Mineral Resource Evaluation II:  
Methods and Case Histories
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Preface

The theme of this volume is Mineral Resource Evaluation. The chapters cover a wide range of activities in this field and they describe some of the methods that are currently in use to help in the evaluation of mineral resources, including exploration drilling, sampling, resource estimation, mine design, financial evaluation and mine sampling and grade control. Case histories of mineral resource evaluation are also described, with examples from all over the world, including Canada, USA, Chile, Ghana, Sweden, Zambia, Ireland, and of course, UK.

One notable aspect of this volume is the number of chapters which deal with mineral resource definitions. A mineral resource is a means to an end not an end in itself. The aim is to develop a mine which will maximize the Net Present Value (NPV) for the present shareholders. It is therefore important to define resources sufficiently accurately to convince the banks to lend the necessary 75–80% of the money required for the capital expenditure to develop the mine. It would appear that the banks are the final arbiters and maybe it is they who should be telling the mining companies how they should be describing their resources. Perhaps the mining industry, through their various institutions, in conjunction with the financial organizations should set up an international commission to recommend a standard nomenclature with recognized definitions. As recommendations they would not be enforceable, but companies, Governmental organizations and individuals could then compare their preferred way of describing resources to the recommended nomenclature and at least sensible and meaningful comparisons could then be made.

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