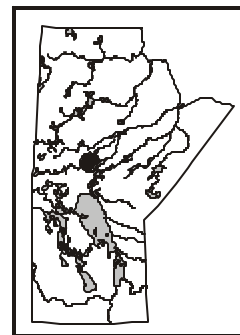


**THOMPSON NICKEL BELT PROJECT: RETRIEVAL OF THE DIAMOND DRILL CORE
FROM FALCONBRIDGE'S BUCKO EXPLORATION SITE NEAR WABOWDEN
(PARTS OF NTS 63J, 63O AND 63P)**

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INTRODUCTION

At Falconbridge Ltd.'s Bucko exploration site an outside storage of diamond drill core contained core drilled in the past on its various properties located in the Thompson Nickel Belt and vicinity. The core represents an important source of geological information for the region that is otherwise extensively covered with glacial deposits. A cursory examination last summer revealed that some core contains typical metasedimentary rocks of the Osipwagan Group that were not identified as such in the original logging (Macek and McGregor, 1998). The re-examination of this core could significantly improve the geological understanding of the region and greatly enhance the compilation map of the Thompson Nickel Belt.

Several decades of exposure of the core to the weather weakened many core boxes and caused extreme fragility of the plastic tags. Several more years of such an exposure would result in the loss of this valuable geological data. Therefore, it was agreed between Falconbridge Ltd. and Geological Services to secure this irreplaceable source of regional geological information for the future.

RELOCATION OF THE CORE

The core at the Bucko exploration site was either stored on the racks (Fig. GS-5-1) or cross-piled (Fig. GS-5-2). All core boxes with plastic tags were retagged with aluminum tags, then, the boxes were loaded and secured for transport. Many weakened core boxes were replaced before transportation. The core was moved and cross-piled at Falconbridge's exploration base at Wabowden (Fig. GS-5-3). After every core box was catalogued, each cross-pile was covered by a plastic roof as a protection against rain and snow (Figs. GS-5-4 and GS-5-5). Altogether, 15,091 core boxes were relocated and the Bucko exploration site was cleaned. Emptied core racks were ready for dismantling (Fig. GS-5-6). Relogging of the relocated core will be initiated next summer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCE

Macek, J. J. and McGregor, C. R. 1998: Thompson Nickel Belt project: progress on a new compilation map of the Thompson Nickel Belt (parts of NTS 63J, 63O and 63P); *in* Report of Activities, 1998, Manitoba Energy and Mines, Geological Services, p. 36-38.

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Figure GS-5-1: Retrieving the core from core racks at Bucko.



Figure GS-5-2: Retrieving the cross-piled core from the bush at Bucko.



Figure GS-5-3: Storing retrieved core at new location in Wabowden.



Figure GS-5-4: A portion of retrieved core stored in Wabowden. Note plastic cover for protection against rain and snow.



Figure GS-5-5: Another portion of stored core at Wabowden.



Figure GS-5-6: Empty core racks before dismantling at cleaned Bucko site.