

**CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS FOR**

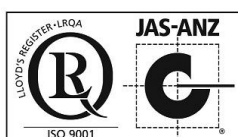
**CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**OREAS 290b**

**Gold-Antimony Ore (Costerfield, VIC, Australia)**



Accredited for compliance with ISO 17034



COA-1946-OREAS 290b-R0  
BUP-70-10-01 Ver:2.0

22-September-2025

**Table 1. Certified Values, Uncertainty & Tolerance Intervals in OREAS 290b.**

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
Pb Fire Assay					
Au, Gold (ppm)	2.23	2.19	2.26	2.22*	2.24*
PhotonAssay™ (recommended gross mass 410-440 g)					
Au, Gold (ppm)	2.27	2.24	2.30	2.26*	2.28*
Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g)					
Au, Gold (ppm)	2.08	2.02	2.14	2.07*	2.09*
Peroxide Fusion ICP					
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	0.830	0.799	0.862	0.814	0.847
Borate Fusion XRF					
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	0.856	0.834	0.878	0.840	0.871
4-Acid Digestion					
Ag, Silver (ppm)	0.239	0.203	0.275	0.210	0.268
Al, Aluminium (wt.%)	7.47	7.26	7.69	7.33	7.61
As, Arsenic (ppm)	287	277	296	281	293
Ba, Barium (ppm)	735	711	758	722	747
Be, Beryllium (ppm)	2.42	2.33	2.51	2.35	2.50
Bi, Bismuth (ppm)	0.39	0.36	0.42	0.37	0.42
Ca, Calcium (wt.%)	0.444	0.430	0.458	0.436	0.452
Cd, Cadmium (ppm)	0.062	0.041	0.083	IND	IND
Ce, Cerium (ppm)	82	77	87	78	85
Co, Cobalt (ppm)	15.2	14.6	15.8	14.7	15.7
Cr, Chromium (ppm)	126	122	130	123	129
Cs, Caesium (ppm)	11.3	10.7	11.9	10.9	11.7
Cu, Copper (ppm)	36.0	34.4	37.5	34.8	37.1
Dy, Dysprosium (ppm)	3.28	2.86	3.70	3.13	3.42
Er, Erbium (ppm)	1.64	1.42	1.86	1.58	1.71
Eu, Europium (ppm)	1.23	1.09	1.36	1.18	1.28
Fe, Iron (wt.%)	4.19	4.08	4.30	4.12	4.26
Ga, Gallium (ppm)	20.0	19.0	21.1	19.4	20.6
Gd, Gadolinium (ppm)	4.61	4.04	5.18	4.40	4.82
Hf, Hafnium (ppm)	3.85	3.63	4.08	3.72	3.98
Ho, Holmium (ppm)	0.59	0.51	0.68	0.48	0.71
In, Indium (ppm)	0.069	0.063	0.075	0.064	0.075
K, Potassium (wt.%)	2.97	2.87	3.06	2.92	3.02
La, Lanthanum (ppm)	42.1	39.6	44.5	40.5	43.6
Li, Lithium (ppm)	51	49	52	49	52
Lu, Lutetium (ppm)	0.27	0.23	0.31	0.25	0.29

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt.% (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

\*Gold Tolerance Limits for typical 30 g lead collection fire assay, 410-440 g PhotonAssay™ and 25 g aqua regia digestion methods are determined from 20 x 85 mg INAA results and the Sampling Constant (Ingamells & Switzer, 1973).

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

IND = indeterminate (due to limited reading resolution of the methods employed).

Table 1 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
4-Acid Digestion continued					
Mg, Magnesium (wt.%)	1.51	1.46	1.56	1.47	1.55
Mn, Manganese (wt.%)	0.063	0.061	0.064	0.062	0.063
Mo, Molybdenum (ppm)	0.96	0.85	1.06	0.92	1.00
Na, Sodium (wt.%)	0.520	0.504	0.536	0.508	0.532
Nb, Niobium (ppm)	13.5	12.5	14.5	12.9	14.1
Nd, Neodymium (ppm)	36.3	33.5	39.1	34.5	38.1
Ni, Nickel (ppm)	58	55	60	56	59
P, Phosphorus (wt.%)	0.062	0.059	0.064	0.060	0.063
Pb, Lead (ppm)	24.1	22.7	25.4	22.9	25.2
Pr, Praseodymium (ppm)	9.56	8.43	10.69	9.21	9.91
Rb, Rubidium (ppm)	176	168	185	172	181
Re, Rhenium (ppm)	< 0.002	IND	IND	IND	IND
S, Sulphur (wt.%)	0.555	0.540	0.570	0.547	0.562
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	0.833	0.810	0.857	0.823	0.844
Sc, Scandium (ppm)	14.3	13.6	15.0	13.9	14.6
Se, Selenium (ppm)	2.71	1.88	3.54	2.29	3.13
Sm, Samarium (ppm)	6.73	6.00	7.46	6.48	6.98
Sn, Tin (ppm)	4.00	3.63	4.36	3.80	4.20
Sr, Strontium (ppm)	91	88	93	89	93
Ta, Tantalum (ppm)	1.05	0.97	1.12	1.01	1.08
Tb, Terbium (ppm)	0.61	0.54	0.67	0.57	0.64
Te, Tellurium (ppm)	0.072	0.043	0.101	IND	IND
Th, Thorium (ppm)	15.9	15.0	16.7	15.3	16.4
Ti, Titanium (wt.%)	0.397	0.380	0.413	0.388	0.405
Tl, Thallium (ppm)	0.91	0.86	0.97	0.87	0.96
U, Uranium (ppm)	2.92	2.78	3.06	2.83	3.00
V, Vanadium (ppm)	105	101	108	102	108
W, Tungsten (ppm)	3.13	2.75	3.51	2.95	3.30
Y, Yttrium (ppm)	16.0	15.3	16.7	15.4	16.5
Yb, Ytterbium (ppm)	1.71	1.44	1.98	1.59	1.83
Zn, Zinc (ppm)	105	101	109	102	108
Zr, Zirconium (ppm)	130	124	136	127	134
Aqua Regia Digestion					
Ag, Silver (ppm)	0.215	0.194	0.236	0.194	0.236
Al, Aluminium (wt.%)	2.55	2.44	2.67	2.50	2.61
As, Arsenic (ppm)	263	248	277	256	269
Ba, Barium (ppm)	113	106	120	109	117

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt.% (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

IND = indeterminate (due to limited reading resolution of the methods employed. For practical purposes the 95% Expanded Uncertainty can be set between zero and a two times multiple of the upper bound/non-detect limit value).

Table 1 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
Aqua Regia Digestion continued					
Be, Beryllium (ppm)	1.19	1.08	1.29	1.15	1.22
Bi, Bismuth (ppm)	0.39	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.42
Ca, Calcium (wt.%)	0.300	0.289	0.311	0.289	0.311
Cd, Cadmium (ppm)	0.054	0.041	0.068	IND	IND
Ce, Cerium (ppm)	46.2	41.8	50.6	44.7	47.7
Co, Cobalt (ppm)	14.1	13.2	14.9	13.5	14.6
Cr, Chromium (ppm)	101	98	104	99	103
Cs, Caesium (ppm)	7.68	7.22	8.15	7.49	7.88
Cu, Copper (ppm)	35.3	33.9	36.7	34.0	36.5
Fe, Iron (wt.%)	3.78	3.70	3.86	3.72	3.84
Ga, Gallium (ppm)	7.85	7.31	8.40	7.54	8.17
Ge, Germanium (ppm)	0.10	0.08	0.13	IND	IND
Hf, Hafnium (ppm)	0.52	0.47	0.57	0.50	0.54
Hg, Mercury (ppm)	0.033	0.022	0.043	IND	IND
In, Indium (ppm)	0.030	0.028	0.032	0.028	0.033
K, Potassium (wt.%)	0.875	0.838	0.912	0.859	0.891
La, Lanthanum (ppm)	24.9	21.6	28.2	23.9	25.9
Li, Lithium (ppm)	38.5	36.2	40.7	37.1	39.8
Mg, Magnesium (wt.%)	1.30	1.25	1.34	1.27	1.32
Mn, Manganese (wt.%)	0.056	0.054	0.058	0.055	0.057
Mo, Molybdenum (ppm)	0.81	0.75	0.88	0.76	0.87
Na, Sodium (wt.%)	0.035	0.030	0.040	0.034	0.037
Nb, Niobium (ppm)	0.38	0.26	0.50	0.34	0.42
Ni, Nickel (ppm)	55	52	58	54	57
P, Phosphorus (wt.%)	0.055	0.053	0.057	0.053	0.056
Pb, Lead (ppm)	14.7	13.7	15.8	14.2	15.3
Re, Rhenium (ppm)	< 0.001	IND	IND	IND	IND
Re, Rhenium (ppm)	< 0.001	IND	IND	IND	IND
S, Sulphur (wt.%)	0.557	0.541	0.573	0.544	0.570
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	0.727	0.693	0.762	0.706	0.748
Sc, Scandium (ppm)	6.71	6.24	7.17	6.34	7.07
Se, Selenium (ppm)	2.08	1.80	2.36	1.74	2.41
Sn, Tin (ppm)	1.32	1.21	1.43	IND	IND
Sr, Strontium (ppm)	29.1	27.7	30.5	28.1	30.1
Ta, Tantalum (ppm)	< 0.01	IND	IND	IND	IND
Th, Thorium (ppm)	12.3	11.3	13.3	11.9	12.7
Ti, Titanium (wt.%)	0.110	0.105	0.115	0.107	0.114

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt.% (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

IND = indeterminate (due to limited reading resolution of the methods employed. For practical purposes the 95% Expanded Uncertainty can be set between zero and a two times multiple of the upper bound/non-detect limit value).

Table 1 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
Aqua Regia Digestion continued					
Tl, Thallium (ppm)	0.53	0.50	0.56	0.51	0.55
U, Uranium (ppm)	1.48	1.35	1.60	1.43	1.52
V, Vanadium (ppm)	66	64	69	65	68
W, Tungsten (ppm)	0.56	0.47	0.66	0.52	0.61
Y, Yttrium (ppm)	8.31	7.65	8.96	8.02	8.59
Zn, Zinc (ppm)	94	90	98	92	96
Zr, Zirconium (ppm)	18.8	16.9	20.8	18.3	19.3

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt.% (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

IND = indeterminate (due to limited reading resolution of the methods employed. For practical purposes the 95% Expanded Uncertainty can be set between zero and a two times multiple of the upper bound/non-detect limit value).

Table 2. Indicative Values for OREAS 290b.

Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value
<b>Peroxide Fusion ICP</b>								
Ag	ppm	< 1	Gd	ppm	5.85	S	wt.%	0.538
Al	wt.%	7.48	Ge	ppm	2.17	Sc	ppm	14.2
As	ppm	283	Hf	ppm	6.00	Si	wt.%	30.27
B	ppm	89	Ho	ppm	1.08	Sm	ppm	6.78
Ba	ppm	748	In	ppm	< 0.2	Sn	ppm	< 5
Be	ppm	< 5	K	wt.%	2.99	Sr	ppm	90
Bi	ppm	< 0.5	La	ppm	39.4	Ta	ppm	< 10
Ca	wt.%	0.462	Li	ppm	71	Tb	ppm	0.86
Cd	ppm	< 10	Lu	ppm	0.46	Th	ppm	15.0
Ce	ppm	81	Mg	wt.%	1.52	Ti	wt.%	0.426
Co	ppm	15.4	Mn	wt.%	0.063	Tl	ppm	0.98
Cr	ppm	152	Mo	ppm	< 3	Tm	ppm	0.46
Cs	ppm	10.9	Nb	ppm	13.3	U	ppm	3.00
Cu	ppm	38.5	Nd	ppm	36.2	V	ppm	119
Dy	ppm	5.58	Ni	ppm	61	W	ppm	< 100
Er	ppm	3.34	P	wt.%	0.063	Y	ppm	30.3
Eu	ppm	1.29	Pb	ppm	26.3	Yb	ppm	3.05
Fe	wt.%	4.11	Pr	ppm	9.44	Zn	ppm	104
Ga	ppm	18.8	Rb	ppm	173	Zr	ppm	224
<b>Borate fusion XRF</b>								
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	wt.%	14.93	MgO	wt.%	2.58	SiO <sub>2</sub>	wt.%	65.62
CaO	wt.%	0.645	MnO	wt.%	0.080	TiO <sub>2</sub>	wt.%	0.750
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	wt.%	6.16	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	wt.%	0.142			
K <sub>2</sub> O	wt.%	3.61	S	wt.%	0.559			
<b>Thermogravimetry</b>								
LOI <sup>1000</sup>	wt.%	3.33						

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt.% (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note: the number of significant figures reported is not a reflection of the level of certainty of stated values. They are instead an artefact of ORE's in-house CRM-specific LIMS.

Table 2 continued.

Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value
<b>Infrared Combustion</b>								
C	wt. %	0.250	S	wt. %	0.575			
<b>Laser Ablation ICP-MS</b>								
Ag	ppm	0.250	Hf	ppm	6.44	Sn	ppm	3.90
As	ppm	332	Ho	ppm	1.24	Sr	ppm	92
Ba	ppm	738	In	ppm	0.050	Ta	ppm	1.66
Be	ppm	2.80	La	ppm	44.3	Tb	ppm	0.99
Bi	ppm	0.42	Lu	ppm	0.48	Te	ppm	< 0.2
Cd	ppm	0.075	Mn	wt. %	0.066	Th	ppm	16.8
Ce	ppm	86	Mo	ppm	1.00	Ti	wt. %	0.468
Co	ppm	15.7	Nb	ppm	15.3	Tl	ppm	0.80
Cr	ppm	133	Nd	ppm	39.3	Tm	ppm	0.50
Cs	ppm	11.7	Ni	ppm	60	U	ppm	3.39
Cu	ppm	50	Pb	ppm	29.5	V	ppm	112
Dy	ppm	5.90	Pr	ppm	10.4	W	ppm	4.10
Er	ppm	3.58	Rb	ppm	180	Y	ppm	31.7
Eu	ppm	1.28	Re	ppm	< 0.01	Yb	ppm	3.36
Ga	ppm	20.6	Sb	ppm	10650	Zn	ppm	115
Gd	ppm	6.22	Sc	ppm	15.5	Zr	ppm	220
Ge	ppm	1.60	Sm	ppm	7.61			
<b>4-Acid Digestion</b>								
Ge	ppm	0.20	Hg	ppm	< 1	Tm	ppm	0.23
<b>Aqua Regia Digestion</b>								
B	ppm	< 10	Ho	ppm	0.36	Sm	ppm	4.36
Dy	ppm	2.12	Lu	ppm	0.10	Tb	ppm	0.41
Er	ppm	0.94	Nd	ppm	23.5	Te	ppm	0.050
Eu	ppm	0.63	Pr	ppm	6.32	Tm	ppm	0.11
Gd	ppm	3.28	Rb	ppm	79	Yb	ppm	0.73

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt. % (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note: the number of significant figures reported is not a reflection of the level of certainty of stated values. They are instead an artefact of ORE's in-house CRM-specific LIMS.

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## INTRODUCTION

OREAS reference materials are intended to provide a low-cost method of evaluating and improving the quality of analysis of geological samples. To the geologist they provide a means of implementing quality control in analytical data sets generated in exploration from the grass roots level through to prospect evaluation, and in grade control at mining operations. To the analyst they provide an effective means of calibrating analytical equipment, assessing new techniques and routinely monitoring in-house procedures. OREAS reference materials enable users to successfully achieve process control of these tasks because the observed variance from repeated analysis has its origin almost exclusively in the analytical process rather than the reference material itself. In evaluating laboratory performance with this CRM, the section headed 'Instructions for handling and correct use' should be read carefully.

Table 1 presents the certified values together with their associated 95% expanded uncertainties and tolerance intervals. Table 2 provides indicative values, including major and trace element characterisation. Table 3 lists indicative physical properties, while Table 4 reports indicative mineralogy determined by semi-quantitative XRD analysis. Gold homogeneity, assessed by INAA, is shown in Table 5 and is further demonstrated through a nested ANOVA (see *Homogeneity Evaluation* section). Finally, Table 6 presents the performance gate intervals for all certified values.

Tabulated results of all analytes together with uncorrected means, medians, standard deviations, relative standard deviations and per cent deviation of laboratory means from the corrected mean of means (PDM<sup>3</sup>) are presented in the detailed certification data for this CRM (**OREAS 290b-DataPack.1.0.250922\_102717.xlsx**). The certified values and uncertainties in this Certificate are the sole authoritative figures. Any additional significant figures in the DataPack are provided for reference only and do not affect the certified results.

Results are also presented in scatter plots for Au by Pb fire assay, Au by PhotonAssay™, Au by aqua regia digestion (sample weights 10-50 g), Sb by peroxide fusion with ICP and Sb by borate fusion with XRF in Figures 1 to 5 respectively, together with  $\pm 3SD$  (magenta) and  $\pm 5\%$  (yellow) control lines and certified value (green line). Accepted individual results are coloured blue and individual and dataset outliers are identified in red and violet, respectively.

## SOURCE MATERIAL

OREAS 290b was prepared from a blend of high-grade gold-antimony ore and barren metasediments. The ore was sourced from the Costerfield Operation (Mandalay Resources Ltd), located ~10 km northeast of Heathcote, Victoria. The deposit is hosted in Lower Silurian metasedimentary rocks and is characterised by narrow, high-grade quartz-stibnite veins. Gold occurs with arsenopyrite and pyrite, as well as in "gold-only" quartz-carbonate veins at depth or beneath stibnite lodes.

## COMMINUTION AND HOMOGENISATION PROCEDURES

The materials constituting OREAS 290b was prepared in the following manner:

- Drying of ores and barren materials to constant mass at 105° C;
- Crushing and multi-stage milling of the barren material to >98 % minus 75 microns;



- Crushing and multi-stage milling of the ore to 100 % minus 30 microns;
- Blending the ore and barren material in appropriate proportions to achieve desired grades;
- Homogenisation using OREAS' novel processing technologies;
- Packaging in 10 g and 60 g units in laminated foil pouches and 1 kg units in plastic wide-mouth jars.

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

OREAS 290b was tested at ORE Research & Exploration Pty Ltd's onsite facility for various physical properties. Table 3 presents these findings that should be used for informational purposes only.

**Table 3. Physical properties of OREAS 290b.**

Bulk Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Moisture (wt.%)	Munsell Notation <sup>‡</sup>	Munsell Color <sup>‡</sup>
807	0.55	N7	Light Gray

<sup>‡</sup>The Munsell Rock Color Chart helps geologists and archeologists communicate with colour more effectively by cross-referencing ISCC-NBS colour names with unique Munsell alpha-numeric colour notations for rock colour samples.

## MINERALOGY

The semi-quantitative XRD results shown in Table 4 below were undertaken by ALS Metallurgy in Balcatta, Western Australia. The results have been normalised to 100 % and represent the relative proportion of crystalline material. Totals greater or less than 100 % are due to rounding errors.

Some amorphous material may be present. 'Clay mineral' appears to be mainly vermiculite, smectite and illite. 'Kandite group' appears to be mainly kaolinite. A trace of epidote and/or dolomite might be present.

**Table 4. Indicative mineralogy of OREAS 290b by semi-quantitative XRD analysis.**

Mineral / Mineral Group	% (mass ratio)
Stibnite	1
Clay mineral	< 1
Stilpnomelane and/or Sepiolite	< 1
Chlorite	7
Kandite group	1
Annite - biotite - phlogopite	29
Muscovite and/or illite	9
Clinopyroxene	< 1
Plagioclase	4
K-feldspar and/or rutile	1
Cordierite	1
Quartz	45
Pyrite	< 1
Gypsum	< 1

## ANALYTICAL PROGRAM

Forty commercial analytical laboratories participated in the program to certify the elements reported in Table 1. The following methods were employed:

- Gold by Pb collection fire assay (25-50 g charge weight) with AAS (17 laboratories), ICP-OES (7 laboratories) and gravimetric finish (1 laboratory);
- Gold by PhotonAssay™ with a recommended gross fill mass of 410-440 g (12 laboratories);
- Gold by 15-50g aqua regia digestion with ICP-MS (9 laboratories) and AAS (9 laboratories) finish;
- Antimony by peroxide fusion with ICP-OES and/or ICP-MS finish (15 laboratories);
- Antimony by borate fusion with XRF finish (12 laboratories except one laboratory that used pressed powder pellet with XRF);
- Full ICP-OES and ICP-MS elemental suites by 4-acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>-HF-HClO<sub>4</sub>-HCl) digestion (up to 17 laboratories depending on the element);
- Full ICP-OES and ICP-MS elemental suites by aqua regia digestion (up to 16 laboratories depending on the element).

For the round robin program, twelve 1.5 kg test units were collected at predetermined intervals during the bagging stage, immediately after homogenisation. Apart from the PhotonAssay™ program, each participating laboratory received six test portions. The samples received by each laboratory were obtained by taking a 110 g sample from six different 1.5 kg test units to maximise representation (i.e., from either the odd or even sampling (lot) intervals to maximise representation).

For the Au by PhotonAssay™ program, each of the participating laboratories received three 500 g samples. Laboratories were instructed to prepare PhotonAssay™ jars from each sample and assay each jar in duplicate, generating a total of six results per laboratory. The 2-cycle assay protocol (PAAU02) and recommended gross fill mass range was specified to all participants to ensure consistency in measurement conditions.

The 20 individual INAA results upon which much of the homogeneity evaluation is based, included paired 10 g samples taken from 10 different sampling units. This format enabled a nested ANOVA treatment of the INAA results to evaluate homogeneity (see 'Homogeneity Evaluation' section below).

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

**Certified Values and their uncertainty intervals** (Table 1) have been determined for each analyte following removal of individual, laboratory dataset (batch) and 3SD outliers (single iteration).

Outlier evaluation was conducted in accordance with ISO 17034:2017 and ISO 33405:2024. While formal statistical tests were applied, professional statistical judgment was also exercised in determining the validity of potential outliers. Assessment of systematic bias and performance using independent control materials (CRMs) was incorporated to ensure compliance with the referenced standards and to establish metrological traceability of the certified values.

**95% Expanded Uncertainty** provides a 95 % probability that the true value of the analyte under consideration lies between the upper and lower limits and is calculated according to the method outlined in [5] and [15]. All known or suspected sources of bias have been investigated or taken into account.

**Indicative (uncertified) values** (Table 2) are present where the number of laboratories reporting a particular analyte is insufficient (< 5) to support certification or where interlaboratory consensus is poor. This data is intended for 'informational purposes' only.

**Standard Deviation** intervals (see Table 5, 'Performance Gates') provide an indication of a level of performance that might reasonably be expected from a laboratory being monitored by this CRM in a QA/QC program. They take into account errors attributable to measurement uncertainty and CRM variability. For an effective CRM the contribution of the latter should be negligible in comparison to measurement errors. The Standard Deviation values include all sources of measurement uncertainty: between-laboratory variance, within-run variance (precision errors) and CRM variability.

The SD for each analyte's certified value is calculated from the same filtered data set used to determine the certified value, i.e., after removal of all individual, laboratory dataset (batch) and 3SD outliers (single iteration). These outliers can only be removed after the absolute homogeneity of the CRM has been independently established, i.e., the outliers must be confidently deemed to be analytical rather than arising from inhomogeneity of the CRM. ***The standard deviation is then calculated for each analyte from the pooled accepted analyses generated from the certification program.***

## Homogeneity Evaluation

For analytes other than gold, the tolerance limits (ISO 16269:2014) shown in Table 1 were determined using an analysis of precision errors method and are considered a conservative estimate of true homogeneity. The meaning of tolerance limits may be illustrated for Sb by borate fusion with XRF, where 99 % of the time ( $1-\alpha=0.99$ ) at least 95 % of subsamples ( $p=0.95$ ) will have concentrations lying between 0.840 and 0.871 wt.%. Put more precisely, this means that if the same number of subsamples were taken and analysed in the same manner repeatedly, 99 % of the tolerance intervals so constructed would cover at least 95 % of the total population, and 1 % of the tolerance intervals would cover less than 95 % of the total population. ***Please note that tolerance limits pertain to the homogeneity of the CRM only and should not be used as control limits for laboratory performance.***

The homogeneity of gold has been determined by INAA at ANSTO using the reduced analytical subsample method which utilises the known relationship between standard deviation and analytical subsample weight (Ingamells and Switzer, 1973 [2]). In this approach the sample aliquot is substantially reduced to a point where most of the variability in replicate assays should be due to inhomogeneity of the reference material and measurement error becomes negligible. Table 5 below shows the gold INAA data determined on 20 x 85 mg subsamples of OREAS 290b. An equivalent scaled version of the results is also provided to demonstrate an appreciation of what this data means if 30g fire assays were undertaken without the normal measurement error associated with this methodology. In this instance, the 1RSD of 0.13 % calculated for a 30 g fire assay sample (2.42 % at 85 mg weights) confirms the high level of gold homogeneity in OREAS 290b.

**Table 5. Neutron Activation Analysis of Au (in ppm) on 20 x 85 mg subsamples and showing the equivalent results scaled to a 30 g sample mass typical of fire assay determination.**

Replicate No	Au 85 mg actual	Au 30 g equivalent*
1	2.456	2.367
2	2.431	2.365
3	2.355	2.361
4	2.329	2.360
5	2.365	2.362
6	2.360	2.361
7	2.334	2.360
8	2.234	2.355
9	2.350	2.361
10	2.324	2.359
11	2.392	2.363
12	2.427	2.365
13	2.368	2.362
14	2.365	2.362
15	2.369	2.362
16	2.412	2.364
17	2.429	2.365
18	2.254	2.356
19	2.380	2.362
20	2.296	2.358
Mean	2.361	2.361
Median	2.365	2.362
Std Dev.	0.057	0.003
Rel.Std.Dev.	2.42%	0.13%

\*Results calculated for a 30g equivalent sample mass using the formula:  $x^{30\text{ g Eq}} = \frac{(x^{INAA} - \bar{X}) \times RSD@30\text{ g}}{RSD@85\text{ mg}} + \bar{X}$

where  $x^{30\text{ g Eq}}$  = equivalent result calculated for a 30 g sample mass

$(x^{INAA})$  = raw INAA result at 85 mg

$\bar{X}$  = mean of 85 mg INAA results

The homogeneity of OREAS 290b has also been evaluated in an Analysis of Variance (**ANOVA**) of the INAA data. The 20 samples were comprised of paired samples from each of 10 sampling lot intervals (representative of the prepared batch) and were randomised prior to assigning sample numbers. The duplicate samples enabled an ANOVA by comparison of within- and between-unit variances across the 10 pairs. The purpose of the ANOVA is to test that no statistically significant difference exists in the variance between units to that of the variance within units. This allows an assessment of homogeneity across the entire prepared batch of OREAS 290b. The test was performed using the following parameters:

- Gold INAA – 20 results (1 laboratory providing duplicate analyses on 10 samples where each sample can be viewed as a ‘unit’);
- Null Hypothesis,  $H_0$ : Between-unit variance is no greater than within-unit variance (reject  $H_0$  if  $p$ -value < 0.05);
- Alternative Hypothesis,  $H_1$ : Between-unit variance is greater than within-unit variance.

The data was not filtered for outliers prior to the calculation of the  $p$ -value. This process derived a  $p$ -value of 0.77, a statistically insignificant result so the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

It is important to note that ANOVA is not an absolute measure of homogeneity. Rather, it establishes whether or not the analytes are distributed in a similar manner throughout the packaging run of OREAS 290b and whether the variance between two subsamples from the same unit is statistically distinguishable from the variance of two subsamples taken from any two separate units. A reference material therefore can possess poor absolute homogeneity yet still pass a relative homogeneity (ANOVA) test if the within-unit heterogeneity is large and similar across all units. Based on the statistical analysis of ANOVA and the results of the interlaboratory certification program, it can be concluded that OREAS 290b is fit-for-purpose as a certified reference material (see 'Intended Use' below).

## PERFORMANCE GATES

Table 6 below shows intervals calculated for two and three standard deviations. As a guide these intervals may be regarded as warning or rejection for multiple 2SD outliers, or rejection for individual 3SD outliers in QC monitoring, although their precise application should be at the discretion of the QC manager concerned (also see 'Intended Use' section below). Westgard Rules extend the basics of single-rule QC monitoring using multi-rules (for more information visit [www.westgard.com/mltirule.htm](http://www.westgard.com/mltirule.htm)). A second method utilises a 5 % window calculated directly from the certified value.

Standard deviation is also shown in relative percent for one, two and three relative standard deviations (1RSD, 2RSD and 3RSD) to facilitate an appreciation of the magnitude of these numbers and a comparison with the 5 % window. Caution should be exercised when concentration levels approach lower limits of detection of the analytical methods employed as performance gates calculated from standard deviations tend to be excessively wide whereas those determined by the 5 % method are too narrow. One approach used at commercial laboratories is to set the acceptance criteria at twice the detection level (DL)  $\pm$  10 %.

*i.e., Certified Value  $\pm$  10 %  $\pm$  2DL [1].*

**Table 6. Performance Gates for OREAS 290b.**

Constituent	Certified Value	Absolute Standard Deviations					Relative Standard Deviations			5 % window	
		1SD	2SD Low	2SD High	3SD Low	3SD High	1RSD	2RSD	3RSD	Low	High
Pb Fire Assay											
Au, ppm	2.23	0.090	2.05	2.41	1.96	2.50	4.06%	8.12%	12.18%	2.12	2.34
PhotonAssay™ (recommended gross mass 410-440 g)											
Au, ppm	2.27	0.067	2.14	2.41	2.07	2.47	2.94%	5.89%	8.83%	2.16	2.38
Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g)											
Au, ppm	2.08	0.118	1.84	2.31	1.73	2.43	5.66%	11.32%	16.98%	1.98	2.18
Peroxide Fusion ICP											
Sb, wt.%	0.830	0.035	0.761	0.900	0.726	0.935	4.19%	8.38%	12.58%	0.789	0.872
Borate Fusion XRF											
Sb, wt.%	0.856	0.017	0.821	0.891	0.804	0.908	2.04%	4.08%	6.12%	0.813	0.899

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt. % (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note 1: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

Note 2: the number of decimal places quoted does not imply accuracy of the certified value to this level but are given to minimise rounding errors when calculating 2SD and 3SD windows.

Table 6 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	Absolute Standard Deviations					Relative Standard Deviations			5 % window	
		1SD	2SD Low	2SD High	3SD Low	3SD High	1RSD	2RSD	3RSD	Low	High
4-Acid Digestion											
Ag, ppm	0.239	0.041	0.157	0.321	0.115	0.363	17.26%	34.52%	51.78%	0.227	0.251
Al, wt. %	7.47	0.212	7.05	7.90	6.84	8.11	2.84%	5.68%	8.52%	7.10	7.85
As, ppm	287	9	270	304	261	312	2.98%	5.97%	8.95%	272	301
Ba, ppm	735	18	699	771	681	788	2.44%	4.89%	7.33%	698	771
Be, ppm	2.42	0.091	2.24	2.61	2.15	2.70	3.77%	7.54%	11.31%	2.30	2.54
Bi, ppm	0.39	0.028	0.34	0.45	0.31	0.47	7.02%	14.05%	21.07%	0.37	0.41
Ca, wt. %	0.444	0.009	0.425	0.462	0.416	0.472	2.09%	4.18%	6.27%	0.422	0.466
Cd, ppm	0.062	0.018	0.026	0.098	0.008	0.116	29.16%	58.32%	87.48%	0.059	0.065
Ce, ppm	82	4.3	73	90	69	95	5.32%	10.63%	15.95%	77	86
Co, ppm	15.2	0.36	14.5	15.9	14.1	16.2	2.34%	4.68%	7.03%	14.4	15.9
Cr, ppm	126	4	119	133	115	137	2.85%	5.70%	8.56%	120	132
Cs, ppm	11.3	0.38	10.5	12.0	10.1	12.4	3.34%	6.69%	10.03%	10.7	11.8
Cu, ppm	36.0	1.31	33.3	38.6	32.0	39.9	3.63%	7.26%	10.89%	34.2	37.8
Dy, ppm	3.28	0.245	2.79	3.77	2.54	4.01	7.47%	14.95%	22.42%	3.11	3.44
Er, ppm	1.64	0.153	1.34	1.95	1.18	2.10	9.30%	18.59%	27.89%	1.56	1.72
Eu, ppm	1.23	0.078	1.07	1.38	0.99	1.46	6.38%	12.76%	19.15%	1.17	1.29
Fe, wt. %	4.19	0.102	3.99	4.39	3.89	4.49	2.42%	4.85%	7.27%	3.98	4.40
Ga, ppm	20.0	1.16	17.7	22.4	16.5	23.5	5.81%	11.61%	17.42%	19.0	21.0
Gd, ppm	4.61	0.321	3.97	5.25	3.65	5.57	6.95%	13.90%	20.86%	4.38	4.84
Hf, ppm	3.85	0.260	3.33	4.37	3.07	4.64	6.76%	13.52%	20.28%	3.66	4.05
Ho, ppm	0.59	0.053	0.49	0.70	0.43	0.75	8.97%	17.93%	26.90%	0.56	0.62
In, ppm	0.069	0.005	0.060	0.079	0.055	0.084	6.85%	13.70%	20.55%	0.066	0.073
K, wt. %	2.97	0.071	2.83	3.11	2.76	3.18	2.39%	4.78%	7.16%	2.82	3.12
La, ppm	42.1	1.71	38.6	45.5	36.9	47.2	4.06%	8.11%	12.17%	39.9	44.2
Li, ppm	51	2.3	46	55	44	57	4.54%	9.08%	13.62%	48	53
Lu, ppm	0.27	0.026	0.22	0.32	0.19	0.35	9.57%	19.14%	28.72%	0.26	0.29
Mg, wt. %	1.51	0.054	1.40	1.62	1.34	1.67	3.61%	7.23%	10.84%	1.43	1.58
Mn, wt. %	0.063	0.002	0.059	0.066	0.057	0.068	2.84%	5.68%	8.53%	0.059	0.066
Mo, ppm	0.96	0.077	0.81	1.11	0.73	1.19	7.99%	15.98%	23.97%	0.91	1.01
Na, wt. %	0.520	0.015	0.490	0.550	0.475	0.565	2.88%	5.75%	8.63%	0.494	0.546
Nb, ppm	13.5	0.88	11.7	15.3	10.9	16.1	6.49%	12.97%	19.46%	12.8	14.2
Nd, ppm	36.3	1.50	33.3	39.3	31.8	40.8	4.14%	8.28%	12.42%	34.5	38.1
Ni, ppm	58	1.7	54	61	53	63	2.94%	5.89%	8.83%	55	61
P, wt. %	0.062	0.002	0.058	0.065	0.056	0.067	3.13%	6.27%	9.40%	0.058	0.065
Pb, ppm	24.1	1.49	21.1	27.1	19.6	28.6	6.19%	12.39%	18.58%	22.9	25.3
Pr, ppm	9.56	0.669	8.22	10.90	7.55	11.57	7.00%	14.00%	21.00%	9.08	10.04
Rb, ppm	176	8	161	191	153	199	4.32%	8.64%	12.96%	167	185
Re, ppm	< 0.002	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
S, wt. %	0.555	0.010	0.534	0.575	0.524	0.586	1.86%	3.72%	5.58%	0.527	0.582
Sb, wt. %	0.833	0.019	0.794	0.872	0.775	0.892	2.33%	4.67%	7.00%	0.792	0.875
Sc, ppm	14.3	0.78	12.7	15.8	11.9	16.6	5.44%	10.87%	16.31%	13.6	15.0
Se, ppm	2.71	0.57	1.57	3.85	1.00	4.42	21.03%	42.07%	63.10%	2.57	2.84
Sm, ppm	6.73	0.314	6.10	7.36	5.79	7.67	4.66%	9.32%	13.98%	6.39	7.07

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt. % (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note 1: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding. IND = indeterminate.

Note 2: the number of decimal places quoted does not imply accuracy of the certified value to this level but are given to minimise rounding errors when calculating 2SD and 3SD windows.

Table 6 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	Absolute Standard Deviations					Relative Standard Deviations			5 % window	
		1SD	2SD Low	2SD High	3SD Low	3SD High	1RSD	2RSD	3RSD	Low	High
4-Acid Digestion continued											
Sn, ppm	4.00	0.376	3.25	4.75	2.87	5.13	9.40%	18.79%	28.19%	3.80	4.20
Sr, ppm	91	2.3	86	95	84	98	2.48%	4.96%	7.45%	86	95
Ta, ppm	1.05	0.075	0.90	1.20	0.82	1.27	7.16%	14.32%	21.48%	0.99	1.10
Tb, ppm	0.61	0.027	0.55	0.66	0.53	0.69	4.44%	8.89%	13.33%	0.58	0.64
Te, ppm	0.072	0.015	0.041	0.102	0.025	0.118	21.49%	42.98%	64.46%	0.068	0.075
Th, ppm	15.9	0.78	14.3	17.4	13.5	18.2	4.93%	9.86%	14.79%	15.1	16.7
Ti, wt. %	0.397	0.022	0.353	0.441	0.330	0.463	5.55%	11.11%	16.66%	0.377	0.416
Tl, ppm	0.91	0.059	0.80	1.03	0.74	1.09	6.50%	13.01%	19.51%	0.87	0.96
U, ppm	2.92	0.160	2.60	3.24	2.44	3.40	5.50%	11.00%	16.50%	2.77	3.06
V, ppm	105	3	98	112	94	115	3.28%	6.56%	9.84%	99	110
W, ppm	3.13	0.46	2.21	4.04	1.75	4.50	14.71%	29.42%	44.12%	2.97	3.28
Y, ppm	16.0	0.62	14.7	17.2	14.1	17.9	3.91%	7.82%	11.72%	15.2	16.8
Yb, ppm	1.71	0.17	1.37	2.05	1.20	2.22	10.01%	20.02%	30.03%	1.62	1.79
Zn, ppm	105	3	100	110	98	113	2.40%	4.79%	7.19%	100	110
Zr, ppm	130	5	120	140	115	146	3.94%	7.88%	11.83%	124	137
Aqua Regia Digestion											
Ag, ppm	0.215	0.021	0.174	0.256	0.153	0.276	9.55%	19.10%	28.65%	0.204	0.226
Al, wt. %	2.55	0.192	2.17	2.94	1.98	3.13	7.51%	15.02%	22.52%	2.43	2.68
As, ppm	263	21	221	304	200	325	7.91%	15.81%	23.72%	250	276
Ba, ppm	113	4	105	120	102	124	3.27%	6.54%	9.82%	107	118
Be, ppm	1.19	0.14	0.90	1.47	0.75	1.62	12.12%	24.24%	36.35%	1.13	1.25
Bi, ppm	0.39	0.016	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.44	4.21%	8.42%	12.64%	0.37	0.41
Ca, wt. %	0.300	0.009	0.282	0.318	0.273	0.327	3.02%	6.04%	9.06%	0.285	0.315
Cd, ppm	0.054	0.011	0.033	0.076	0.022	0.086	19.58%	39.16%	58.75%	0.052	0.057
Ce, ppm	46.2	5.4	35.3	57.0	29.9	62.5	11.74%	23.49%	35.23%	43.9	48.5
Co, ppm	14.1	0.93	12.2	15.9	11.3	16.8	6.61%	13.22%	19.83%	13.3	14.8
Cr, ppm	101	3	95	108	91	111	3.21%	6.43%	9.64%	96	106
Cs, ppm	7.68	0.509	6.67	8.70	6.16	9.21	6.63%	13.25%	19.88%	7.30	8.07
Cu, ppm	35.3	1.22	32.8	37.7	31.6	38.9	3.47%	6.94%	10.40%	33.5	37.0
Fe, wt. %	3.78	0.083	3.61	3.95	3.53	4.03	2.20%	4.41%	6.61%	3.59	3.97
Ga, ppm	7.85	0.609	6.64	9.07	6.03	9.68	7.75%	15.50%	23.26%	7.46	8.25
Ge, ppm	0.10	0.02	0.06	0.14	0.04	0.16	19.70%	39.41%	59.11%	0.10	0.11
Hf, ppm	0.52	0.038	0.45	0.60	0.41	0.63	7.28%	14.56%	21.84%	0.49	0.55
Hg, ppm	0.033	0.007	0.018	0.047	0.011	0.054	21.93%	43.87%	65.80%	0.031	0.034
In, ppm	0.030	0.002	0.027	0.034	0.026	0.035	5.06%	10.11%	15.17%	0.029	0.032
K, wt. %	0.875	0.056	0.763	0.987	0.707	1.043	6.40%	12.81%	19.21%	0.831	0.919
La, ppm	24.9	4.5	16.0	33.9	11.5	38.3	17.97%	35.94%	53.92%	23.7	26.2
Li, ppm	38.5	2.25	33.9	43.0	31.7	45.2	5.86%	11.72%	17.58%	36.5	40.4
Mg, wt. %	1.30	0.058	1.18	1.41	1.12	1.47	4.50%	9.01%	13.51%	1.23	1.36
Mn, wt. %	0.056	0.002	0.052	0.060	0.050	0.062	3.71%	7.42%	11.13%	0.053	0.059
Mo, ppm	0.81	0.039	0.74	0.89	0.70	0.93	4.80%	9.61%	14.41%	0.77	0.86
Na, wt. %	0.035	0.006	0.023	0.047	0.017	0.053	16.77%	33.55%	50.32%	0.033	0.037
Nb, ppm	0.38	0.09	0.21	0.56	0.12	0.64	22.64%	45.28%	67.93%	0.36	0.40

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt. % (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note 1: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding. IND = indeterminate.

Note 2: the number of decimal places quoted does not imply accuracy of the certified value to this level but are given to minimise rounding errors when calculating 2SD and 3SD windows.

Table 6 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	Absolute Standard Deviations					Relative Standard Deviations			5 % window	
		1SD	2SD Low	2SD High	3SD Low	3SD High	1RSD	2RSD	3RSD	Low	High
Aqua Regia Digestion continued											
Ni, ppm	55	2.3	51	60	48	62	4.10%	8.20%	12.30%	53	58
P, wt. %	0.055	0.002	0.051	0.059	0.050	0.060	3.28%	6.57%	9.85%	0.052	0.058
Pb, ppm	14.7	1.00	12.7	16.7	11.7	17.7	6.77%	13.55%	20.32%	14.0	15.5
Re, ppm	< 0.001	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
S, wt. %	0.557	0.018	0.521	0.593	0.503	0.611	3.25%	6.49%	9.74%	0.529	0.585
Sb, wt. %	0.727	0.040	0.647	0.807	0.607	0.847	5.52%	11.03%	16.55%	0.691	0.763
Sc, ppm	6.71	0.503	5.70	7.71	5.20	8.22	7.50%	15.00%	22.50%	6.37	7.04
Se, ppm	2.08	0.179	1.72	2.44	1.54	2.61	8.59%	17.19%	25.78%	1.97	2.18
Sn, ppm	1.32	0.090	1.14	1.50	1.05	1.58	6.80%	13.60%	20.41%	1.25	1.38
Sr, ppm	29.1	1.62	25.9	32.3	24.2	33.9	5.55%	11.11%	16.66%	27.6	30.5
Ta, ppm	< 0.01	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
Th, ppm	12.3	1.3	9.6	15.0	8.3	16.3	10.83%	21.67%	32.50%	11.7	12.9
Ti, wt. %	0.110	0.006	0.099	0.122	0.093	0.128	5.22%	10.44%	15.67%	0.105	0.116
Tl, ppm	0.53	0.026	0.48	0.58	0.46	0.61	4.84%	9.68%	14.52%	0.51	0.56
U, ppm	1.48	0.18	1.12	1.84	0.94	2.01	12.08%	24.15%	36.23%	1.40	1.55
V, ppm	66	2.4	62	71	59	73	3.57%	7.14%	10.72%	63	70
W, ppm	0.56	0.09	0.39	0.74	0.30	0.83	15.87%	31.73%	47.60%	0.54	0.59
Y, ppm	8.31	0.766	6.78	9.84	6.01	10.60	9.22%	18.43%	27.65%	7.89	8.72
Zn, ppm	94	3.6	87	101	84	105	3.78%	7.56%	11.34%	90	99
Zr, ppm	18.8	1.60	15.6	22.0	14.0	23.6	8.52%	17.03%	25.55%	17.9	19.8

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ )  $\equiv$  mg/kg; wt. % (weight per cent)  $\equiv$  % (mass fraction).

Note 1: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding. IND = indeterminate.

Note 2: the number of decimal places quoted does not imply accuracy of the certified value to this level but are given to minimise rounding errors when calculating 2SD and 3SD windows.

## PREPARER AND SUPPLIER

Certified reference material OREAS 290b is prepared, certified and supplied by:

ORE Research & Exploration Pty Ltd  
37A Hosie Street  
Bayswater North VIC 3153  
AUSTRALIA

Tel: +613-9729 0333  
Web: [www.oreas.com](http://www.oreas.com)  
Email: [info@ore.com.au](mailto:info@ore.com.au)



## PARTICIPATING LABORATORIES

1. Accura Geomysore Labs Private Limited, Jonnagiri, Kurnool, India
2. Accura Gold Minerals Testing, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India
3. Actlabs, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada
4. African Natural Resources & Mines Ltd, Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria
5. AGAT Laboratories, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
6. ALS, Brisbane, QLD, Australia
7. ALS, Canning Vale, WA, Australia
8. ALS, Kalgoorlie, WA, Australia
9. ALS, Lima, Peru
10. ALS, Loughrea, Galway, Ireland
11. ALS, Malaga, WA, Australia
12. ALS, Vancouver, BC, Canada
13. American Assay Laboratories, Sparks, Nevada, USA
14. ANSTO, Lucas Heights, NSW, Australia
15. ARGETEST Mineral Processing, Ankara, Central Anatolia, Turkey
16. Britannia Mining Solutions, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
17. Bureau Veritas Geoanalytical, Perth, WA, Australia
18. Gekko Assay Labs, Ballarat, VIC, Australia
19. Intertek, Perth, WA, Australia
20. Intertek, Townsville, QLD, Australia
21. Intertek Minerals Ltd, Tarkwa, Western Region, Ghana
22. MSA ENVAL Laboratories, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire
23. MSALABS, Prince George, BC, Canada
24. MSALABS, Val-d'Or, Quebec, Canada
25. MSALABS Timmins, Timmins, Ontario, Canada
26. Nagrom, Perth, WA, Australia
27. On Site Laboratory Services, Bendigo, VIC, Australia
28. Paragon Geochemical Laboratories, Sparks, Nevada, USA
29. Paragon Geochemical Laboratories, Surrey, BC, Canada
30. PT Geoservices Ltd, Cikarang, Jakarta Raya, Indonesia
31. PT Indo Mineral Research, Bungursari, West Java, Indonesia
32. PT Intertek Utama Services, Jakarta Timur, DKI Jakarta, Indonesia
33. Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
34. SGS del Peru, Lima, Peru
35. SGS Geosol Laboratorios Ltda, Vespasiano, Minas Gerais, Brazil
36. SGS Tarkwa, Tarkwa, Western Region, Ghana
37. Shiva Analyticals Ltd, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India
38. Skyline Assayers & Laboratories, Tucson, Arizona, USA
39. Stewart Assay & Environmental Laboratories LLC, Kara-Balta, Chüy, Kyrgyzstan
40. UIS Analytical Services, Centurion, South Africa

***Please note: To maintain anonymity of participating laboratories, the alphabetical list above does not correspond to the Lab ID numbers shown in the scatter plots below.***



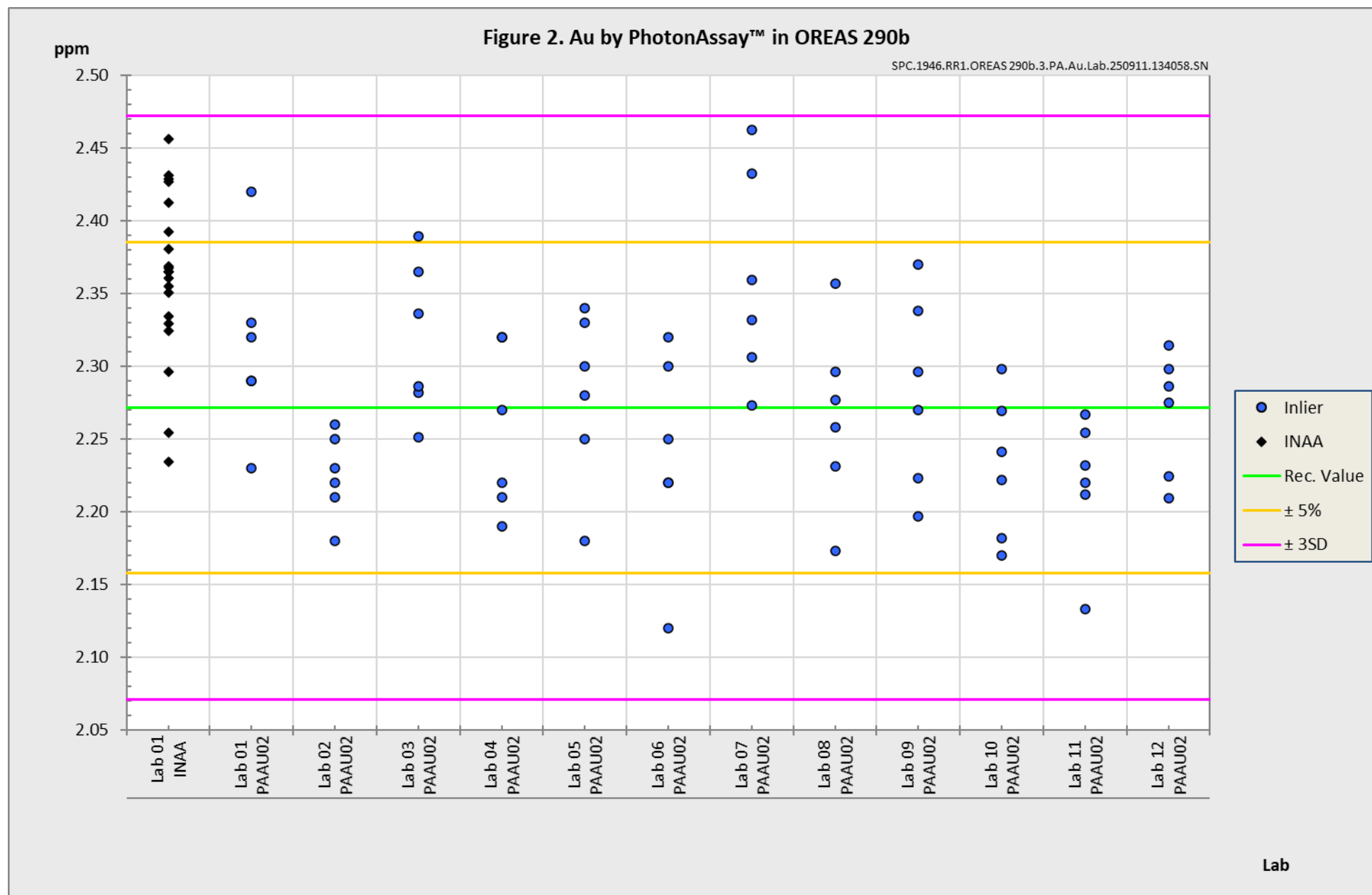


Figure 3. Au by Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g) in OREAS 290b

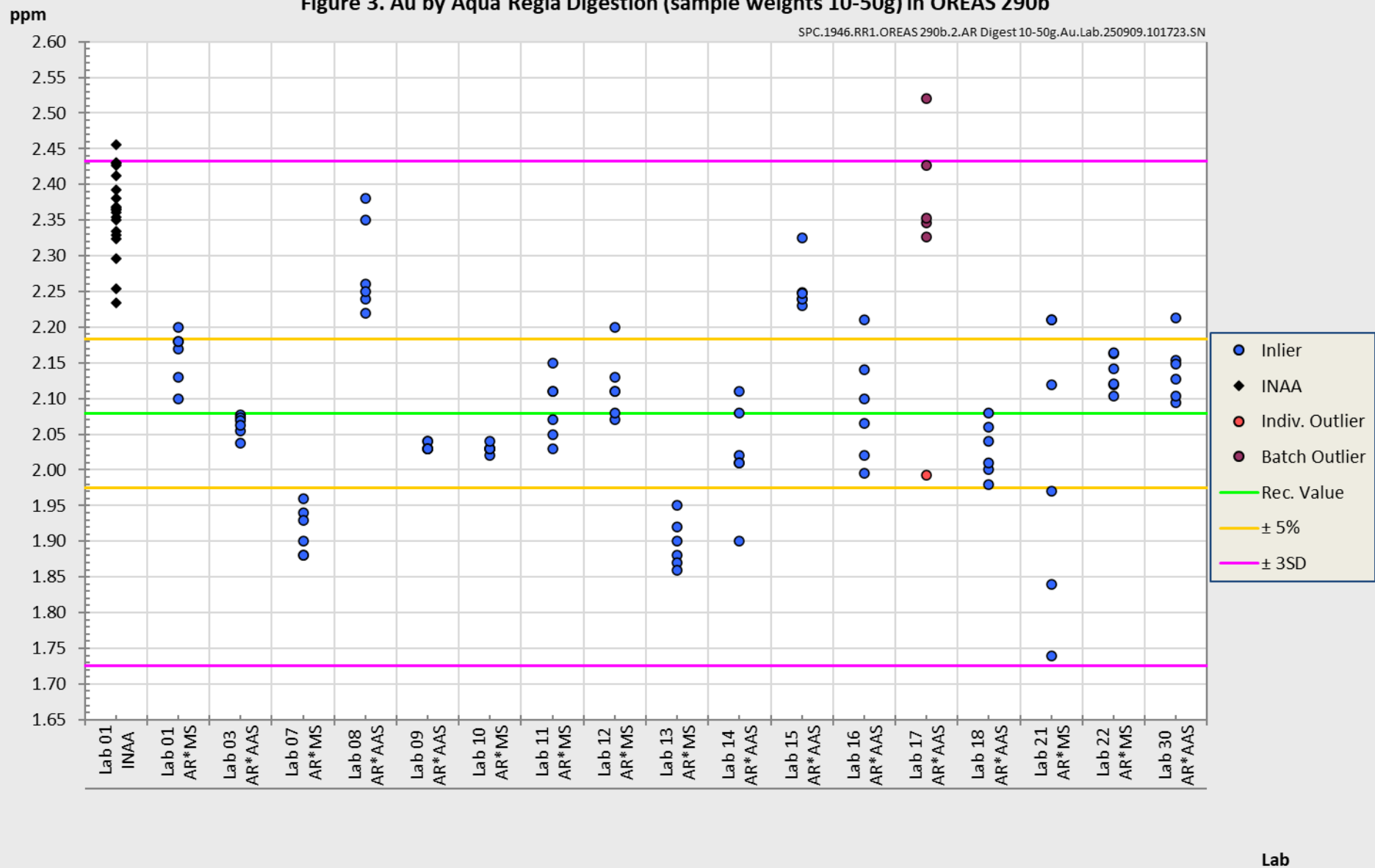


Figure 4. Sb by Peroxide Fusion ICP in OREAS 290b

SPC.1946.RR1.OREAS 290b.2.PF ICP.Sb.Lab.250909.101841.SS

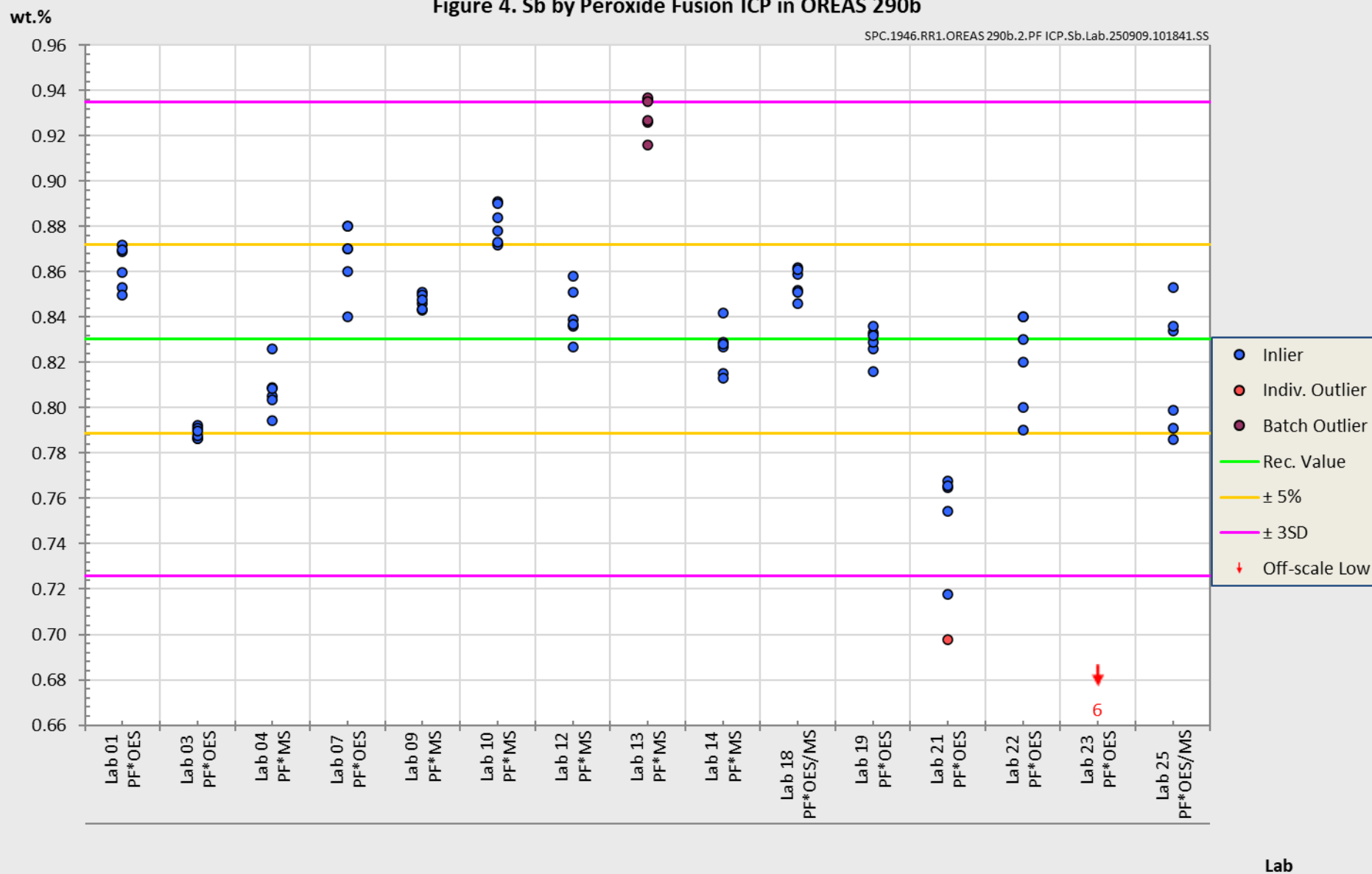
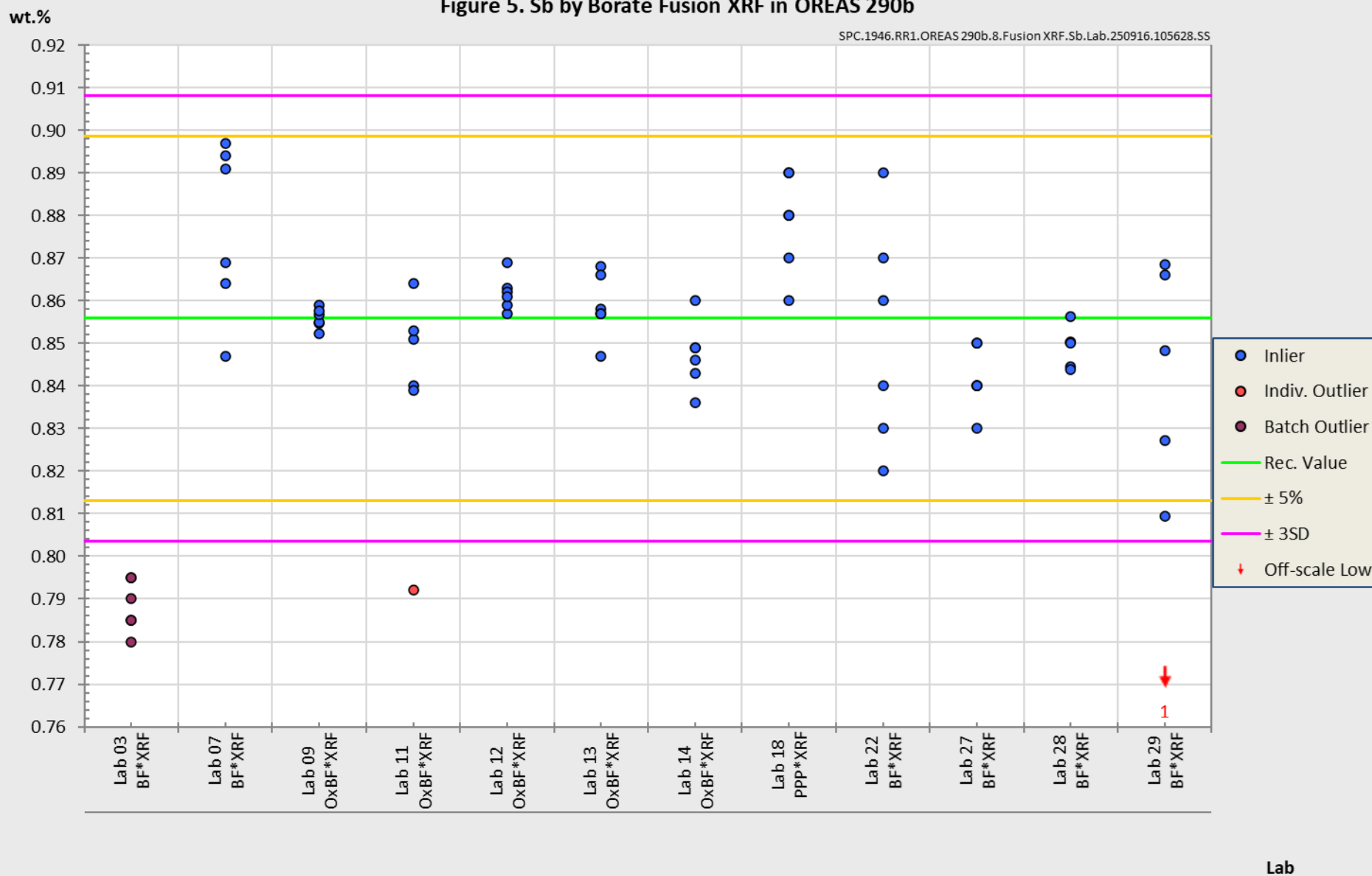


Figure 5. Sb by Borate Fusion XRF in OREAS 290b



## METROLOGICAL TRACEABILITY

The interlaboratory results that underpin the certified values are metrologically traceable to the international measurement scale (SI) of mass (either as a % mass fraction or as milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg)) [14]. In line with popular use, all data within tables in this certificate are expressed as the mass fraction in either weight percent (wt.%) or parts per million (ppm).

The analytical samples sent to participating laboratories were selected in a manner to be representative of the entire prepared batch of CRM. This representativeness was maintained in each submitted laboratory sample batch and ensures the user that the data is traceable from sample selection through to the analytical results. The systematic sampling method was chosen due to the low risk of overlooking repetitive effects or trends in the batch due to the way the CRM was processed. In line with ISO 17025 [8], each analytical data set received from the participating laboratories has been validated by its assayer through the inclusion of internal reference materials and QC checks during and post analysis.

Participating laboratories were selected based on demonstrated analytical competence, including prior performance in interlaboratory comparison programs conducted by ORE Pty Ltd, with consideration given to their expertise in relevant analytical methods, measurands, and sample matrices. For the measurands reported in this certificate (Table 1), data were sourced from laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. Where formal accreditation was not held for specific operationally defined measurands, metrological traceability was verified through the use of well-characterised, independently certified reference materials (CRMs) included as control samples in the round robin study.

In accordance with ISO 33405:2024-05 [5], clause 9.2.5, and ISO 17034:2016 [9], clause 7.12.4 b), the use of such control samples provides an acceptable means of demonstrating traceability in the absence of formal accreditation. In this certification program, traceability was further supported by the agreement of measured values for control samples with their known certified values, thereby offering additional confidence in the calibration and validity of measurement results across participating laboratories.

### Operationally Defined Measurands

In accordance with ISO 33405:2024-05, Clause 9.2.4, measurands (analytes) may be certified as operationally defined. For these measurands, traceability to the SI may not be achievable because the analytical procedure involves sample transformations (e.g., leaching or extraction). While instrument calibration can be traceable to appropriate units, the transformation steps themselves are not directly traceable and can only be evaluated through reference comparisons or harmonized procedures.

Accordingly, characterisation of these measurands has been based on the concordance of results obtained from multiple laboratories using a common, well-defined procedure. This approach ensures fitness-for-purpose and fulfils the requirements for metrological traceability as specified in ISO 17034 and ISO 33405 for operationally defined measurands.

## COMMUTABILITY

The certified values reported herein are derived from measurements performed using analytical methods involving sample pre-treatment steps, such as fusion or acid digestion. These processes convert the sample matrix into a chemically simplified and stable form,

facilitating calibration traceable to primary standards via solution-based calibration protocols. Due to the established robustness and effectiveness of these pre-treatment methods, issues related to commutability are not expected to impact the suitability of this Certified Reference Material (CRM) for its intended use.

OREAS CRMs are prepared from natural ore materials, ensuring they retain matrix and mineralogical characteristics representative of typical exploration, mining, and process samples. Consistent with ISO 17034:2016 and ISO Guide 30, users are advised to select CRMs with matrix and mineralisation styles closely matching those of their routine samples to minimize matrix effects and enhance analytical comparability. Detailed descriptions of the CRM's source material and mineralogical characteristics are provided in the 'Source Material' section to guide appropriate CRM selection.

## INTENDED USE

OREAS 290b is intended to cover all activities needed to produce a measurement result. This includes extraction, possible separation steps and the actual measurement process (the signal producing step). OREAS 290b may be used to calibrate the entire procedure by producing a pure substance CRM transformed into a calibration solution.

OREAS 290b is intended for the following uses:

- For the monitoring of laboratory performance in the analysis of analytes reported in Table 1 in geological samples;
- For the verification/ validation of analytical methods for analytes reported in Table 1;
- For the calibration of instruments used in the determination of the concentration of analytes reported in Table 1. When a value provided in this certificate is used to calibrate a measurement process, the uncertainty associated with that value should be appropriately propagated into the user's uncertainty calculation. Users can determine an approximation of the standard uncertainty by calculating one fourth of the width of the Expanded Uncertainty interval given in this certificate (Expanded Uncertainty intervals are provided in Tables 1).

## MINIMUM SAMPLE SIZE

To relate analytical determinations to the values in this certificate, the minimum mass of sample used should match the typical mass that the laboratories used in the interlaboratory (round robin) certification program. This means that different minimum sample masses should be used depending on the operationally defined methodology as follows:

- Au by lead fire assay:  $\geq 25$  g;
- Au by PhotonAssay™: recommended gross fill mass\* 410-440 g;
- Au by aqua regia digestion ICP finish:  $\geq 10$  g.;
- Peroxide fusion with ICP finish:  $\geq 0.1$  g;
- Borate fusion with X-ray fluorescence finish:  $\geq 0.2$  g;
- 4-acid digestion with ICP-OES and/or MS finish:  $\geq 0.25$  g;
- Aqua regia digestion with ICP-OES and/or MS finish:  $\geq 0.5$  g;

*\*Recommended gross fill mass refers to the mass of the jar assembly, including jar base, lid, and contents. This fill range was developed using a ~40g empty jar but should be achievable for any jar-lid combination.*



## PERIOD OF VALIDITY & STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

The certification of OREAS 290b remains valid, within the specified measurement uncertainties, until at least October 2039, provided the CRM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given below. This certification is nullified if the CRM is any way changed or contaminated.

Store in a clean and cool dry place away from direct sunlight.

Long-term stability will be monitored at appropriate intervals and purchasers notified if any changes are observed. The period of validity may well be indefinite and will be reassessed prior to expiry with the aim of extending the validity if possible.

### Single-use sachets

OREAS 290b is packaged in single-use, 10 g and 60 g laminated foil sachets. Following analysis, it is the manufacturer's expectation that any remaining material is discarded. It is the user's responsibility to prevent contamination and avoid prolonged exposure of the sample to the atmosphere prior to analysis.

### Repeat-use packaging (e.g., 1 kg plastic jars)

After taking a subsample, users should replace the lid of the jar promptly and securely to prevent accidental spills and airborne contamination. OREAS 290b contains a non-hygroscopic\* matrix with an indicative value for moisture provided to enable users to check for changes to stored material by determining moisture in the user's laboratory and comparing the result to the value in Table 3 in this certificate.

The stability of the CRM in regard to oxidation from the breakdown of sulphide minerals to sulphates is minimal given its low sulphur concentration (0.56 wt.% S).

\*A non-hygroscopic matrix means exposure to atmospheres significantly different, in terms of temperature and humidity, from the climate during manufacturing should have negligible impact on the precision of results. Hygroscopic moisture is the amount of adsorbed moisture (weakly held H<sub>2</sub>O- molecules on the surface of exposed material) following exposure to the local atmosphere. Usually, equilibration of material to the local atmosphere will only occur if the material is spread into a thin (~2mm thick) layer and left exposed for a period of 2 hours.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING & CORRECT USE

Fine powders pose a risk to eyes and lungs and therefore standard precautions including the use of safety glasses and dust masks are advised.

Pre-homogenisation of the CRM prior to subsampling and analysis is not necessary as there is no particle segregation under transport [12].

As per routine analysis at commercial laboratories, the certified values derived by borate fusion with XRF finish are on a dry sample basis.

Analytes by all other methods refer to the concentration levels in the packaged state. There is no need for drying prior to weighing and analysis for these methods.

## **Authoritative Source of Information**

This Certificate of Analysis constitutes the primary and authoritative document for the certified values, associated expanded uncertainties, and their correct use. While the accompanying DataPack provides supporting information, including raw data and uncertainty estimates with additional significant figures, these extended figures are provided solely for transparency, convenience and statistical reference. Users must rely exclusively on the values stated in this Certificate, rounded to an appropriate number of significant figures, for all metrological and analytical purposes. Any discrepancy between values presented in the DataPack and those in this Certificate shall be resolved in favour of the information provided herein.

## **QC monitoring using multiples of the Standard Deviation (SD)**

In the application of SD's in monitoring performance it is important to note that not all laboratories function at the same level of proficiency and that different methods in use at a particular laboratory have differing levels of precision. Each laboratory has its own inherent SD (for a specific concentration level and analyte-method pair) based on the analytical process and this SD is not directly related to the round robin program.

The majority of data generated in the round robin program was produced by a selection of world class laboratories. The SD's thus generated are more constrained than those that would be produced across a randomly selected group of laboratories. To produce more generally achievable SD's the 'pooled' SD's provided in this report include interlaboratory bias. This 'one size fits all' approach may require revision at the discretion of the QC manager concerned following careful scrutiny of QC control charts.

The performance gates shown in Table 6 are intended only to be used as a preliminary guide as to what a laboratory may be able to achieve. Over a period of time monitoring your own laboratory's data for this CRM, SD's should be calculated directly from your own laboratory's process. This will enable you to establish more specific performance gates that are fit for purpose for your application as well as the ability to monitor bias. If your long-term trend analysis shows an average value that is within the 95 % expanded uncertainty then generally there is no cause for concern in regard to bias.

## **For use with the aqua regia digestion method**

It is important to note that in the analytical industry there is no standardisation of the aqua regia digestion process. This method is a partial empirical digest and differences in recoveries for various analytes are commonplace. These are caused by variations in the digest conditions and can include the ratio of nitric to hydrochloric acids, acid strength, temperatures, leach times and secondary digestions. Recoveries for sulphide-hosted base metal sulphides approach total values, however, other analytes, in particular the lithophile elements, show greater sensitivity to method parameters. This can result in lack of consensus in an inter-laboratory certification program for these elements.

The approach applied here is to report certified values in those instances where reasonable agreement exists amongst a majority of participating laboratories. The results of specific laboratories may differ significantly from the certified values, but will, nonetheless, be valid and reproducible in the context of the specifics of the aqua regia method in use. Users of this reference material should, therefore, be mindful of this limitation when applying the certified values in a quality control program.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Ore Research & Exploration Pty Ltd has prepared and statistically evaluated the property values of this reference material to the best of its ability. The Purchaser by receipt hereof releases and indemnifies Ore Research & Exploration Pty Ltd from and against all liability and costs arising from the use of this material and information.

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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Revision No.	Date	Changes applied
0	22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2025	First publication.

## CERTIFYING OFFICER

Craig Hamlyn (B.Sc. Hons - Geology), Technical Manager - ORE P/L

## QMS CERTIFICATION

ORE Pty Ltd is accredited for compliance with ISO 17034:2016 (Accreditation number 20483).



ORE Pty Ltd is ISO 9001:2015 certified by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd for its quality management system including development, manufacturing, certification and supply of CRMs.



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