

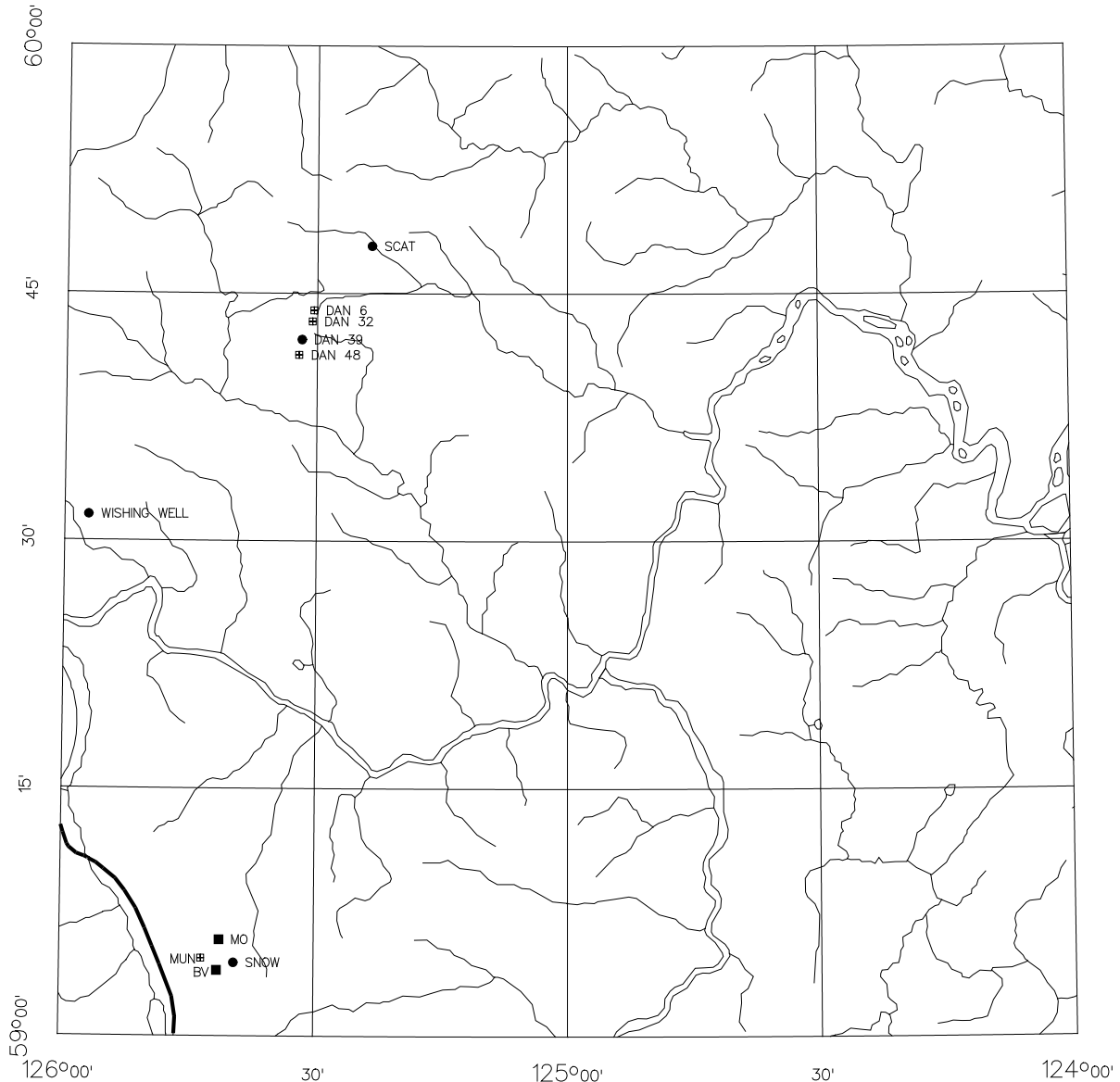


MINFILE NTS 094N – TOAD RIVER

*Original release date: March 1995
Researched and compiled by: C.J. Rees*

The Toad River map area, situated 150 kilometres northwest of Fort Nelson in north-central British Columbia, contains 10 documented mineral occurrences.

The terrain varies from the rugged Muskwa Ranges of the Northern Rocky Mountains in the southwest, through the Rocky Mountain Foothills to the relative lowland of the Liard and Alberta plateaus to the north and east, respectively. The Alaska Highway passes through the southwestern corner of the area.



The map area is underlain by Proterozoic and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks of Ancestral North America, which are covered to the east by Mesozoic overlap assemblages. With the exception of a minor surficial deposit, all the mineral occurrences are in Paleozoic rocks, and most of these deal with Mississippi Valley-type stratabound barite or fluorite mineralization in Devonian carbonates. There are two areas of interest. The mountains immediately northeast of Muncho Lake Provincial Park are underlain by gently folded and thrust-faulted Silurian and Devonian rocks, including dolostone and limestone of the Middle Devonian Stone and Dunedin formations, respectively. The **BV** developed prospect (094N

002) comprises a large body of medium to high grade stratiform barite in Stone Formation dolostones. A provisional estimate of "inferred reserves" in 1967 was 100 million tonnes with an indicated grade of 65 per cent barite. The **Mo** developed prospect (094N 008), 3.5 kilometres to the north, has a very similar character and stratigraphic setting. Potential reserves in 1979 in the most viable part of the deposit were 3.4 million tonnes grading 34.7 per cent barite. In close proximity to the BV and Mo deposits are the smaller **Mun** barite prospect (094N 009), and the **Snow** showing (094N 003) where fluorite occurs in Dunedin Formation limestone.

The other area is in another belt of Devonian rocks, 70 kilometres to the north, in the Caribou Range. Here, the **Dan group** of claims contains several occurrences (094N 004 to 007) of disseminated fluorite-barite mineralization, in the form of bedded replacements or veins, all in Dunedin Formation cherty and argillaceous limestones.

Ten kilometres to the northeast, the minor **Scat** showing (094N 010) consists of small amounts of sphalerite and galena associated with cherty nodules in black, baritic slate of the Upper Devonian to Mississippian Besa River Formation.

The **Wishing Well** showing (094N 001) consists of weakly radioactive calcareous tufa, which has been deposited around cool springs.

SELECTED REGIONAL REFERENCES (NTS 094N- TOAD RIVER)

- Pell, J. 1992: Fluorspar and Fluorine in British Columbia; B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Open File 1992-16, 82 pages.
- Taylor, G.C. and MacKenzie, W.S. 1970: Devonian stratigraphy of northeastern British Columbia; Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 186, 62 pages.
- Taylor, G.C. and Stott, D.F. 1980: Toad River, British Columbia; Geological Survey of Canada Open File 673, 1:250,000 map.
- Taylor, G.C. and Stott, D.F. (1999): Toad River Geology (NTS 94N), British Columbia; Geological Survey of Canada Map 1955A. Scale 1:250,000.