1063/150

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

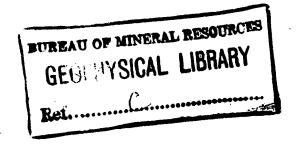
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORD No. 1963/150

LAKE MACKENZIE POWER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME SEISMIC SURVEYS,

TASMANIA

1962





by

P.E. MANN, E.J. POLAK, and J.T.G. ANDREW

The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development, as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government, to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus or statement without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

RECORD No. 1963/150

LAKE MACKENZIE POWER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME SEISMIC SURVEYS,

TASMANIA

1962

BUREAU OF MINERA	L RESOURCES
GEOPHYSICAL	LIBRARY
Ref.	·
200411111111111111111111111111111111111	-

by

P.E. MANN, E.J. POLAK, and J.T.G. ANDREW

The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus or statement without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

CONTENTS

		Page
	SUMMARY	
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	GEOLOGY	1
3•	METHODS AND EQUIPMENT	2
4•	DAM SITE	3
5.	CANAL, FLUME, AND TUNNEL LINE	5
6.	PENSTOCK LINE (FISHER RIVER)	6
7.	REFERENCES	8
APPE	NDIX: Summary of geological information obtained from test pits, Lake Mackenzie.	

ILLUSTRATIONS

Plate 1.	Geology and locality plan (Drawing No. K55/B5-1)
Plate 2.	Dam site; geology and seismic traverses (K55/B5-23)
Plate 3.	Dam site; Traverses F, G, and H, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-8)
Plate 4.	Dam site; Traverses B, C, D, and E, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-10)
Plate 5.	Canal and flume line; geology and seismic traverses (K55/B5-22)
Plate 6.	Canal and flume line; Traverses PH and DS, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-2)
Plate 7.	Canal and flume line; Traverses PH, PY, U, S, and R, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-3)
Plate 8.	Penstock line (Fisher River); geology and seismic traverses (K55/B5-19)
Plate 9.	Penstock line (Fisher River); Traverses A, AM, AP, and AQ, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-13)
Plate 10.	seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-14)
Plate 11.	Penstock line (Fisher River); Traverses A, C, D, E, and F, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-15)

- Plate 12. Penstock line (Fisher River); Traverses A, H, J, K, L, and N, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-16)
- Plate 13. Penstock line (Fisher River); Traverses A, AF, and AG, seismic cross-sections (K55/B5-17)

SUMMARY

This Record covers surveys made for the Lake Mackenzie power development scheme for the Hydro-Electric Commission of Tasmania. Surveys were carried out on a dam site, canal and flume line, tunnel, and penstock line. The depth to bedrock and the nature of the bedrock were determined.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Hydro-Electric Commission of Tasmania proposes to construct a dam at the western edge of Lake Mackenzie where the Fisher River flows out of the lake. The impounded water will be taken by canal, flume, tunnel, and penstock line to a power station on the Fisher River (Plate 1).

In response to an application from the Commission, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, carried out seismic surveys to determine the nature of the overburden and the bedrock, and the depth to bedrock at the dam site, canal, tunnel, and penstock lines in March, April, and May 1962. The survey of the penstock line was made by a geophysical party consisting of E.J. Polak (geophysicist and party leader), J.T.G. Andrew (geophysicist), and J.P. Pigott (geophysical assistant). The survey of the canal line was made by P.E. Mann (geophysicist and party leader), J.T.G. Andrew, and J.P. Pigott. The survey of the dam site was made by P.E. Mann and partly by J.T.G. Andrew. D. Hansen, a geologist of the Commission, assisted the party throughout the survey. The Commission provided additional field assistants and carried out the topographical survey along the traverse lines.

The total length of traverses surveyed by the seismic refraction method is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Project	Lengtl	h of seismic traverse	(ft)
Lake Mackenzie dam site		9900	
Lake Mackenzie canal and flume line		26,400	
Fisher River penstock line		21,800	
	Total	58,100	

2. GEOLOGY

The general geology of the area (Plate 1) is shown on the Middlesex sheet of the one-mile geological series, and has been described by Ford (1957) and Mather (1956). An examination of the dam site, canal, and penstock line has been made by Mather (1962) and the results were presented on HEC sketch maps GS 27, GS 28, and GS 30. Information from these maps is incorporated in Plates 2, 5, and 8 of this Record and is discussed in later sections.

The stratigraphy of the area (after Ford, 1956 and Mather, 1956 is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Age	Group	Rock Type
Recent		talus and scree material
Pleistocene		till, moraine material
Tertiary		basalt
Jurassic		dolerite
Triassic	Knocklofty Group	sandstone, shale
Permian	Ferntree Group	mudstone, conglomerate
	Woodbridge glacial formation	shale, sandstone
	Liffey Group	sandstone
	Golden Valley Group	conglomerate, mudstone
	Quamby Group	mudstone
	Conglomerate	conglomerate
Precambrian		quartzite, slate, phyllite, and schist

3. METHODS AND EQUIPMENT

A detailed description of the seismic method has been given by Polak and Moss (1959). The method of differences was used on all seismic traverses.

On the penstock-line survey, the seismic equipment used consisted of Midwestern and SIE 12-channel refraction seismographs, with Midwestern and TIC vertical geophones having natural frequencies of 8 c/s and 20 c/s respectively, and a 24-channel SIE camera.

The canal line and dam site were surveyed with the SIE seismograph and camera, an Electro-Tech 'Seismod' display unit, and TIC geophones.

4. DAM SITE

Location and geology

The Lake Macknezie dam site is at the western edge of Lake Mackenzie where the Fisher River flows out of the lake. The approximate coordinates are 434867 on the Burnie sheet of the Australia 1:250,000 map series.

At the outlet of the lake the river flows through a gently sloping area about 2300 ft wide, which forms the valley floor between outcrops of dolerite on the valley sides (Plate 2). The river has cut several feet into a cemented till that underlies part of the valley floor. Dolerite crops out at several places in the valley, but elsewhere it is covered by the cemented till. The left bank is a steep slope, partly covered by talus and scree material. The right bank has a gentler slope, the talus material is less abundant, and the scree material absent.

The valley floor is covered by dolerite blocks, mostly less than 3 ft in diameter, in a matrix of sand, clay, and dolerite fragments. The badly-sorted material overlies the cemented till, and may be considered to be either weathered till, or unconsolidated glacial material deposited later.

No test drilling has been done at the dam site. A series of test pits dug in 1922 generally stopped on the cemented till. The geological information obtained from the test pits is given in the Appendix.

The dolerite bedrock is probably jointed, as is the rest of the dolerite in this area. The steep left side of the valley is probably due to faulting.

Seismic results

Plate 2 shows the layout of the seismic traverses. Table 3 lists the interpretation of the seismic velocities in geological terms, based on the known rock types occurring and on experience from previous seismic surveys in areas with similar geology.

TABLE 3

Seismic velocity (ft/sec)	Rock type
500 – 1000	Soil, clay, silt and sand with dolerite fragments
2300 - 4750	Partly weathered, cemented till
3600	Water-saturated lake deposits
7000 - 11,500 <u>+</u>	Weathered to partly weathered dolerite. Possibly cemented till around 7000 ft/sec
12,500 - 14,000	Slightly weathered dolerite in shear zone.
15,500 - 22,000	Jointed to unweathered dolerite bedrock.

The seismic velocity in the unweathered till overlaps the velocity in weathered dolerite. There is a lack of information on the seismic velocities in the near-surface layers at the dam site because the survey was suspended, owing to adverse weather conditions, before all the proposed seismic work was completed. The uncertainty in the near-surface velocity distribution decreases the accuracy of bedrock depth determination.

Plates 3 and 4 show the seismic cross-sections, which are self-explanatory. Rocks in which the seismic velocity is greater than 7000 - 8000 ft/sec are probably strong enough to serve as foundations for a gravity dam. As the depth to rock with intermediate velocities was determined at only a few localities, at many stations on the seismic traverses the depth to suitable foundation rock may be less than that indicated on the seismic profile.

On Plate 2 the velocity in the deepest refractor recorded is plotted on the seismic traverses. A low-velocity zone is shown between F35 and F38 and between G17 and G20. This is interpreted as a shear zone in the bedrock. Between G1 and G5, and F12 and F17, low velocities suggest the presence of another shear zone.

At the intersection of Traverses D and F, the velocities along D and F are 17,000 and 14,000 ft/sec respectively. Another example of velocity anisotropy occurs at the intersection of Traverse D and G.

Generally velocity anisotropy in jointed rocks is explained by assuming that the velocity in rock parallel to joint planes is greater than the velocity in a direction across the joint planes. This explanation of velocity anisotropy shown along Traverse D and F would be valid if the shearing mechanism produced joints with a predominant north-easterly strike in the shear zone.

The depth to bedrock on Traverse E is about 15 ft between E21 and E31; at E18 it is 66 ft. This step in the bedrock may be of use in the design of the dam. The low-velocity layer at the same locality is interpreted as a lake deposit.

Conclusions

To check the rock in the shear zone located between F35 and F38, and G17 and G20, drill holes are recommended at G19 and F37. To check the nature of rocks with intermediate velocities, which may still be strong enough to serve as foundations, drill holes are recommended at F12, F23, H14, and F8. Drill holes at E19 and E21 would check the structure of the bedrock in this area.

The accuracy of bedrock depth determinations in this survey is probably no better than + 25 percent.

5. CANAL, FLUME, AND PUNNEL LINE

Location and geology

Water impounded at Lake Mackenzie will be taken by canal and flume in a direction approximately following the 3600-ft contour north of the Fisher River to PH1 (Plate 5) near the tunnel inlet portal. From here the water will be taken by tunnel to the edge of the Great Western Tiers. There is a site for a possible subsidiary dam at the southern end of Lake Yeates, which is an alternative arrangement to a canal round the north of the lake (Plate 5).

The rock types on the traverse lines consist of glacial deposits, dolerite outcrops, and talus and scree material. Near PH 422 there are small scarps adjacent to the traverse. West of Lake Yeates for about a mile the traverse is over an open, gently-sloping area of glacial deposits and scattered dolerite outcrops. Further west down to the tunnel portal the slopes are steeper and the dolerite outcrops more abundant.

Seismic results

Plate 5 shows the layout of the seismic traverses. Table 4 gives an interpretation of the velocities in geological terms, based on the known rock types occurring and previous experience in other areas.

TABLE 4

Seismic velocity (ft/sec)	Rock type
700 - 1400	Peaty soil, clay with dolerite boulders
2000 - 3500	Weathered glacial deposits, talus and scree material
4000 - 7500	Weathered, jointed dolerite
7500 - 13,000	Moderately weathered, jointed dolerite
13,000 - 22,000	Slightly weathered to unweathered dolerite bedrock.

The seismic results are plotted as cross-sections on Plates 6 and 7.

The depth to bedrock is less than 20 ft between PH 207 and 213, PH 200 and 203, PH 180 and 199, PH 163 and 167, PH 89 and 115, PH 67 and 71, DS 2 and 7, and DS 35 and 40. Elsewhere the bedrock is more than 20 ft deep but layers above the bedrock with intermediate velocities of 7000 to 11,000 ft/sec could possibly be used to line the canal. The places where intermediate velocities were determined are widely spaced and the interpolated depths are not reliable.

The 9000-ft/sec layer on Traverse DS may be strong enough to serve as the foundation of a gravity dam. The maximum depth determined for this layer is 29 feet near DS51.

The topography suggests a shear zone with an east-south-east strike near Traverse PY. The traverse is roughly parallel to the shear zone and the velocity in bedrock is only 12,500 ft/sec. Probably the 9000-ft/sec intermediate layer between 13 and 30 feet will be good rock for tunnelling.

Conclusions

The depth to bedrock on the Lake Mackenzie canal flume, and tunnel line is less than 20 ft on about 10 percent of the surveyed traverse.

The depth to rock that may be suitable for a dam is about 8 ft for three-quarters of the dam-site Traverse DS, and probably not more than 30 ft for the remainder of the traverse.

Test drilling to determine the nature of the layer in which the velocity is between 7500 and 13,000 ft/sec, interpreted as weathered dolerite which probably could be used for the design of canal, dam, and tunnel, is recommended at the following localities: PH 384, PH 319, PH 282, PH 233, PH 173, PH 159, PH 3, PY 68, and DS 7. Further test drilling to determine the nature of the layer in which the seismic velocity is about 4000 to 6500 ft/sec and to supply information at some points on the traverse where the seismic velocity distribution has not been determined, is recommended at the following localities: PH 422, PH 408, PH 372, PH 247, PH 204, PH 132, PH 119, PH 79, PH 52, and PH 38.

6. PENSTOCK LINE (FISHER RIVER)

Location and geology

Water from the tunnel will flow down the penstock line to a proposed power station in the Fisher valley.

The Fisher river valley is in Precambrian quartzite, schist and phyllite(Plate 8). This is overlain unconformably by flat Permian sediments, which are overlain by Jurassic dolerite. Along most of the proposed penstock line there is a cover of talus material over the solid rock (Mather, 1962).

Seismic results

The location of the seismic traverses is shown on Plate 8.

The results are shown on Plates 9 to 13. Table 5 gives an interpretation of the velocities in geological terms based on the known rock types occurring in the area and on experience from previous seismic surveys in areas with similar geology.

TABLE 5

Seismic velocity (ft/sec)	Rock type
1000 - 2000	soil
2500 - 5000	talus and scree material
6000 - 9500	weathered rock
8000 ~ 8500	Permian bedrock
10,000 - 12,000	jointed Jurassic dolerite
11,000 - 20,000	Precambrian bedrock

From the seismic velocities in the lowest refractor it may be inferred that on Traverse A the Precambrian extends from A 281 to A 65, and that the bedrock consists of Permian sediments from A 65 to A 97. From A 97 to A 108 the bedrock consists of Jurassic dolerite (see Plate 8).

The thickness of talus and scree material increases from zero at A 59 to 112 ft at A 94, then decreases to 30 ft at A 107.

Two alternative routes were surveyed from A1 to the river. The overburden is much deeper on the line from A 165 to A 190(Plate 13) than on the line from A 248 to A 281 (Plate 9).

Table 6 gives a comparison of drilling and seismic results. All drill holes were sited on geological evidence prior to the geophysical survey.

TABLE 6

	Drill	nole	<u>Sei</u>	smic	
No.	Depth (ft)	Rock type	Station	Depth (ft)	Seismic velocity (ft/sec)
5901	0-40 40-47 47-	scree and talus material weathered phyllite fresh phyllite	252	0-3 ⁻ 3-43 43-	1600 3300 11,500
5903	0–66 66–	scree and talus material fresh dolerite	99	0–80 80–	2600 12,000
5904	0-20 20-	scree and talus material fresh dolerite	107	0–40 40–	3000 12,000
5905	0-75 75-	talus material mudstone and sandstone	77	0 – 70 70–200 200 –	4000 6000 8500

Conclusions

Two possible routes for the penstock line from A1 have been compared. The line from A 248 to A 281 is preferred as there is less overburden along it. The upper limits of the Precambrian and Permian are at A 65 and A 97 respectively. The low velocity in the Jurassic dolerite suggests that it is strongly jointed.

	- 8 -	
7.	REFERENCES	
FORD, R.J.	1956	Geological report on 10 - Kiloyard Sheet 4286, Fisher River area. H.E.C. Report (unpubl.)
MATHER, R.P.	1956	Geological report on map square 4356, The Lake Mackenzie area. HEC Report 644 - 170 - 3. (unpubl.)
MATHER, R.P.	1962	Private communication.
POLAK, E.J. and MOSS, F.J.	1959	Geophysical survey at the Cluny dam site, Derwent River, Tasmania. Bur. Min. Resour. Aust. Re 1959/87 (unpubl.)

. •

APPENDIX

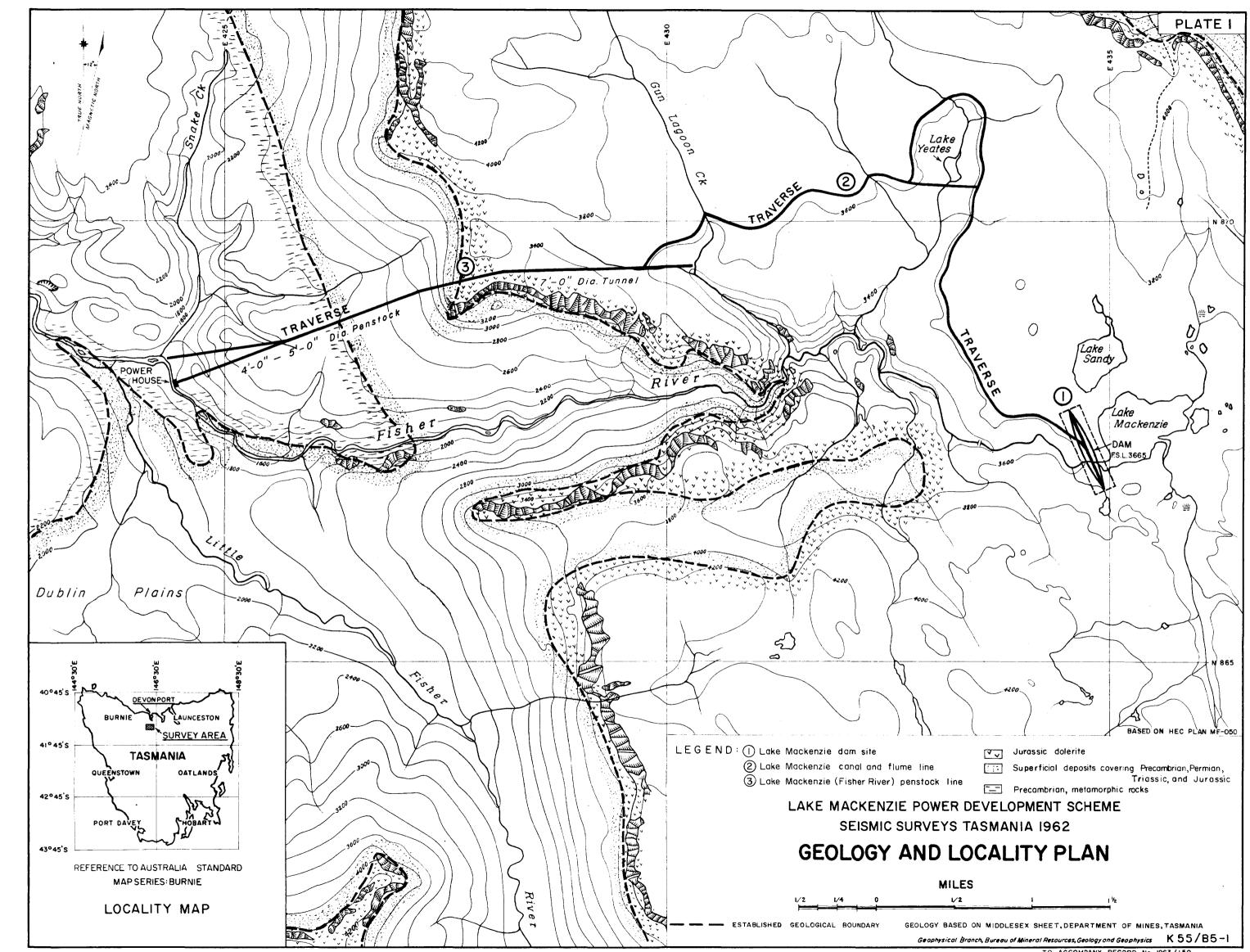
Summary of information obtained from tests pits at the Lake Mackenzie dam site

The old test pits were dug in 1922 at the time the area was mapped by Loftus Hills. The asterisks indicate information prepared in 1922. Information obtained by Mather (1956) is also included.

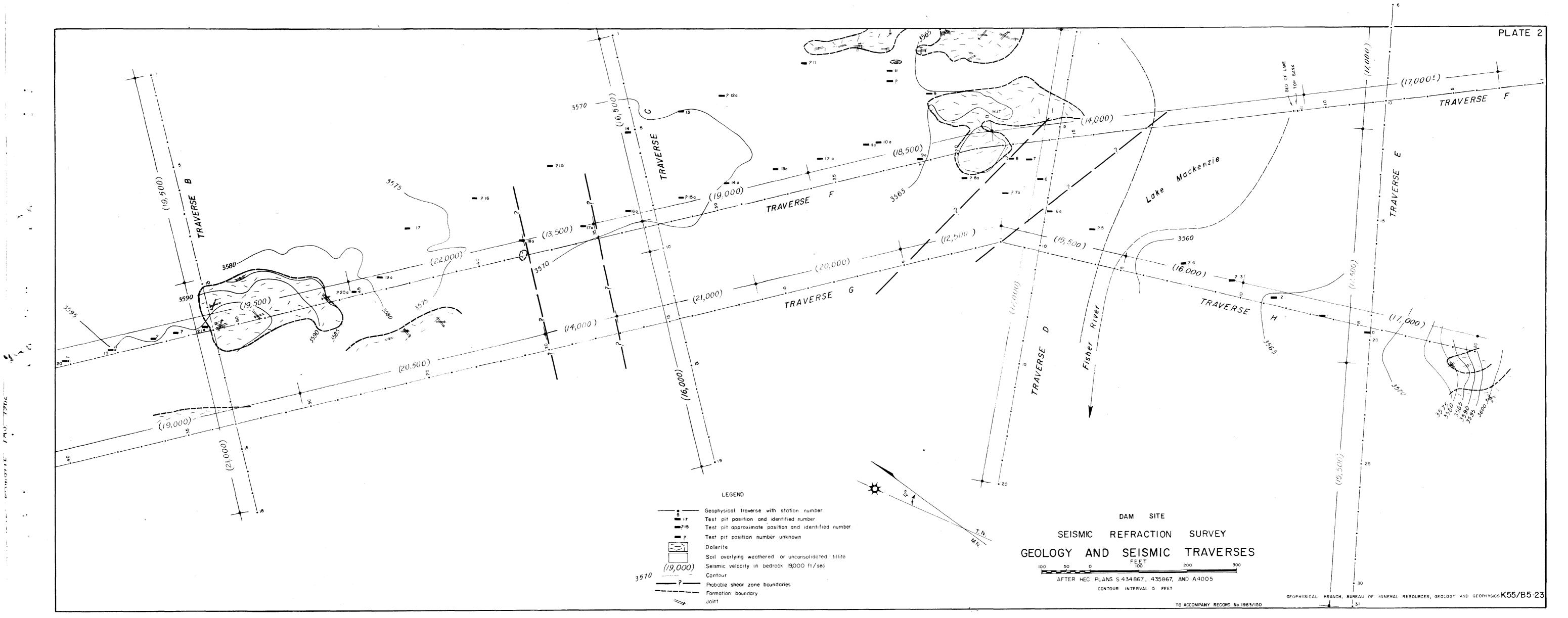
Pit No.	Information
0	Dark peaty soil with clay and fine sand overlying brownish clay with sand and dolerite fragments up to 3 in. Fragments of cemented till on the dump. * Depth 6 ft, broken rock.
1	As for Pit O. * Depth 5 ft, cemented till and pug.
2	As for Pit O. * Depth 6 ft, cemented till, gravel, and loose rocks.
3	As for Pit O. No cemented till on the dump. * Depth 2 ft, on boulder of mudstone. (The mudstone is interpreted as similar to the hardened clay found on the dump of Pit 8A).
4	Topsoil and dump removed by flooding of the river, otherwise as for Pit O. Water at 1 ft in the pit. * Depth 2 ft, cemented till (porous), mudstone.
5	As for Pit 4. * Depth 3 ft, mudstone.
6	As for Pit 7. * Depth 3 ft, cemented till and mudstone.
6A	Dark topsoil overlying brownish yellow clay with sub-angular weathered dolerite fragments. Dolerite gravel on the dump. * Depth 3 ft, rock (?) probably cemented till.
7	Yellowish brown clay with dolerite fragments, partly consolidated. Cemented till on the dump. * Depth 4 ft, cemented till, mudstone, clays, rocks.
7A	As for Pit 6A * Depth 3 ft, cemented till.
8	Light brown clay, cemented till on the dump * Depth 4 ft, solid rock.
9	Orange clay with dolerite fragments. Cemented till on the dump. * Depth 4 ft, conglomerate
9A	Yellow fine sandy clay with dolerite fragments * Depth 5 ft, cemented till

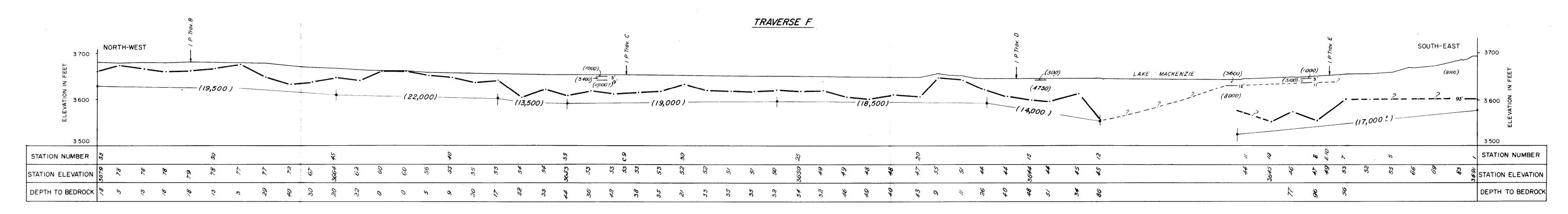
Pit No.	Information
10	As for Pit 12 * Depth 6 ft, solid rock
10 <u>A</u>	* Depth 6 ft, cemented till
11	Fragments of hardened clay (mudstone) but no cemented till seen on the dump. * Depth 2 ft, clay.
· 12	Yellow clay with dolerite fragments. Cemented till on the dump. * Depth 2 ft, solid rock.
12A	As for Pit 6A. Cemented till on the dump. * Depth 3 ft, earth and clay.
13	As for Pit 17. * Depth 3 ft, flat rock.
13A	As for Pit 6A. Cemented till on the dump. * Depth 3 ft, cemented till?
14	As for Pit 17. * Depth 3 ft, flat rock.
14A	As for Pit 6A. No cemented till seen on the dump. * Depth 2 ft, clay and boulders.
15	As for Pit 17. * Depth 4 ft, mudstone and cemented till.
15A	Yellow clay with dolerite fragments. No cemented till seen on the dump. * Depth 6 ft.
16	As for Pit 17. * Depth 3 ft, rock and clay.
16A	As for Pit 15A. * Depth 3 ft, clay.
17	Dark top soil, orange and yellow clay with dolerite fragments. * Depth 4 ft, clay and boulders.
17 A	As for Pit 15A. * Depth 3 ft.
18A	As for Pit 15A. Clay appears to be darker in colour. * Depth 3 ft.
19	* Clay and rock, solid rock.
19A	As for Pit 15A. Water stands at 2 ft in the pit. * Depth 4 ft, clay.

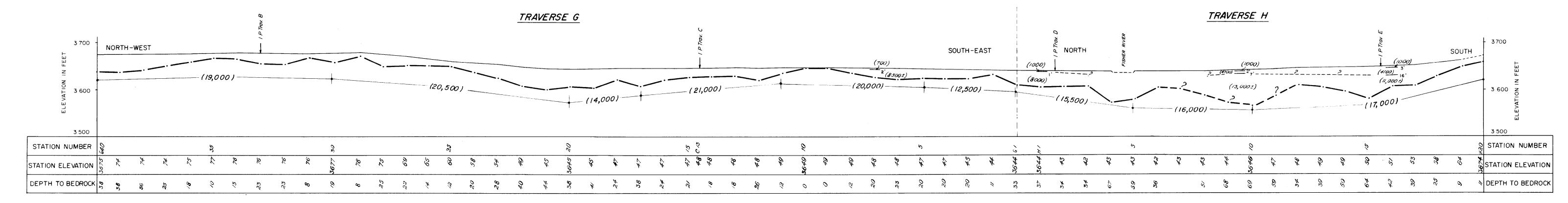
		- 11 -
	Pit No.	<u>Information</u>
	20	Top soil dark. Yellow clay on the dump. * Depth 3 ft, earth and solid rock.
• •	20A	Black clay. The pit is adjacent to dolerite outcrops. Water at 6 in in the pit. No yellow clay on the dump.
•		* Depth 2 ft, rock.
	21A	Yellow clay darker in part. The pit is adjacent to dolerite outcrops.
		* Depth 4 ft, rock.



TO ACCOMPANY RECORD No 1963/150







LEGEND

Unweathered bedrock boundary

Formation with seismic velocity of 15,000ft/sec

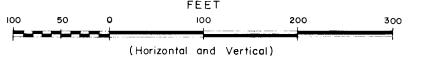
Depth to formation with different seismic velocity

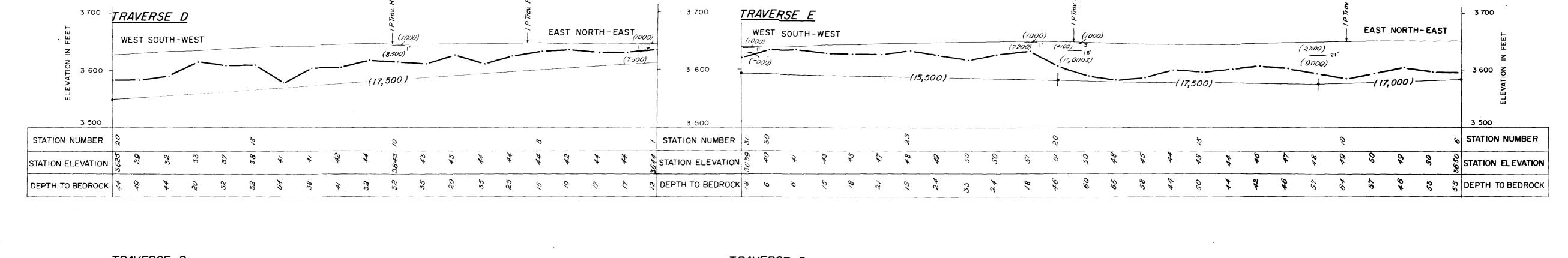
DAM SITE

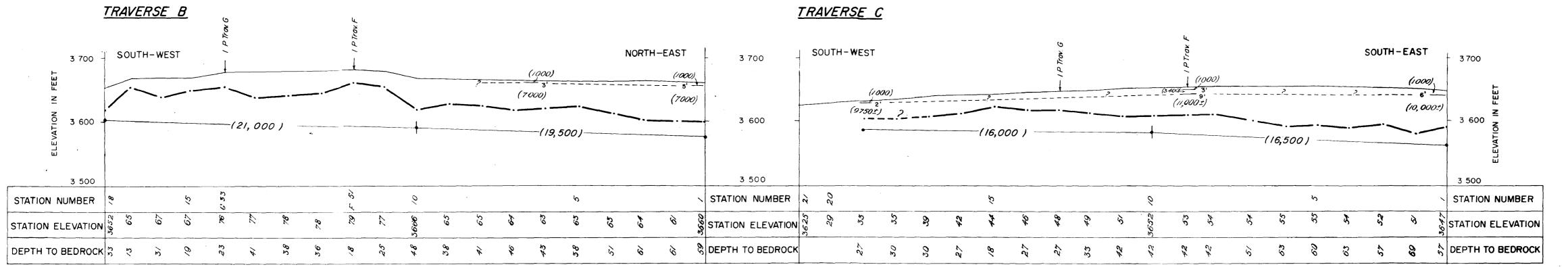
TRAVERSES F, G, and H

SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

(Based on HEC Plans A 9405, 9406,9407 and 9408)







LEGEND

Formation with seismic velocity of 15,500ft/sec

Depth to formation with different seismic velocity

DAM SITE

TRAVERSES B, C, D, and E

SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

(Based on H E C Plan A 9409 and 9410)

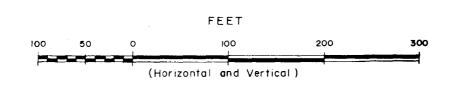
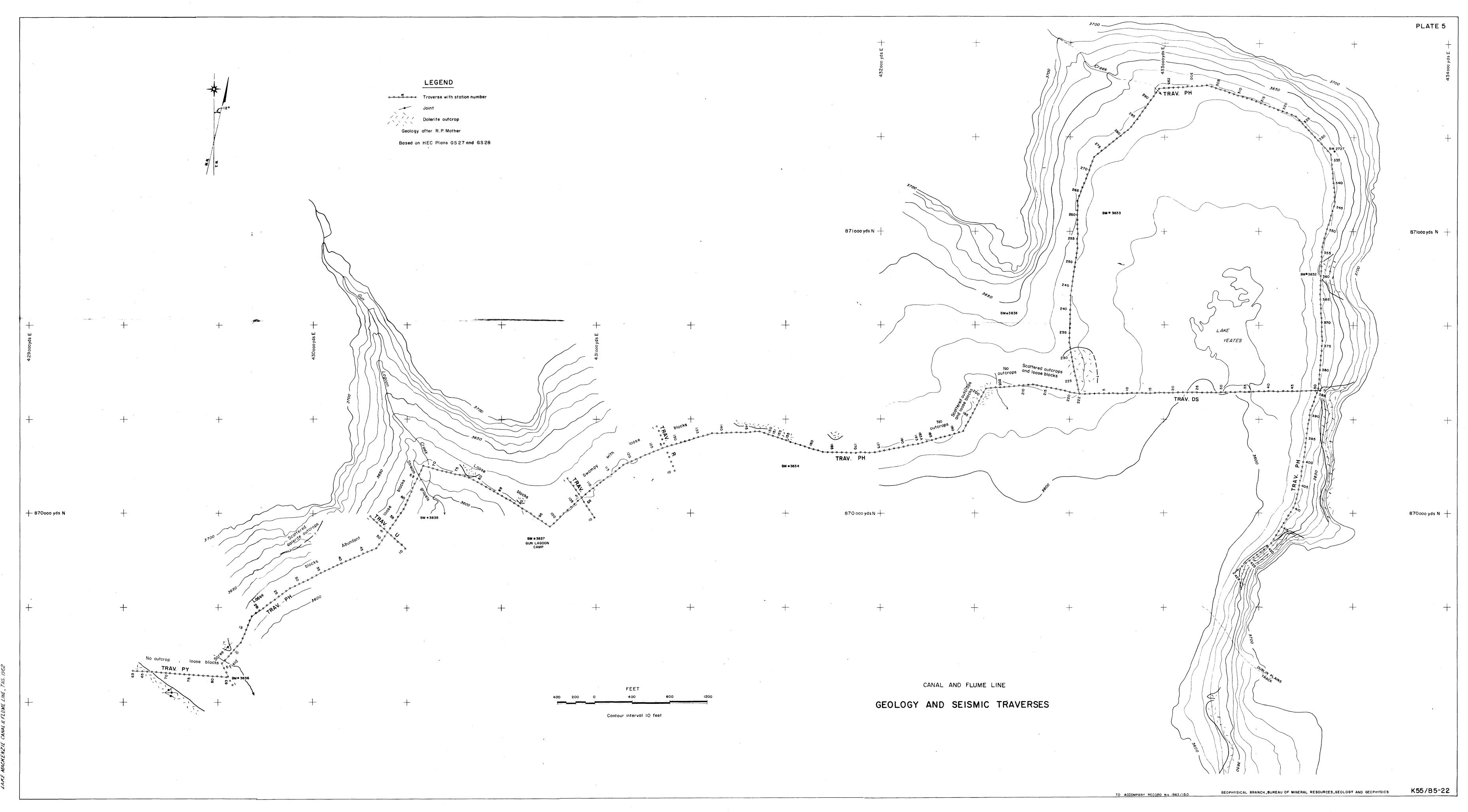
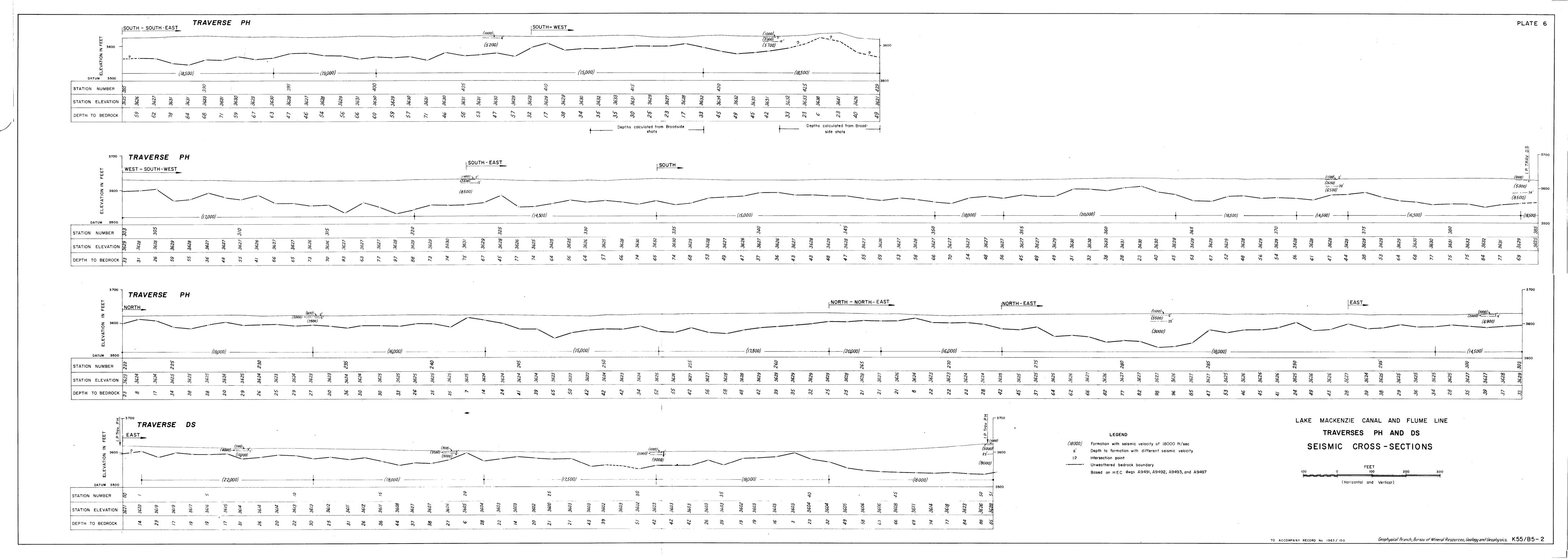
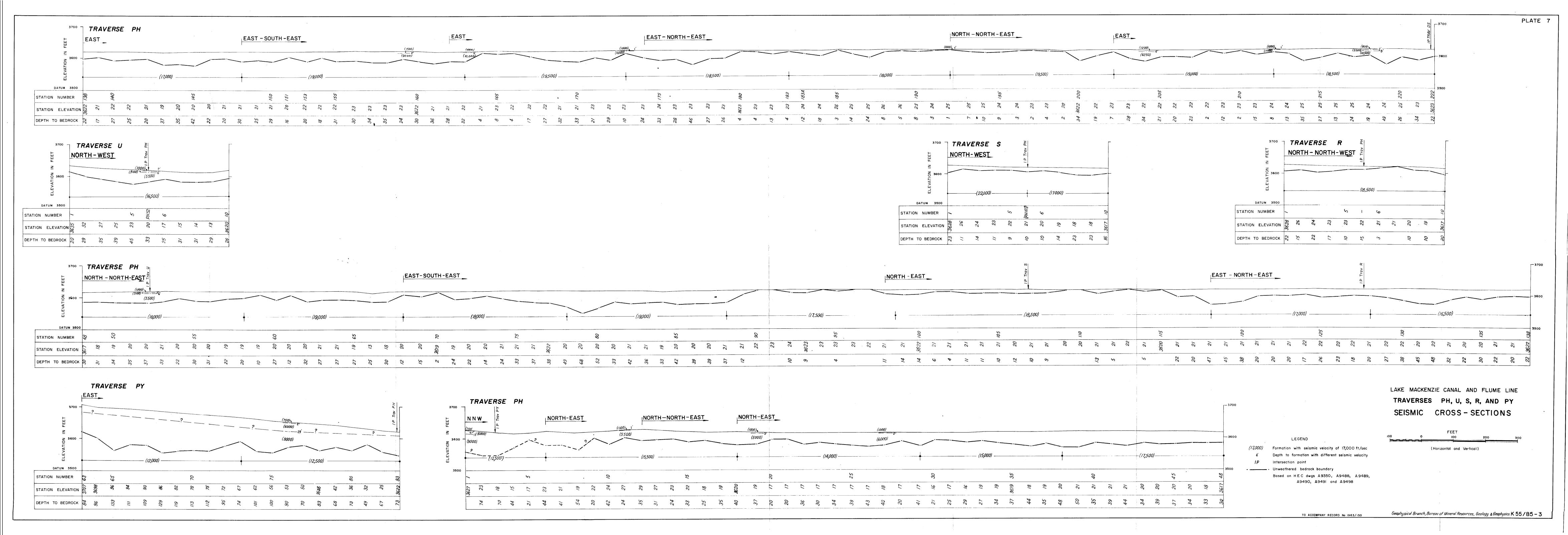
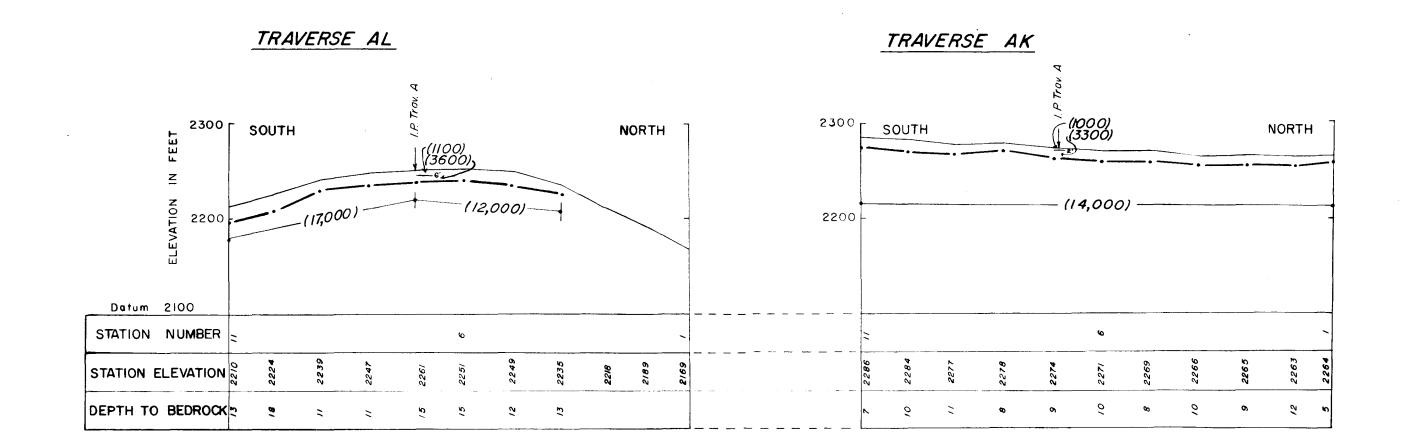


PLATE 4









PENSTOCK LINE (FISHER RIVER)

TRAVERSES A (Stations 1,191-238),

AL,AK,and B

SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

LEGEND

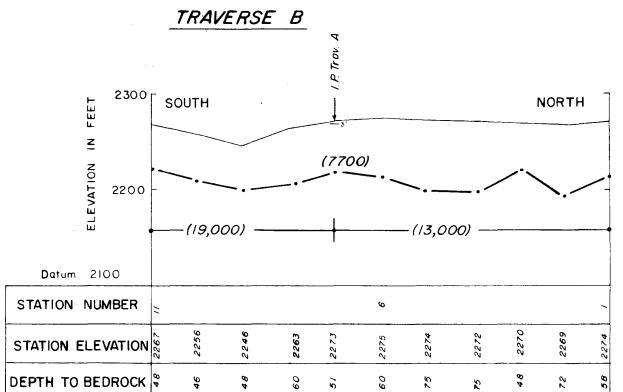
(7700) Formation with seismic velocity of 7700 ft/sec

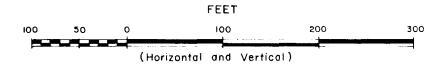
3'--- Depth to formation with different seismic velocity

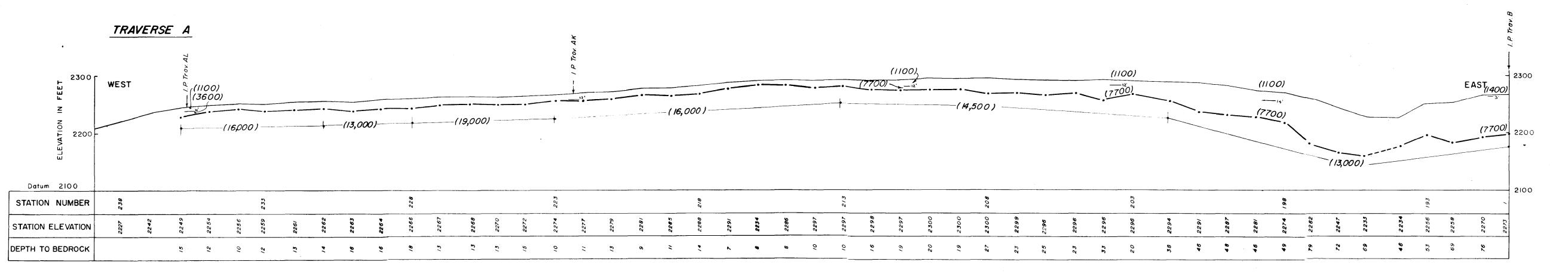
P Intersection point

• Unweathered bedrock boundary

Based on HEC Plans A9313, A9314, A9315, and A9319







. .

٠,

