5.3.4 Talc and Sulfide Alteration:

More advanced alteration of the carbonates results in the development of patches and seams of blue and green talc. Typically this represents a relatively small component of the core but, in some circumstances, narrow massive seams of solid talc become common.

Talc development is most widespread in the lower sections of the Carbonate Sequence and is usually not a significant component in the higher grade magnesite lenses.

Sulfide in the form of fine grained enhedral pyrite accompanies most styles of alteration, but is most abundant in areas of more advanced talc-style alteration. The pyrite tends to concentrate around alteration margins and in fine fractures. Because it typically accompanies talc alteration, sulfide levels tend to be highest towards the FW of the Carbonate Sequence. In the main magnesite lenses, pyrite contents are low (<0.5%).

5.3.5 Coarse Crystalline Magnesite Veining:

Overprinting all of the above alteration styles is a random network of coarse crystalline magnesite veins, and large irregular masses of coarsely crystalline magnesite. The veins range from <1 mm up to 20 mm thick and are abundant in places, especially in the higher-grade magnesite lenses.

5.3.6 Alteration of Dolomites:

Alteration of dark gray dolomite beds usually takes the form of stylolite formation, probably resulting from diagenesis. The stylolites are typically carbonaceous and pyritic.

Bedding is commonly preserved in dolomite beds, suggesting they were not as responsive to the tectonic alteration processes as the magnesite beds.

5.4 Weathering:

Both the Carbonate Sequence and the softer finer grained Hangingwall Schists are deeply weathered and, in the case of the Carbonate Sequence, this has resulted in the formation of abundant cavities.

The weathering profile of the Carbonate Sequence is most important to understand because of its mining implications.