SEMI-QUANTITATIVE MINERALOGIC ANALYSIS BY X-RAY DIFFRACTION

-Methods and Procedures-

Bulk Analysis: Representative one-gram splits of bulk samples are ground in acetone in an agate mortar to < 325 mesh (< 45 μ) then scanned at 2°2θ per minute from 2-65°2θ. Diagnostic peaks of minerals identified on resulting diffractograms are rescanned on duplicate samples. Approximate weight percentages of the minerals are determined by comparing diagnostic peak intensities with those generated by standard pure phases mixed in various known proportions.

Clay Analysis: Bulk samples, at least 35 grams if possible, are sonically disaggregated in deionized water, allowed to settle sufficiently to yield the desired particle size fraction (generally < 2 μ or < 5 μ), decanted and centrifuged. The resulting slurries are smeared on glass slides and X-rayed at 1°2θ per minute following air-drying (2-37°) vapor glycolation for 24 hours at 60°C (2-22°), heating to 250°C for one hour (2-15°) and heating to 550°C for one hour (2-15°). Approximate weight percentages of the layer silicates identified on diffractograms corresponding to these treatments are determined by comparison of diagnostic peak intensities with those generated by pure reference clays in appropriate mixtures.