



Journal of the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
MATHEMATICAL GEOLOGY

October 26, 1992

ROBERT EHRlich
Editor
(803) 777-6943

Department of Geological Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Mr. J. W. Merks, President
MATRIX Consultants Limited
P. O. Box 697-Station A
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6C 2N5

Dear Mr. Merks:

I am sorry to inform you that we are unable to publish your manuscripts in their present form. Many scientists and engineers (including many geostatisticians) realize that any of the "flavors" of geostatistics can fail under certain conditions. Failure in this case means either a strongly biased result or a highly imprecise result. However, the many arguments against one or the other form of geostatistics no longer touch on elementary statistical questions.

I am enclosing a critique of your arguments by Andre Journel. He has presented, in a series of papers, arguments concerning the proper and improper use of geostatistical calculations. He is the first to agree that the use of geostatistics is as much an art as science. Therefore, please do not dismiss his arguments pertaining to your work just because Dr. Journel is a prominent geostatistician.

Your feeling that geostatistics is invalid might be correct. However, for publication in our Journal, you should provide insight into where your view point sits within the context of a long standing controversy. Your arguments should center on points where geostatistical theory and the real world diverge. I think, all will agree, that if we accept the underlying assumptions of geostatistics, the theory is reasonably consistent. However, as Journel has pointed out, not all of these assumptions need be true.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Ehrlich
Editor

RE/cs
Enclosures