Mining Legacy Data: Bluestack Resources Inc. Soil Samples

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During the early 1980s, Bluestack Resources Inc. and joint venture partner BP Selco conducted a large regional soil sampling program of northern Nova Scotia. The soil samples were collected by hand auger every tenth of a mile from sampling sites adjacent to roads. Several tens of thousands of samples were ultimately collected at an average sampling density of 4.3 samples/km^2 (11 samples/mile^2). Follow-up grid soil sampling, generating thousands of additional soil samples, was also completed by Bluestack Resources Inc. on many of the anomalies identified within the regional soil data set. The samples were analyzed for Cu, Pb, Zn, ± Ba, ± Ag.

At the completion of the program, soil rejects were given to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The approximately 25,000 samples lay dormant in the department's core storage facility in Debert for nearly 20 years. The Debert facility is currently being phased out and the Bluestack soil samples are being moved to the Stellarton core library. A decision was made to reduce the size of the Bluestack holdings because of a lack of storage space in the Stellarton core library.

Three thousand Kraft soil bags containing approximately 100-300 g of soil were sieved (<63 μ) during the summer of 2006. The sieved material (ranging from 1-25 g) was placed into labelled vials for permanent archiving in Stellarton. Field site description information (sample media, depth, colour, etc.), recorded on the outside of each soil sample bag, was entered into a spreadsheet as part of the archiving protocol. The remainder of the samples will be sieved as human and financial resources become available.

Follow-up grid sampling geochemical results for Cu, Pb, Zn, ± Ba, ± Ag are currently available as hardcopy maps from various assessment reports filed by Bluestack with the department. The majority of these maps were digitized (as .jpeg images) by DNR on a flatbed scanner during the summer of 2006 and will probably be released to the public with the release of the (digital) co-ordinate information and corresponding geochemical results described above.

Digital data for soil sample co-ordinate information and corresponding geochemical results for approximately 25,000 samples are currently being complied and assessed prior to being released to the public.