

bzz@keltic.com, 02:28 PM 3/31/97 , Taiga

To: bzz@keltic.com
 From: Richard Grauch <rgrauch@helios.cr.usgs.gov>
 Subject: Taiga
 Cc:
 Bcc:
 X-Attachments:

Mr. Brian Butterworth, VP Exploration and Development
 Blackstone Resources, Inc.

Dear Brian,

I've finally had a chance to prepare and look at a polished section of the sample from the Taiga property which you sent me in late February. It was like seeing an old friend. My quick look through the microscope shows textures that are identical to the Nick! There are what appear to be fossilized fragments of plants, chonodonts, and of course the nice suite of minerals that include pyrite, vaesite, sphalerite(?), tennantite, etc. The similarities of textures and presence of the rare fossil suite is quite exciting when you consider that Taiga and Nick are separated by 100 km.

You may already know that the south China deposits form like beads along a 1600 km strike length that presumably parallels the old continental margin. I wonder if there are more occurrences in the Yukon. Also the big question is the origin of this type of deposit (source of Ni, transport mechanism, etc.). I'd be very interested in collaborating with your field guys in some reasonable manner so that I can learn more about the real tectonic setting and origin of these things. So far, my colleagues and I and the Canadian Survey group have described the deposits fairly well but have been blowing a lot of smoke about possible origins -- its well past time to get down to reality and figure out what went on.

I was a little surprised at your assay showing Pt > Pd, we consistently found the reverse at the Nick and in China.

I'm sending by airmail a set of reprints that will show you what we've been up to regarding China and the Nick. I also have unpublished Pb isotope data and a stack of analytical work that I'm summarizing and getting ready to publish.

I'm on way out of town for a few weeks, but will be in touch upon my return.

Cheers, Dick

Danielle

This is what I've got so far. - I'm really curious about the regional setting of both the Nick and Taiga. What's their relationship to the Selwyn Basin, etc. Is anyone up there working on the Devonian? Cheers

Dick