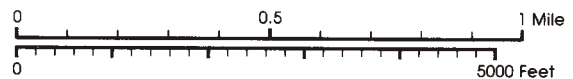


Litchfield Sodalite Locality

Town: Litchfield, Kennebec County
Base map: Purgatory 7.5' quadrangle
Contour interval: 10 feet



Type of deposit: Glacially transported boulders, eroded from a local nepheline syenite intrusion.

Collecting status: Believed to be open for collecting unless otherwise posted. Area includes property belonging to several people.

Minerals observed: aegirine-augite, albite, annite, astrophyllite, "biotite", cancrinite, chrysoberyl, corundum, fluorapatite, "hydronephelite" (a mixture of natrolite, gibbsite, and diaspore), magnetite, nepheline, sodalite, yellow-brown unknown mineral around cancrinite, zircon.

Comments: This locality is best known for its sodalite and cancrinite specimens ("litchfieldite" is a name applied to the rock in which they occur). The sodalite is blue and usually occurs as small patches in the syenite, but larger masses (some with rough crystals of yellow cancrinite) are occasionally found. Exceptional zircon crystals to 1 inch in size have been collected in

recent years. Directions are given for one of the better collecting sites, but coarse syenite boulders are also found in the other areas shown on the location map, as well as the vicinity of Spears Corner in West Gardiner (just east of the map area). There are very few — if any — presently exposed outcrops of the nepheline syenite. It is concealed by glacial sediments. Barker (1965) reported amphibole, magnetite, microcline, pyroxene, titanite, and other minerals in the various rock types comprising the syenite body.

Directions: *Driving:* From overpass where Rtes. 9-126 cross Rte. I-95 in West Gardiner, drive west 4.95 miles on Rtes. 9-126 to small stream on right. (You will cross a pipeline right-of-way at 4.55 miles from I-95.) Park.

Walking: Walk north, perpendicular to road and keeping to left of small stream, for about 600 feet. Syenite boulders are found in this area, on side of low hill with pine trees. Heavy hammers will be useful here.