

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. SBG 1116



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICISTS

NEWSLETTER

Preview

NUMBER 7

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1986

We hope you all had a very
Merry Christmas
and that
1987
will be a
Happy, Healthy & Successfull
New Year

P.O. BOX 44, EASTWOOD, S.A. 5063

1987. ASEG CONFERENCE UPDATE

INDIAN PACIFIC RAIL WORKSHOP

SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE TRAIN! But we need definite bookings to be able to hold our exclusive rights after December 1986.

Twenty delegates have registered to date, and we have had some strong interest from the United States in this unique form of transport to the Conference.

If you are toying with the idea, but have not yet booked, register now.

THURS FEB 19 to SUN FEB 22, 1987

TITLE: **"Geophysics in Australian Mineral Exploration"**

co-ordinated by Bob Smith.

"Structural styles - Cooper and Eromanga Basins"

co-ordinated by Reg Nelson.

VENUE: Indian-Pacific train, departs Sydney Thursday, departs Adelaide 5 p.m. Friday, arrives Perth 7 a.m. Sunday. Conference car is in two halves, one half class-room style and the other half board-room style.

Mineral workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Petroleum workshop from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

No costs for workshop attendance and delegates may attend both workshops [dependent upon space being available].

Costings for accommodation on the Indian Pacific in First Class sleepers with meals included are as follows:

SYDNEY	\$629.00
CANBERRA	\$659.00
ADELAIDE	\$412.00
MELBOURNE	\$507.00
BRISBANE	\$747.00

If you choose to join the train in ADELAIDE, the following economy air-fares should be added to your budget.

SYDNEY	\$219.00
CANBERRA	\$213.00
MELBOURNE	\$151.00
BRISBANE	\$270.00 on non-stop service Friday 20.2.87.

Indian Pacific Rail bookings should be made through your registration.

For airline flight bookings ring your local ANSETT RESERVATIONS.

Please note there is no charge for Workshops on the Indian Pacific.

For more detailed information contact:

Nola Miles-Clark
A.S.E.G. Convention Secretarial
25 Richardson Street, WEST PERTH, 6005.
[09] 322 7972 TELEX 95380

OTHER CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS UPDATE

THURS FEB 19 & FRI FEB 20, 1987

TITLE: **"Seismic Inversion"** by R. MUMMERY [Teknica Inc.].

VENUE: Observation City Hotel.

COST: \$250 includes lunches.

SAT FEB 21 & SUN FEB 22, 1987

TITLE: **"Aeromagnetic Applications to Geophysical Prospecting"**

co-ordinated by Aerodata [Pat Cuneen].

"Exploration Refraction Seismology" by D. Palmer.

"Advanced Seismic Interpretation" by Dr. M. Badley.

VENUE: Observation City Hotel.

COST: \$170.00 includes lunch.

FRI. FEB 27, 1987

TITLE: **"Theory and Application of DMO and TAU-P Processing"**

by Prof G.H.F. Gardner

VENUE: Observation City Hotel.

COST: \$85.00 includes lunch.

TITLE: **"Applications of Micros to Geophysical Problems"** by invited guests from the industry. The intention is that contractors will display software in a classroom environment, with an impartial referee on hand. A full range of different micros will be available and delegates may adjourn to test software applications during the afternoon. Co-ordinated by Roger Clifton [WAIT].

VENUE: WAIT Computer Centre.

COST: \$85.00 includes lunch, plus \$5 transfer if still resident at Observation City Hotel.

TITLE: **"GOLF DAY"** co-ordinated by C. Ramsden.

VENUE: Gosnells Golf Course.

COST: \$15.00 including transfers.

Après-Golf dinner \$35.00.

SAT FEB 28 & SUN MAR 01, 1987

TITLE: **"The Geology of Gold and Applied Geophysical Techniques"**

co-ordinated by Dr. J. Coggan [W.A. School of Mines] and A Lebel[BHP].

"Seismic Interpretation - Case Histories of W.A. Oil and Gas Provinces" by Dr. M. Middleton [G.S.W.A.]

VENUE: Observation City Hotel.

COST: \$170.00 includes lunches.

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION

CONTACIO HOSPITALITY INN - Scarborough

Five minutes walk from Conference Venue.

Single/Double/Twin **\$55.00** /room per night

ELSINORE APARTMENTS - Scarborough

These units are self-contained, fully furnished, with separate bathrooms, linen and crockery supplied, colour T.V., cots, highchairs and fold-a-beds available on request. Let us know the age of your children and we will allocate the unit best suited to your needs.

2-bedroom Unit on Beachfront-Limited Availability.... **\$185** per week

2-bedroom Units off the beach in Pearl Parade **\$175** per week

OCEAN LANDING BEACH RESORT - Sorrento

Beachside time-share resort, only ten minutes by car from the Conference venue. Excellent for families, self-contained units, plus swimming pool, barbeque facilities and restaurant. For a 2-bedroom unit, sleeps up to six with bunk-style beds in second room **\$62.00** per night

SCARBOROUGH BEACH HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION - Scarborough

Hostel/Student type bunk house 4-6 persons per room with shared bathroom facilities within walking distance to Observation City. Cooking facilities, lounge, games room, T.V. & poolroom **\$7.00** per night.

Double/Twin Share room per night. Most of these room have double bed plus a single **\$25.00** per night.

MULLOWAY APARTMENTS - Scarborough

Located opposite Observation City Hotel.

Self contained beach front apartments with Barbecue, Swimming Pool and Laundry facilities - Limited availability

1 Bedroom Unit **\$150.00** per week

2 Bedroom Unit **\$200.00** per week

SANDS MOTOR HOTEL - [3 Star] - Scarborough

Just a short walk to Scarborough Beach and Conference Venue.

Spacious rooms, Swimming Pool and Barbecue facilities.

Japanese Restaurant and Cocktail Bar.

Single **\$45.00** per night

Twin/Double **\$55.00** per night

Family **\$80.00** per night

FOR ANY ACCOMODATION BOOKINGS OR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

NOLA MILES-CLARK

[09] 322 7922 / TELEX: 95380

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION [continued]

OBSERVATION CITY [deluxe] - Conference Venue

Standard Single/Double/Twin **\$86.00** per night
Deluxe Club Rooms occupying the top 3 floors, Club Lounge facilities and
complimentary Continental Breakfasts included.....
Deluxe Observation Club Rooms **\$120.00** per night
Observation Club Rooms PLUS Budget Rent a Car - SPECIAL OFFER [inclusive]
..... **\$150.00** per night

OBSERVATION CITY is a resort Hotel located on Scarborough Beach. All rooms have panoramic ocean views, outdoor heated pool, spa and sauna. Restaurants and variety shops are some of the amenities of this luxury five star hotel. All normal double rooms in Observation City have King Size Beds. Twin rooms have a Queen Size bed and a Single Bed.

.....
ACCOMMODATION IS STILL AVAILABLE AT CITY HOTELS/MOTELS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED. There will be a commuter service mini-bus operating from these locations to Observation City on a regular basis.

Observation City the Conference Venue is located at Scarborough, a beachside suburb approximately 20 minutes from the City.

.....
FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ENTERTAIN DURING THE CONFERENCE, OBSERVATION CITY OFFERS A WIDE CHOICE OF MAGNIFICENT SUITES. PRICES AVAILABLE ON APPLICATION TO:

Nola Miles-Clark
A.S.E.G. Convention Secretariat
25 Richardson Street, WEST PERTH, 6005
[09] 3227922 TELEX 95380

FOR ALL ACCOMMODATION AND REGISTRATION QUERIES....PLEASE CALL NOLA.

YET ANOTHER STACKED PROFILE

Ian Edwards - Treasurer

Ian Edwards graduated from Southampton University [U.K.] with a B.Sc.[HONS] in Geology with Physics. His first position was with G.S.I. in England until 1971. Since then he has worked for BPB Instruments at several postings culminating as manager-computer services, with Geoex as Senior Research Geophysicist, and Digimap as Operations Manager. He is currently employed with WMC Exploration Division - Petroleum in Adelaide as Systems Geoscientist.

He is a member of SEG, AAPG and SPWLA.

PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY

Doctor of Science award in Geophysics - by STEVE MUDGE, ASEGACT

Dr. Terry Lee of the Bureau of Mineral Resources was awarded a D.Sc. in Geophysics in March, 1986 from the University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Terry is well known to the geophysical community for his theoretical work, particularly in Transient Electromagnetics.

As a graduate from Melbourne University in 1968, Terry's student life expanded to B.Sc. [Hons] at Tasmania in 1969, M.Sc. at Uni. of New England in 1971 and to completion of Ph. D. studies at Macquarie Uni in 1974. From 1975 to 1983 Terry was employed as Research Geophysicist with L.A. Richardson and Associates, and Geopeko. During that time he was awarded the Van Weeldon Award of the E.A.E.G. in 1976 and was visiting Fellow to the Uni. of California in 1980.

Terry has spent much of his leisure time enjoying Gemnology and antique furniture. These too have also culminated in awards for Terry, Gemnology Diploma in 1976 and B.A. [Hons] from Uni. of Sydney for the thesis "Australia Furniture to about 1850".

Since 1983 Terry has been employed by the BMR as Senior Research Scientist and has been working in the areas of both Transient Electromagnetics and Potential Fields.

His D.Sc. thesis "Transient Electromagnetic Waves Applied to Mineral Exploration", comprised 18 of Terry's publications on the subject.

Congratulations Terry on a fine contribution to the science, we all look forward to Terry's continued enthusiastic and rewarding efforts to both Geophysics and Australian Furniture.

-BOB AGNEW has joined Norpac International [Australia] in charge of data processing.

-NIGEL FISHER and SAM KAHN have moved from Geo Source to Digital Exploration in Brisbane.

-KEITH G LODWICK has returned to Brisbane.

-PETER BEHAN has moved from Delhi [Brisbane] to Comalco [Brisbane].

-IAN CRISS [Esso] has returned to Australia and is based in Sydney.

-STEVEN BOUNDY is now with Vamgas.

-GRAHAM JENKE will leave CRAE and join Kevron in Perth at the end of January, 1987.

-DON PRIDMORE will leave WMC and join Aerodata in Perth in March 87

-HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY - DAVE KING [DK] see photo back page.



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICISTS

5th GEOPHYSICAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Perth, Western Australia

commencing February 22nd, 1987

25 RICHARDSON STREET
WEST PERTH W.A. 6005

OR
P.O. BOX 411
WEST PERTH W.A. 6005
Telephone 09 322 7922
Telex AA 95380

Co-Chairman
Greg Street
09 222 3331

Co-Chairman
Norm Uren
09 350 7092

Technical Papers
P. Staples
09 367 8450

Exhibitions
Lawrence Hanson
09 322 2490
Richard Williams
09 328 8844

Guest Speaker
Andre Lebel
09 325 1366

Treasurer
W. Peters
09 364 2707

Finance
D. Lappi
09 387 7327

Workshops
B. Evans
09 350 7544

Social
Louise Flavell
09 384 5581

Sponsors
Horizon Seismic Aust.
Western Geophysical Co.
CRA Exploration
Hosking Geophysical
Bond Corporation
WAPET
West Australian Institute
of Technology
Western Mining Corp. Ltd.
Aerodata
P & V Geophysical Services
Agnew Clough Ltd
Exploration Consultants Ltd
Geophysical Service Inc
Oil and Gas Australia Magazine
Exploration Computer Services
Tesla-10
Calibre Resources Ltd
B.H.P.
Ashley Geophysics
Advanced Reprographic Services
Timmins Geophysics

24th November 1986

Mr Terry Crabb
Secretary
ASEG Federal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 44
Eastwood 5065

Dear Terry

Enclosed you will find one of the terrific T-shirts that we have had designed for the 1987 Conference in Perth. Its a large size but if you require a small or even a medium one, just return this one, despite the vagaries of the Australian Post I will rush the right one to you.

Why has all this largesse descended upon you, you ask. Well, we had these T-shirts made to sell at the Conference and when the Committee saw them they all wanted to wear one NOW. Some nano-seconds later (you know how it is with scientific brains aboard) we thought that other members of the ASEG throughout OZ or even further afield, would feel the same way. Why not enhance the Adonis-like externals to match the undoubtedly brilliant brains of the OZ earth scientist with one of these T-shirts.

You may even choose a sweat shirt instead, if warmth is what you desire. They are thick and fleecy.

Of course, not all ASEG members are what could be termed Adonises. Maybe they fit more easily into the Venus mould, therefore we have female sizes in both T-shirts and sweat shirts too. How about the wives and sweethearts of the forces (gravity - magnetic)? make their dreams come true, but them a matching T-shirt.

Please ask members at your next meeting for orders for this finest raiment. You will, of course, be wearing your own. (send \$11 or return this garment, fit for an earth god)

THE NITTY GRITTY, as in heavy sands:-

T-shirts \$11 each (postage included)

Sweatshirts \$30 each (postage included)

Yours sincerely

Louise Flavell

Louise Flavell
ASEG Conference Committee

ASEG PERTH CONFERENCE ORDER FORMS - forward with payment to :
ASEG PERTH 87
c/- GOLDEN WEST CONVENTIONS - Attn: NOLA CLARKE
First Floor, 25 Richardson Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

T-SHIRT/SWEATSHIRT order form

Please post the following number of T-shirts (\$11.00 each) and
 Sweatshirts (\$30.00 each)

Chest size:	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"
Shirt size:	10	12	14	16	18	20	22

T-SHIRTS							
SWEATSHIRTS							

Please mail to: NAME: _____ AMOUNT _____
 STREET: _____ OF PAYMENT _____
 SUBURB: _____ CODE: _____ ENCLOSED: \$ _____

ACCOMMODATION order form

NAME OF HOTEL/MOTEL/APART: _____
 TYPE OF ACCOM (double/twin.): _____
 RATE: \$ _____ per _____
 NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 City _____ State _____ Code _____
 TELEPHONE: Business [] _____ Home [] _____
 ACCOMPANIED BY: _____
 Children's Ages: _____
 ARRIVING ON: _____ via _____
 DEPARTING ON: _____ via _____
 ACCOMMODATION DEPOSIT OF \$100 ENCLOSED: **YES/NO**

INDIAN PACIFIC WORKSHOP order form

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 City _____ State _____ Code _____
 TELEPHONE: Business [] _____ Home [] _____
 ACCOMPANIED BY: _____
 TRAVELLING FROM: SYDNEY/CANBERRA/MELBOURNE/BRISBANE/ADELAIDE
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

**AUSTRALIAN MINING AND PETROLEUM LAW ASSOCIATION
LIMITED**

Announces the

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 15 to 18th, 1987

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

TOPICS:

Policy Objectives of Mining Legislation and the
Queensland Review.

Impact of Tax Changes

—Capital Gains Tax.

—Dividend Imputation and Foreign Tax Credits.

Debt and Equity Financing — Recent Developments.

Receivers, Preferences and Disguised Charges in the Context of
Joint Ventures.

Boundary Disputes involving Mineral Titles.

Arbitration and Other Dispute Resolution Procedures in the
Mining and Petroleum Industries.

Recent Cases — Their Practical Significance.

Operator of Joint Venture — Principal or Agent?

New Directions in Mining and Environment Legislation —
The New Zealand Experience.

Enquiries: The Executive Officer

8th Floor,

160 Queen Street,

Melbourne 3000.

Telephone (03) 67 2544, Telex AA35307, FAX (03) 602 3495

FASTS PRESIDENT ON ABC SCIENCE SHOW

Professor Fred Smith, President of FASTS was a guest on the ABC Science Show on Saturday 22 November. He spoke of the emerging shortfall in trained personnel and the exacerbation of the problem by the Government's introduction of fees for overseas post-graduate students. The following are quotes from that talk.

A survey on its 57 Member Societies by the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies and preliminary review by the Department of Science reveals that a shortfall in the production of trained research personnel is widespread, affecting almost all areas of the scientific and technical workforce. If Australia is to raise the proportion of the industrial workforce with physics qualifications, employed in the R&D sector, to the median for the OECD medium R&D performing countries, it would require an additional twenty times the present supply of higher degree graduates and over four times the production of first degree Graduates in Physics. A survey of university physicists at the level of lecturer and above reveals approximately 13% are due to retire in the next five years and a further 40% in the following ten. To maintain the present level of staffing requires the recruitment of at least fifteen new staff per year. This raises the serious question of whether the university physics departments will be able to recruit the necessary staff to maintain their present teaching and research programmes, let alone meeting an increased demand for graduates. There is no short-term solution to this problem. Nevertheless, urgent action is called for. Incentives must be found to encourage wider participation in scientific education. Specialist teachers in mathematics, chemistry and physics must be recruited.

The Federal Government appears determined to shoot itself in the head by placing many areas of university research in jeopardy through the extension of the Overseas Students Charge to encompass higher degree candidates receiving university scholarships. Currently, approximately one in five post-graduate students in science and engineering is from overseas.

Without them, research in certain areas, much of which has potential commercial benefit, would cease. Aside from the direct benefits that Australia derives from the research undertaken by overseas graduate students, the training they receive here furthers the establishment of links with the research communities in their home countries. The crisis faced in Australia in maintaining university research programmes in science and engineering is not unique to Australia. In Sweden many university posts are left unfilled simply because between 1970 and 1984 the number of doctoral graduates in physics, chemistry and mathematics fell by between 50% and 75%.

University research in science and engineering in recent years has suffered from a declining proportion of the overall university funding, obsolete equipment and staffing that is both ageing and decreasing in numbers. I believe that it is not an exaggeration to claim that its vitality is now so fragile that the loss of overseas graduate students could inflict serious and lasting damage.

XIAN GEOPHYSICS SYMPOSIUM - October 1986

Eight Australian geophysicists attended the second Exploration Geophysics Symposium held in Xian, China, October 14 to 19, 1986.

This Symposium was organised by the Commission of Exploration Geophysics of the Geological Society of China. The Australian delegation included the President of the ASEG, Bob Smith, a past President, Roger Henderson and President of the Western Australian Branch, Noel Mattocks. On behalf of the ASEG these persons together with Pat Cunneen of Aerodata hosted the Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the Commission of Exploration Geophysics and Director of the Institute at a luncheon banquet.

Good relations between the ASEG and the equivalent Chinese society were further developed at this meeting.

The Symposium was attended in total by 280 Chinese geophysicists which they were very proud to say included 15 female geophysicists together with 40 [all male] foreigners, or round eyes, or long noses. Several Australians took their families.

Chairman of the conference was Professor Gu Gongxu, a deputy of the National Peoples Congress member of the Department of Earth Sciences *Academica Sinica* and Honorary member of the Council of the Geological Society of China. Professor Gu is over 60 years old and was educated at the Colorado School of Mines when Heiland was Professor. He travelled to America in the early 1940's by steam packet. While no Australians rated being seated at table number 1 with Professor Gu at the formal conference banquet the above three Australians were seated at table number 2 with the Chairwoman of the conference, Mrs. Zou Guanghua, Director of the Bureau of Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration.

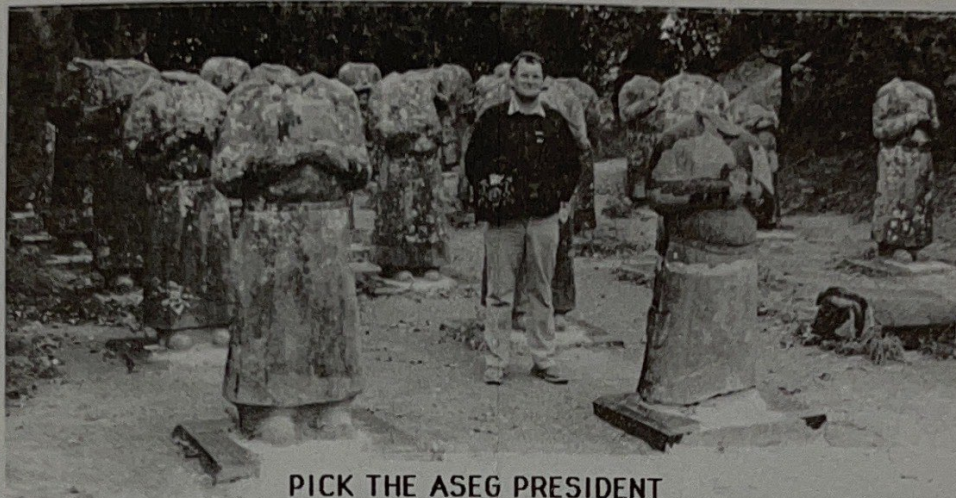
The conference was very successful with many good technical papers presented simultaneously in English and Chinese. In addition there was a "Midget Equipment Exhibition" with displays organized by at least three Chinese manufacturers and several from Canada, USA & Europe.

Naturally, there were numerous banquets. The Australian contingent were given a special banquet by the conference chairman, Professor Gu Gongxu, and other senior executives. In general the Australian presence was clearly appreciated and we hope it will stimulate reciprocal attendance at ASEG functions in the future.

During the conference the above three ASEG representatives performed a useful function in reviewing papers to be presented at the 1987 Perth conference by three Chinese delegates to ensure their adequate standard. As a result of our constant emphasis on the Perth conference a delegation of up to 10 Chinese may well attend.

There were many cultural highlights during the conference but the rendition of "Waltzing Matilda" by the Australian contingent at the closing banquet must rank among the best--it was certainly the loudest.

ROGER & BOB



PICK THE ASEG PRESIDENT

THE MACQUARIE NATIONAL NEWS - by Keeva Vozoff

The biggest single area of effort in the past year has been in seismic tomographic imaging. This is an outgrowth of the successful NERDDC sponsored in-seam seismic work done under subcontract to BHP's Central Research Lab.

We have been developing, coding and testing two imaging algorithms, called SUPERART and YOULA, for converting data from seismic arrays and sources in a plane into an image of the velocity distribution in the plane. The two algorithms are being compared with simple backprojection for convenience, computing demands, and the ease with which prior geological - geophysical information can be incorporated. Both synthetic data and real data obtained from BHP, ACIRL, and UNSW are being used in this evaluation.

In addition the concept of resolution from our inversion programs is being applied to imaging so as to provide a confidence estimate for the velocity result in each pixel of the image.

The work is being done in conjunction with CSIRO Radiophysics. The extended working group includes Monash, UNSW and ANU, as well as ACIRL, BHP, the German coal industry laboratory WBK, and the Divisions of Mineral Physics and Mineralogy, and [increasingly] Information Technology.

Applications include velocity perturbations due to strain and gas accumulation in coal seams, blind base metal deposits, and complex structure around petroleum drill targets. Support now comes from the ARGS and individual institutions, with minor industry contributions.

The in-seam modelling is now being used routinely by BHP's crews. It has just been augmented by addition to the program of absorption, which has been suggested as a major reason for the differences between in-seam results here and in Germany.

A large project completed in 1985 was the transient EM LOTEM project, aimed at mapping electrical conductivity on the scale of petroleum exploration. This involved a grounded wire source with electric and magnetic field receivers at distances to 15 km. Transients were recorded to 7 seconds. It was found that, by recording and inverting on both E and H, it is possible to resolve resistivity variation in both resistive and conductive horizons. Thus for the first time porosity variations in resistive carbonates can be resolved as well as the variations in conductive horizons. The latter have been the traditional strength of inductive EM techniques such as MT.

And that's the end of the news for today.

NOTE—ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF MINES



DEPARTMENT OF MINES

FAX (002) 442117
TELEX No.: 58276
TELEPHONE: 30 8033
WHEN TELEPHONING OR
CALLING ASK FOR

GORDON'S HILL RD
P.O. BOX 56
ROSNY PARK
TASMANIA 7018

Dr R.G. Richardson EXT No. 8324

The Newsletter Editor,
Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists,
P.O. Box 44,
EASTWOOD.
South Australia.

5063

27 NOV 1986

Dear Sir,

The Member's Forum in newsletter issue number 6 raises a number of points that should not be ignored.

(i) "the high cost charged" and "high up-front money"

In the case of my Department the charges made for the supply of data tapes represent between 1% (for aeromagnetic data) and 0.02% (for gravity data) of the cost of acquiring and processing the data.

The purchase of the data tapes is analogous to the purchase of a ticket to travel on a government bus - all taxpayers subsidise the bus service but the users pay an amount intended to cover more than just the costs of the driver and the fuel.

(ii) "to charge high prices for raw data is discriminating"

All persons may purchase the contour maps, stacked profiles and flight path plots for a nominal reproduction charge. Persons wishing to perform their own processing (not known as a cheap procedure) may purchase located data tapes at a price that is heavily subsidised by the taxpayer. This could not be described as discriminatory.

In summary, surveys by Government Departments provide companies and other groups with data over areas of interest at a cost that is greatly reduced by subsidy from the taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R.G. Richardson'.

(Dr. R.G. Richardson)
GEOPHYSICIST



GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION CONSULTANTS PTY. LTD.

Suite 204, 104 Mount Street, Heidelberg, Victoria 3084

Telephone (03) 459 0533
Telex AA 30625

19th November, 1986

The President,
ASEG,
P.O. Box 44,
EASTWOOD. S.A. 5063

Sir,

I am writing in regard to the letter that you have received from Phil Harman, the Chief Geophysicist of BHP Minerals Ltd., regarding the high cost charged by certain government departments for digital data.

I strongly support Mr Harman's view and, furthermore, would draw your attention to the attached paper which summarizes some of the exploration industry's perceptions of the standard of government services.

I urge all explorationists to protest at the disturbing state of affairs regarding charges for data, particularly the exorbitant increases recently levied by the Tasmanian Mines Department. Perhaps we should consider exercising our rights under the Freedom of Information legislation.

Yours faithfully,

GUIDO STALTARI

THE EXPLORATION INDUSTRY'S PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH by G Staltari
PUBLISHED: AusIMM Melbourne, Education & Research for the Mineral Industry for the
future, November 1986.

ABSTRACT:

The exploration industry generally has a low opinion of the quality of the service supplied to it by government departments. In particular, the academic research-related emphasis of the Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) and the relatively low level of exploration assistance offered by several Mines Departments are of concern. In a number of areas of geoscience research, the industry perceives a mixup of priorities and a lack of understanding on the part of government as to its needs. While government's sights are and should be, set on the future needs of the community at large, the industry doubts that government budget allocations to the BMR and Mines Departments are either large enough or being cost-effectively spent. This is certainly the case for such areas as exploration assistance, provision of basic exploration data, and applied geoscientific research.

On balance, the exploration industry's perceptions are misguided in a number of respects because of a lack of communication with government. However, this reinforces the need for changes in the manner in which government departments communicate with industry, in particular, the criteria upon which research priorities are based. At a time of contracting oil and mineral exploration expenditure, and near-record levels of geoscientist unemployment, the government's role is critical and should be open to question.



FOR BETTER COUPLING - USE THE DK METHOD