DATA WITHOUT BORDERS

Key Takeaways from Webinar 1

The Bedrock of the Bottom Line: Why Dirty Data Kills Great Projects

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Webinar 1 Recap:
The Bedrock of the Bottom Line

The first session of the VBKOM and Axiom series brought together geologists, geophysicists, and mining engineers to stress-test the single most critical asset in exploration: data integrity. The core consensus? Most stalled projects are not failing due to a lack of investment or even a poor model, but due to a systemic processing problem that begins in the field and fractures during handoffs.

The Integrity Gap:
5 Red Flags in Your Data Ecosystem

Dirty data is not just "wrong" data, it's data that is incomplete, inconsistent, and ultimately indefensible to investors and engineers. Panelists highlighted five recurring issues that turn great projects sour:

1. **The Clerical Myth:** Viewing data management as "someone else's job" or just clerical work. Data management is, in fact, the backbone of the entire project.
2. **The "Family Recipe" Model:** Block models that evolve without governance, lacking a master data owner or documented assumptions. This leads to a delayed reconciliation, where problems only surface when it is too late and too costly to fix.
3. **Missing Metadata & Inconsistency:** Errors like poor sample IDs, ambiguous litho codes, assumed GPS accuracy, and the complete absence of QA/QC protocols.
4. **Fractured Data Flow:** Data is "kissed goodbye" by one discipline and received by the next as an entirely new, unverified dataset, particularly leading to vital missing information like density and misalignment of coordinate systems.
5. **Isolation:** Disciplines (Exploration, Mining, Processing) working in isolation, neglecting key constraints like geometallurgical fingerprints and process plant maximum capacity until it’s too late.

The Path to Integrity: Building a Defensible Data Set

The panel agreed that success hinges on three critical factors: Foresight, Ownership, and the Human Element.

Pillar of Integrity	Actionable Insight
Ownership & Governance	Define a **Master Data Owner** and establish a comprehensive **Data Dictionary** from Day 1. Every data set, from geophysics to reserves, must be **traceable, auditable, and version-controlled**.
Foresight & Holistic View	The goal of exploration is to **reduce risk and increase probability**, not just to get good intercepts. Allocate funds for multi-utilization (e.g., run **early-stage metallurgy** and define **geotechnical domains**). Mining is the ultimate **stress test** for your geological data.
AI & Human Balance	AI is a powerful tool to **automate** tasks and assist **critical thinking** (e.g., integrating geophysical models), but it is **not a replacement** for professional judgment. As noted: "If you have bad data in AI, you might as well do astrology."

Join the Discussion:
The Human Element of Data

The geological intuition, contextual understanding, and professional judgment that no algorithm can replace is the subject of our next event.

Join our panelists in person for a lively debate on **where AI ends and the critical human element begins**. We will dive deeper into balancing technology with expertise to bridge the gaps in your data ecosystem.

Panel Discussion Details:

- Topic: The Human Element of Data: Where AI Ends and Geologists Begin
- Date: Monday, December 1, 2025
- Time: 3:00 pm – 4:45 pm CST
- Location: Saskatoon Club (During the Saskatchewan Geological Open House)

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Building Integrity from Exploration to Mining

REGISTER FOR THE PANEL DISCUSSION

The Human Element of Data: Where AI Ends and Geologists Begin

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