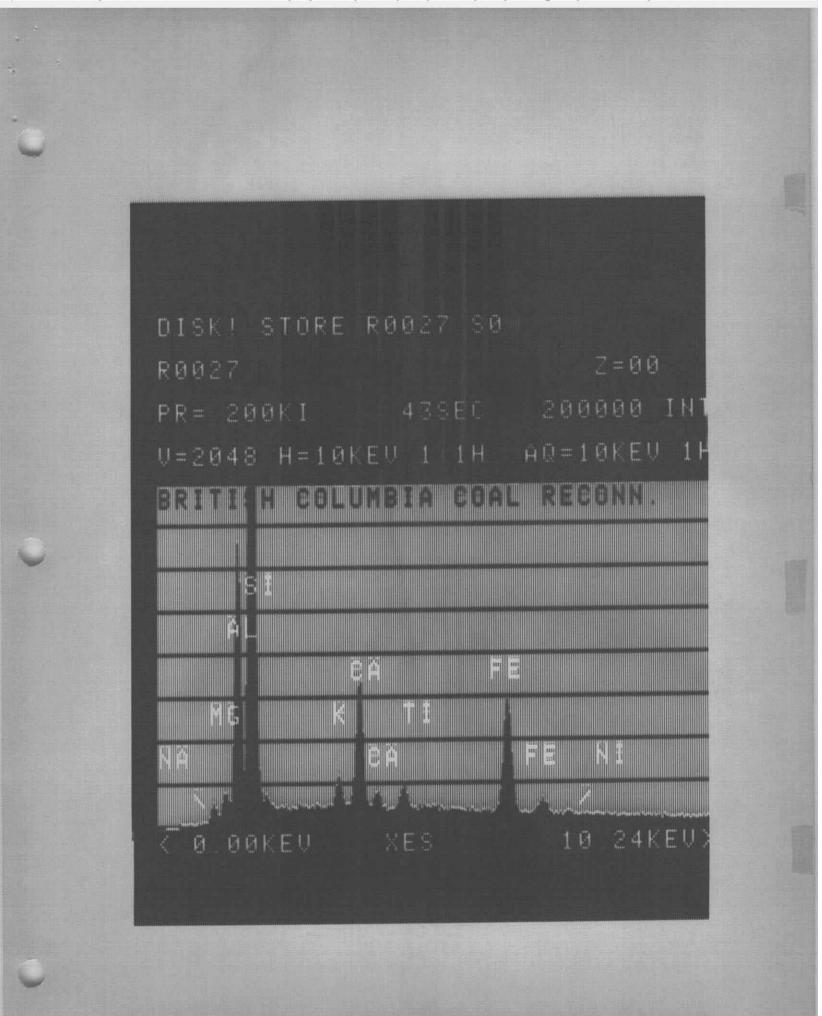








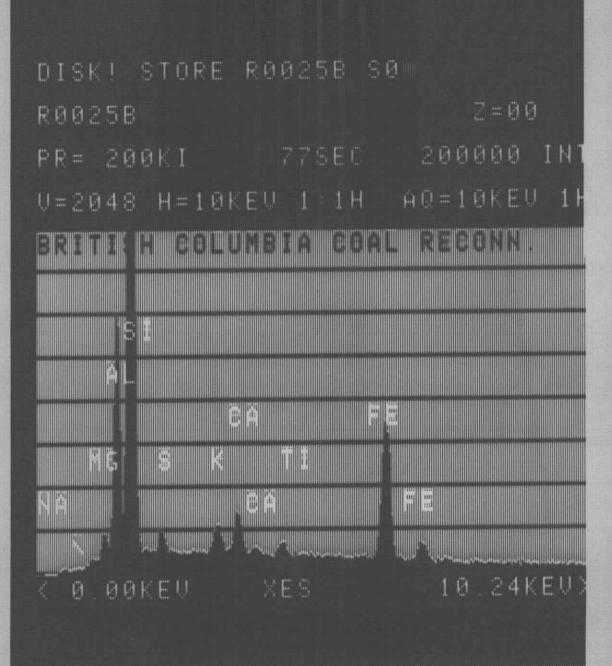


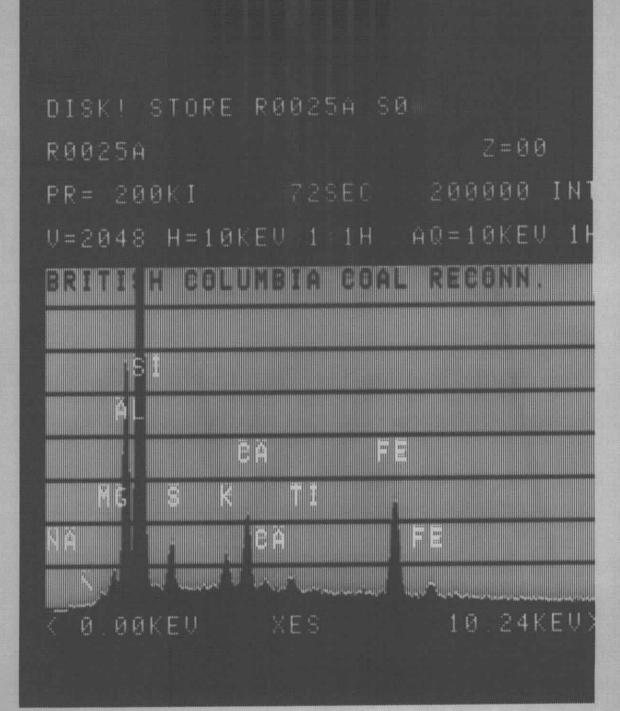


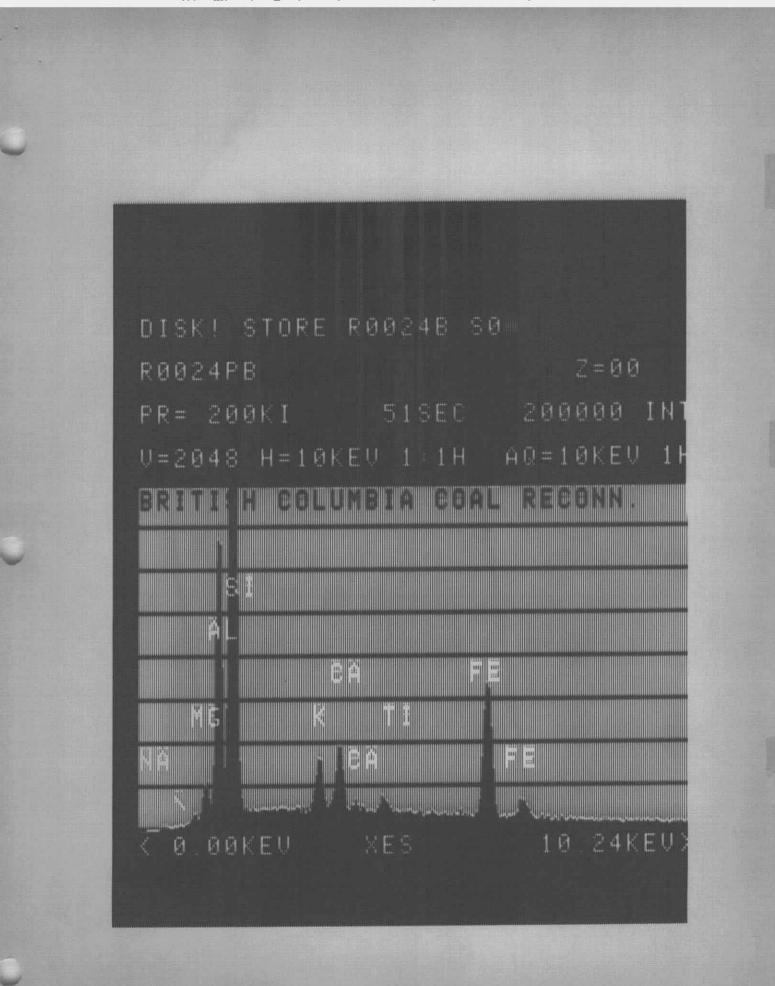


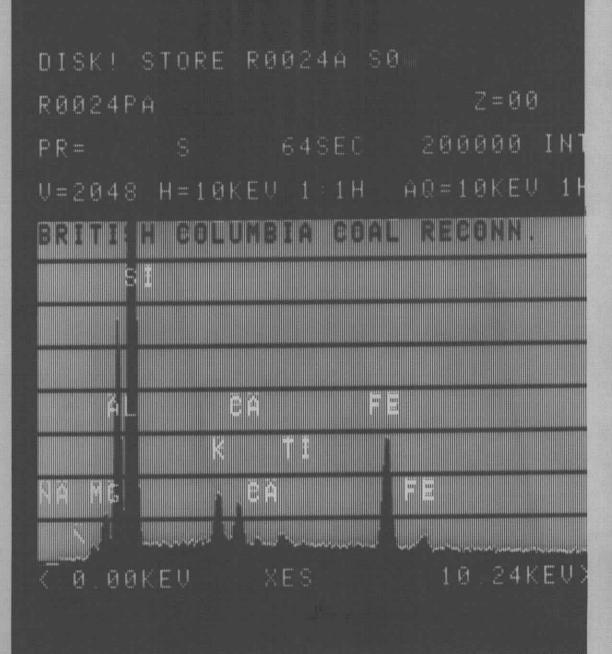
DISKY STORE R00200 00 R00250 Z=00 PR= 200KI 50SEC 200000 INT U=2048 H=10KEV 1 1H AQ=10KEV 1H ERBTH H EBLUYBER BEAL REDENN.

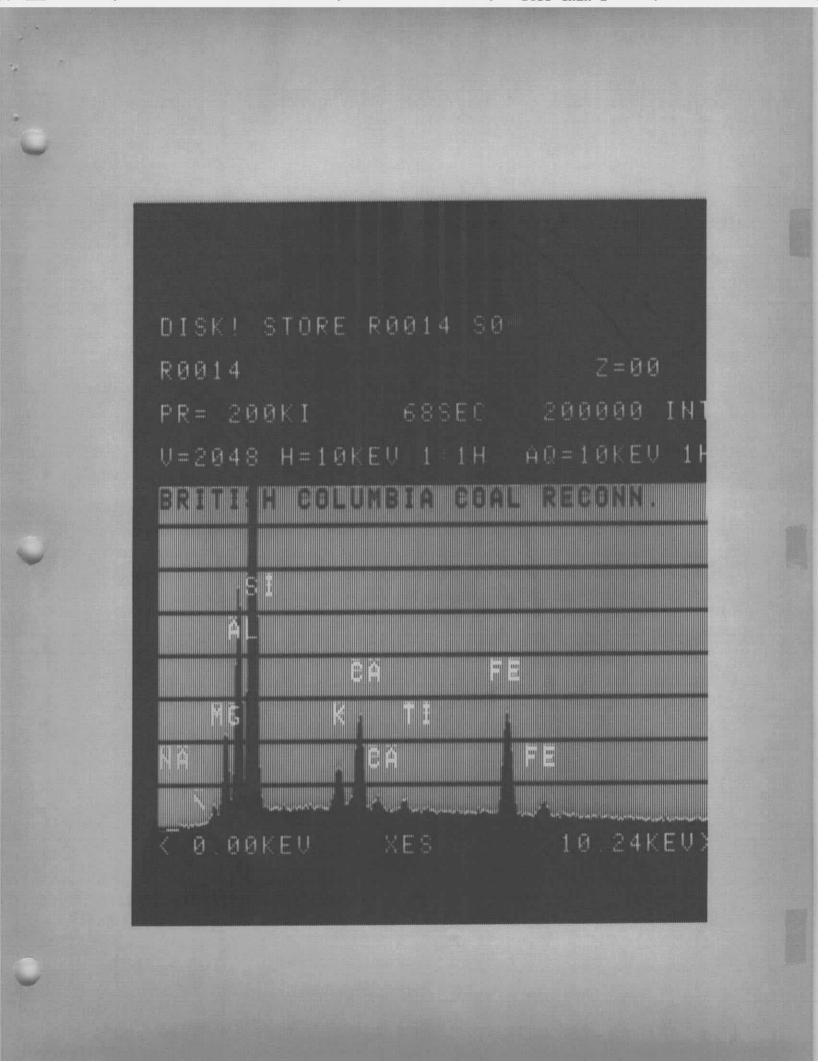
DISKI STORE R00250 S0

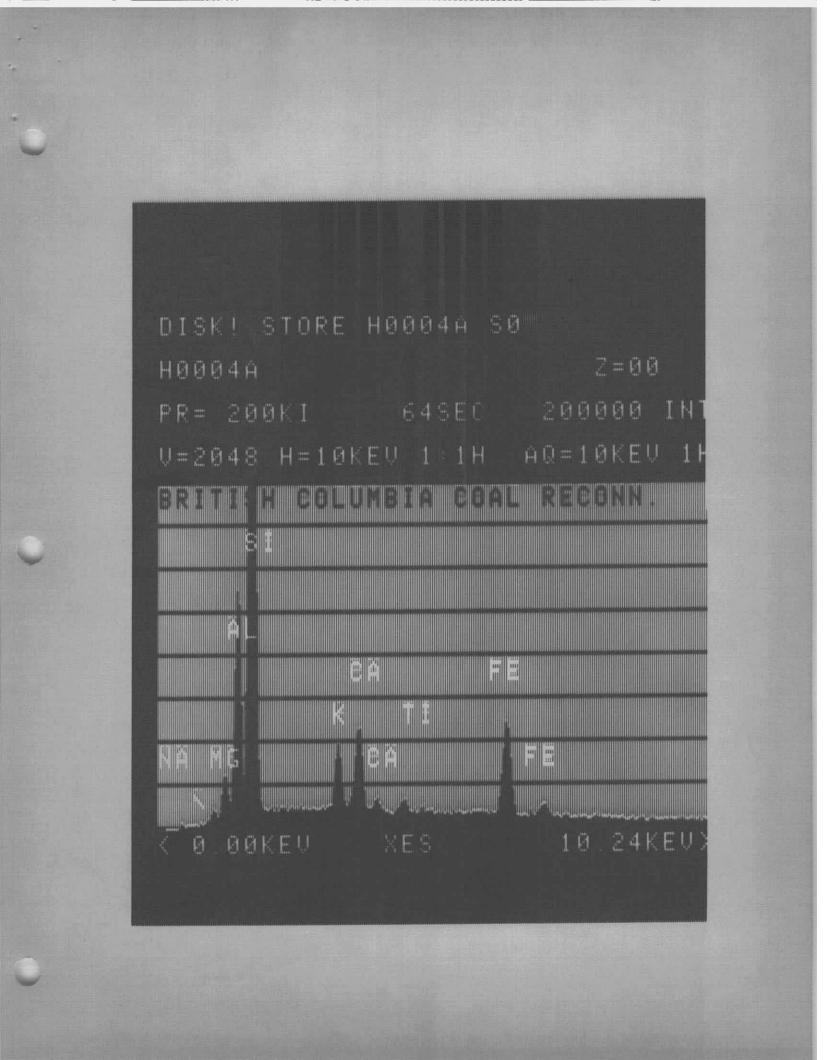


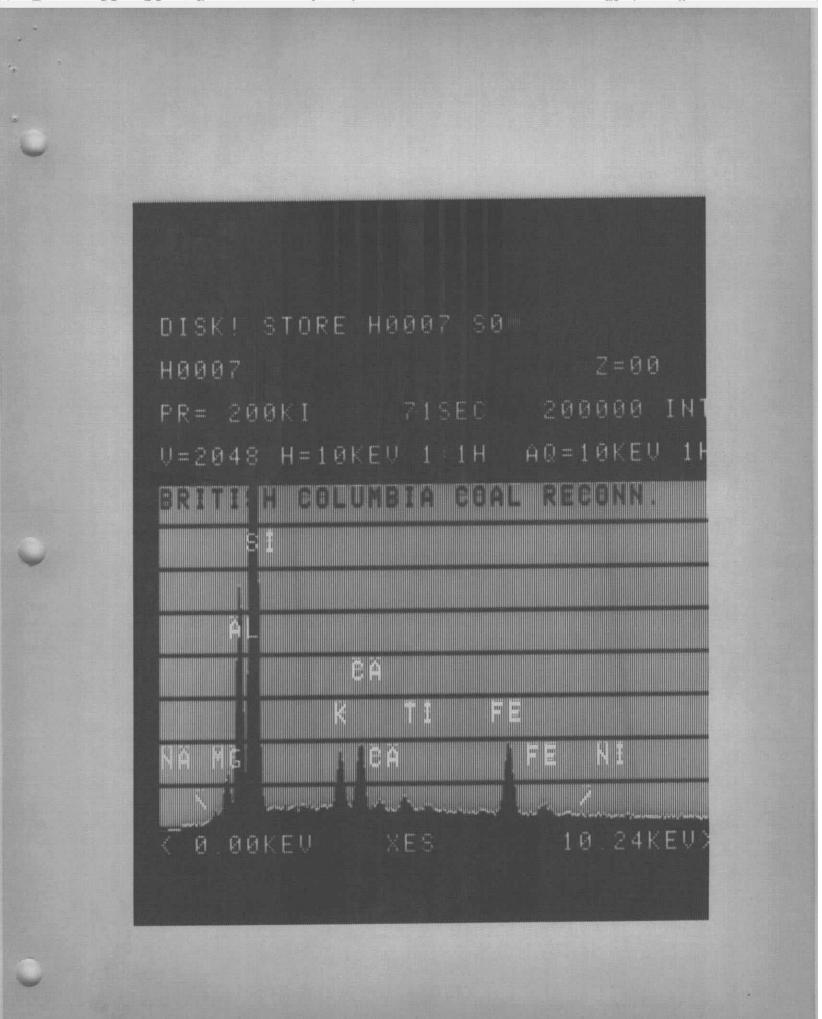


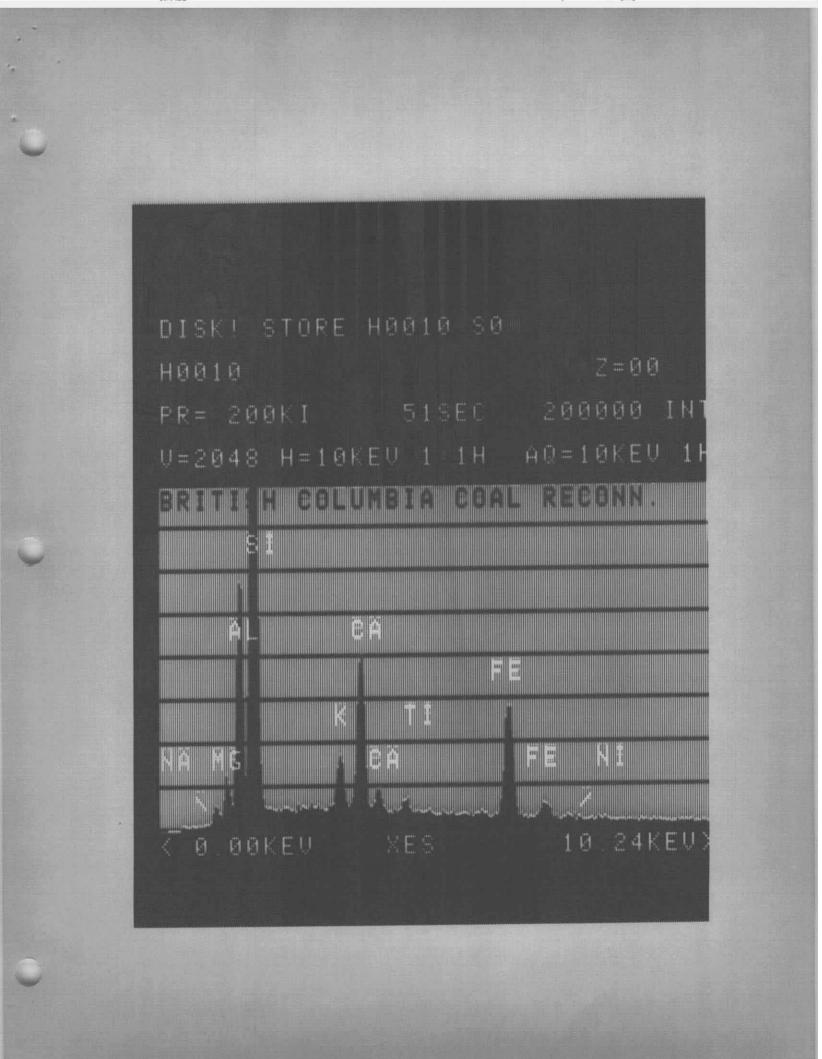


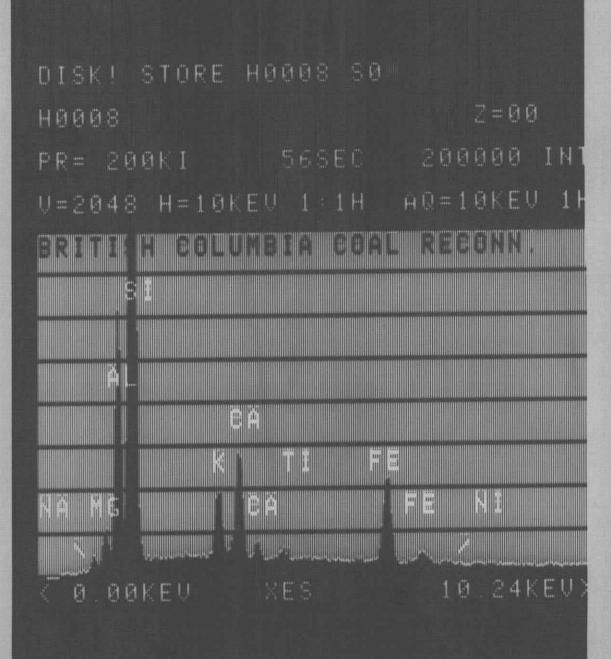


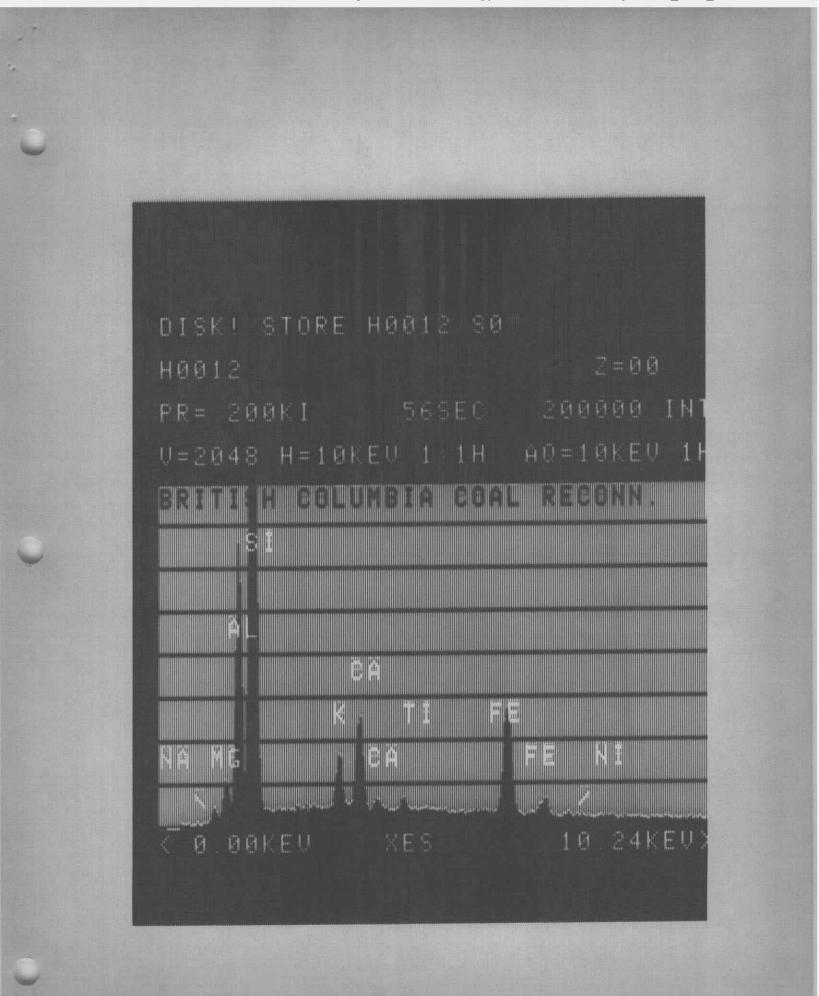


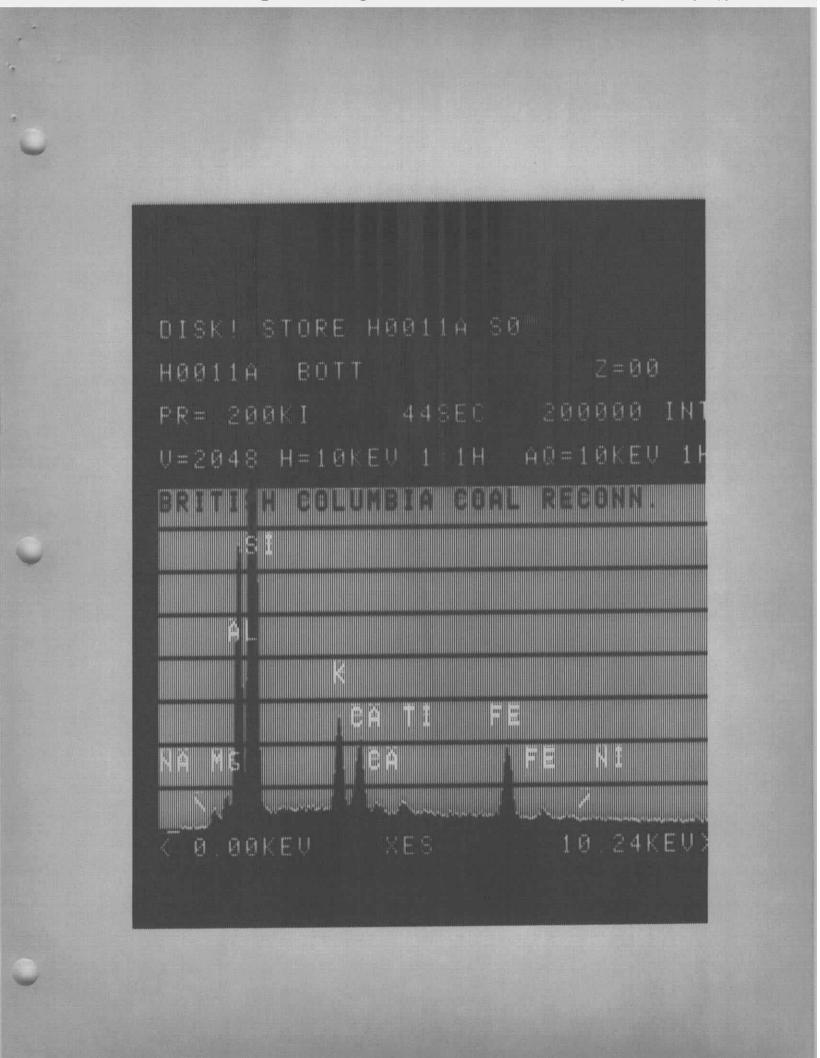


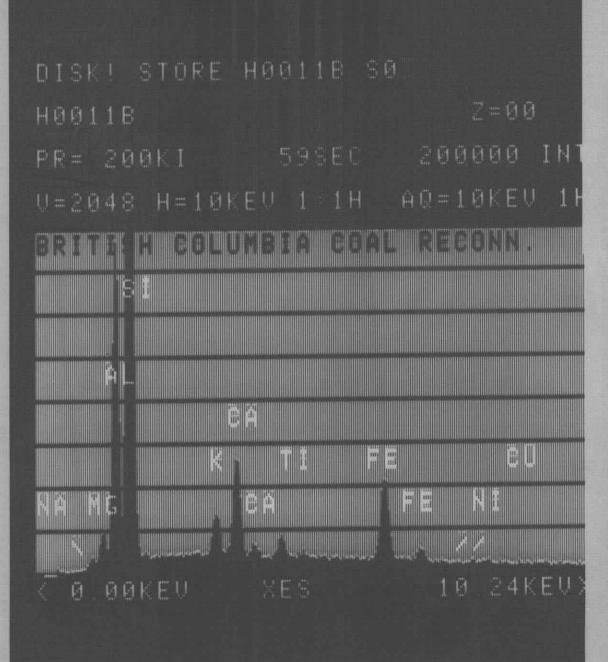


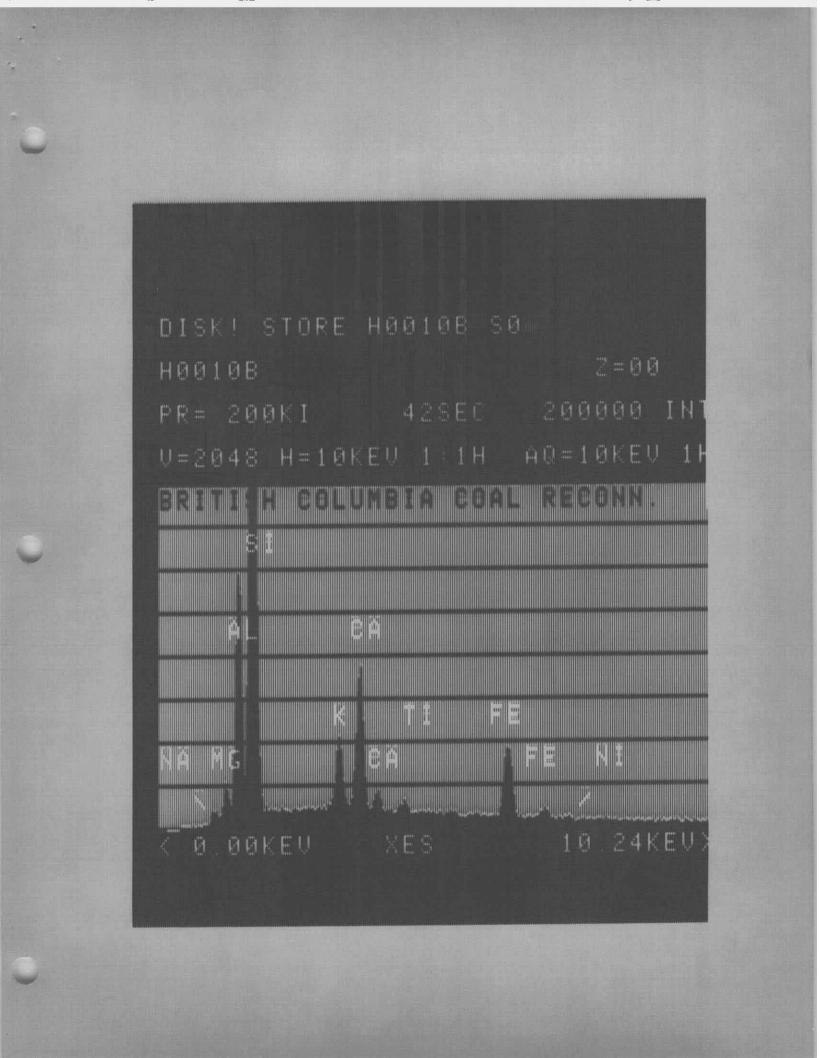


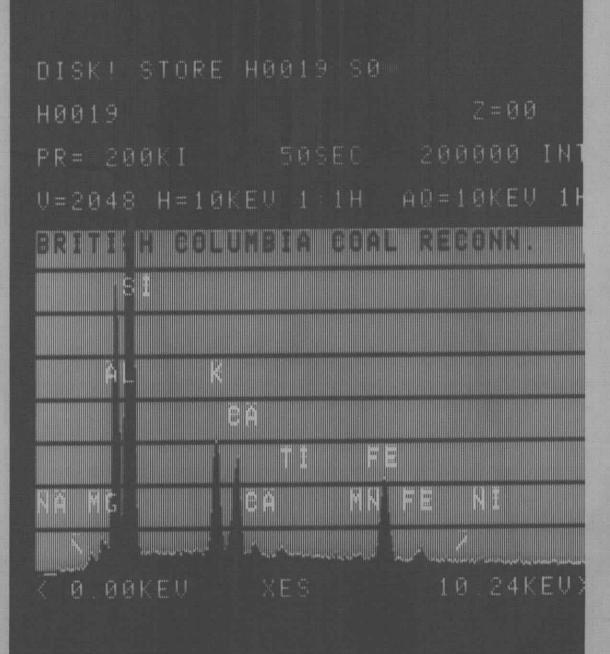


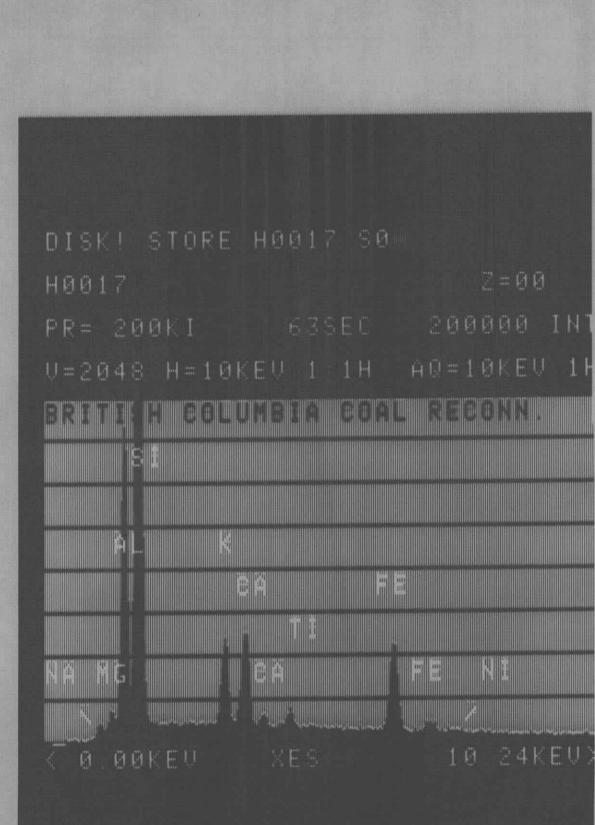


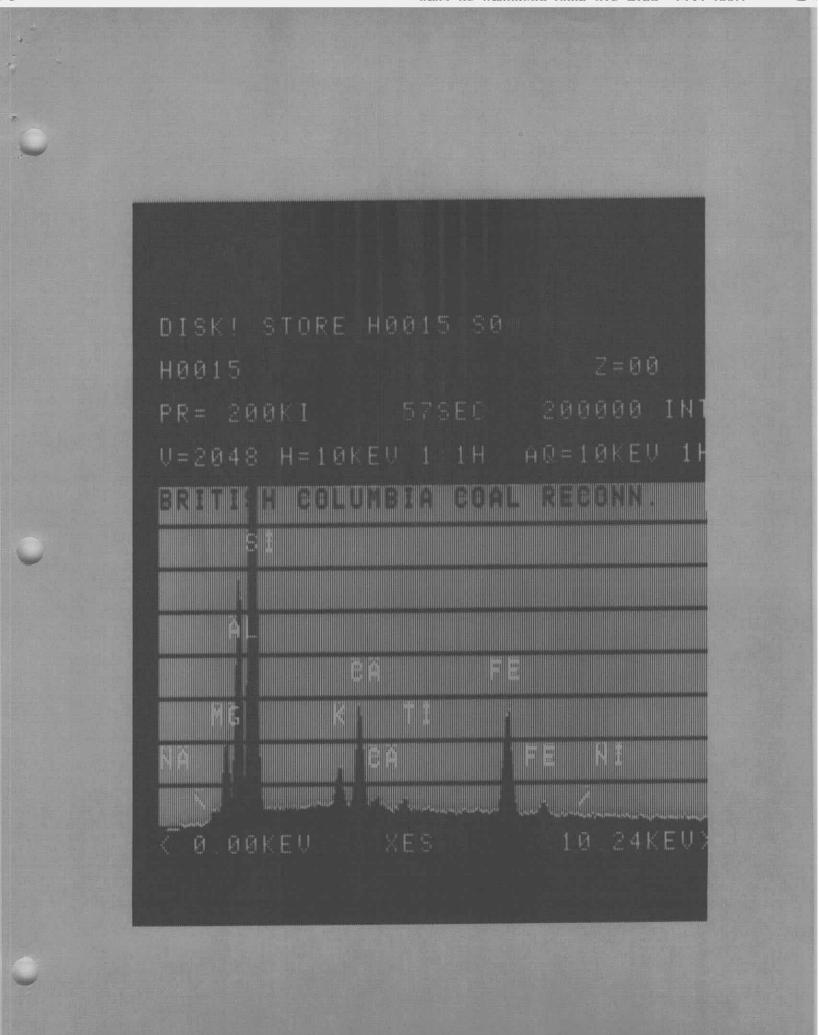














ISKI STORE HØØ14 SØ 2-00

#### MEMORANDUM

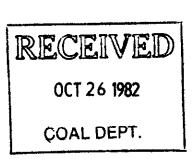
#### ESSO RESOURCES CANADA LIMITED RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

82 10 21

#### Mr. A.R. PEACH,

Esso Minerals Canada, Coal Department, Room 686, East Tower, Esso Plaza.

British Columbia Coal Reconnaissance



The samples submitted for palynological examination have now been processed and examined and the following report is an account of our findings.

#### 1. General Comments

The Tertiary sediments of southern British Columbia have been known for for many years, but there has been surprisingly little agreement regarding their geological age, or mode of emplacement. This is partly due to the fact that the sediments tend to occur in isolated, local, basins resting on older strata and partly because the sediment, in terrestrial facies, has yielded only plant fossils whose ranges are not so precisely known as organisms living in marine environments. Most of the sediments appear, in fact, to be stream or fresh water lake deposits or swamps associated with lows on the underlying surface.

Samples used for control purposes in the present study were collected by the author in connection with a field trip of the 9th International Botanical Congress in 1959 and added to in 1962 when investigating the Mesozoic sediments of the Chilcotin - Williams Lake area (Imperial Oil Field Party PR62-62).

L.V. Hills, in an unpublished Thesis of the University of Alberta, Edmonton (Palynology and age of Early Tertiary Basins, Interior British Columbia) ln 1965, established a palynological zonation for these beds into which the control samples can be fitted reasonably satisfactorily and it is into this framework that I have attempted to fit the samples collected in connection with the present coal reconnaissance. While this has proved reasonably satisfactory it has become apparent during the course of the study that the zonation is so precise as Hills imagined, or as one could wish for and that more research is needed before a completely satisfactory means of palyhological dating and correlation is devised. <u>Azolla</u>, a fresh water fern, for example, is quite common in sediments of the <u>Pistilipollenites McGregori</u> zone and, conversely, the latter pollen in not unknown in the <u>Azolla</u> beds. Also, the dominance of saccate pollen in a sample is a function of environment and season of year and while the zonation on the basis of saccate dominance is all right in very general terms, it does not always apply in detail and isolated samples do not always fit in the general pattern.

#### 2. Results

Twenty seven samples were submitted for determination, divided into two series, one prefixed with "H", the other with "R". These will be discussed individually under their sample numbers. Organic matter data are included on appended sheets.

#### H0004A

Organic matter dominantly woody, including 5% fungal hypheae. As with a majority of samples a significant annount of the organic material appears to be highly altered material derived from the basement. Thermal alteration index 1.5. Fossils include:

Alnus crispa Azolla primaeva Acer quilchensis Betula sp. Larix sp Deltoidospora sp. Fungal hypheae and spores.

A stream deposit, possibly correlating with the upper part of the <u>Azolla</u> zone

#### H0005

This sample is crowded with fungal hypheae and wood fragments and would

as a maceral, be termed sclerotinite. No other fossils present. The organic matter was from a conglomerate matrix and the fungal remains possibly represent a mycorhysal association with wood in a soil zone. Abundant fungal remains are somewhat more common in the *Pistilipollenites* Zone than in the *Azolla* beds, but their distribution is controlled by local environment and definite correlation on this basis only would be dangerous.

H0006

Organic matter 60% woody, including 10% fungal hypheae. 30% biodegraded terrestrial. Thermal index 1.6. Fossils include:

Azolla Piceapollenites sp. Pityosporites sp. Alnus quadripollenites Fungal hypheae abundant Bisaccate pollen common.

A stream deposit, possibly correlating with the upper part of the *Azolla* zone.

H0007

75% biodegraded, terrestrially sourced, materialand 15% structured terrestrial. Thermal index 1.6. Fossils include:

Pityosporites (common) Taxodiaceaepollenites (rare) Alnus quadripollenites Alnus quinquipollenites (abund.)

A stream deposit, probably correlating with the upper part of the Azolla zone.

H0008

Organic matter very rare. 95% structured terrestrial and 3% fungal spores. Thermal index 1.6. No fossils apart from fungal spores and hypheae. Age and correlation indeterminate.

H0010A

90% woody with considerable pyrite. Much metamorphosed material

- 4

- 3 -

and some Pine pollen, which probably represents Recent contamination, this sample is barren of fossils. Dating and environmental interpretation impossible.

#### H0011A

٢,

Sample 98% woody and highly oxidised. Thermal index 2.0+, suggesting the proximity of volcanic intrusions. Fossils include *Polypodiisporites* and some fungal spores.

#### H0012

Organic matter very rare. A few fungal hypheae and spores seem, but little else.

#### H0013

Two states of preservation in this sample which appeae to be in place Tertiary material contaminated with Resent pollen, spores and organic matter. 60% biodegraded terrestrial. Thermal index 2.6. Fossils include:

> Taxodiaceaepollenites sp Rimaesporites sp. Pityosporites sp Abiespollenites Osmundacidites wellmannii Laevigatosporites ovatus Ericaceous tetrads Bisaccate pollen abundant.

The assemblage appears to be similar to that from the coal at Lamont Creek. The relatively high thermal alteration index suggests proximity to volcanic intrusion.

#### H0014

Two states of preservation. Highly altered and partly metamorphosed material from the bedrock and indiginous Tertiary organic matter. Biodegraded terrestrial material 60%. Woody material 10%. Thermal index 1.5. Fossils include:

Laevigatosporites ovatus Alnipollenites spp. Betula Azolla Fungal hypheae and spores Bisaccate conifer pollen.

- 5 -

<u>Azolla</u> is very rare in this sample and the remainder of the fossils suggest a correlation somewhat higher in the section.

H0019

•

Very woody organic matter that appears to have been thermally altered. Much Recent contamination.

H00106

Organic matter very rich (50%) in pollen and spores. 25% structured terrestrial and 20% biodegraded terrestrial. Thermal alteration index 1.4. Fossils include:

> Pistilipollenites megregori (common) Laevigatosporites ovatus Ulmipollenites sp. Alnipollenites spp Sequoiapollenites palaeocenicus Tiliaepollenites Betula sp. Liliacidites sp. Lycopodiumsporites sp. Taxodiaceaepollenites sp. Larix sp. Bisaccate conifer pollen scarse

This sample appears to correlate with the lower half of the *Pistilipollenites mcgregori* zone. It appears to represent a swamp environment, possibly in the vicinity of swamp forest.

H00116

Organic matter 70% structured terrestrial and somewhat pyritic. The organic residue comprises nothing but wood fragments and grey amorphous material and represents, at least in part, a reducing environment.

R0001

Organic matter 100% wood fragments. A few grains of Taxodiaceaepollenites.

The sediment is probably a stream deposit, the organic matter representing drifted wood in a point bar situation.

#### R0002P

•

98% structured terrestrial (mainly fungi) and 1% biodegraded terrestrial. Thermal alteration index 1.4. Fossils rare, including:

Laricipites sp. Rimaesporites sp. Alnipollenites spp. The organic matter in this sample is rich enough in fungi to be termed sclerotinite and possibly represents a fossil soil horizon.

## R0004B

Organic matter mixed structured (43%) and biodegraded (20%) material with 20% pollen and spores. Thermal alteration index 1.5. Fossils include:

> Tilia crassipites Rimaesporites alipollenites Pityosporites sp. B. Betula spp. Laevigatosporites ovatus Polypodiisporites pellucidus Tsugaepollenites sp. Ericaceous tetrads Bisaccate conifer pollen abundant Fungal hypheae and spores common

The absence of *Pistilipollenites* from this sample suggests it is possibly from the bisaccate zone. It probably represents a stream deposit.

#### R0014

Organic matter 60% pollen and spores, 20% structured terrestrtal material and 20% charcoal. Thermal alteration index 1.0. Fossils include:

Rugubivesiculites sp (reworked Cretaceous) Pinus spp.(Dominant) Abies Tsuga Larix Alnus Taraxacum Polypodium

These spores and pollen, apart from the first mentioned genus, mre Recent in origin and the sediment must be of penecontemporaneous origin.

R0024 PB

Organic matter 40% structured terrestrial,30% biodegraded terrestrial and 5% fungal spores. Thermal alteration index 1.6. Fossils comprise many fungal hyphae and spores and a few bisaccate pollen. Nothing else. This sediment may represent a fossil soil horizon and is probably from the *Pistillipollenites mcgregori* zone.

#### R0024 PA

Organic matter 50% structured terrestrial (woody) and including 10% bacterial amorphous material. Otherwise essentially the same as the previous sample.

#### R00025A

Organic matter 30% structured terrestrial ang 65% biodegraded terrestrial. Thermal index 1.4. Fossils include:-

> Pesavis tagluensis Phragmosporites quilchenii Ctenosporites eskerensis Rimaesporites alipollenites Pistilipollenites mcgregori Ulmipollenites sp. Carpinus aceripites Laevigatosporites ovatus Alnipollenites quinquaepollenites Sequoiapollenites paleocenicus(scarce) Taxodiaceaepollenites (rare)

This very rich fossil assemblage is of probable Lower Eccene age. It is from the 'bisaccate dominant' part of the *Pistillipollenites mcgregori* zone and was deposited in fresh water conditions, probably in a swamp environment.

R2025B

Organic matter somewhat less biodegraded than in the previous

sample. Thermal index 1.4. Fossils include:

Ctenosporites eskerensis Tsugaepollenites sp. Rimaesporites alipollenites Carpinus sp. Taxodiaceaepollenites sp. Umbosporites sp. ? Azolla sp. Betula species Laevigatosporites ovatus

- 8 -

Age and environment appear to be essentially the same as for the previous sample. The occurrence of *Azolla* in this sample is not in accord with Hills' zonal concept, but the author has observed on a number of occasions that the occurrence of thes genus in the *Pistillipollenites mcgregori* zone in the Princeton area.

R0025 C

Organic matter exactly as for sample ROO25 A. Thermal index 1.4. Fossils less varied. *Azolla* and *Rimaesporites alipollenites*, together with abundant fungal hyphae and spores, are common. Coniferous tracheids are very abundant in this sample. The sample appears to have been deposited in a fresh water, low energy, environment and appears to represent, in large part, drifted wood.

R0027P

Organic matter 85% bacterial amorphous, with a little fungus. No spores or pollen. This sediment was deposited in a low energy, reducing, environment and is typical of sediment formed in stagnant water.

#### 0 R**2**039P

Organic matter 100% bacterial amorphous and very similar to that from the previous sample. Environmental interpretation as for that sample. Thermal alteration index indeterminate in the absence of spores or pollen.

	Radiometric age determin	ations	
Palynologica	l Zones Pre	parations in Authors Coll	lection
)RII cates unt		Bramley #1	R0025A R0025B
McGREGORII Bisaccates dominant		Parr Railroad Locality	R0025C
PISTILIPOLLENITES McGREGORII ZONE Bisaccate dominant dominant			
:LJPOLJ lium lant			? RO024
PISTILIP Taxodium deminant			H00116
ZCNE	PRINCETON BLACK COAL Collins Gulch Bentonite 46.8my.	Lamont Creek Coal Princeton Coal	HOO13 HOO14
A ZONE	Princeton Ash 48 - 50my.	Vermilion Bluffs	H0004 H0006 H0007
ALIOZA	Tranquille dolerite 49 + 2my		
ZONE		Asp Creek ? ?	R0039P R0040P
BISACCATE	Tranquille Ash 48 — 50my.	Tranquille locality	R0004B
81	Princeton Biotite Rhyolite 50my.		

# Zonation of the Eocene Sediments of the Princeton Group and Radigmetric are determinations

.

ŕ.

#### R0040P

Organic matter carries 65% fungal remains, 1% fungal spores and 23% bacterial amorphous material. Thermal index ? 1.4.. No other fossils. This sample is possibly about the same age as the lower part of the *Azolla* zone, since the organic composition and fungal content appear to be about the same.

#### Conclusions

Apart from sample ROO14, which carries a palynological assemblage indicating a Recent age, all of the samples examined are Tertiary in age, and all can be included within the Allenby Formation of the Princeton area of southern British Columbia. All assemblages that can be dated with any confidence, fall within the lower portion of the Middle Eocene to the upper part of the Lower Eocene, an age range that is in agreement with the 46.8 – 50 m.y. age range determined by radiometric dating.

Environmentally, the sequence is of terrestrial to fresh-water origin, including fresh water stream and swamp deposits and, possibly, soil horizons. It appears possible that, in the area in Tertiary time, there was significant topography and that delta systems drained relatimely small cachment areas into lakes and swamps, in much the same manner that we observe at the present. The floras indicate that the climate may have been a little warmer than at the present, but that it was no warmer than temperate. A suggested tentative correlation chart including the submitted samples is attached and organic matter determinations are appended.

Stronty my Dound

Stanley A.J. Pocock

SAJP/sajp.

## AREA: B.C. Coal Reconnaissance

...

SAMPLE NUMBER	R0004B	R0001	R0002
LOCATION/AGE			
AMORPHOUS MAR.	}		
TERR.	<u>}</u>		)
GREY	01	00	00
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	20	00	+
BIODEGRADED TERR.	30	00	01
STRUC. TERR.	43(finely commin.)	97	98 (fungi)
INERT	02	00	00
T. A. I.	1.5	Indeterminate	1.4

SAMPLE NUMBER	R0004A	R0014P	ROO24PA
LOCATION/AGE	<u>(</u>	Recent	
AMORPHOUS MAR.		00	
TERR.	2	0	)
GREY	01	00	10(bacterial)
STRUC. AQUEOUS	(00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	02/	60	02(fungal spores)
BIODEGRADED TERR.	15	00	15
STRUC. TERR.	53(5%) Fungi)	20	50
INERT	25	20	20(pyritic)
T. A. I.	1.5	1.0	1.6

SAMPLE NUMBER	R0024PB	ROO25A	Ro <sup>O</sup> 25B
LOCATION/AGE	- <b>.</b>	Lower Eocene	Lower Eocene
AMORPHOUS MAR.	-{-03	<u> </u>	03
TERR.	<u>)</u>		)
GREY	02	0	00
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	05(fungal spores)	03	02
BIODEGRADED TERR.	30	65	20
STRUC. TERR.	40	30	75
INERT	20	00	00
T. A. I.	1.6	1.4	1.4

## AREA C. Coal Reconnaissance

SAMPLE NUMBER	R0025C	R0027P	R0039P
LOCATION/AGE	Lower Eocene		
AMORPHOUS MAR.	}02		00
TERR.		10	00
GREY	00	85 (Bacterial)	100(Little O.M.)
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	03	+	00
BIODEGRADED TERR.	65	00	00
STRUC. TERR.	30	00	00
INERT	00	05	00
T. A. I.	1.4	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

SAMPLE NUMBER	HOOO4A	H0006	H0007
LOCATION/AGE			
AMORPHOUS MAR.	} <del>03</del>		
TERR.		)	)
GREY	01	01	01
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	02	01	03
BIODEGRADED TERR.	15	30	75
STRUC. TERR.	53(5% fungi)	60 (10% fungi)	15
INERT	25	01	01
T. A. I.	1.5	1.6	1.6

SAMPLE NUMBER	H0008	H0010	HOO11A
LOCATION/AGE			
AMORPHOUS MAR.	00		00
TERR.	00		00
GREY	00	04	00
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	00	.00	· +
BIODEGRADED TERR.	03 (fungal hyphae)	_00	02
STRUC. TERR.	95	04	48 (woody)
INERT	02	90 (pyritic)	50(woody)
T. A. I.	1.5	1.6	2.0+

### B.C. Coal Reconnaissance

SAMPLE NUMBER	H0013	H0015	H0017
LOCATION/AGE		NO	NO
AMORPHOUS MAR.		OHC	OFCAN
TERR.		A	
GREY	02	IC	IC
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00	MAT	MAT
POLLEN & SPORES	02	EFF	TEH
BIODEGRADED TERR.	60(2 pres. states)		
STRUC. TERR.	10	2" 	
INERT	20	···-	
T. A. I.	2.6	;	

SAMPLE NUMBER	_H0014	H00106	H0116
LOCATION/AGE			
AMORPHOUS MAR.	60	}	00
TERR.	997		00
GREY	øl	20	00
STRUC. AQUEOUS	60/	00	00
POLLEN & SPORES	+	50	00
BIODEGRADED TERR.	6 40	20	10
STRUC. TERR.	40/ (Matrix)	25	70
INERT	1,5.	00	00
T. A. I.		1.4	Indeterminate

SAMPLE NUMBER	H0014		 
LOCATION/AGE			 
AMORPHOUS MAR.	00		 
TERR.	00		 
GREY	01		
STRUC. AQUEOUS	00		 <u> </u>
POLLEN & SPORES	+		 
BIODEGRADED TERR.	19		 
STRUC. TERR.	40		 
INERT	40 (Matrix)		 
T. A. I.	1.5	·	

AREA:

