

RP 151(A)

Preliminary report on Wetetnagami river area, Abitibi territory

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Énergie et Ressources
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PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON
WETETNAGAMI RIVER AREA
ABITIBI TERRITORY

Province of Quebec, Canada

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, MINES AND MARITIME FISHERIES

Honourable Edgar Rochette, Minister L.A. Richard, Deputy-Minister

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I.W. Jones, Chief

PRELIMINARY REPORT

ON

WETETNAGAMI RIVER AREA

ABITIBI TERRITORY

by

H.W. Fairbairn

QUEBEC

1940

P.R. No. 151

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INTRODUCTION

The Wetetnagami River area, which was examined during the summer months of 1940, lies approximately 70 miles northeast of Senneterre and connects two areas recently mapped by Longley (1) and Milner (2). The area includes townships 115, 116, and most of 117, along the southern boundary of Abitibi territory. It is accessible by aeroplane from Senneterre or by canoe from Rouleau siding, 60 miles east of Senneterre. Access from the Bell river via Kamshigama lake is more difficult and this route is not recommended.

The region has little relief. Glacial deposits control the topography and cover most of the bed-rock. The Penache, Wetetnagami, O'Sullivan, and Lac-de-la-Ligne rivers provide adequate canoe routes. There are numerous small lakes, but the connecting creeks are mostly too small for easy canoe travel. The forest growth is heavy and there are numerous swampy areas.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The rocks of the area are all of Precambrian age. Outcrops are relatively scarce and not well exposed. Except in a few localities, contacts between the several rock types are assumed rather than seen. The following age and structural relationships have been more or less certainly established:

(1) Longley, W.W., Grevet (Kamshigama Lake) Map-Area, Abitibi District; Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., Part B, 1936.

(2) Milner, R.L., Barry Lake Area Que. Bur. Mines, F.R. No. 143, 1939.

Table of Formations

Glacial and Recent	Sand, gravel, boulders
Major Unconformity	
Basic dikes	Diabase and trap
Intrusive contact	
Granitic rocks	Granite, granodiorite, quartz diorite, etc.
Intrusive contact	
Keewatin-type rocks	Altered basic lavas, hornblende schist, gabbro, tuff

Keewatin-Type Rocks.- The 'greenstone' belt of the Wetetnagami River area extends without interruption across the three townships mapped, and connects with the belt of similar rocks in the Grevet area on the west and with that in the Barry Lake area on the east. The rocks of the belt are mostly lavas, probably of andesitic or basaltic character, which in many localities show pillow and amygdaloidal structures. The typical alteration product of these basic lavas is a hornblende schist. In places there are lighter-coloured types which may be altered rhyolites, and a few occurrences of clastic, tuffaceous volcanics were also seen. No succession of lava beds has been worked out.

Dikes of gabbro and related rocks intrude these volcanic but they are not abundant or large and for the most part they are poorly exposed. Such dikes are confined to the greenstone belt.

Granitic Rocks.- The 'greenstone' belt is bounded north and south by intrusive granitic rocks. Although these are most granite and granite gneiss, other quartz-bearing types such as granodiorite and quartz diorite are undoubtedly represented. There is considerable pegmatitic granite. Aplite and feldspar-porphyry dikes occur in places. Medium-grained biotite granite, massive or gneissic, is the commonest granitic intrusive encountered in the area.

Small granitic intrusions occur at a number of points within the greenstone belt. They do not differ in character from the types mentioned above.

Basic Dikes.- Two relatively large post-granite dikes were observed in the area. One is a coarse diabase, several hundred feet in outcrop width, well exposed just east of Wetetnagami river. The other is a fine-grained trap dike, narrower and less well exposed. These dikes are intrusive into both the greenstone and the granitic rocks, but their age relationship to one another was not determined.

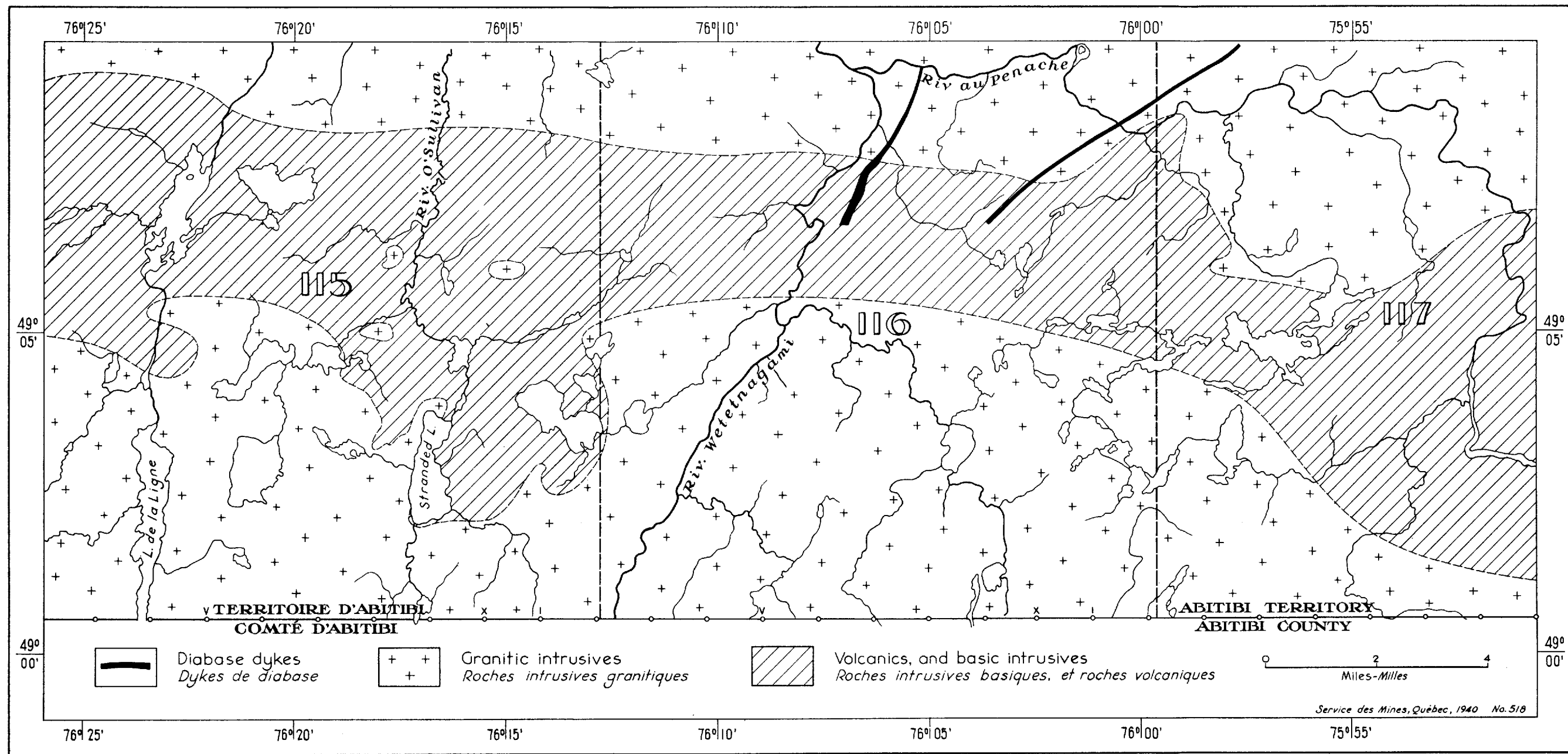
STRUCTURE

The strike of the greenstone belt conforms with the east-west regional trend of Precambrian formations mapped elsewhere in Abitibi county and territory. Considerable schistosity has been developed which dips steeply either north or south. No faults of displacement larger than a few inches have been found. Bedding in material assumed to be elastic has not been identified.

Outlook for the Area

The relative inaccessibility of the Wetetnagami River area by overland travel is a strong deterrent to prospecting activity. In addition, the dearth of outcrops is discouraging. So far as is known, no staking has been done in any part of the area.

The present investigation disclosed nothing which would warrant more detailed geological examination at the present time. There are a few small, unmineralized quartz veins in the greenstone belt. Sulphides are not abundant and seem to be confined to the prevalent hornblende schist. No gold was found, nor did we hear any rumours of gold occurrences from Indians and occasional travellers. The mapping is admittedly of a reconnaissance nature, however, and the above generalizations must be evaluated on that basis. Possible future prospecting can be guided by the boundaries of the greenstone belt. It may be added that outcrops are more abundant in the vicinity of Stranded lake (township 115) than elsewhere, and the irregularity of the greenstone-granite contact here indicates considerable deformation. This neighbourhood is probably the best that the area can offer to the prospector.



RÉGION DE LA RIVIÈRE WETETNAGAMI
TERRITOIRE D'ABITIBI

WETETNAGAMI RIVER AREA
ABITIBI TERRITORY