

# ARCHER, CATHRO

& ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED

CONSULTING GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERS

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## ASSESSMENT REPORT

describing

## DIGITAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL COMPILATION

for the

## ALLE PROPERTY

NTS 105B/9

Latitude 60°37'N; Longitude 130°25'W

in the

Watson Lake Mining District  
Yukon Territory

Prepared by

**Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited**

for

**STRATEGIC METALS LTD.**

by

W. Douglas Eaton, B.Sc. Geology

May 2002

094310



This report has been examined by  
the Geological Evaluation Unit  
under Section 53 (4) Yukon Quartz  
Mining Act and is allowed as  
representation work in the amount  
of \$ 4000.

*M. B. B.*  
for Regional Manager, Exploration and  
Geological Services for Commissioner  
of Yukon Territory.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Alle claims were staked as a tantalum prospect in February, 2001 on behalf of Strategic Metals Ltd. The claims cover a series of uranium occurrences and radiometric anomalies, associated with various phases of a zoned Cretaceous intrusion. Although no specific exploration has been done for tantalum, a few multi-element analyses done at various times in the past that included tantalum and/or its pathfinder elements returned encouraging results.

Work conducted by Strategic in 2001 was done in preparation for future field exploration. It included preparation of digital base maps and data compilation from a variety of public and private sources. The work was contracted to Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited and was done by the author and geologist B. Wengzynowski. Appendix 1 contains the Author's Statement of Qualifications.

## PROPERTY, LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Alle claims are owned 100% by Strategic, without underlying interests. They are located in the Watson Lake Mining District of Yukon Territory at latitude 60°37'N and longitude 130°25'W on NTS map sheet 105B/9 (Figure 1). For administrative convenience, the claims are registered in the name of Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited which holds them in trust for Strategic. Claim registration data are listed below while claim locations are shown on Figure 2.

<u>Claim Name</u>	<u>Grant Numbers</u>	<u>Expiry Date*</u>
Alle 1-8	YB93148-YB93155	February 23, 2007

\*Expiry date includes assessment credit for work described in this report which has been filed but not yet accepted.

The claims lie 105 km west-northwest of the community of Watson Lake and 50 km north of the Alaska Highway. Winter roads extend to the Logan property, 12 km to the south, and up the Liard River, 18 km to the east. Airstrips are located along the Liard River and on the Logan property (Figure 1) but their condition is unknown. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft are available from bases at Watson Lake on a year round basis.

## HISTORY

The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) conducted regional scale geological mapping on the Wolf Lake map sheet in the late 1950s and flew airborne magnetic surveys over that sheet in the early 1960s. It later administered reconnaissance geochemical surveys on the Wolf Lake map sheet in the mid-1970s and on the adjoining Watson Lake map sheet in the early 1990s.

The Alle area was first recognized as a rare element target in 1971 during a regional exploration conducted Archer Cathro on behalf of Wolf Lake Joint Venture (WLJV). This program primarily searched for tungsten skarns using stream panning and prospecting as its main exploration techniques. Work in the vicinity of what are now the Alle claims identified numerous pegmatite dykes and produced one panning concentrate that contained abnormally

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FIGURE 1

ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED

# PROPERTY LOCATION

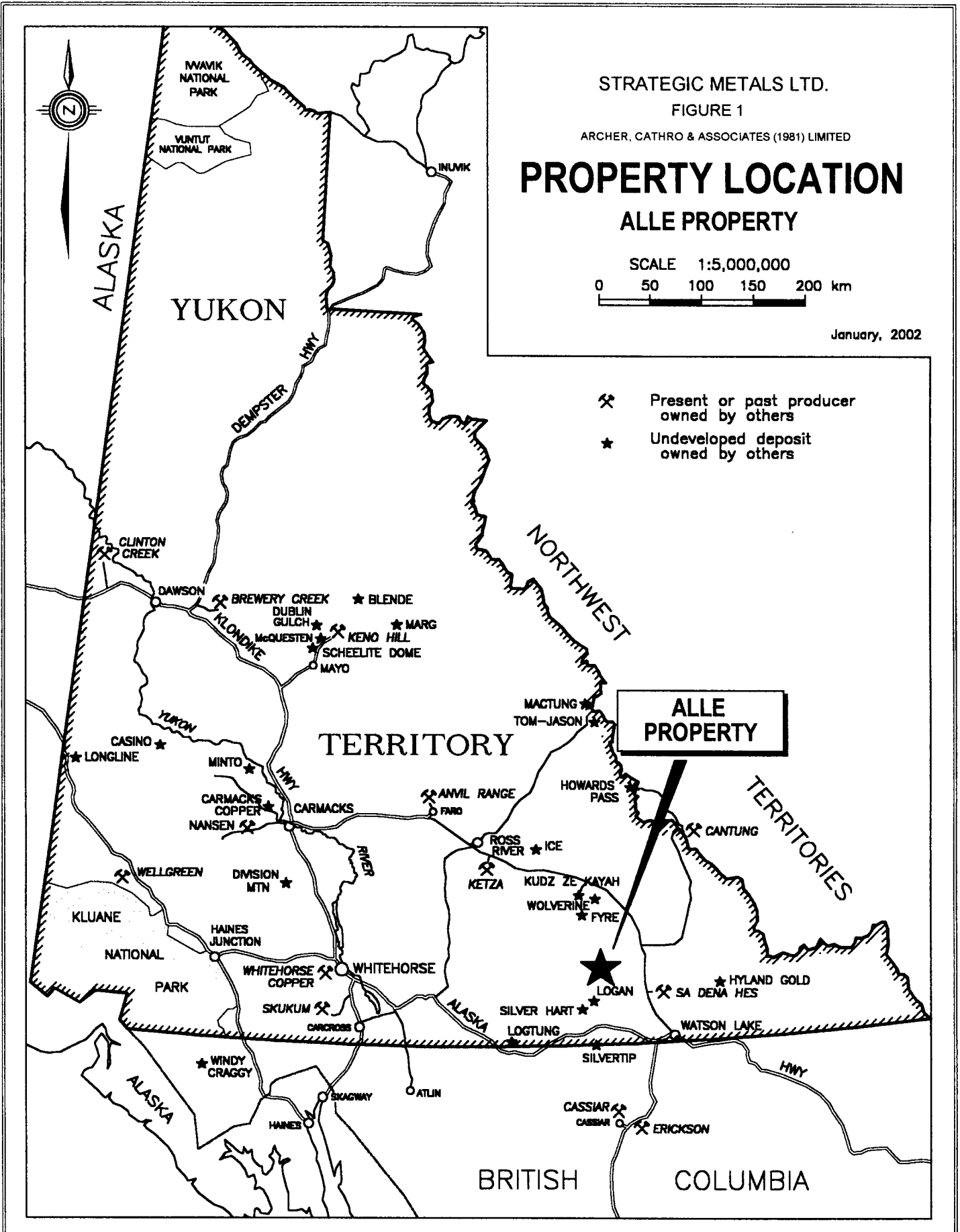
## ALLE PROPERTY

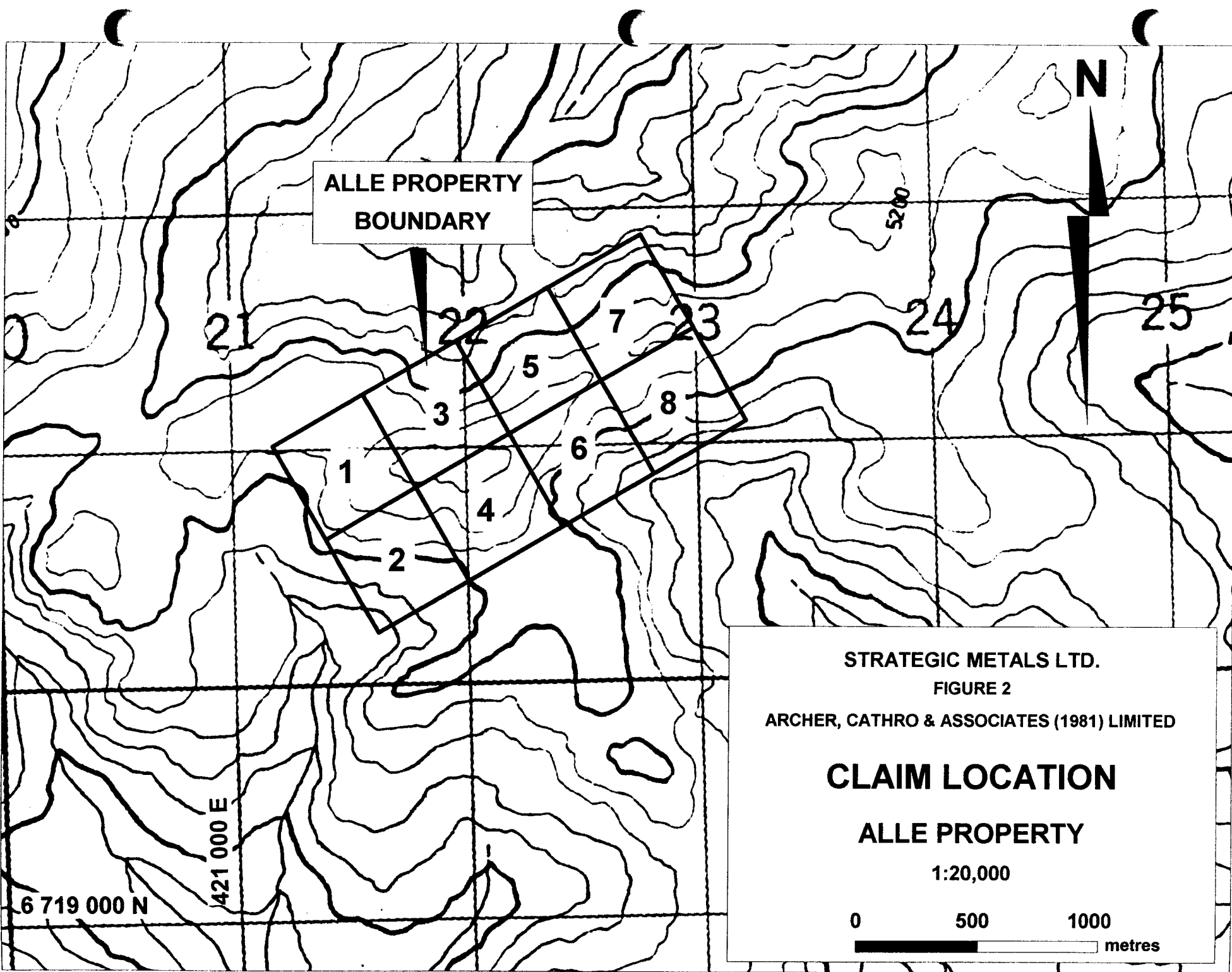
SCALE 1:5,000,000

0 50 100 150 200 km

January, 2002

- ⌘ Present or past producer owned by others
- ★ Undeveloped deposit owned by others





**ALLE PROPERTY  
BOUNDARY**

**N**

**STRATEGIC METALS LTD.**

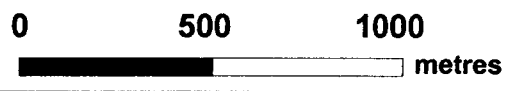
**FIGURE 2**

**ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED**

**CLAIM LOCATION**

**ALLE PROPERTY**

**1:20,000**



6 719 000 N

421 000 E

5200

21

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high amounts of magnetite and other heavy minerals. Routine semi-quantitative spectrographic analysis of that concentrate showed strong enrichment of niobium, uranium, thorium, tin, yttrium and zirconium. The joint venture staked a tungsten showing about 6 km to the west but did not follow up the rare element anomaly. SEREM Ltd. later staked other tungsten targets on the north side of the stock (Lee, 1990).

The earliest claims on the Alle prospect were staked in 1979 by Eldorado Nuclear Limited (Eldorado). Its exploration was directed toward uranium and consisted of airborne and ground radiometric surveys with minor hand trenching in 1979 and soil geochemical surveys in 1980.

In 1985 the area was staked again as a uranium prospect by Central Electricity Generating Board Exploration (Canada) Limited (CEGB). It performed geological mapping, soil geochemistry and ground radiometric surveys in 1985 and 1986.

### GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Alle claims are located within the Cassiar Mountains immediately east of the Liard Plateau. They straddle a northeast trending ridge that divides the Allen Creek drainage to the south from the Cabin Creek drainage to the north. Both creeks are tributaries of the Liard River which lies about 15 km northeast of the property. The area was covered by ice sheets in Pleistocene times, with local ice direction toward the northeast parallel to the main creek valleys.

Property elevations range from 1460 to 1620 m. Slopes are relatively gentle and are typically blanketed by fens and soil. Outcrop comprises less than 5% of the area. Treeline is at about 1500 m and vegetation on the claims mostly consists of grassy plateaus and upland swamps, giving way to buckbrush and stunted black spruce at lower elevations.

### GEOLOGY

#### Regional

As shown on Figure 3, the Alle claims lie about 10 km southwest of the Tintina Fault within the poorly delineated Allen Stock (Poole, et al, 1960). This zoned stock is about 15 km long by 8 km wide and belongs to a belt of 99 to 110 Ma intrusions comprising the Cassiar Suite (Mortensen, et al, 2000). Elsewhere in the district these intrusions are associated with tungsten skarns, tungsten-molybdenum porphyries, tin skarns and lead-zinc-silver mantos and veins (DIAND, 2001). Some of the intrusions are also associated with rare elements, notably beryllium and tantalum (Groat and Ercit, 1996).

The Allen Stock cuts Late Proterozoic to Mississippian miogeosynclinal metasedimentary rocks of the Cassiar Platform, including quartz-feldspar-biotite-muscovite schist and gneiss with minor quartzite and marble horizons. Skarns are often developed in limy units near intrusions. Foliations within the metasediments approximately parallel compositional layering and usually have shallow dips.

Although the Allen Stock generally resembles other Cassiar Suite intrusions it is distinguished from them by zones of high radioactivity and magnetic susceptibility. The magnetic response is

expressed on the aeromagnetic maps as a doughnut-shaped high surrounding a low (GSC, 1963). Mapping by CEGB showed that the magnetic high closely corresponded to a very coarse grained, magnetite bearing phase of the intrusion while the lows are related to a finer grained, magnetite deficient phase (Turner, 1987). Work by WLJV and CEGB identified numerous pegmatite dykes within and peripheral to the stock (Archer, 1971, Archer and Cathro, 1972 and Turner, 1987).

### Property

Geology in the immediate vicinity of the Alle claims is shown on Figure 4. Most of the claim block is underlain by very coarse grained, porphyritic biotite-quartz monzonite containing about 30% quartz, 55% feldspar (microcline and plagioclase) and 10-15% biotite plus accessory magnetite, apatite, rutile and rare earth minerals. Euhedral orthoclase phenocrysts are common and range from 2 to 10 cm in length. Quartz grains are usually irregularly shaped, dark smoky gray and between 0.5 and 2.5 mm in diameter. This unit has high magnetic susceptibility. Rocks in the eastern part of the claim block are also biotite-quartz monzonite but are distinguished from those in the west because they are equigranular, fine to medium grained and relatively non-magnetic.

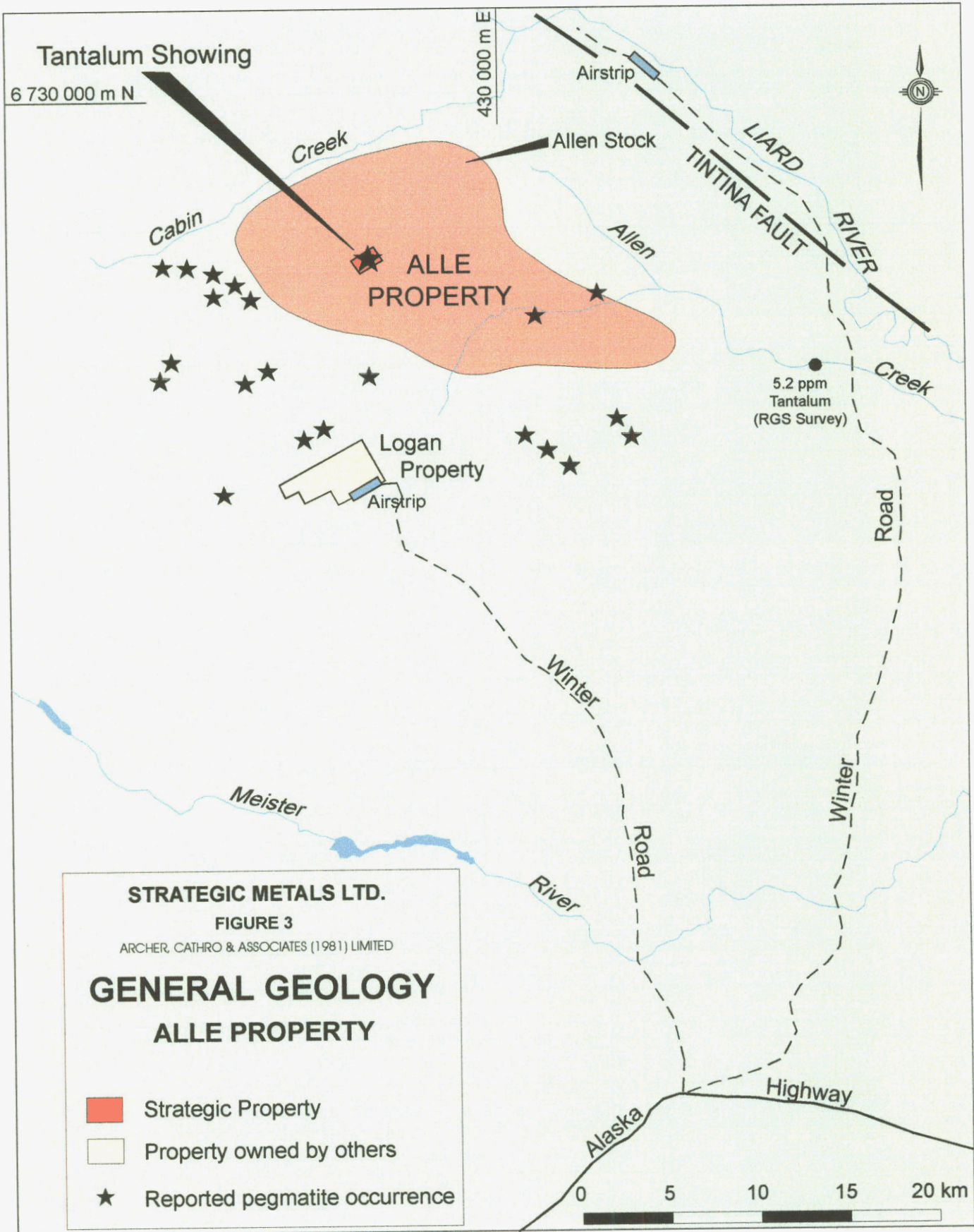
Detailed mapping by CEGB identified four zones within the intrusion where distinctive texture variations are associated with enhanced radioactivity (Figure 4). The first two areas (Zones 1 and 4) occur with finer grained phases of the biotite-quartz monzonite and consist of clay altered bands up to 1 m thick and 100 m long. These zones lie immediately east of the Alle claims and are characteristically buff coloured, hematized and well foliated. The other two zones lie within the very coarse grained, porphyritic phase. Zone 2 is in the eastern part of the property and encompasses a series of magnetite-biotite rich lenses, each of which is less than 1 m thick, while Zone 3 is in the western part and features megaporphyritic granite pods up to 5 m across (Turner, 1987). Mineralization and radioactivity associated with the zones is described in the Mineralization section of this report.

Subvertical, randomly orientated aplite and pegmatite dykes and vuggy to massive quartz veins cut the stock and surrounding metasediments. Some of the dykes cutting the metasediments are up to 20 m across (Archer, 1971).

Although no faults are mapped on the property, there are two well developed sets of airphoto lineaments, one trending 045° and the other 170°. There is also alignment of mineral grains within parts of the stock that trend from 030 to 060° and dip steeply.

### GEOCHEMISTRY

Regional scale stream sediment and soil geochemical data are available for the Alle area from various sources but unfortunately they utilized different sampling and analytical techniques making direct comparisons difficult (Archer, 1971, Archer and Cathro, 1972, Hornbrook, et al, 1978 and 1985, and Friske, et al, 1996). Only samples from the most recent survey, which covered the adjoining Watson Lake map sheet, were analyzed for tantalum. Fortunately, one of these samples was taken from lower Allen Creek, about 25 km downstream to the east from the property. It returned a strongly anomalous 5.2 ppm tantalum and 98<sup>th</sup> percentile values for tin,



uranium, thorium, cerium, hafnium, lanthanum, samarium, terbium and ytterbium. The tantalum result is the second highest value from that survey and compares favourably with samples taken 2 to 5 km downstream from known tantalum bearing pegmatites in the Little Nahanni area of Northwest Territory, which returned 2.6 to 6.6 ppm tantalum (Wengzynowski, 2002 and Groat and Ercit, 1996).

The only useful pathfinder elements for tantalum that were included in the GSC stream sediment survey that directly covered the Alle claims are tin, uranium and fluorine. Figure 4 shows nearby drainages that returned strongly anomalous tin values. Streams draining directly off the claims were not particularly anomalous for tin or fluorine but did return some of the highest uranium values on the map sheet (Hornbrook, et al, 1978 and 1985). WLJV did not routinely analyze its stream sediment and soil samples for tantalum or any of its pathfinder elements. It did, however, submit some pan concentrates for semi-quantitative spectrographic analysis. This analytical technique scanned for several elements including some pathfinders for tantalum. A magnetite rich concentrate taken in a tributary of Cabin Creek directly below the Alle claims (Figure 4) returned highly anomalous values for several of the pathfinder elements including niobium (0.1 to 1%), uranium (0.1 to 1%), thorium (0.05 to 0.5%), tin (0.01 to 1%) yttrium (0.05 to 0.5%) and zircon (0.05 to 0.5%). This geochemical signature was unique among all of the samples collected from the WLJV project area, which covered most of NTS map sheet 105B and part of 105C.

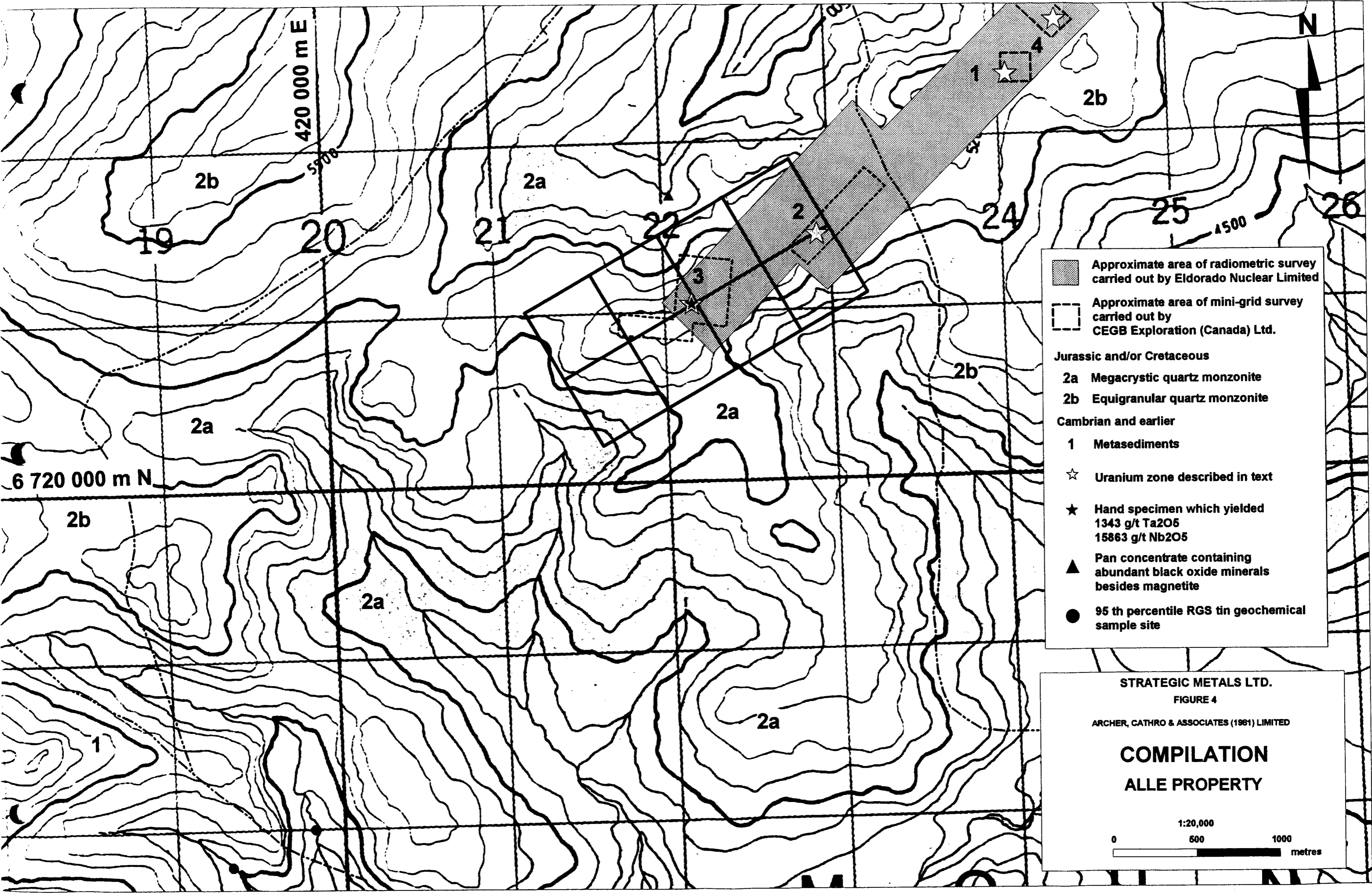
Grid soil sampling was conducted by Eldorado (Pare, 1980) and CEGB (Turner and Amukun, 1986 and Turner, 1987). The soils were mostly taken from grassy plateaus along the ridge, extending from the centre of the property northeasterly for about 3 km. The samples were only analyzed for uranium. They produced broad anomalies but radiometric prospecting appears to have been a more effective technique for locating mineralization.



### MINERALIZATION

Aside from reconnaissance exploration for tungsten skarns, reported work in the Alle area has focussed almost exclusively on uranium. Airborne radiometric surveys were conducted by Eldorado and CEGB and outlined targets within the drainages that had produced strongly anomalous uranium values from GSC stream sediment samples. The reconnaissance work was followed up with ground radiometric prospecting which ultimately led to grid surveys that identified four areas of mineralization (Zones 1-4 on Figure 4).

Two main types of uranium mineralization were discovered. The first is found at Zones 2 and 3 and consists of relatively non-soluble uranium minerals that are closely associated with magnetite. The other type is soluble and is hosted in non-magnetic, clay altered bands at Zones 1 and 4. Tantalum is known to occur at Zone 3. Based on the mineralogical associations it could be expected at Zone 2 but is not likely to occur at Zones 1 or 4. Zones 2 and 3 are covered by the Alle claims while Zones 1 and 4 lie immediately to the northeast. The following paragraphs briefly describe the various showings.





The **Zone 1** showings were discovered in 1985 by CEGB. They consist of radioactive, northwest trending, kaolinized linears developed in medium grained quartz monzonite. Petrographic and SEM studies of mineralized samples identified pitchblende, brannerite and uranium-rare earth



 Approximate area of radiometric survey carried out by Eldorado Nuclear Limited  
 Approximate area of mini-grid survey carried out by CEGB Exploration (Canada) Ltd.

**Jurassic and/or Cretaceous**  
 2a Megacrystic quartz monzonite  
 2b Equigranular quartz monzonite

**Cambrian and earlier**  
 1 Metasediments

 Uranium zone described in text  
 Hand specimen which yielded 1343 g/t Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 15863 g/t Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
 Pan concentrate containing abundant black oxide minerals besides magnetite  
 95 th percentile RGS tin geochemical sample site

STRATEGIC METALS LTD.  
 FIGURE 4  
 ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED

**COMPILATION**  
**ALLE PROPERTY**

1:20,000  
 0 500 1000 metres

elements. The most promising target is a 50 by 5 m area at the intersection of two linears. Specimens from this area assayed between 70.8 and 5650 ppm U using partial extraction analyses. Total extraction analyses yielded almost identical results. Multi-element data are only available for one specimen from this zone. It appears on Table I along with data from a megaporphyritic granite specimen from Zone 3. Beside uranium, the sample from Zone 1 is enriched in some of the rare earth elements. Tantalum content is low. Variations in metal ratios between the two samples are discussed in the description of Zone 3 mineralization.

TABLE I

**Multi-element Analyses**

<u>Specimen Number</u>	<u>RT-11 (Zone 3)</u>	<u>RT 62 (Zone 1)</u>
Radioactivity - background (cps)	2500/150	3500/150
Uranium - partial ppm	778.0	5650.0
Uranium - total % U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	2.1	0.54
Thorium ppm	3500.0	55.0
Cerium ppm	5390.0	1480.0
Dysprosium ppm	1188.0	4.4
Europium ppm	54.9	2.1
Lanthanum ppm	1050.0	355.0
Lutetium ppm	156.0	<0.05
Neodymium ppm	3220.0	1160.0
Samarium ppm	1560.0	335.0
Ytterbium ppm	941.0	2.3
Yttrium ppm	4807.0	<1.0
Tantalum ppm/Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> g/t	1100.0/1343	4.0
Niobium ppm/Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> g/t	11,084.0/15863	N.A.
Description	Megaporphyritic granite (pegmatite)	Clay altered quartz monzonite

N.A. = not analyzed

**Zone 2** is located about 800 m southwest of Zone 1. It is underlain by coarse grained, porphyritic biotite-quartz monzonite containing numerous biotite and magnetite rich lenses that are up to 1 m thick and can be traced for short distances along strike. High radioactive background was outlined over a 400 by 100 m area and numerous spot highs were noted. Only a few samples from this zone were analyzed for uranium with the most radioactive returning 518 ppm U from total extraction technique versus only 47.2 ppm U from partial extraction procedures. No information is available regarding other elements in these showings.

**Zone 3** lies about 2000 m southwest of Zone 1 in an area containing both porphyritic and equigranular biotite-quartz monzonite. The highest radioactivity is associated with

megaporphyritic pods up to 5 m in diameter. Scattered lenses of moderately radioactive biotite and magnetite rich material are also present.

Two east-northeast trending bands of anomalous radioactivity were outlined over lengths of about 600 m. Each band contains areas of high radioactivity and approximately coincides with areas of elevated magnetic susceptibility. Specimens collected from this zone returned up to 2.1%  $U_3O_8$  and generally yielded much lower uranium values from partial extraction analyses than were obtained by total extraction methods.

The highest grade specimen was collected by CEGB from an old Eldorado trench dug on the largest megaporphyry pod. Multi-element data on Table 1 shows that the sample also contains high concentrations of tantalum, niobium, thorium and a wide range of rare earth elements. Comparison of metal ratios between this specimen and those for the sample from Zone 1 shows that the ratios between uranium and the light suite of rare earth elements (cerium, lanthanum, samarium and yttrium) are very similar for the two samples. Conversely, the specimen from Zone 3 is relatively much more enriched in tantalum, thorium and the heavy rare earth elements.

A specimen collected in this zone was sent by CEGB to Vancouver Petrographics Ltd. where the mineral kobeite  $[(Y,Fe,U)(Ti,Nb,Ta)_2(O,OH)_6]$  was identified in close association with biotite. No assays were reported for this sample (Turner and Amukun, 1986).

**Zone 4** is situated about 500 m northeast of Zone 1. It covers weakly radioactive, clay altered linears similar to those at Zone 1. Specimens returned up to 1509 ppm U and like those from Zone 1 produced leachable uranium results that are almost equal to total uranium values.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Previous work in the Alle area concentrated on tungsten and uranium, and identified several mineral occurrences within and adjacent to the Allen Stock. The uranium occurrences fall into two main categories: refractory mineralization associated with biotite and magnetite enriched phases and soluble mineralization hosted in clay altered linear structures. Tungsten occurrences have been identified in skarns to the north and west of the stock. None of the known occurrences is large enough to be of direct economic interest for uranium alone.

Earlier work was not directed toward tantalum and its discovery along with niobium and rare earth elements at Zone 3 received little attention. There are no reported carbonatites in the Alle area but there are numerous pegmatite dykes. In fact, the tantalum bearing specimen was described as a "megaporphyritic granite (pegmatite)" by CEGB. Based on the metal signature and pegmatite affinity, the occurrence probably belongs to the NYF (niobium-yttrium-fluorine) class of rare element pegmatites (Cerný, 1991 a & b).

Large, highly differentiated pegmatite dykes characteristically display metal zoning, with metals such as thorium, niobium and rare earth elements relatively more abundant nearer the core, gradually giving way to uranium, tantalum and tin more distally. Figure 5 is an idealized model illustrating this type of zonation.

# EXPLORATION MODEL

## Cabin Creek Project

### Postulated Rare Element Zonation For The Pegmatite System

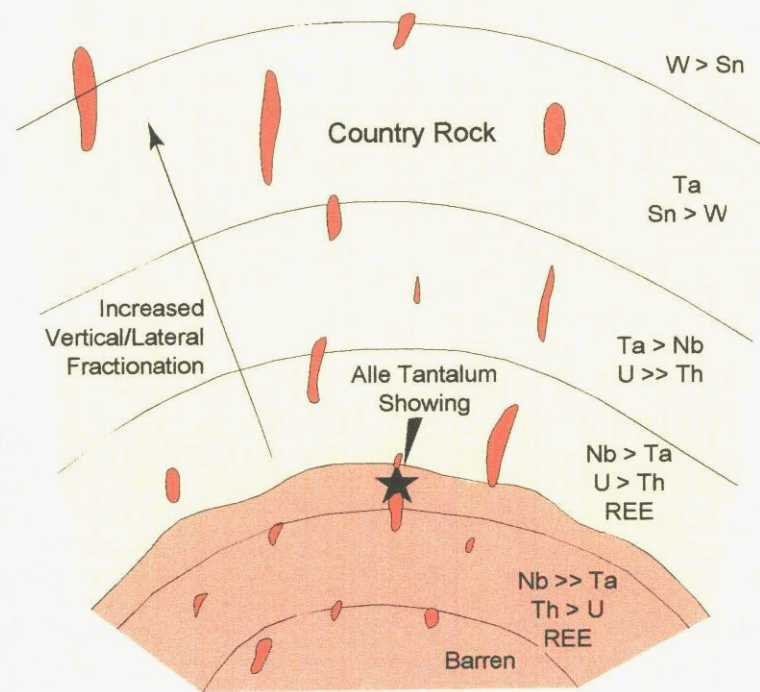
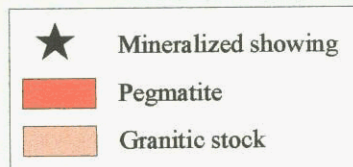
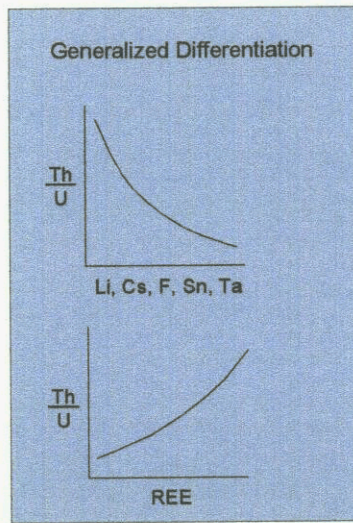


Figure 5: Zoning Model

Using the pegmatite model, the Alle zones are likely near the core of the system and the main tantalum targets could be tin enriched pegmatites outside of the stock. Relatively little regional data are available to evaluate this possibility; however, three pieces of information provide supportive evidence. First, the GSC stream sediment sample taken at the mouth of Allen Creek, 25 km from the Alle zones, was strongly anomalous for tantalum and pathfinder elements and it is improbable that such small, distal showings were the sole source of the metal. Second, the GSC sampling in the immediate vicinity of the Alle claims showed that uranium values are highest in streams draining directly off the known zones, but tin values are much higher in the streams about 2 km to the west. Finally, property and regional mapping by WLJV and CEGB showed that pegmatite dykes are abundant south and west of the Allen Stock.

The next phase of exploration in the Alle area should be directed toward tantalum. Work should include geological mapping, visual prospecting, radiometric prospecting and multi-element geochemical analysis of rocks, soils, stream sediments and panning concentrates. Tantalum backgrounds and metal ratios should be established for the various intrusive phases with particular emphasis on those with biotite and magnetite enrichment. Prospecting should not be preoccupied with rocks exhibiting high radioactivity and all pegmatites containing non-magnetic black oxides should be carefully sampled. The exploration area should extend far enough south and west to cover as many distal pegmatites as possible and should certainly include the drainages with anomalous tin values. Panning concentrates should be carefully examined and submitted to a variety of tests, including: magnetic separation, radiometrics, ultraviolet light, tin-zinc precipitation and visual mineral identification. Concentrates should also be analyzed using a multi-element package with near total digestion.

Tantalum is a high value metal whose use has increased dramatically in recent years in a variety of high technology applications. A reasonable exploration target would be 1 million tonnes grading at least 1000 ppm tantalum or a substantially larger tonnage at better than 200 ppm. The specimen collected from Zone 3 is by far the highest grade tantalum showing reported in Yukon and clearly illustrates potential for a significant discovery in the Alle area.

Respectfully submitted,

ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED

W. Douglas Eaton, B.Sc. Geology

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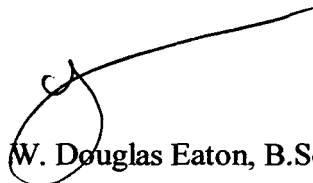
**APPENDIX I**

**AUTHOR'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

## STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

I, W. Douglas Eaton, geologist, with business addresses in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and Vancouver, British Columbia and residential address in North Vancouver, British Columbia, hereby certify that:

1. I graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1980 with a B.Sc. majoring in Geological Sciences.
2. From 1971 to present, I have been actively engaged in mineral exploration in British Columbia and Yukon Territory and on June 1, 1981, became a partner in Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited.
3. I have personally participated in or supervised the compilation reported herein and have interpreted all data resulting from this work.



W. Douglas Eaton, B.Sc. Geology

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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Joan Mariacher, of VANCOUVER, B.C. make oath and say:

That to the best of my knowledge the attached Statement of  
Expenditures for exploration work on the ALLE 1-8  
mineral claims on Claim Sheet 105B/9 is accurate.

  
Joan Mariacher

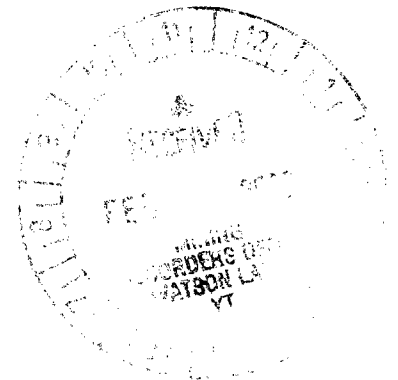
Sworn before me at VANCOUVER, B.C.

this 19TH day of

FEBRUARY, 2002



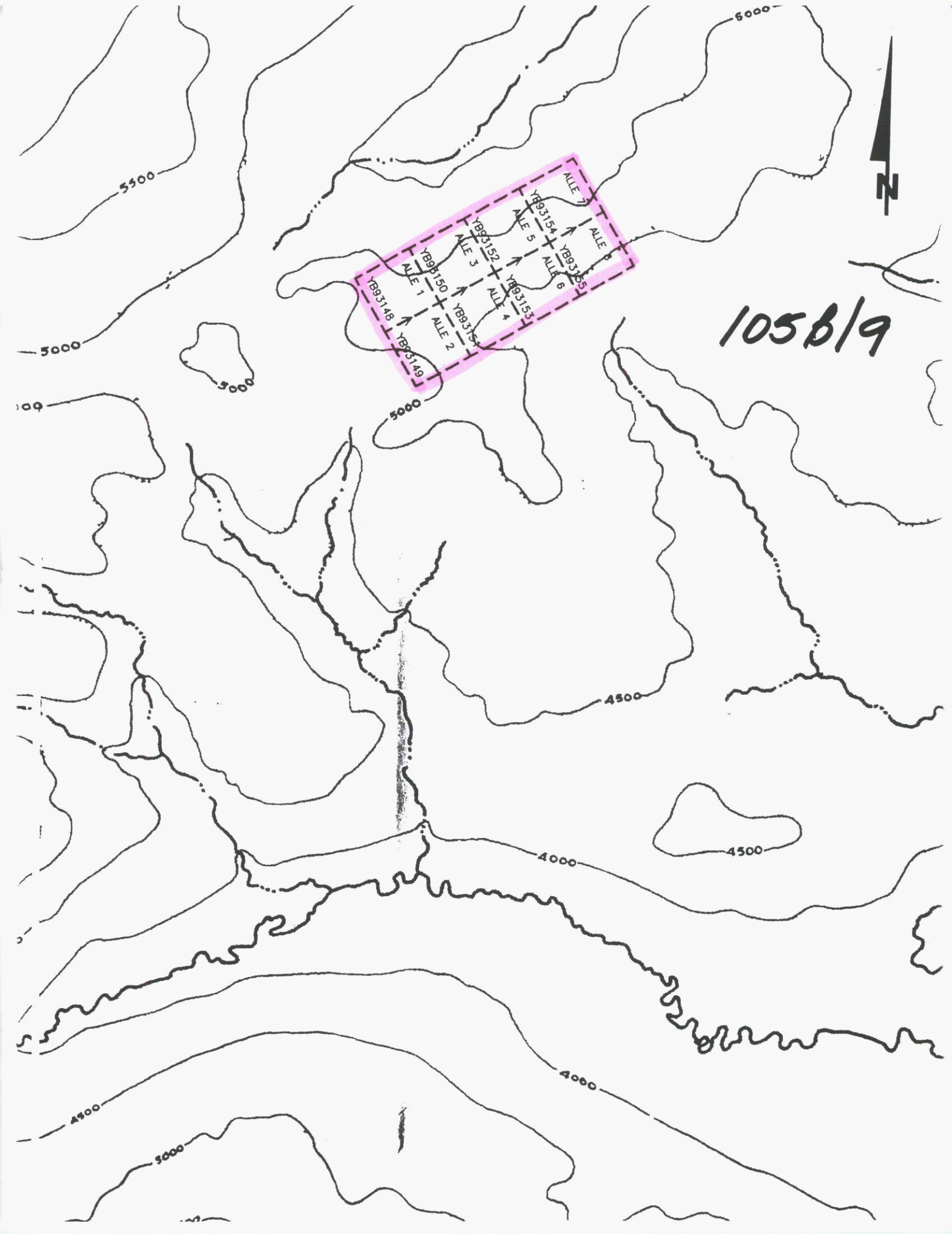
Notary, Yukon Territory



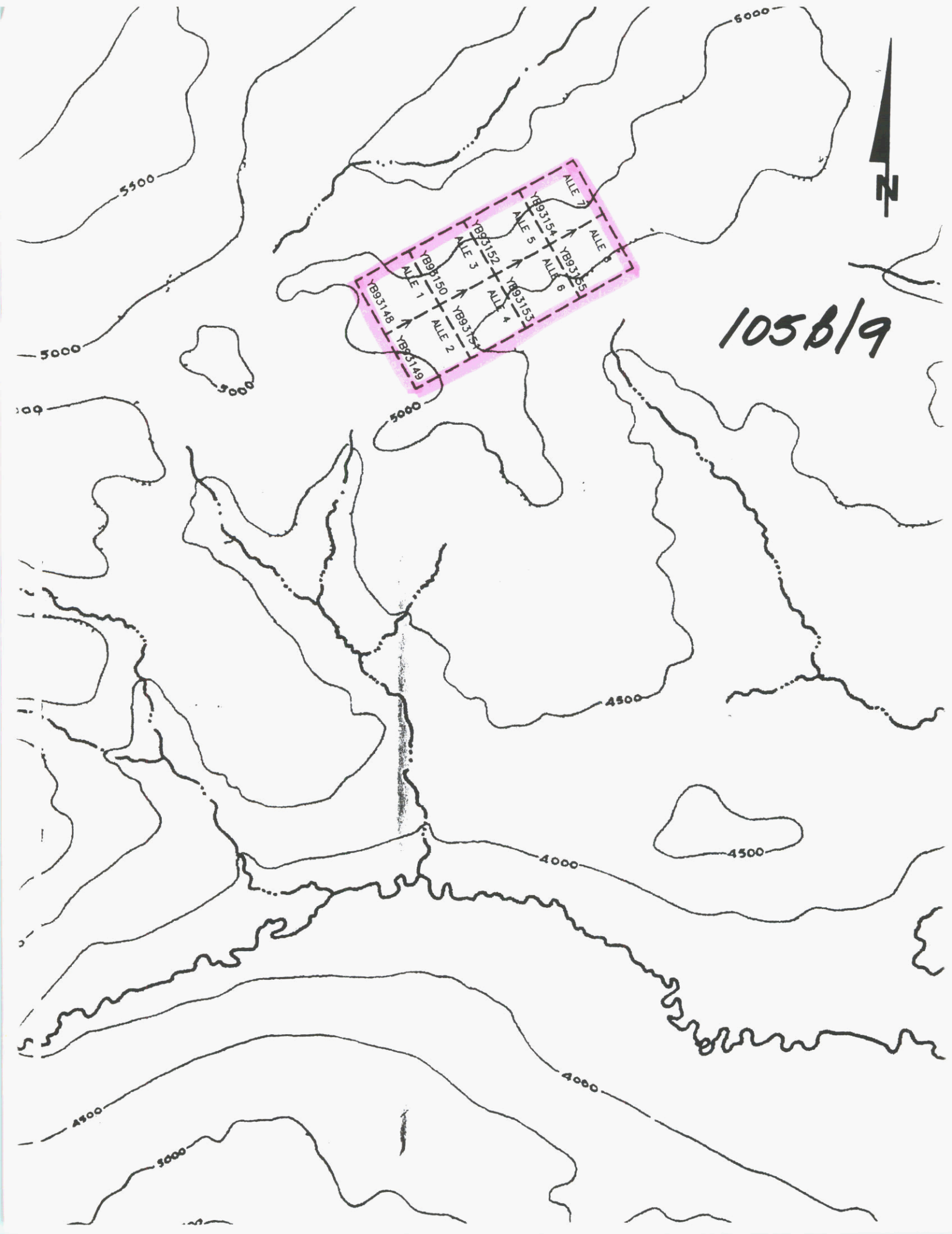
Statement of Expenditures  
Alle 1-8 Mineral Claims  
February 18, 2002

Compilation and Report Costs

D. Eaton – geologist – 39 hours at \$60/hr	\$2,503.80
B. Wengzynowski – geologist – 87 hours at \$60/hr	5,585.40
J. Mariacher – 8 hours at \$44.45/hr	<u>380.49</u>
	<u>\$8,469.69</u>



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