

Surficial geology of the Highland Valley Copper mine area (Parts of NTS 092I/06, 7, 10 and 11), British Columbia

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0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Kilometres

Scale 1:50,000



Geomatics by L. Robertson. Cartography by D. Viner and H. Arnold

Note: Where map units are composed of multiple surficial materials, a compound map unit designator is used, separating more extensive areas from less extensive (e.g., for Tb, Th, Tb is more extensive than Th).

ANTHROPOGENIC DEPOSITS

H Anthropogenic deposits: rubble, dimictite, sand, gravel, and mine tailings; massive; more than 3 m thick; occurring as flat to steep surfaces emplaced by human activity near active mine sites.

QUATERNARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

HOLOCENE

NONGLACIAL ENVIRONMENT

O Organic deposits: peat and plant material in various stages of decomposition; 1 to 3 m thick on average; peat derived from decayed plant material in an eutrophic environment; generally occur as flat, wet terrain (swamps) over poorly drained substrates; form relatively open peatlands; may include minor fluvial and lacustrine sediments.

Fen peat: peat derived from sedges and partially decayed shrubs; forms relatively open peatlands with a mineral-rich water table that persists seasonally near the surface; can be covered by organic debris and may form a swamp in a mesotrophic environment where water is supplied mainly from small surface streams.

Bog peat: sphagnum or forest peat; may be tree or treeless; forms in an ombrotrophic environment where water is supplied mainly by precipitation.

O Organic deposits, undifferentiated: undifferentiated bog and fen peat.

C Colluvial and mass wasting deposits: dimictite and rubble poorly sorted, massive to stratified debris deposited by direct gravity-induced movement; composition dependent on source material.

Ca Colluvial fan deposits: dimictite and rubble of variable composition derived from bordering slopes; 1 to 10 m thick, but may exceed 10 m near the toe of large slopes; forms a sloping surface with a gradient of 25–35°.

Cz Landslide deposits: dimictite; generally 1 to 10 m thick, but may exceed 10 m near the toe of large landslides; hummocky topography; includes inactive and potentially active landslides.

Cv Colluvial veneer: thin and discontinuous cover of slumped material; generally 1 to 2 m thick; mainly overlies bedrock or till; occurs on moderate to steep slopes.

A Alluvial deposits: sorted gravel, sand, minor silt and organic detritus deposited by modern streams; well to poorly sorted.

Ap Alluvial floodplain deposits: sorted sand and silt with lesser amount of pebbly gravel and organic detritus; more than 1 m thick; forming active floodplains close to river level with meander scrolls and scroll bars; prone to flooding.

AF Alluvial fan sediments: poorly sorted gravel, sand and dimictite; more than 2 m thick; occur where a stream issues from a narrow valley onto a plain or valley floor.

AT Alluvial terrace sediments: sorted gravel, sand and minor silt; more than 2 m thick; forming inactive terraces above modern floodplain; represent a potential aggregate source.

A Alluvial sediments, undifferentiated: undivided floodplain, alluvial terrace, and alluvial fan sediments.

L Lacustrine deposits: Sorted and stratified fine-grained sediments deposited in a modern, nonglaciated lake; can be unvegetated or sparsely vegetated with grasses; exposed due to fluctuating lake levels.

L Lacustrine sediments, undifferentiated: sand, silt, and minor clay intermixed with variables amounts of organic material, deposited in a lake; more than 1 m thick; exposed following lowering of lake levels; includes organic deposits too small to be mapped separately.

LATE WISCONSIN

PROGLACIAL AND GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

G Glacioclustrine deposits: fine sand, silt, and clay, with minor mass flow dimictite and gravel; laminated to bedded and massive; deposited in glacier-dammed lakes in valleys and along the margin of retreating glaciers.

GLd Deltaic glacioclustrine sediments: gravel, sand and minor silt; massive to bedded; more than 2 m thick; occurs at the mouth of meltwater channels entering former glacial lakes.

GLh Hummocky glacioclustrine sediments: fine sand, silt, and clay; massive, laminated and bedded; more than 2 m thick on average; can be folded and faulted post-depositionally; forms a hummocky to rolling surface.

GLV Glacioclustrine veneer: fine sand, silt, and clay; generally laminated and bedded; 1 to 2 m thick on average; thin and discontinuous.

GL Glacioclustrine sediments, undifferentiated: undivided glacioclustrine sediments; more than 1 m thick.

G Glacioclustrine deposits: sand and gravel with minor dimictite; well to poorly stratified; deposited beneath, at, or in front of the ice margin by glacial meltwater; represent a potential aggregate source.

Gfp Outwash plain sediments: sand and gravel; bedded; 1 to more than 10 m thick; deposited by meltwater at various positions in front of the retreating glacier; generally forms flat surfaces sloping away from direction of retreat.

Gft Glacioclustrine terraced sediments: sand and gravel; 1 to 10 m thick; forming gently sloping flat surfaces perched above modern streams; meltwater channels or alluvial deposits.

Gfi Outwash fan sediments: sand and gravel; bedded; 1 to more than 10 m thick; deposited at the mouth of meltwater channels that entered the Nicola River valley; might have been deposited subsequently in a glacial lake.

Gfh Hummocky glacioclustrine sediments: poorly sorted sand and gravel with minor dimictite; bedded to massive; individual beds can be deformed; 1 to more than 20 m thick; deposited in contact with a retreating glacier; forms hummocky topography that is related to melting of buried ice.

Gfk Kame terrace sediments: poorly sorted sand and gravel with minor dimictite; bedded to massive; individual beds can be deformed; 1 to more than 20 m thick; deposited in contact with a retreating glacier; forms terraces, generally unpaired, on valley walls; perched above modern valley floor.

Gfr Esker sediments: sand and gravel; massive to bedded; 3 to more than 5 m thick; forming ridges deposited by meltwater flow in tunnels or channels in glacier ice.

Gfb Glacioclustrine blanket: sand and gravel; more than 2 m thick; occurs near the margins and at the mouth of meltwater channels; forms gently undulating to flat surfaces.

Till Till deposits: matrix-supported dimictite consisting of clasts of all sizes in a sandy to silty-sand matrix; deposited directly by glaciers; clasts are of various lithologies and many are striated.

Th Hummocky till: more than 2 m thick on average; hummocky to rolling surface including discontinuous lenses of glacioclustrine gravel; most likely deposited from stagnant ice.

Tr Ridged till: moraine; more than 2 m thick; might include minor sand and gravel.

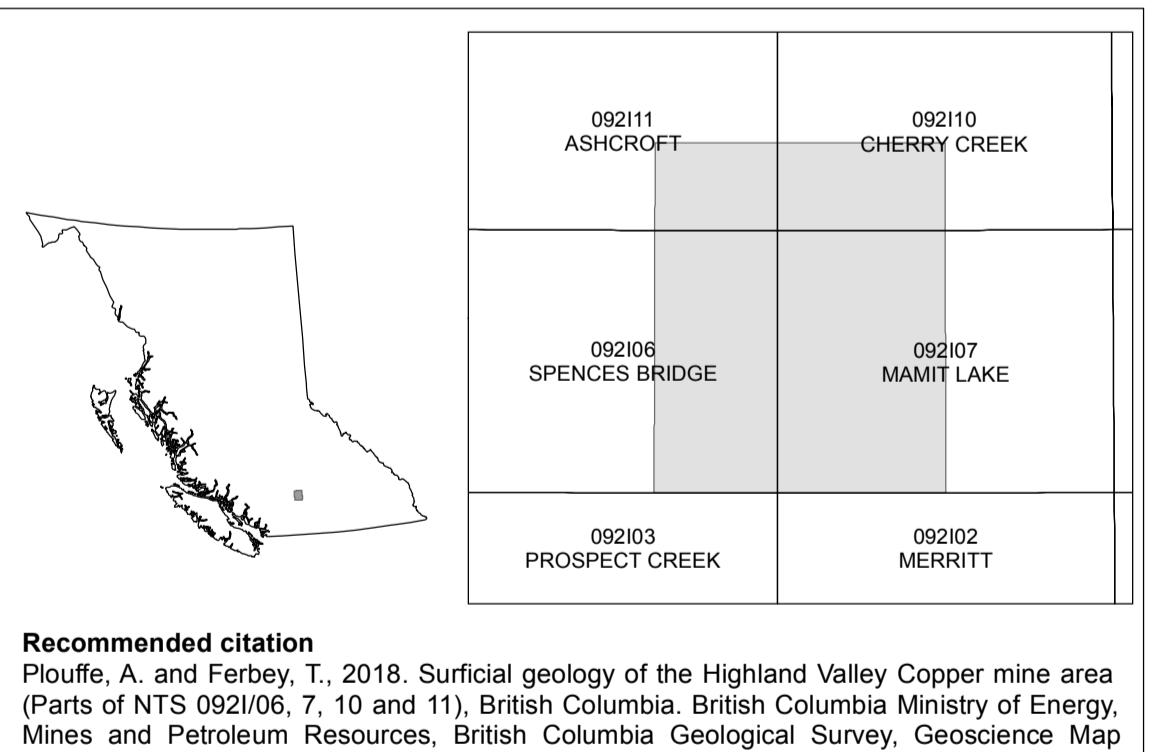
Ts Streamlined and rifled till: variable till thickness from less than 1 m on high ground to more than 2 m in lower areas; till surface marked by streamlined landforms including flutings, drumlins, and crag-and-tails; bedrock cutouts are abundant in regions with crag-and-tails.

Tv Till veneer: 1 to 2 m thick on average; discontinuous till cover; underlying bedrock morphology is discernible; bedrock cutouts are abundant.

Tb Till blanket: more than 2 m thick on average; continuous till cover forming undulating topography that locally obscures underlying drifts; rare bedrock cutouts.

PRE-QUATERNARY

R Bedrock, undifferentiated: Paleozoic to Cenozoic volcanic, intrusive, sedimentary, and lesser amount of metamorphic bedrock; can include local pockets of till or colluvium generally less than 1 m thickness.



Recommended citation:
Plouffe, A. and Ferbey, T., 2018. Surficial geology of the Highland Valley Copper mine area (Parts of NTS 092I/06, 7, 10 and 11), British Columbia. British Columbia Geological Survey, Geoscience Map 2018-01, 1:50,000 scale.

Descriptive notes

The Highland Valley Copper mine (porphyry Cu-Mo) is a major copper producer in Canada. In the mine region, till deposits are Late Wisconsin in age. Franklin Mountain is the most extensive bedrock unit occurring during the Fraser glaciation, ice-flowed predominantly south and southwest. This is indicated by the orientation of drumlins and flutings. During deglaciation, lateral meltwater channels cut into the flanks of valleys and mountain slopes, indicating that ice occupied low ground when higher elevations were ice free, and sources of material were available. The glacioclustrine veneer is generally older than the ice retreat, with a glacioclustrine veneer in the Guichon Creek valley. Glacioclustrine sediments in the Witches Brook valley were deposited in a lake that formed when the eastward drainage was blocked by a dam formed by a glacioclustrine veneer. Mine tailings blank the area near open pits and in the valley that extends northwest from the mine (previously occupied by Pukait Creek).

This map supersedes Plouffe and Ferbey (2015).

Acknowledgments
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References cited
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Table 1. Mineral occurrences from MINFILE database (MINFILE, 2018). Letter and number designation under deposit type correspond to definitions provided by Lefebvre and Ray (1995) and Lefebvre and Hoy (1996).

Map ID	MINFILE No.	Name	Status	Commodity	Deposit type	Map ID	MINFILE No.	Name	Status	Commodity	Deposit type	Map ID	MINFILE No.	Name	Status	Commodity	Deposit type
1	092IE024	DANSEY	Prospect	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	26	092IE005	PUKAIT CREEK	Showing	Diamictite	F08: Lacustrine dolomite	62	092IE065	BUCK	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
27	092IE001	BETHLEHEM	Past Producer	Cu, Ag, Au, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	83	092IE007	MAD ARAB	Showing	Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag	Ag-Pb-ZnAu	84	092IE015	WENDY	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
2	092IE038	GETTY NORTH	Developed Prospect	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	29	092IE005	BETHLEHEM (EAST)	Past Producer	Mo, Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	56	092IE070	GAZA	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
3	092IE040	DAR	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	56	092IE071	ROD	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	57	092IE072	FIDDLER	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
4	092IE041	LODGE	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	58	092IE073	PAT	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	59	092IE074	PRICE	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
5	092IE042	BX	Prospect	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	60	092IE008	BETHLEHEM (SNOWSTORM)	Past Producer	Cu, Mo, Ag, Au	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	60	092IE075	SAHARA	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
6	092IE043	GETTY SOUTH	Developed Prospect	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	33	092IE009	BONNIE RIDGE	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	61	092IE076	LYNN	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
7	092IE044	AM	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	62	092IE077	CLAYNE	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	63	092IE078	TYNER LAKE	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
8	092IE045	WDR	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	64	092IE079	TAP	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	65	092IE080	VIKING	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
9	092IE046	WDR	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	66	092IE085	LEM	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	67	092IE086	WINDS	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
10	092IE047	LUX	Showing	Cu, Ag	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	68	092IE087	DUKE	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	69	092IE089	JERICHO 18	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
11	092IE048	GUICHON CREEK	Showing	Diamictite	F08: Lacustrine dolomite	70	092IE090	GNAZ 2 FR	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	71	092IE091	MALACHITE HILL	Showing	Cu, Mo	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
12	092IE049	NIM	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	72	092IE092	JAY 11	Showing	Cu	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu	99	092IE010	ALWIN	Past Producer	Cu, Ag, Mo, Pb	L04: Porphyry CuMoAu
1																	