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Lander County
Item 6

CARICO LAKE TURQUOISE AREA

The workings in the Carico Lake Turquoise Area consists of older small open pits and trenches in the Ordovician Valmy Formation, Tertiary tuffaceous sediments, and shallow prospect pits in Quaternary lake bed sediments. Recent drilling and building of drill roads on the properties have obliterated many of the older workings. Most of the observed activity had been centered around occurrences of various grades of turquoise which formed in vugs and fractures in the rocks, and as nodules along bedding planes in the thinly bedded, calcareous Valmy Formation. In Carico Lake Valley the Valmy is intensely folded and faulted and shows evidence of thrust faulting. Vein barite was also noted in the Havallah Formation at Palo Alto in the siliceous sediments along the thrust fault. Tertiary sediments in the valley are generally tuffaceous, interbedded or overlain by volcanics and pyroclastics. It has been suggested that the recent exploration in these sediments has been for uranium. Anomalous radioactivity has been reported from the lake beds, but no uranium or thorium minerals were observed. At the time of the 1982 field inspection there was no observed ongoing exploration or mining activity.

Selected References

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