

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS FOR

CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIAL
OREAS 291b

Gold-Antimony Ore (Costerfield, VIC, Australia)



Accredited for compliance with ISO 17034



COA-1946-OREAS 291b-R1
BUP-70-10-01 Ver:2.0

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Table 1. Certified Values, Uncertainty & Tolerance Intervals in OREAS 291b.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
Pb Fire Assay					
Au, Gold (ppm)	4.26	4.20	4.32	4.25*	4.27*
Bi Fire Assay					
Au, Gold (ppm)	4.35	4.27	4.43	4.34*	4.36*
PhotonAssay™ (recommended gross mass 440-470 g)					
Au, Gold (ppm)	4.42	4.37	4.47	4.41*	4.42*
Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g)					
Au, Gold (ppm)	3.95	3.86	4.05	3.94*	3.97*
Peroxide Fusion ICP					
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	1.56	1.49	1.63	1.52	1.60
Borate Fusion XRF					
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	1.59	1.55	1.62	1.57	1.61
4-Acid Digestion					
Ag, Silver (ppm)	0.325	0.294	0.357	0.293	0.357
Al, Aluminium (wt.%)	7.39	7.16	7.63	7.24	7.55
As, Arsenic (ppm)	401	392	409	393	409
Ba, Barium (ppm)	697	673	720	687	706
Be, Beryllium (ppm)	2.50	2.41	2.58	2.43	2.57
Bi, Bismuth (ppm)	0.75	0.69	0.81	0.71	0.79
Ca, Calcium (wt.%)	0.383	0.371	0.395	0.377	0.389
Ce, Cerium (ppm)	81	76	86	79	83
Co, Cobalt (ppm)	15.9	15.2	16.7	15.5	16.3
Cr, Chromium (ppm)	134	129	139	130	139
Cs, Caesium (ppm)	11.3	10.8	11.8	11.0	11.6
Cu, Copper (ppm)	53	51	55	52	55
Dy, Dysprosium (ppm)	3.21	2.81	3.61	3.04	3.38
Er, Erbium (ppm)	1.61	1.36	1.86	1.55	1.67
Eu, Europium (ppm)	1.18	1.08	1.28	1.11	1.25
Fe, Iron (wt.%)	3.85	3.75	3.95	3.79	3.91
Ga, Gallium (ppm)	20.0	19.1	20.9	19.5	20.6
Gd, Gadolinium (ppm)	4.56	4.11	5.01	4.41	4.70
Hf, Hafnium (ppm)	3.79	3.57	4.00	3.66	3.91
Ho, Holmium (ppm)	0.59	0.51	0.66	0.55	0.63
In, Indium (ppm)	0.076	0.060	0.093	0.067	0.085
K, Potassium (wt.%)	3.00	2.91	3.08	2.93	3.07
La, Lanthanum (ppm)	42.0	39.8	44.1	40.8	43.1
Li, Lithium (ppm)	49.3	47.2	51.4	48.3	50.3
Lu, Lutetium (ppm)	0.27	0.24	0.31	0.24	0.30

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

*Gold Tolerance Limits for typical 30 g lead/bismuth collection fire assay, 440-470 g PhotonAssay™ and 25 g aqua regia digestion methods are determined from 20×85 mg INAA results and the Sampling Constant (Ingamells & Switzer, 1973).

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

Table 1 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
4-Acid Digestion continued					
Mg, Magnesium (wt.%)	1.47	1.43	1.52	1.44	1.50
Mn, Manganese (wt.%)	0.046	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.047
Mo, Molybdenum (ppm)	2.17	2.00	2.34	2.07	2.27
Na, Sodium (wt.%)	0.508	0.492	0.524	0.495	0.521
Nb, Niobium (ppm)	13.0	11.7	14.2	12.4	13.5
Nd, Neodymium (ppm)	35.8	33.7	38.0	35.2	36.4
Ni, Nickel (ppm)	58	55	60	56	59
P, Phosphorus (wt.%)	0.054	0.052	0.056	0.052	0.055
Pb, Lead (ppm)	48.6	46.2	51.0	47.1	50.1
Pr, Praseodymium (ppm)	9.41	8.44	10.39	9.17	9.66
Rb, Rubidium (ppm)	176	169	183	170	182
Re, Rhenium (ppm)	0.004	0.002	0.005	IND	IND
S, Sulphur (wt.%)	0.818	0.798	0.838	0.807	0.829
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	1.41	1.32	1.50	1.36	1.46
Sc, Scandium (ppm)	14.1	13.3	14.8	13.7	14.5
Se, Selenium (ppm)	3.65	2.98	4.33	3.03	4.28
Sm, Samarium (ppm)	6.57	5.99	7.15	6.32	6.82
Sn, Tin (ppm)	4.54	3.77	5.30	3.72	5.35
Sr, Strontium (ppm)	95	92	98	93	97
Ta, Tantalum (ppm)	1.01	0.94	1.08	0.97	1.05
Tb, Terbium (ppm)	0.60	0.55	0.66	0.57	0.63
Th, Thorium (ppm)	15.9	15.2	16.6	15.4	16.4
Ti, Titanium (wt.%)	0.375	0.348	0.402	0.365	0.385
Tl, Thallium (ppm)	0.93	0.88	0.98	0.90	0.96
U, Uranium (ppm)	2.89	2.74	3.05	2.79	3.00
V, Vanadium (ppm)	100	97	104	98	103
Y, Yttrium (ppm)	15.6	14.9	16.4	14.9	16.4
Yb, Ytterbium (ppm)	1.68	1.46	1.90	1.62	1.74
Zn, Zinc (ppm)	120	116	123	116	123
Zr, Zirconium (ppm)	129	124	134	126	133
Aqua Regia Digestion					
Ag, Silver (ppm)	0.310	0.286	0.334	0.287	0.333
Al, Aluminium (wt.%)	2.40	2.26	2.55	2.35	2.45
As, Arsenic (ppm)	366	349	383	357	375
Ba, Barium (ppm)	103	98	107	99	106
Be, Beryllium (ppm)	1.20	1.10	1.31	1.17	1.24
Bi, Bismuth (ppm)	0.78	0.72	0.83	0.75	0.81

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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).

Table 1 continued.

Constituent	Certified Value	95% Expanded Uncertainty		95% Tolerance Limits	
		Low	High	Low	High
Aqua Regia Digestion continued					
Ca, Calcium (wt.%)	0.250	0.241	0.258	0.240	0.259
Cd, Cadmium (ppm)	0.070	0.053	0.087	IND	IND
Ce, Cerium (ppm)	44.9	41.1	48.8	43.4	46.4
Ce, Cerium (ppm)	44.9	41.1	48.8	43.4	46.4
Co, Cobalt (ppm)	14.8	14.1	15.6	14.4	15.3
Cr, Chromium (ppm)	97	94	99	95	98
Cs, Caesium (ppm)	7.32	6.93	7.71	7.11	7.53
Cu, Copper (ppm)	52	51	54	51	54
Fe, Iron (wt.%)	3.44	3.36	3.52	3.39	3.49
Ga, Gallium (ppm)	7.40	6.81	7.99	7.11	7.69
Ge, Germanium (ppm)	0.097	0.077	0.117	IND	IND
Hf, Hafnium (ppm)	0.46	0.38	0.55	0.44	0.49
Hg, Mercury (ppm)	0.068	0.056	0.080	IND	IND
In, Indium (ppm)	0.036	0.032	0.039	0.033	0.038
K, Potassium (wt.%)	0.863	0.824	0.903	0.848	0.879
La, Lanthanum (ppm)	23.1	20.4	25.8	22.2	24.0
Li, Lithium (ppm)	35.8	33.2	38.4	34.9	36.7
Mg, Magnesium (wt.%)	1.23	1.20	1.27	1.21	1.26
Mn, Manganese (wt.%)	0.040	0.039	0.041	0.039	0.041
Mo, Molybdenum (ppm)	1.97	1.86	2.08	1.89	2.05
Na, Sodium (wt.%)	0.032	0.028	0.037	0.031	0.034
Ni, Nickel (ppm)	55	52	58	53	57
P, Phosphorus (wt.%)	0.046	0.044	0.048	0.045	0.048
Pb, Lead (ppm)	39.9	37.8	42.0	38.7	41.1
Rb, Rubidium (ppm)	77	72	81	75	78
Re, Rhenium (ppm)	0.004	0.003	0.005	IND	IND
S, Sulphur (wt.%)	0.818	0.802	0.834	0.804	0.831
Sb, Antimony (wt.%)	1.26	1.02	1.51	1.21	1.31
Sc, Scandium (ppm)	6.29	5.86	6.72	6.06	6.51
Se, Selenium (ppm)	2.94	2.60	3.28	2.64	3.24
Sn, Tin (ppm)	1.80	1.67	1.93	1.54	2.06
Sr, Strontium (ppm)	34.2	32.5	35.8	33.1	35.3
Ta, Tantalum (ppm)	< 0.01	IND	IND	IND	IND
Te, Tellurium (ppm)	0.057	0.041	0.073	IND	IND
Th, Thorium (ppm)	11.3	10.5	12.2	11.0	11.6
Ti, Titanium (wt.%)	0.095	0.092	0.099	0.092	0.099
Tl, Thallium (ppm)	0.54	0.50	0.57	0.51	0.56

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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					
U, Uranium (ppm)	1.41	1.31	1.52	1.36	1.47
V, Vanadium (ppm)	60	58	62	58	62
W, Tungsten (ppm)	0.93	0.74	1.12	0.81	1.05
Y, Yttrium (ppm)	8.01	7.45	8.57	7.70	8.33
Zn, Zinc (ppm)	109	106	112	107	111
Zr, Zirconium (ppm)	16.1	14.0	18.2	15.5	16.7

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

Note: intervals may appear asymmetric due to rounding.

Table 2. Indicative Values for OREAS 291b.

Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value	Constituent	Unit	Value
Peroxide Fusion ICP								
Al	wt.%	7.70	K	wt.%	3.24	S	wt.%	0.807
B	ppm	91	La	ppm	38.2	Si	wt.%	30.64
Ca	wt.%	0.388	Mg	wt.%	1.53	Ti	wt.%	0.420
Co	ppm	16.4	Mn	wt.%	0.046	V	ppm	132
Fe	wt.%	3.81	P	wt.%	0.057	Zn	ppm	108
Borate fusion XRF								
Al ₂ O ₃	wt.%	14.68	MgO	wt.%	2.52	SiO ₂	wt.%	64.64
CaO	wt.%	0.530	MnO	wt.%	0.060	TiO ₂	wt.%	0.735
Fe ₂ O ₃	wt.%	5.70	P ₂ O ₅	wt.%	0.120			
K ₂ O	wt.%	3.65	S	wt.%	0.823			
Thermogravimetry								
LOI ¹⁰⁰⁰	wt.%	3.66						
Infrared Combustion								
C	wt.%	0.310	S	wt.%	0.865			
Laser Ablation ICP-MS								
Ag	ppm	0.400	Hf	ppm	6.19	Sn	ppm	95
As	ppm	414	Ho	ppm	1.21	Sr	ppm	95
Ba	ppm	730	In	ppm	0.050	Ta	ppm	1.69
Be	ppm	3.00	La	ppm	44.0	Tb	ppm	0.97
Bi	ppm	0.87	Lu	ppm	0.50	Te	ppm	< 0.2
Cd	ppm	0.25	Mn	wt.%	0.048	Th	ppm	17.1
Ce	ppm	86	Mo	ppm	2.30	Ti	wt.%	0.444
Co	ppm	16.5	Nb	ppm	15.3	Tl	ppm	1.30
Cr	ppm	145	Nd	ppm	38.6	Tm	ppm	0.50
Cs	ppm	11.7	Ni	ppm	69	U	ppm	3.23
Cu	ppm	60	Pb	ppm	53	V	ppm	111
Dy	ppm	5.68	Pr	ppm	10.7	W	ppm	5.48
Er	ppm	3.36	Rb	ppm	181	Y	ppm	31.7
Eu	ppm	1.34	Re	ppm	< 0.01	Yb	ppm	3.24

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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
Laser Ablation ICP-MS continued								
Ga	ppm	20.6	Sb	ppm	17350	Zn	ppm	118
Gd	ppm	6.16	Sc	ppm	15.2	Zr	ppm	219
Ge	ppm	1.83	Sm	ppm	7.35			
4-Acid Digestion								
Cd	ppm	0.081	Hg	ppm	< 1	Tm	ppm	0.23
Ge	ppm	0.21	Te	ppm	0.083	W	ppm	4.02
Aqua Regia Digestion								
B	ppm	8.01	Ho	ppm	0.33	Sm	ppm	4.02
Dy	ppm	2.00	Lu	ppm	0.10	Tb	ppm	0.40
Er	ppm	0.89	Nb	ppm	0.64	Tm	ppm	0.11
Eu	ppm	0.61	Nd	ppm	21.9	Yb	ppm	0.72
Gd	ppm	3.10	Pr	ppm	5.84			

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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 (PDM³) are presented in the detailed certification data for this CRM (**OREAS 291b-DataPack.1.1.251208_153425.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 $\pm 3\text{SD}$ (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 291b 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 291b 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 291b 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 291b.

Bulk Density (kg/m ³)	Moisture (wt.%)	Munsell Notation [‡]	Munsell Color [‡]
812	0.37	N7	Light Gray

[‡]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 291b by semi-quantitative XRD analysis.

Mineral / Mineral Group	% (mass ratio)
Stibnite	3
Clay mineral	< 1
Chlorite	7
Kandite group	< 1
Annite - biotite - phlogopite	29
Muscovite and/or illite	12
Clinopyroxene	< 1
Plagioclase	1
K-feldspar and/or rutile	2
Cordierite	1
Quartz	43
Pyrite	< 1
Gypsum	< 1

ANALYTICAL PROGRAM

Thirty-nine 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 (15 laboratories), ICP-OES (8 laboratories) and gravimetric finish (1 laboratory);
- Gold by Bi collection fire assay (50 g charge weight) with AAS finish (3 submissions of 6 samples at 1 laboratory);
- Gold by PhotonAssay with a recommended gross fill mass of 440-470 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 (13 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 ($\text{HNO}_3\text{-HF-HClO}_4\text{-HCl}$) 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 ($\rho=0.95$) will have concentrations lying between 1.57 and 1.61 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 291b. 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 0.10 % calculated for a 30 g fire assay sample (1.91 % at 85 mg weights) confirms the high level of gold homogeneity in OREAS 291b.

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	4.344	4.478
2	4.494	4.486
3	4.510	4.487
4	4.419	4.482
5	4.591	4.491
6	4.518	4.487
7	4.549	4.489
8	4.500	4.486
9	4.308	4.476
10	4.449	4.484
11	4.396	4.481
12	4.417	4.482
13	4.477	4.485
14	4.520	4.487
15	4.661	4.495
16	4.572	4.490
17	4.483	4.485
18	4.418	4.482
19	4.515	4.487
20	4.569	4.490
Mean	4.485	4.485
Median	4.497	4.486
Std Dev.	0.086	0.005
Rel.Std.Dev.	1.91%	0.10%

*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 291b 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 291b. 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 0.81, 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 291b 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 291b 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/mltrule.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 291b.

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	4.26	0.162	3.93	4.58	3.77	4.75	3.80%	7.61%	11.41%	4.05	4.47
Bi Fire Assay											
Au, ppm	4.35	0.151	4.05	4.65	3.90	4.80	3.47%	6.93%	10.40%	4.13	4.57
PhotonAssay (recommended gross mass 440-470 g)											
Au, ppm	4.42	0.120	4.18	4.66	4.06	4.78	2.72%	5.44%	8.16%	4.20	4.64
Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g)											
Au, ppm	3.95	0.213	3.53	4.38	3.31	4.59	5.40%	10.79%	16.19%	3.75	4.15
Peroxide Fusion ICP											
Sb, wt.%	1.56	0.063	1.43	1.68	1.37	1.75	4.03%	8.05%	12.08%	1.48	1.64

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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
Borate Fusion XRF											
Sb, wt.%	1.59	0.025	1.54	1.64	1.51	1.66	1.56%	3.13%	4.69%	1.51	1.67
4-Acid Digestion											
Ag, ppm	0.325	0.022	0.282	0.369	0.260	0.391	6.72%	13.44%	20.16%	0.309	0.341
Al, wt.%	7.39	0.225	6.94	7.84	6.72	8.07	3.04%	6.08%	9.12%	7.02	7.76
As, ppm	401	10	381	420	371	430	2.43%	4.87%	7.30%	381	421
Ba, ppm	697	31	636	758	605	789	4.39%	8.78%	13.18%	662	732
Be, ppm	2.50	0.088	2.32	2.67	2.23	2.76	3.52%	7.05%	10.57%	2.37	2.62
Bi, ppm	0.75	0.073	0.60	0.90	0.53	0.97	9.73%	19.45%	29.18%	0.71	0.79
Ca, wt.%	0.383	0.006	0.371	0.395	0.365	0.401	1.57%	3.14%	4.71%	0.364	0.402
Ce, ppm	81	5.0	71	91	66	96	6.13%	12.26%	18.39%	77	85
Co, ppm	15.9	0.64	14.7	17.2	14.0	17.8	3.98%	7.97%	11.95%	15.1	16.7
Cr, ppm	134	3	128	141	124	144	2.40%	4.80%	7.21%	127	141
Cs, ppm	11.3	0.33	10.7	12.0	10.3	12.3	2.89%	5.78%	8.67%	10.8	11.9
Cu, ppm	53	1.9	49	57	47	59	3.63%	7.25%	10.88%	50	56
Dy, ppm	3.21	0.233	2.74	3.67	2.51	3.91	7.27%	14.54%	21.80%	3.05	3.37
Er, ppm	1.61	0.17	1.27	1.95	1.11	2.12	10.45%	20.89%	31.34%	1.53	1.69
Eu, ppm	1.18	0.044	1.09	1.27	1.05	1.31	3.71%	7.43%	11.14%	1.12	1.24
Fe, wt.%	3.85	0.099	3.65	4.05	3.55	4.15	2.56%	5.13%	7.69%	3.66	4.04
Ga, ppm	20.0	0.95	18.1	21.9	17.2	22.9	4.76%	9.53%	14.29%	19.0	21.0
Gd, ppm	4.56	0.253	4.05	5.06	3.80	5.32	5.56%	11.12%	16.69%	4.33	4.78
Hf, ppm	3.79	0.218	3.35	4.22	3.13	4.44	5.77%	11.54%	17.30%	3.60	3.97
Ho, ppm	0.59	0.052	0.48	0.69	0.43	0.74	8.90%	17.79%	26.69%	0.56	0.61
In, ppm	0.076	0.010	0.056	0.097	0.045	0.107	13.57%	27.15%	40.72%	0.072	0.080
K, wt.%	3.00	0.088	2.82	3.17	2.73	3.26	2.93%	5.87%	8.80%	2.85	3.15
La, ppm	42.0	1.65	38.7	45.3	37.0	46.9	3.93%	7.86%	11.78%	39.9	44.1
Li, ppm	49.3	2.51	44.3	54.3	41.8	56.8	5.09%	10.17%	15.26%	46.8	51.8
Lu, ppm	0.27	0.03	0.21	0.33	0.18	0.36	11.58%	23.15%	34.73%	0.26	0.28
Mg, wt.%	1.47	0.049	1.37	1.57	1.33	1.62	3.32%	6.64%	9.96%	1.40	1.55
Mn, wt.%	0.046	0.001	0.045	0.048	0.044	0.048	1.72%	3.44%	5.16%	0.044	0.048
Mo, ppm	2.17	0.176	1.82	2.52	1.64	2.70	8.12%	16.24%	24.37%	2.06	2.28
Na, wt.%	0.508	0.014	0.480	0.536	0.466	0.550	2.76%	5.52%	8.28%	0.483	0.533
Nb, ppm	13.0	1.8	9.4	16.5	7.6	18.3	13.74%	27.48%	41.23%	12.3	13.6
Nd, ppm	35.8	1.10	33.6	38.0	32.5	39.1	3.08%	6.15%	9.23%	34.0	37.6
Ni, ppm	58	2.2	53	62	51	64	3.74%	7.47%	11.21%	55	61
P, wt.%	0.054	0.002	0.051	0.057	0.049	0.059	3.09%	6.18%	9.27%	0.051	0.057
Pb, ppm	48.6	3.24	42.1	55.1	38.9	58.3	6.66%	13.32%	19.97%	46.2	51.1
Pr, ppm	9.41	0.619	8.17	10.65	7.56	11.27	6.58%	13.16%	19.73%	8.94	9.88
Rb, ppm	176	8	159	193	151	201	4.78%	9.56%	14.34%	167	184
Re, ppm	0.004	0.001	0.001	0.006	0.000	0.007	29.24%	58.48%	87.71%	0.003	0.004
S, wt.%	0.818	0.016	0.787	0.850	0.772	0.865	1.90%	3.80%	5.71%	0.778	0.859
Sb, wt.%	1.41	0.057	1.30	1.53	1.24	1.58	4.05%	8.10%	12.16%	1.34	1.48
Sc, ppm	14.1	0.89	12.3	15.9	11.4	16.8	6.35%	12.71%	19.06%	13.4	14.8
Se, ppm	3.65	0.73	2.20	5.10	1.48	5.83	19.85%	39.70%	59.55%	3.47	3.84

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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											
Sm, ppm	6.57	0.252	6.07	7.07	5.81	7.33	3.84%	7.67%	11.51%	6.24	6.90
Sn, ppm	4.54	0.87	2.80	6.27	1.94	7.14	19.10%	38.21%	57.31%	4.31	4.76
Sr, ppm	95	2.7	90	101	87	103	2.87%	5.74%	8.60%	90	100
Ta, ppm	1.01	0.077	0.86	1.17	0.78	1.24	7.60%	15.19%	22.79%	0.96	1.06
Tb, ppm	0.60	0.032	0.54	0.67	0.51	0.70	5.24%	10.48%	15.73%	0.57	0.63
Th, ppm	15.9	0.67	14.5	17.2	13.9	17.9	4.23%	8.46%	12.69%	15.1	16.7
Ti, wt.%	0.375	0.040	0.295	0.455	0.255	0.495	10.68%	21.37%	32.05%	0.356	0.394
Tl, ppm	0.93	0.071	0.79	1.08	0.72	1.15	7.65%	15.29%	22.94%	0.89	0.98
U, ppm	2.89	0.161	2.57	3.21	2.41	3.38	5.55%	11.11%	16.66%	2.75	3.04
V, ppm	100	4	93	108	89	111	3.73%	7.47%	11.20%	95	105
Y, ppm	15.6	0.62	14.4	16.9	13.8	17.5	3.96%	7.93%	11.89%	14.9	16.4
Yb, ppm	1.68	0.129	1.42	1.94	1.29	2.07	7.65%	15.31%	22.96%	1.60	1.76
Zn, ppm	120	3	113	126	110	129	2.58%	5.16%	7.74%	114	126
Zr, ppm	129	6	117	141	111	147	4.65%	9.31%	13.96%	123	136
Aqua Regia Digestion											
Ag, ppm	0.310	0.020	0.269	0.351	0.249	0.371	6.56%	13.11%	19.67%	0.294	0.325
Al, wt.%	2.40	0.196	2.01	2.79	1.81	2.99	8.16%	16.32%	24.48%	2.28	2.52
As, ppm	366	23	320	413	296	436	6.35%	12.70%	19.05%	348	384
Ba, ppm	103	4	95	110	92	114	3.57%	7.15%	10.72%	98	108
Be, ppm	1.20	0.14	0.92	1.49	0.78	1.63	11.73%	23.46%	35.18%	1.14	1.26
Bi, ppm	0.78	0.041	0.70	0.86	0.65	0.90	5.29%	10.59%	15.88%	0.74	0.82
Ca, wt.%	0.250	0.008	0.233	0.266	0.225	0.274	3.21%	6.43%	9.64%	0.237	0.262
Cd, ppm	0.070	0.008	0.054	0.085	0.047	0.093	11.06%	22.12%	33.18%	0.066	0.073
Ce, ppm	44.9	4.5	35.9	54.0	31.4	58.5	10.04%	20.07%	30.11%	42.7	47.2
Co, ppm	14.8	0.76	13.3	16.3	12.6	17.1	5.10%	10.21%	15.31%	14.1	15.6
Cr, ppm	97	2.8	91	102	88	105	2.92%	5.84%	8.76%	92	101
Cs, ppm	7.32	0.498	6.32	8.32	5.83	8.82	6.81%	13.61%	20.42%	6.95	7.69
Cu, ppm	52	1.5	49	55	48	57	2.84%	5.68%	8.52%	50	55
Fe, wt.%	3.44	0.066	3.31	3.57	3.24	3.64	1.91%	3.81%	5.72%	3.27	3.61
Ga, ppm	7.40	0.727	5.95	8.85	5.22	9.58	9.82%	19.64%	29.47%	7.03	7.77
Ge, ppm	0.097	0.016	0.065	0.129	0.049	0.145	16.51%	33.02%	49.52%	0.092	0.102
Hf, ppm	0.46	0.10	0.27	0.66	0.17	0.76	21.10%	42.20%	63.30%	0.44	0.49
Hg, ppm	0.068	0.009	0.051	0.086	0.043	0.094	12.57%	25.14%	37.70%	0.065	0.072
In, ppm	0.036	0.003	0.030	0.041	0.027	0.044	8.15%	16.30%	24.46%	0.034	0.037
K, wt.%	0.863	0.061	0.742	0.985	0.681	1.046	7.04%	14.08%	21.11%	0.820	0.907
La, ppm	23.1	3.0	17.1	29.0	14.2	32.0	12.83%	25.67%	38.50%	21.9	24.2
Li, ppm	35.8	2.96	29.9	41.7	26.9	44.7	8.27%	16.53%	24.80%	34.0	37.6
Mg, wt.%	1.23	0.045	1.15	1.32	1.10	1.37	3.63%	7.25%	10.88%	1.17	1.30
Mn, wt.%	0.040	0.001	0.038	0.042	0.037	0.043	2.23%	4.47%	6.70%	0.038	0.042
Mo, ppm	1.97	0.095	1.78	2.16	1.69	2.25	4.80%	9.61%	14.41%	1.87	2.07
Na, wt.%	0.032	0.005	0.023	0.042	0.018	0.047	15.20%	30.40%	45.59%	0.031	0.034
Ni, ppm	55	2.3	51	60	48	62	4.15%	8.31%	12.46%	52	58
P, wt.%	0.046	0.002	0.042	0.051	0.040	0.053	4.68%	9.37%	14.05%	0.044	0.049

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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											
Pb, ppm	39.9	2.18	35.5	44.3	33.4	46.4	5.47%	10.94%	16.40%	37.9	41.9
Rb, ppm	77	3.8	69	84	65	88	4.90%	9.81%	14.71%	73	80
Re, ppm	0.004	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.002	0.005	15.98%	31.95%	47.93%	0.004	0.004
S, wt.%	0.818	0.016	0.785	0.850	0.769	0.866	1.98%	3.97%	5.95%	0.777	0.859
Sb, wt.%	1.26	0.21	0.84	1.68	0.63	1.89	16.60%	33.20%	49.80%	1.20	1.33
Sc, ppm	6.29	0.485	5.32	7.26	4.83	7.74	7.71%	15.42%	23.13%	5.97	6.60
Se, ppm	2.94	0.171	2.60	3.28	2.42	3.45	5.83%	11.65%	17.48%	2.79	3.08
Sn, ppm	1.80	0.126	1.55	2.05	1.42	2.18	7.02%	14.05%	21.07%	1.71	1.89
Sr, ppm	34.2	2.06	30.0	38.3	28.0	40.3	6.03%	12.07%	18.10%	32.5	35.9
Ta, ppm	< 0.01	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
Te, ppm	0.057	0.011	0.035	0.079	0.024	0.090	19.52%	39.05%	58.57%	0.054	0.060
Th, ppm	11.3	0.96	9.4	13.2	8.4	14.2	8.48%	16.95%	25.43%	10.8	11.9
Ti, wt.%	0.095	0.005	0.086	0.104	0.082	0.109	4.72%	9.45%	14.17%	0.091	0.100
Tl, ppm	0.54	0.050	0.43	0.64	0.38	0.69	9.40%	18.79%	28.19%	0.51	0.56
U, ppm	1.41	0.138	1.14	1.69	1.00	1.83	9.73%	19.47%	29.20%	1.34	1.48
V, ppm	60	1.3	57	62	56	64	2.17%	4.34%	6.51%	57	63
W, ppm	0.93	0.19	0.55	1.31	0.36	1.50	20.57%	41.15%	61.72%	0.88	0.98
Y, ppm	8.01	0.752	6.51	9.52	5.76	10.27	9.39%	18.77%	28.16%	7.61	8.41
Zn, ppm	109	3	104	114	101	117	2.42%	4.85%	7.27%	104	114
Zr, ppm	16.1	2.3	11.4	20.8	9.1	23.1	14.52%	29.04%	43.56%	15.3	16.9

SI unit equivalents: ppm (parts per million; 1×10^{-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.

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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
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33. Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
34. SGS del Peru, Lima, Peru
35. SGS Tarkwa, Tarkwa, Western Region, Ghana
36. Shiva Analyticals Ltd, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India
37. Skyline Assayers & Laboratories, Tucson, Arizona, USA
38. Stewart Assay & Environmental Laboratories LLC, Kara-Balta, Chüy, Kyrgyzstan
39. 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 1. Au by Pb Fire Assay in OREAS 291b

SPC.1946.RR1.OREAS 291b.2.Fire Assay.Au.Lab.250917.214355.SN

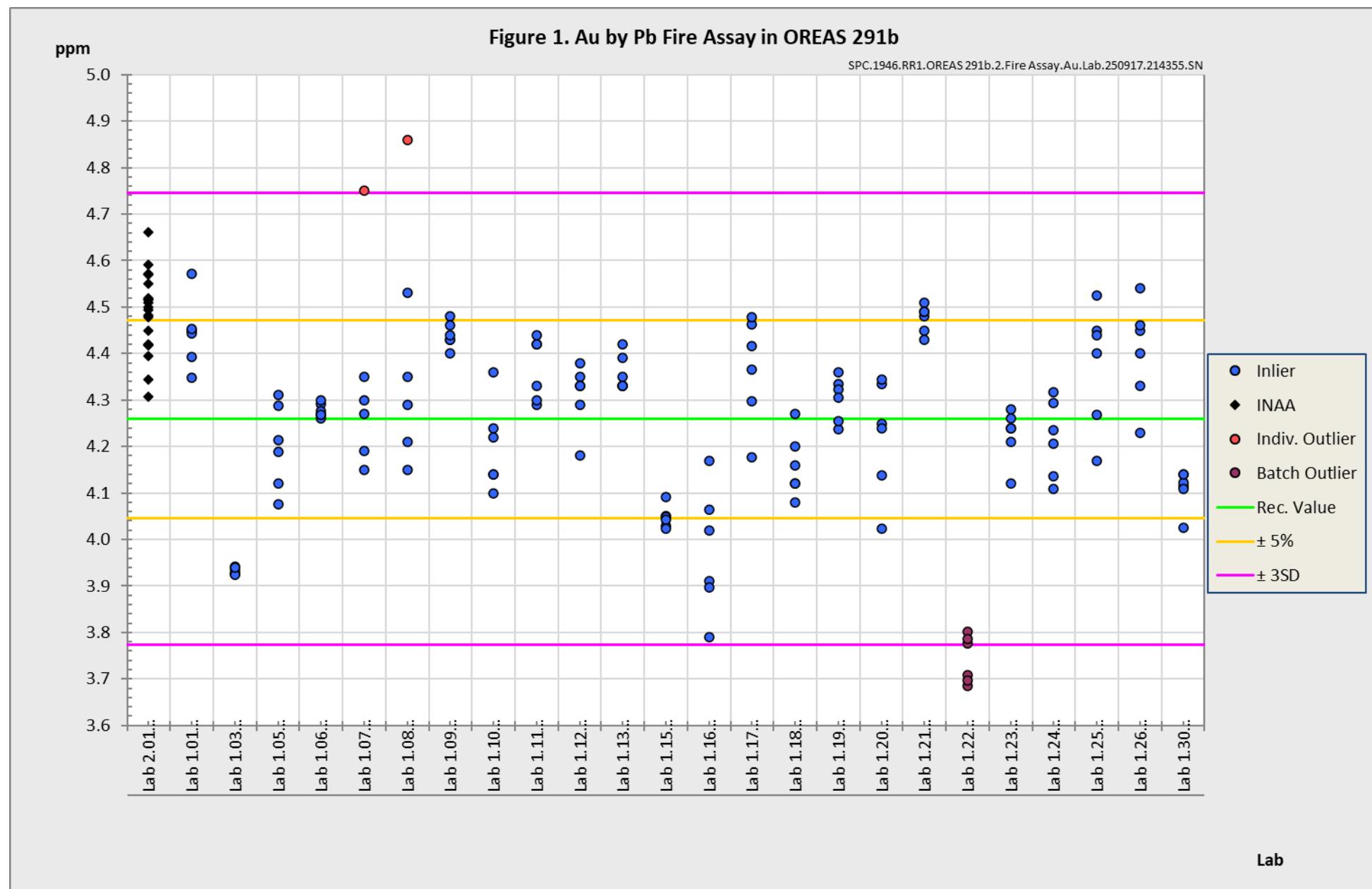


Figure 2. Au by PhotonAssay™ in OREAS 291b

SPC.1946.RR1.OREAS 291b.3.PA.Au.Lab.250917.214638.SN

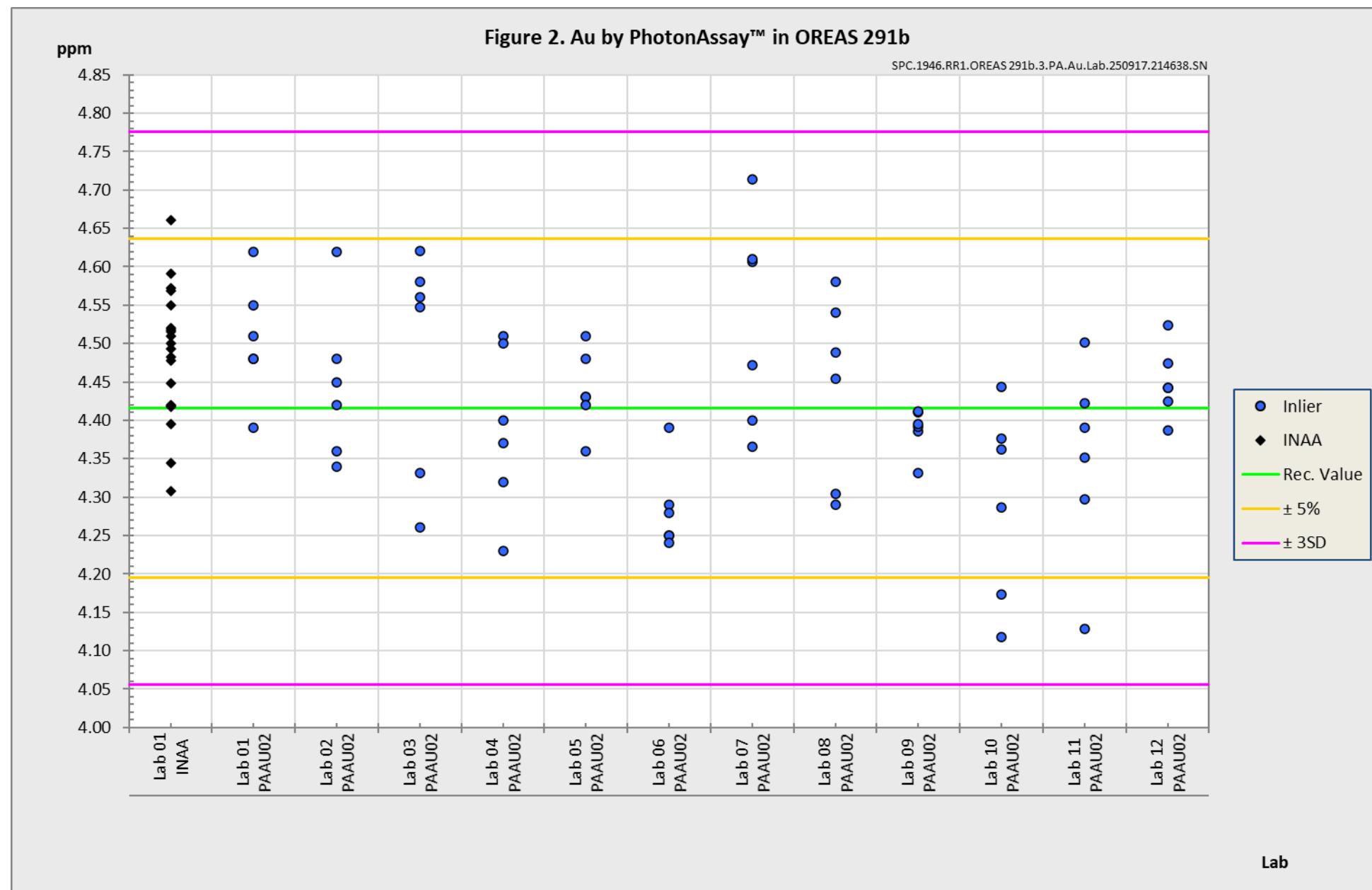


Figure 3. Au by Aqua Regia Digestion (sample weights 10-50g) in OREAS 291b

SPC.1946.RR1.OREAS 291b.2.AR Digest 10-50g.Au.Lab.250917.214513.SN

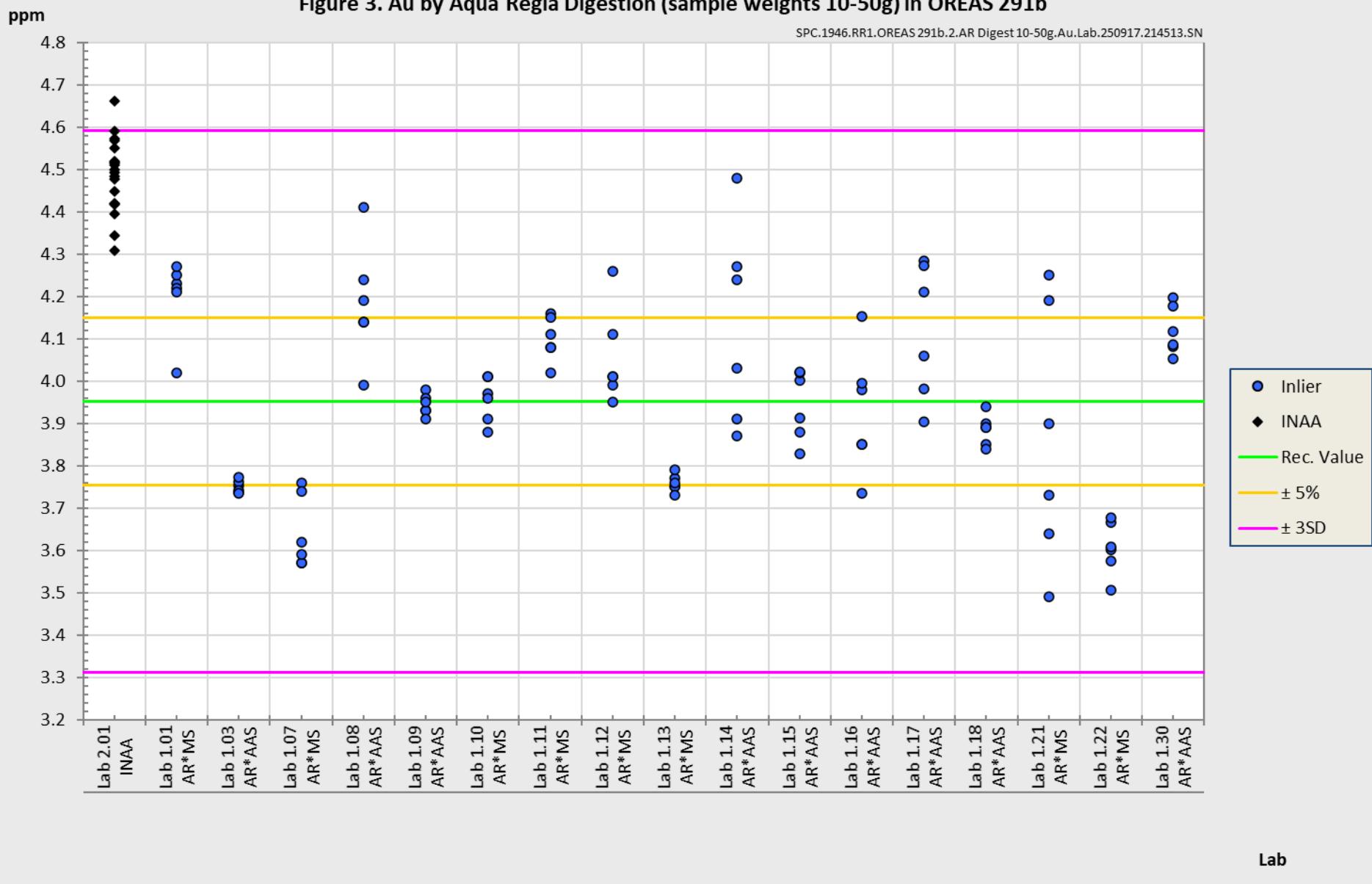


Figure 4. Sb by Peroxide Fusion ICP in OREAS 291b

SPC.1946.RR1.OREAS 291b.2.PF ICP.Sb.Lab.250917.214541.S

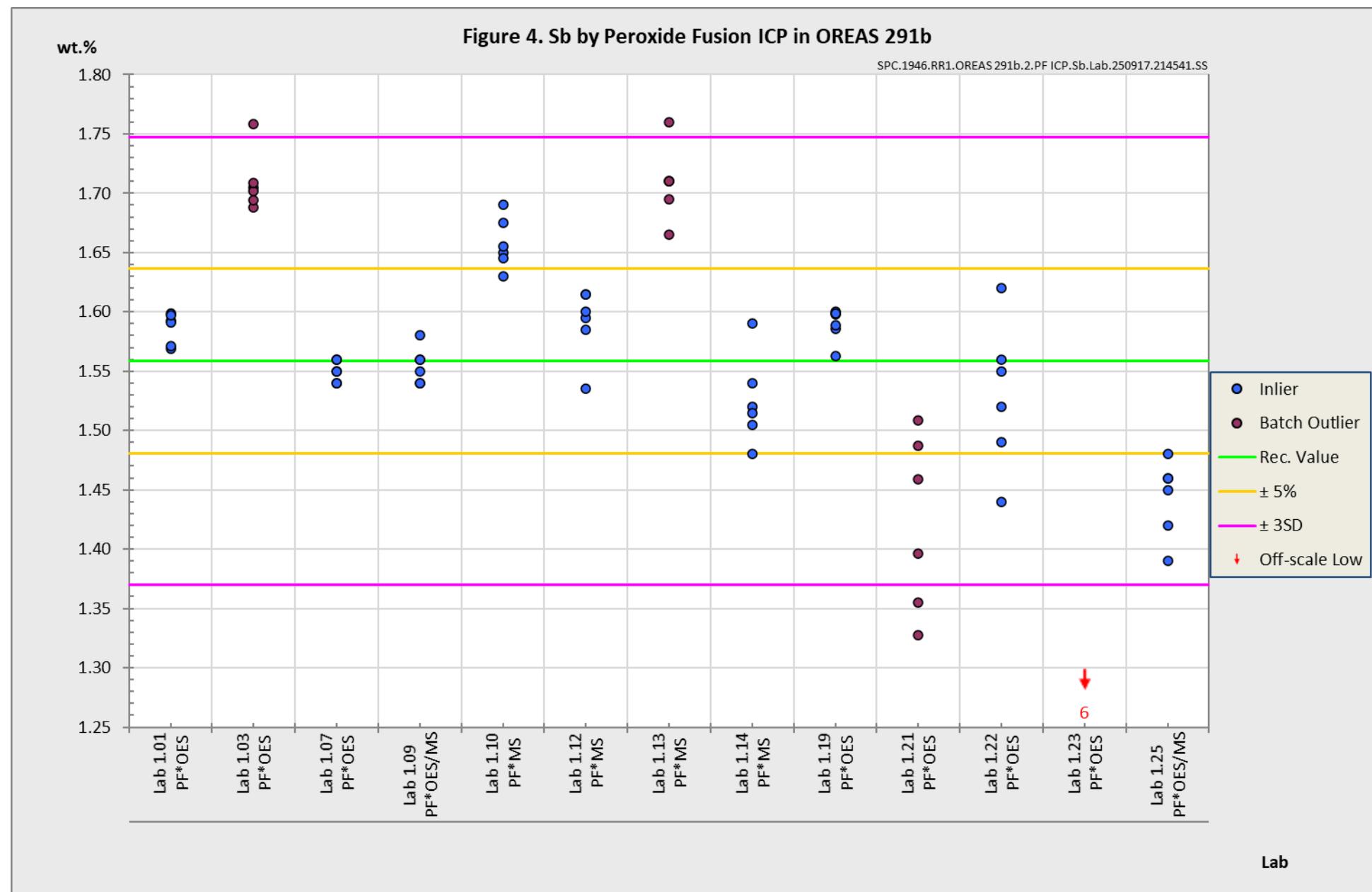
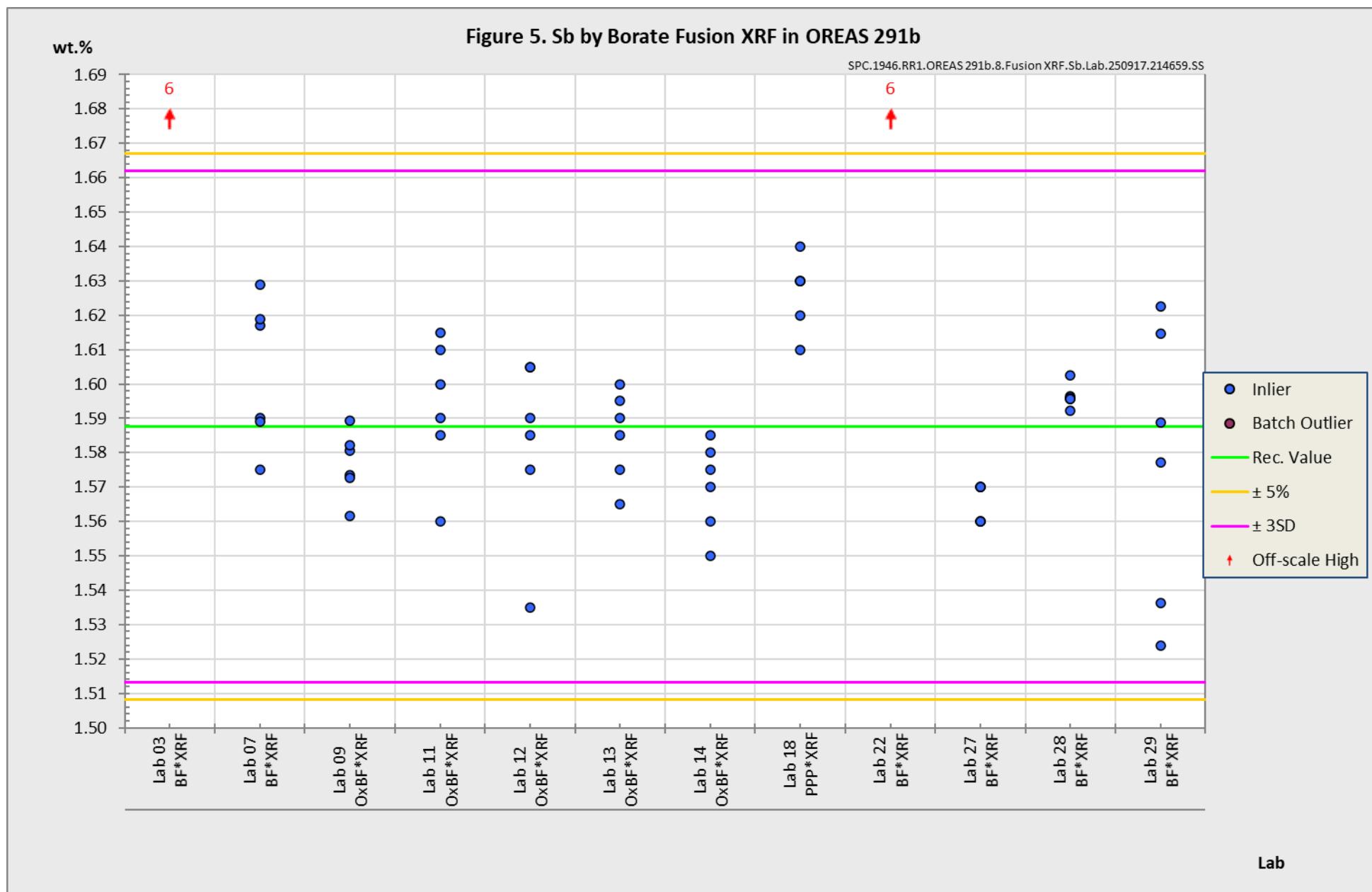


Figure 5. Sb by Borate Fusion XRF in OREAS 291b



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 291b 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 291b may be used to calibrate the entire procedure by producing a pure substance CRM transformed into a calibration solution.

OREAS 291b 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: ≥ 25 g;
- Au by bismuth collection fire assay: ≥ 50 g;
- Au by PhotonAssay™: recommended gross fill mass* 440-470 g;
- Au by aqua regia digestion ICP finish: ≥ 10 g.;
- Peroxide fusion with ICP finish: ≥ 0.1 g;
- Borate fusion with X-ray fluorescence finish: ≥ 0.2 g;
- 4-acid digestion with ICP-OES and/or MS finish: ≥ 0.25 g;
- Aqua regia digestion with ICP-OES and/or MS finish: ≥ 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 291b 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 291b 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 291b 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 (0.82 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 H₂O- 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
1	8 th December, 2025	Added Au results (Bismuth Fire Assay method).
0	22 nd 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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