DEPARTMENT OF LINES SOUTH ATSTALIA

GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SULPHIDE MINERALISATION NEAR THE TILLITE/SLATE CONTACT STORY BIVE AND

by

E. Johnson

THE OF CONTENTS

ARSTEACT

TENER CONTROL

PETICS WEE

LOCATION & TOPOGRAPHY

CEULOGY

DISCUSSION OF MINERALISATION GENERAL THE MINIBALISED LOVE ONE CONTROLS & ONE GENESIS

CONCLUSION & RECORDENIATIONS

MINERALOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF LOOK 1. INTERSECTION.

AMITSES OF LOSE INTERSECTIONS II.

PLANS TO ACCOMPANY BEPORT	•	1	cel	le	No.
Geological Investigation Sulphide Mineralisation at Sturtian Tillite/Tapley Hill Contact Sturt Creek	1*	•	10	chas.	61-630
Area. Geology of Sturt River Dam Site with cross section and outcrop of sulphide lode	1"		40	st.	61-842
Geology of Sturt River Gorge in the vicinity of Sulphide Lode	1.	, 42	5 (des.	61-640

D.K. 2111/61 30/11/61

Eept. Sk. No. 53/155 2191 N.F.E. 109

Rept. Rt. No. 53/155 6.S. No. 2191 D.H. 2111/61 N.F.M. 109

DEPARTMENT OF MINES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SILPHINE RINERALISATION MEAR THE TILLTIE/SLATE CONTACT STURY RIVER AREA

ALSTRACT

A zine sulphide lede with a quarts, calcite gangue 6 to 9 feet true thickness, was penetrated by two drill holes in the left abutment of the proposed flood control dam on the upper site in the Start River. The lode is in a brecciated tillite believed to be part of a slump breecis.

The lode is one instance of wider spread mineralisation associated with the calcareous facies of the upper Sturt Tillite/lower Tapley Hill State succession mear the contact. A syngemetic origin is put forward for this mineralisation. The calcareous facies of the contact zone is believed to represent an original favourable environment for sedimentary sulphide formation.

Further exploration of the lade and of regional mineralisation is recommended.

This investigation was initiated when a hole being drilled to test the foundations of a proposed flood control dam in the Sturt River Gorge intersected a sulphide bearing breedisted quarts lode. A second hole drilled at a lower level to determine the structural condition of the breedisted lode below the water table also intersected heavy sulphide mineralisation.

As the true width of the lode was 6 to 9 feet it was decided to map the area in some detail to determine ore controls. During the course of this mapping old workings were discovered at the contact of the Start Tillite and Tapley Hill State and the mapping was extended to cover the significant portions of the contact some. As can be seen by comparison of the 10 chain map accompanying this report and the Echunga 1-mile sheet some interesting new facts have been disclosed. Tapley Hill State is

infolded sorthwards practically to the Start River and the brecciated sulphide bearing material is close to this infolded contact. The report discusses the new geological data obtained and the observed relation of the mineralisation to various sedimentary features. The association of the mineralisation with the Start Tillite/Tapley Hill Slate contact is believed to have more than local implications.

A short list of the more relevant reports and papers making references to the area is given below. All of these except that of Johnson are of a general geological or physiographic character.

The most important is that of Sprigg who describes the regional geology in some detail with most specific reference to the Hallett Cove area. Physiography is described by Fenner and the Geological Society volume yields incidental references to the area. This volume and Sprigg's paper have comprehensive references. The mines outside the area to the east are described in the "Record of Hippes".

FERNIER, C., 1931: "South Austrelia: A Geographical Study." Relbourse.

HOWCHIN, N., 1906: "The Geology of the Mt. Lofty Ranges. Part I. The Coastal District." Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., 28, pp. 253-280.

1906: "The Geology of the Mount Lofty Renges. Part II."
Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., 30, pp. 227262

JORRSON. N.. 1956: "Preliminary Seelogical Report on the Proposed Stormater Reservoir on the Start River." Unpub. Rep. D.E. 43/57.

PARKIN, L.W., & GLAESSRER, M.F., (ED.) 1957. "The Geology of South Australia." Journ. Gool. Soc. Aust. 5, Pt. 2.

SPRIGG, R.C., 1942: "The Geology of the Eden Moann Fault Block." Truss. Boy. Soc. S. Aust., 66, Pt. 2, pp. 185-214,

CATOLANI TORONAHA

The area sapped lies between the Sturt River and the Happy Valley Reservoir and is bounded on the west by the Hain South Hoad and on the east by an indefinite line extending from 1 mile west of Craigle Burn (Hinda Homes) to 1% miles portheast of Happy Valley.

It lies wholly on the Eden-Mosma fault block which is bounded on the most by the Eden-Burneide Fault, and on the east by the Clarendon-Ochre Cove Fault. This block, like the other mesterly fault blocks comprising the Adelaide Hills, has a tilt southwards and contwords.

In the area investigated, the Sturt Niver, and its tributaries, have carved deep garges in the mestern portion of the block, while the tributaries of the unnamed stream, on which the Nappy Valley reservoir wall is built. Flow in broad, shallow, flat bettemed valleys. Between the valleys the remnants of the flat surface of the block form broad divides.

Importance in considering possible accordary alteration of ore bodies in the area. Sprigg (1942). Fenner (1931) and others have discussed it as part of more general accounts and the reader is referred to these publications for basic information. In the area mapped weathering, or rock alteration, appears to be more intense and to extend deeper in the zone around the Happy Valley Reservoir from which Tertiary or fafe-deposits have only recently been removed by crosion. This deeper weathering may be partly Tertiary in origin.

The country surrounding the Start Gogge and extending south to the coast constitutes one of the classical areas of exposures of the Adelaide System. As such it has been described in whole, and part, by many geologists, including Sprigg (1942), Homehim (1904), and others. It is also depicted on the Echanga Sheet of the 1 mile Geological Series.

The Sturtian Tillite is of course named for its excellent exposures in the Sturt Gorge. This is overlain by the thick, and monotonous, Tapley IIII State, on top of which lie the more varied rocks of the Harimonn Series.

In the southern part of the Eden - Hoann Fault Block the Start

Tillite and overlying rocks are folded into a large asymmetrical anticline
plunging southeast beneath the sea at Christies Beach. The axis of this
anticline is slightly curved and convex north-mestwards. It passes through
Christies Beach and O'Halloran Hill. In the Harimean rocks the structure
is relatively simple, with a morthern limb modified only by faults and minor
drags. An indication of a complementary sympline appears in the southern limb

before it disappears beneath Tertiary deposits of the Neerlange Basis.

North-eastwards the structure becomes increasingly complex as indicated on
the Echange Sheet and confirmed by the detailed mapping cerried out during
the present investigation.

Echangs Sheet. No continuous outcrops of tillite are traccable from the Start Gorge to the vicinity of Happy Valley Reservoir. Instead the outcrops of tillite south of the C'Halloran Hill - Coromandel Valley Road, in the area shown as tillite on the Echanga Sheet, are confined to two patches mear, or on, the subsidiary road running around the east side of the reservoir. On the other hand tillite has been mapped on the shores of the reservoir much further to the southwest and southeast than shown on the Echange Sheet and it must extend still further southwest beneath the maters of the reservoir.

Conversely to the discovery of the extension of the tillite southwards the Topley Hill Slate has been supped such further north-eastwards than previously realised, extending as a cremulated embayment into the tillite near the proposed dam site.

That portion of the Start Tillite/Tapley Hill contact which is exposed is thus shown to be folded in an extremely complex manner and it is possible that the tillite mass revealed on, and adjacent to, the northeestern shores of the reservoir is entirely isolated from the main tillite in the Start Gorge. If it is connected physically, beneath the conceoling younger deposits, it is only by an extremely thin tongue.

This highly convoluted contact may be due partly to original sedimentary features and partly to later tectonic effects.

Other writers have pointed out that rapid variation in tillite thickness should be expected and it is highly probable that isolated deposits of tillite were formed in the ancient seas. Then contortions observed in the hedding of occasional shale leaves in the tillite and overlying Tapley Hill Slate, show that slumping is a feature of the sediments in this area. Such slump folding can be seen in drill core from the right abutment of the dam site and in the Tapley Hill Slate immediately overlying the tillite in the

Sturt Gorge. Finally later tectonic effects are undoubtedly present, as witness the mapped folds and faults.

DISCUSSION OF MINERALISATION

GENERAL

on a previous investigation, (Johnson 1956), some old workings were noted at the contact of Tapley Hill Slate with underlying Sturt Tillite well downstream of the present dam site, and during the present investigation E. W. S. officers reported hearsay evidence of an old mine "in the Sturt Gorge". The significance of this was not appreciated until the drill penetrated the sulphide bearing lode. At the time of drilling the dam site was thought to be stratigraphically over 1000 feet below the tillite/slate contact. Subsequent mapping showed that the lode is in fact probably within 500 feet of the contact stratigraphically, and between the two discentinuous arkose horizons in the tillite.

During the mapping the old "mine" was discovered and it is situated practically at the contact some 900 feet geographically southwest of the lode.

All this evidence of mineralisation is on the western side of the tillite mass in the calcareous facies of the Tillite/Tapley Hill Slate at or close to the contact of the two formations.

It therefore seems probable that this contact

merks a former fevourable environment for sedimentary sulphide formation in the old Proterozoic sees.

The association of mineralisation with sediments affected by slump folding and brecciation should be noted also. This is another instance of a relationship being observed at an increasing number of mineralised localities in the Adelaide Geosyacline. So far the exact genetic significance of the relationship has not been worked out but it could be of assistance if used empirically in the search for new favourable areas for mineral occurrence.

Another occurrence of mineralisation recorded during the present mapping is that of abundant gossanous quarts veins in the tapley Hill Slate outcrops mapped on the northern and western shores of Happy Valley Reservoir. These too are relatively close to the tillite/slate contact and this area becomes of interest also in the search for new ore bodies.

The brecciated tillite outcrops as shown on the accompanying map, in the left abutment spur of the proposed dam. It is associated with a banded laminated boulder free tillite or shale showing slump bedding.

Its strike is approximately 200°, parallel to the strike of a set of major joints cutting the tillites on both abutments. A section drawn using the two diamond drill heles shows that its true width varies from 6 to 10 feet and its apparent dip is 80° to the south.

The outerop area is small. To the east the breecia disappears under soil and the alluvium of the valley bottom and has not been detected where tillite again autoropa along the line of strike 1000 feet south of the dam site in the second reach of river upstream. To the west the breecia apparently lenses out, as mabrecolated tillite outcrops across the line of strike 100 to 150 feet west of S.D.D.3.

The mineral composition of the lode and the assay results are given in detail in the attached reports from the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories. The unusual composition of predominantly mine sulphide, low percentage of lend, and even lower percentage of copper, reduces the immediate economic value of the discovery and poses a number of questions on genesis of the lode.

An indicated ore reserve has been worked out for the block of lode between the two drill holes and an arbitrary bounding surface parallel to.

and 10 feet below the existing land surface to the east (see Section CC on Plan 61-842). It is 256 tons of metallic zinc valued at approximately \$25,600, current market value. This excludes the value of the silver, lead and copper in the ore. Though this amount of ore would not in itself justify the commencement of a mining operation the reasonably high values in the lower drillhole give confidence that good grade mineralisation persists below the drill hole and therefore the lode should be explored at deeper levels.

ORE CONTROLS AND ONE GENESTS

All evidence of mineralisation so for discovered within two mile radius of the dam site are confined, in the vertical stratigraphic direction, to a few hundred feet thickness (150-250 feet) of beds on either side of the contact of the Tapley Hill Slate and the Sturtism Tillite. Empirically them, this contact becomes a regional ore control. Furthermore the mineralisation appears to be restricted in a lateral stratigraphic direction also. None has yet been discovered along that section of the contact zone where the Tapley Hill Slate contains abundant quartzone clastic beds. In contradistinction the mineralisation has been found where the Tapley Hill Slate and the arkosic leases in the upper part of the tillite are coleareous. This gives another empirical regional ore control, which, together with the previous control, of course, must be tested by reference to other mineralised localities in the Adelaide System.

Although these regionel ore controls are described as espirical in fact it is believed that together they represent an original fevourable environment for the syngenetic forestion of sulphide bodies. This has been adopted as a working hypothesis which again must be tested by further work.

On a smaller scale ore formation appears to have been controlled by brecciation which is believed to be of slump origin. This belief is based on the association of the brecciated lode at the dam site with slump contorted bedding in varve like shales and the lack of any tectomic feature leading into the breccia.

No mineralogical work other than purely descriptive has yet been done on the lode and it is not possible to demonstrate whether the sulphide mineralisation is post-brecciation or contemporaneous with it. Mosever, the convenees of the sphalerite crystals would in my opinion tend to indicate at least some concentration and transport of the sulphides. The chief function of the breccia may then have been to form a favourable permeable environment for the concentration, by secondary processes, of the original low grade disseminated sulphides in the apper part of the tillite and lower part of the Tapley Hill Slate succession.

It is not the intention of this report to creet a whole theory of mineralisation on the occurrences along the Start River as obviously insufficient work has been done. Nevertheless the evidence which has been found gives encouragement to follow up the work tone so far by an investigati with syngenetic sulphide formation in a syngarable environment, as outlined above, as the working hypothesis.

Some drilling to test for extensions of the lade has been recommended in a separate minute. In addition to this work the following work is recommended.

- 1. The possible concealed extensions of the lode along the strike should be tested for by geophysical means, either EM or IP, or both.
- 2. The contact zone of the Tapley Hill State/Startian Tillite extending west and south from the dam site should be tested geophysically again either by E.M. or I.P. or both.
- 3. Concurrently, or later, recommelsance geochemical prospecting should be done along the contact, in the same area, in an endeavour to select favourable locations for more detailed geochemical prospecting.
- 4. A search should be made for slump breedles, again within the same favourable area, as a possible localising control for further are bodies
- 5. Some recommaissance geophysical prospecting is a worthwhile lower priority project along the shores of Happy Valley Reservoir in the vicinity of the gessanous quartz lodes.

The breader implications of the Start River discovery as discussed in previous sections would be better investigated in the course of compiling the mine and mineral information maps referred to in other papers.

CONCLISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The quartiese sine sulphide lode penetrated in the left abstract of the Sturt River upper dam site occurs in a brecciated tillite body of probable slump origin. It occurs stratigraphically a few hundred feet below the contact of the tillite with the Tapley Hill Slate in the calcareous facies of these two formations. It is concluded that this facies in the contact zone could mark former favourable environment for sedimentary sulphide formation.

The reason for concentration of sulphides in the slump breedies is not known. It say be that the breedia formed a structurally favourable environment for secondary concentration of low grade disseminated sulphides.

It is recommended that the exploratory work detailed in the previous section be done in addition to the two drill holes previously proposed.

W. Johnson Senior Geologist NON FERROUS METALS SECTION

83:ACK 30/11/61

GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SULFHIDE EINERALISATION

MEAN THE THE STEELS (SEATE CONTACT)

MINERALOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF LODE INTERSECTIONS

BERNET OF INVESTIGATION

AUSTRALIAN REPORT, DEVELOPMENT LANGATURES

YOU REFERENCE:

P1061/61 to P1066/61

Reck specimens

LOCALITY:

Number of Adelaide, Section 21

Stort Creek Dam Site

8/7/61

INCLUTION RECTELD:

Identification of all sulphide and canque

minerais.

The rock samples subsitted are all specimens of tillite. The sulphide minerals sphalerite, chalcopyrite, pyrite, and covellite occur in veins transgressing the specimens. Gangue minerals also present in these veins are quartz calcite and goethite.

P1061/61 T/S 8301

SID 3

14"2" to 16"2"

This specimen consists predominantly of angular quarty and felsper grains with interstitied sericitic material. Both <u>microcline</u> and <u>planicelone</u> felspers are present. Several rock fragments are also present in the section. The particles are unsorted and are all less than 4 mm. in size. The rock is transgressed by veins containing <u>calcite</u>, reddish brown, iron oxide and occasionally quarts.

The features observed indicate the rock is a tillite.

P1062/61 T/S 8382; P/S 6512 S00 3 16'2" to 19'0"

This specimen is similar to the above in appearance. The majority of the grains are angular and of coarse send size. Quartz, microcline and plagicalize are the predominant minerals with minor sericite occurring interstitially. The veins which out this specimen are smaller but again contain calcite and opaque iron oxide. <u>Malachite</u> is also present.

Goethite, occurring in small veins, is the most common opeque minoral. Minute chalcopyrite and pyrite grains occur occusionally in the gaugue.

P1063/61 T/S 8003

SDD 3 19'0" to 21'0"

This is again a similar rock type to the previous two specimens. However veins which transgress the rock contain pyrite and malachite in addition to quarts, calcite and goethite. The pyrite is most cases has partially altered to goethite.

S00 4

This specimen is a tillite in which the particles are unserted and within the pebble to send size range. They consist predominantly of various augular rock fragments with angular quarts, microcline and plagioclase. Sericite occurs interstitially. Fine grained calcite occurs interstitially and in veins cutting the rock .:

The predeminant opaque mineral present is <u>sphalerite</u> which occurs as course grained crystalline aggregates. The internal reflection is a pale orange brown indicating a low iron content. Minute inclusions of pyrite and chalcopyrite occur in the sphelerite but are not common. Veins of carbonate gaugue transgress some aphalerite. Chalcopyrite occurs coarse grained, occasionally enclosing idiomorphic pyrite, and also as segregations along some sphalerite grain boundaries. Pyrite also occurs as idiomorphic crystals in the gaugue material. Governite occurs rarely rimming chalcopyrite.

P1066/61 T/S 8385: P/S 6514 **SDO 4** 6'0" to 60'0"

This specimen is again similar to 7/5 8382 although goethite is not present. The quarts and felsper frequents are again angular and are of sand size. Veins containing coarser quarts, sphalerite and calcite cut the rock. Calcite also occurs interstitially.

In polished section sphalerite is observed in veins up to 5.0 mm. wide cutting the rock. Occasionally some grains contain numerous oriented chalcopyrite inclusions but mostly the sphalerite is free of these inclusions. Pyrite occurs as idiomorphic grains in sphalerite and gangue and also as corroded grains in gamque. Chalcopyrite is a minor sulphide mineral present in the gaugue.

P1066/61 T/S 8386: P/S 6515 SDD 4 40'0" to 40'0"

A similar rock type to the previous specimen. However calcite is more common in veius with quartz and some calcite crystals have been broken and recemented.

Opaque minerals present are sphalerite and chalcopyrite with minor pyrite. A second generation of pyrite occurs in small veius in both sphalerite and chalcopyrite.

Investigated by: D.C. Ayres

Officer-in-Charge, Mineralogy Section: U.W. Pender

15/9/61

L. Wallace Coffer Director

GENERALIZATION OF STEPHENS EINERALISATION

NACES THAT IS A SECONDARY

ANALYSIS OF LOOK INTO STATES

BEPORT OF ANALYSIS

YOU BY SEE

P1061-P1066/61. (A544/61-A549/61).

LOCALITY:

Md. Adeleide, section 21. Start Creek Dam Site.

Applysis

			liole (Lienth	Silver (AC) det.	Can	(16) %	(25)
	& 544 /61	500.3	14'2" to 16'2"	2.0	0.02	0.24	15.3
	A 545/ 61		16'2" to 19'0"	2.0	0.92	4.3	9.03
.)	A 546/61		19'0" to 21'0"				7.3
. 4	A 547/61	SID 4	40'7" to 6 '0"	1.6	0.63		47. 0
á	A 540/61		6'0" to 40'0"		0.0		4.65
	A 549/61 (NOTE - S _i		40'0" to 49'0" were assayed fo		0.025 Programmes	C.Ol ted in any	10.25 specimens).

		Drill Hole E. Denth Michel (M)		(Co)
A	64/6 <u>1</u>	500 3 14'2" to 16'2" 25 p.p.m.		2.2.1.
A	6 6 /0	° 16'2" to 19'0" 35	12	
A	546/61	" 19'0" to 21'0" 30	10	
A	647/61	500 4 40'7" to 46'0" 50		
A	540/61	" 65'0" to 40'0" 30	4	
A	549/61	" 40°0" to 40°0" 30		

Spectregraphic Analysis by: A.B. Timms.

Selemium (Se) not possible.

Analysis by: R.G. Stafford & S. Alexander

Officer in Charge Analytical Section:

L.B. Frost

26th September, 1961.

L. Vallage Coffer





