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RADIOACTIVE SURVEYS KATHERINE - DARWIN AREA

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

of the

DARWIN URANIUM GROUP

January, 1955.

by

D. E. GARDNER.



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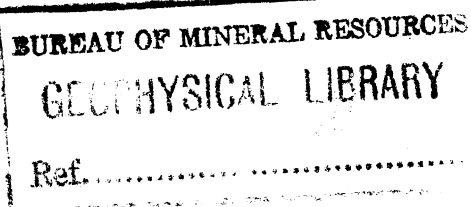
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ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

STAFF.

L. R. Geenen, field assistant, was absent on sick leave from 19th to 27th January, inclusive.

G. F. Canning, drill foreman, returned from recreation leave on 10th January, and J. W. Kerr, drill runner, on 24th January.

L. Jones, motor driver, was re-engaged on 5th January.

Resignations.

S. J. Gordon, field assistant, resigned at close of business on 7th January.

Mrs. A. Tunbridge, office cleaner, resigned C.O.B. 28th January.

Geophysical Staff.

The Darwin geophysical staff now consists of only four men: Geophysicists - G. F. Clarke and J. B. Minz, Senior Radio Technician W. Burns, and Geophysical Assistant A. Parton. This staff shortage has necessitated performance of a variety of jobs by each man.

HOUSING

Nine of the houses at Fannie Bay are roofed. Five of these have the outside walls completed and the inside partitions almost finished. The outside walls on four others are nearly finished. Framework for two additional houses has been erected, and the piles have been put down for the twelfth house.

It is likely that one house will be ready for occupation in about 6 weeks' time, and others should follow at short intervals. Electricity and water are already provided. However, no provision has been made for septic tanks, and it is unlikely that the area will be sewered in less than 12 months

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Mr. Seaman: for attention please.
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RADIOMETRIC LABORATORY

A total of 105 radiometric assays were completed, and the Ekco assay unit installed and tested.

Instrument repairs, numbering 37, including 7 for private parties, were effected. The Radio Technician also devoted one week to electrical installations at the George Creek camp.

TRANSPORT.

All the vehicles have had at least two field seasons, and need thorough overhauling. The severe conditions of service necessitate much maintenance work and replacement of parts. Only one mechanic is employed for maintenance and repair of 13 Land Rovers, 7 Morris 4 x 4 trucks, and 3 3-ton tray-top trucks. As a result vehicles are kept in operation after maintenance work is needed. It is considered that economies could be effected in vehicle-maintenance if an additional mechanic were employed.

TECHNICAL SECTION.

General.

Wet weather hampered field work at the A.B.C. Prospect, because of vehicles bogging down on the road to Katherine. For the same reason it was not possible to get all the equipment away from the Burrundie Prospect. A wet-weather road to the George Creek Prospect had to be constructed by bulldozing and blasting.

A. B. C. PROSPECT

Drilling was finished in the A.B.C. Reservation, adjacent to the Prospect. The deep hole reached a depth of 460 feet, entering sandstone at 455 feet. A final report on the A. B. C. Reservation was started.

BROCK'S CREEK

A little additional surface geological mapping was done at the Fleur de Lys mine and a report was written.

BURRUNDIE PROSPECT

The report on the Prospect was completed.

GEORGE CREEK PROSPECT

A camp was established at the Prospect and an all-weather road constructed. A bench was cut in the side of the hill to accommodate the drilling plant. Drilling commenced at the end of the month, and additional costeaning was started.

OTHER GEOPHYSICAL WORK

Army Bores

Thirty-four wartime army water bores were located, twenty six of which, totalling 3156 feet, were radiometrically logged. No significant radioactivity was recorded, the highest reading being 500 G.P.M. (Instrument: BRV-1). The remaining eight bores could not be logged because of blockages.

All except two of the holes logged are north of the Batchelor turn-off on the Stuart highway. A large number of bores are still to be located but this search will have to be deferred until the dry season because of the very high grass that now exists. Geophysicist Clarke has been in charge of the program.

Coronation Hill.

Radiometric gridding, with readings at three foot intervals was done both before and after the bulldozing of costeans. The results have been plotted and will accompany the geological report on the costeaning.

Radiometric bore-logging.

Drill holes at A.B.C., Adelaide River and Burrundie have been logged. One 1,000 foot cable and one 600 foot cable were loaned to T.E.P..

General Field Work.

Results of test self-potential traverses by J. A. Barlow at George Creek, Adelaide River and Brock's Creek were drafted. Copies are being forwarded to Mr. Barlow for his comments.