

Organizing MINFILE data onto Google Earth

This is a guide on how I use mapping software to organize minfile info onto google earth.

First off you need to use Internet Explorer to access the map on the government website. for some reason it is the only browser that I have been able to run this plugin on. Anyway so with Internet Explorer running we go to <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/MapPlace/Pages/default.aspx> . It is here that you will find the plugin needed to run this map. If this is your first time then you need to follow the links to first time on mapplace. download and install the plugin Autodesk Mapguide ActiveX control for Internet Explorer. Now you are ready to go to the next step.

Main maps start page:

<http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/MapPlace/MainMaps/Pages/default.aspx>

now you can click the mineral titles map (third choice down the page), followed by view mineral titles map.

you should now be looking at a map of b.c.

On the left you can see a long list of choices of layers you can add to your map. You will want to zoom in to your area of interest before clicking too many of the choices as the info can be too great and really slow down your computer. Be patient with this map it is very detailed and can go slow. on the top left you see the zoom tools and the pointer and the hand tool which scrolls the map. familiar yourself with these tools as you will be switching back and forth between them. When using the zoom tools resist the urge to click more than once, It is just being slow.

To orient yourself you will want to click some of the boxes on the left. check cities. go down to topographic layers and click on lakes, and one on rivers. this allows you to know where you are. You can also click roads or whatever you think will help you.

once you have your target area in focus. Now click under Mineral Inventory Layers, down to and check MINFILE status. this gives you different icons for producer, past producer, developed prospect, prospect, or showing. MINFILE is a government database that holds all mining activity in the history of the province.

This map can also display the current mineral titles (claims) you may notice that the choices on the left change as you zoom in, when you are zoomed in you can go under the Mineral Titles Layers and click your choice of viewing the various claims (mineral or placer)(solid or outlines).

Once you have the MINFILE checked you can now observe all the activity. grab the pointer tool from the top left hand side and click one of the MINFILE icons.

You will now get a name and number. copy the name and number on a scrap of paper for the next step.

Now you are ready to open up a new tab on your browser and go to :

<http://minfile.gov.bc.ca/>

here you have the database search tools. go ahead and type the name of the minfile from the last step into the search bar labelled MINFILE Name.

Now click on the name of the mine that comes up. If more than one choice comes up just click on the one that has the same number that you scribbled on your scrap of paper.

You now have the minfile data. you will notice all kinds of interesting geological terms that you may have never heard before, thats ok, you are interested in the latitude and longitude, and any interesting info regarding the site. Usually at the bottom under capsule geology they have an overview of the site.

Next I open Google Earth. I copy and paste the lat and long from the minfile into the search bar on google earth. This zooms me in right to the minfile site. then I go back to the minfile stuff, cut and paste all the important to rockhounding information I like on the bottom. and paste it into a placemark on google earth.

First I click add placemark, this will put a placemark right on top of the spot, if it does not you can always move it into location by dragging it there. then I manually type the name of the site (found on my scrap of paper) at the top. Then in the description box at the bottom I paste. This puts all the minfile stuff I selected earlier into the placemark.

Now when you play around with google earth you can simply click on the labelled placemark and up pops a window with all the garble you placed there. YAY! This opens up a whole bunch of possibilities, you can quickly use the google earth tool as though you were flying there and easily see what is going on as far as the important rocks are doing. This may allow you to see trends, fault lines, volcanoes, whatever. Another cool thing you can do is share the placemarks. You can organize your placemarks like you would any folder inside the box on the left. then when you have them organized you can e-mail the whole folder to anyone you like.

This guide is not finished as there is no doubt a whole bunch of other stuff possible with these tools. Only, this is what I do, to extract the info I need. If you find out new ways to use these tools then be sure to let me know.

Thanks,
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