The Manitoba Mineral Inventory (MMI) is an indexed group of hard copy cards and computer files maintained by the Manitoba Geological Survey. These cards and files contain information on the majority of known mineral deposits in Manitoba. The Inventory was started in 1973 after the Mineral Resources Division recognized the need to have an in-house inventory of Manitoba’s mineral resources. As the 30th anniversary of inception approaches, the inventory is becoming increasingly out of date. The 2002–2003 updating program began with the goal of updating the entire inventory and increasing accessibility by bringing it onto the Internet.

INTRODUCTION

The MMI was initiated by J. Bamburak in 1973 (Bamburak, 1980). Each Mineral Inventory card consists of specific information relating to a deposit. This includes the location, a geological description of the deposit, a compilation of all exploration and development history, any associated minerals, a history of production (if applicable) and a comprehensive list of references. Hard copies of the Mineral Inventory cards are stored by the Manitoba Geological Survey within a manual file system along with any other information pertinent to the deposit.

Computerization of inventory cards began in 1978. The Inventory has been updated sporadically since 1973 (Bamburak, 1985; Bamburak et al., 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989; Athayde, 1990, 1991a–e). New deposits have been added, but only a few of the old cards have been updated. In 2002, the inventory consisted of 1042 cards, of which approximately 800 have been converted to digital files (Microsoft Word). The majority of these cards have not been updated with new information since the late 1970s or early 1980s.

2002–2003 UPDATING PROJECT

Updating the Inventory

Updating of the inventory began in the late summer of 2001. Fifteen cards from NTS 52E11 (Falcon Lake area) were updated with 2001 data and a new inventory index was created. Due to budget considerations, the updating project was postponed.

The updating of the inventory resumed in 2002. Seventy cards were updated during this time, 10 new cards were created for recently discovered deposits (such as HudBay’s 777 deposit in Flin Flon), and 75 cards were converted from paper copies to Microsoft Word documents. The majority of cards updated or added during this season were located in NTS 63K (Flin Flon–Snow Lake area) and 64C (Lynn Lake area). The updated Microsoft Word documents now include scanned images of geological maps, cross-sections, aerial photographs and any other pictorial information that was included in the original paper files.

On-line Inventory

In the past, the Mineral Inventory cards were available in paper format from the library or on microfiche from publication sales. The Mineral Resources Library has now designed a database for the Mineral Inventory cards.

The new Mineral Inventory cards database provides full text search capabilities and is accessible from the Mineral Resources Division web site by clicking on the GIS Map Gallery & Other Databases icon or directly at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/gis/databases.html

The database contains over 700 cards and is a work-in-progress as more cards are added and updated. The cards are searchable by keyword or individual field and contain some or all of the following mineral occurrence information:

- Mineral Inventory File Number or Product;
- NTS area or Reference Number;
- Name of Property Owner or Operator and Address;

1 Department of Geological Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2
• Location, Latitude, Longitude, UTM, Township and Range;
• Description of Deposit;
• History of Exploration and Development and/or History of Production;
• Associated Minerals or Products of Value;
• References, Map References, or Remarks.

To obtain more information, to provide feedback on the project, or to notify us of database errors, please contact Jim Bamburak, Industrial Minerals Geologist, Manitoba Geological Survey, Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines, at jbamburak@gov.mb.ca.

Plans for the Inventory

Within the next year the authors intend to:
• complete updating the files;
• bring the complete inventory on-line; and
• add deposit locations to an on-line GIS map.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Manitoba Government STEP Services is gratefully thanked for providing funding for J. Johnson’s employment with the MGS under their CareerOptions program.

The authors would like to acknowledge L. Chudy, K. Proutt and J. Jones for their work on upgrading previously computerized inventory files (in various formats) into Microsoft Word documents.

REFERENCES

Athayde, P. 1991b: Mineral Inventory Cards (supplement to Economic Geology Report ER79-6): Lynn Lake, NTS 64 C/10, 64 C/11 and 64C/12; Manitoba Energy and Mines, Miscellaneous Publication 91-2, Part B, 1 v. (various pagings).
Athayde, P. 1991d: Mineral Inventory Cards (supplement to Economic Geology Report ER79-6): Pegmatites (Li, Cs, Ta, Be, Sn, W); Manitoba Energy and Mines, Miscellaneous Publication 91-2, Part D, 1 v. (various pagings).