MT. NANSEN GOLD PROJECT

MT. NANSEN PROJECT

Tailings Storage Study

FEASIBILITY DESIGN

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SEPTEMBER 1994

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BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Mt. Nansen

INTRODUCTION

1.

BYG Natural Resources Inc. (BYG) intends to develop an open pit gold mine on the Mt. Nansen property, near Carmacks, Yukon. Klohn-Crippen has been asked by BYG to prepare a feasibility design for a tailings facility for the proposed mine, considering alternatives to the site upon which a preliminary design (Klohn Leonoff 1990) was based. This report presents the results of field investigations carried out at the site during July 1994, and subsequent design work for a tailings facility. The site work was carried out at a tailings dam site on Dome Creek not previously considered, shown as Site #4 on Drawing D-3003.

1.1 **Project Description**

The project site is accessed from Carmacks via gravel road and is about 60 km west of Carmacks. The Mt. Nansen Road was used to develop the underground mine on the property which operated for two brief periods in the 1960s and 1970s. The road is also used by a number of prospectors and placer mining operators in the area. Old underground workings, mill buildings, two small tailings ponds, a small water reclaim pond and many bulldozer trenches are still present on the Mt. Nansen property (see Drawing D-3002).

The proposed project will refurbish and utilize the existing mill. The ore to be mined is oxide rather than sulphide ore, and is not expected to be acid-generating. Tailings generated from the oxide orebody will total about 300 000 tonnes, or about 240 000 m³, assuming a dry unit weight of settled tailings of 1.25 tonnes/m³. The tailings facility design must accommodate this volume of tailings. Cyanide will be used in the gold recovery process. Cyanide destruction will be used to remove most of the cyanide from the tailings before delivery to the tailings pond.

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It is understood that about 600 000 tonnes of waste rock will be mined from the open pit to liberate the ore, and that this waste rock will not be acid-generating. This waste rock is a potential source of construction material for the tailings dam.

1.2 Previous Work

Mr. T. Harper of Klohn Leonoff, inspected the site in September 1985 and submitted a letter-report to Chevron Canada Resources Ltd. on November 7, 1985. This inspection consisted of a preliminary investigation for tailings disposal and for proposed leach pad sites. The report concluded that a tailing storage facility should be located on Dome Creek at a site just below the mill (Site #2, Drawing D-3002).

In 1990, a report was prepared by Klohn Leonoff presenting a preliminary design of a tailings facility located uphill of the mill area (Site #1).

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2. SITE CONDITIONS

The minesite is located within the physiographic region known as the Yukon Plateau. The area has typically rounded mountain tops with broad valleys and gentle topographic features. Side slopes of the valleys in the vicinity of the mine vary from 2H:1V to as flat as 6H:1V. Drainage from the minesite and tailings dam locations flows into Dome Creek, a tributary of Victoria Creek, which is part of the Nisling River system. The Nisling River ultimately flows into the Yukon River. The mine elevation is about 1250 m (about 4,100 ft).

Elevations have been determined from an orthophoto provided by BYG Natural Resources Inc. The orthophoto, which is undated, has a contour interval of 10 m and covers the entire property. For preliminary design purposes, a cross section of the valley topography was created using a tape and clinometer (see Drawing D-3003).

2.1 Surficial Geology

Surficial soils in the Dome Creek valley area consist mainly of colluvial, residual and granular glacial outwash soils overlying bedrock. The soil cover is thin on the steeper valley sides, increasing in the valley bottom to about 20 m deep. Upper slopes are covered in a thin veneer of colluvial soils.

Four glacial advances have been defined across the central Yukon Territory. These are, from oldest to youngest, the Nansen, Klaza, Reid and McConnell advances. However, the area was not glaciated during the most recent (Pleistocene) ice age. The Mt. Nansen minesite is situated within the Nansen drift. At least 2,000 years ago, volcanic ash fell on this area up to 30 cm in depth. Remnants of this ash are visible at many locations on the property. The ash occurs at surface or just below the organic soils, and typically has a depth of less than 10 cm. Some glacial till has been noted at depth in the main valley bottom.

The soils vary from a sandy gravel to a fine sandy silt. The material is generally medium dense with some pockets of loose material.

2.2 Bedrock Geology

The bedrock at the site appears to consist of igneous rocks of the Mt. Nansen Group which have intruded into the Pelly Formation metamorphic rocks. The metamorphic rocks have been mapped as undifferentiated schists, gneisses, quartzites and marbles. The bedrock is highly shattered and broken at the ground surface as observed in exploration trenches and test pits. We understand that the degree of shattering does decrease with depth, but the rock is shattered near surface within the area of the tailings pond. The bedrock is a purplish to brown colour. Bedrock is exposed on the ridge tops where there is very little tree or vegetation cover.

2.3 Permafrost

The site lies within the discontinuous permafrost zone, close to the southern boundary of widespread areas of permafrost islands. Because of the high elevation of the site, permafrost is more widespread than is generally true in this region. The $-4^{\circ}C$ mean annual air isotherm passes through Carmacks. Taking into account the fact that the elevation of the site is between 600 m and 700 m higher than Carmacks, the mean annual air temperature for the site is expected to be at least 2°C colder than that in Carmacks, or at most $-6^{\circ}C$, and possibly $-8^{\circ}C$ (personal communication with Environment Canada). At the time of the site investigation (mid-July 1994), the soils beneath Site #4 were frozen. Where a thick layer of moss exists, such as over most of the north facing side of the valley, the soils were frozen immediately beneath the moss layer. In the sandy terrace soils where the insulating layer of moss does not exist, the soil was thawed to a depth of about 2 m (active zone), below which the soil was solidly frozen. In the areas of sandy terrace soils, only a thin layer of lichen occurs at ground surface, and in some places, sand is exposed over areas of up to tens of square metres.

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2.4 Seismicity

The Mt. Nansen minesite lies within a seismically active area of the Canadian north in Seismic Zone 2, as defined by the National Building Code of Canada, 1990. The site lies within the Northern British Columbia (NBC) source zone between the McKenzie (MKZ) zone and the Denali Shakwak (DSK) zone.

A probabilistic assessment of the seismic risk at the site has been undertaken by the Pacific Geoscience Centre for the Mt. Nansen site (October 1988). The results are enclosed in Appendix I. A peak horizontal ground acceleration of approximately 10% g is expected with probability of exceedance no greater than 0.0021, or one in 475 years, while a peak horizontal acceleration of 12% g is expected with a return period of .001, or one in 1,000 years.

The tailings dam will be founded on medium dense granular soils overlying bedrock. Extensive deposits of loose soils, if they exist, will be removed from the foundation to minimize any potential for liquefaction under earthquake loading.

2.5 Climate

The mean annual precipitation for the project site is about 270 mm. Snow begins falling in October or November and usually remains on the ground until May. The typical snowpack is about 1 m. Approximately 40% of the precipitation falls as snow. Some rainfall occurs as early as April, but the majority of rainfall occurs from June to August. The most intense rainfall occurs in July.

3. TAILINGS DAM SITE SELECTION

3.1 General

Three potential dam sites (Site #1, Site #2 and Site #3 - see Drawing D-3002) have been considered in the past. Those three sites are all located on relatively steep slopes and offer relatively low storage volumes in proportion to the size of the dams required. Because of the lack of permafrost in the foundations, Site #1 was chosen as the best of the three. Sites #1 to #3 are described in detail in previous reports (see Klohn Leonoff, 1988 and 1990).

3.2 Site #4

Part of the scope of the current study was to investigate the entire property for additional potential tailings dam sites. A new location, named Site #4 (see Drawing D-3002 and Drawing D-3003) was identified on Dome Creek, downstream of the previously identified sites. Although the site does have frozen foundations, it is superior to the other sites (1, 2 and 3) in the following respects:

- Because of a broadening of the valley bottom and a relatively flat meadow upstream of the proposed dam site, the potential storage volume is good, as compared to other sites.
- A relatively low dam is required to impound the necessary tonnage of tailings.
- Because of a natural restriction of the valley at Site #4, the volume of the dam is relatively low.

In addition to the above benefits, there is a source of granular soils in the area which would make good construction materials. There is also potential to locate a spillway on the left abutment at Site #4 with its crest excavated in bedrock. Consequently, Site #4 was chosen for assessment by test pitting and drilling during the 1994 site investigation.

3.2.1 Site 4 Conditions

Site #4 is located in the Dome Creek valley at about elevation 1130 m. Topographically, Site #4 appears to be the best available site on the property. The south side of the valley (right abutment) is quite steep (slopes of about 3:1 on the abutment and 2:1 higher on the slope). On the north side of the stream, there is a sand terrace, with its top elevation about 12 m above the creek level (see Drawing D-3003).

Three boreholes were drilled and 14 test pits were dug in the area of Site #4 during the July, 1994 site investigation. The locations of the test pits and boreholes are shown in plan and section on Drawing D-3003. Test pit locations in Drawing D-3003 are estimated, and borehole locations are surveyed. The boreholes were drilled with a Nodwell mounted CME-750 rig using solid stem augers. Sampling was carried out using a CRREL (Cold Regions Research Engineering Laboratory, US Department of the Army, Hanover, NH) tube sampler which produced cores of 7.6 cm (3 inch) diameter. Because all of the holes drilled were in frozen ground, no SPT tests were carried out. Drawing D-3003 gives a sectional interpretation of the foundation geology along the proposed dam centreline. Test pit logs and borehole logs are included in Appendix II. No test pits were dug south of the creek because it was considered too risky to attempt access across the creek with the backhoe.

In natural outcrops and where exposed in test pits and trenches, bedrock is highly fractured. This is a result of freeze thaw action and is accentuated in this area of the Yukon which was not glaciated in Pleistocene times.

A layer of apparent glacial till exists over bedrock in the deepest part of the valley. The till is typically a silty fine sand with numerous angular to subrounded pebbles and cobbles.

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Overlying the glacial till is a grey silty fine to medium sandy material up to about 15 m thick. The fines content of the silty grey sand varies between about 10% and 40%. Within this silty sand, layers of varying organic content were observed. More organic-rich soils were noted on the right abutment than on the left abutment or in the valley centre. The more highly organic layers contain higher percentages of fines, a higher ice content, and exhibit a distinctive organic odour when thawed. The grey sand exists immediately below surface in most of the area and, where present at surface, it is generally covered by a thick layer (about 20 cm to 30 cm) of moss. The active layer in this unit is very shallow. In mid-July 1994, the soil immediately below the moss layer was frozen.

Terraces of clean, well rounded fine to medium sand occur along the sides of the valley in some areas. The left (north) abutment of Site #4 is formed on one of these terraces. The local sand terrace deposits are apparently remnants of more extensive deposits which once filled the valley bottom. They consist of fine to medium sand with about 5% to 10% fines. Cross bedding, indicating that the sand was originally deposited in water, is evident in test pits and drill core samples. The terrace sands are well drained and, although frozen, contain no visible ice. The active layer in the terrace sands is deeper than in the finer-grained soils. In mid-July 1994, this soil horizon was thawed to a depth of about 1.5 m to 2.0 m.

Minor thicknesses of organic soils (usually less than about 15 cm) occur at surface in most areas. Along the creek in the valley centre, peat of up to about 0.9 m was encountered. Moss covers the ground surface throughout the Site #4 area, except on the terrace sand deposits where aspen trees and lichens indicate the better drainage provided by the sandy soil.

4. TAILINGS DAM DESIGN

4.1 General

A tailings facility capable of storing 300 000 tonnes of tailings is required. Based on the best topographic map available (10 m contours), a storage-elevation curve was drawn for Site #4 to determine the probable height of dam required. It appears that a dam approximately 12 m high will be required to store the 300 000 tonnes. In addition, freeboard of about 2 m was assumed for preliminary design purposes, resulting in a total dam height of about 14 m. These values are preliminary, subject to a more detailed topographic survey of the impoundment area.

The dam would be constructed primarily of the silty fine to medium sand available on site. Although compaction of this material may be more difficult than some other soil types, this sand is the best material available for dam construction for several reasons. It is available in abundant quantities on site. Because of its well drained nature, it is a material well suited for excavation. Test pits excavated in July indicated that it was thawed to a depth of approximately 2 m below surface. Other soils were frozen just below the moss layer at that time. Borrow pits in this material would be relatively easy to reclaim following construction.

Several different dam design concepts have been considered. Because of uncertainties regarding the thermal conditions and permafrost in the dam and dam foundations, it was necessary to assess dams for frozen and unfrozen states.

The frozen dam condition is one where, following construction, the permafrost moves up into the dam and causes the main body of the dam to become permanently frozen. Ideally, the dam should be constructed so that the top of the permafrost (the bottom of the active zone), is above the maximum pond elevation. In this case, seepage is effectively eliminated, and the structural strength of the dam is high. Development of

frozen dams has been successfully carried out at some arctic mines, and generally requires a very broad-crested dam to avoid three-dimensional conditions imposed by heating of the dam faces during the summer months. Two well-documented case histories of frozen earthfill dams are the Crescent Lake Dam near Thule Air Base, Greenland (Fulwider, 1973) and the tailings dams at the Lupin Mine located in the Northwest Territories (Geocon, 1990). These dams consist of low, earthfill dam structures which are constructed in continuous permafrost zones.

The unfrozen case assumes a semi-permeable dam. Appropriate placement and compaction of the dam fill material would ensure adequate strength of the structure itself. Stability of the foundations may be related to the degree of thawing of the permafrost underlying the dam. If the dam foundations thaw, zones of loose sand may result which could be susceptible to liquefaction under seismic conditions. To ensure adequate stability of the dam under these conditions, a dam with gentle side-slopes is required to avoid excessive deformation in the unlikely event of liquefaction of the foundation material. A situation may result where initial seepage causes shallow thawing of foundations, which would later re-freeze as seepage diminishes.

A one-dimensional thermal analysis has been carried out to assess the thermal conditions following dam construction. Stability analyses have been carried out for the above cases (frozen and unfrozen). The thermal and stability analyses, and the required dam cross sections are discussed in the following sections.

4.2 Thermal Analysis

A one-dimensional thermal analysis was carried out for the dam using the computer program THERM1 (Nixon, 1990). The program uses the finite difference method to solve one-dimensional heat transfer problems in soils with freezing or thawing. A wide-crested tailings dam can be considered as a one-dimensional problem. The program

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produces data which has been plotted (see Appendix III) to illustrate the variation of temperature with depth over the course of the year. The primary intent of the modelling is to determine the depth of the active layer in the dam and/or foundations. The active layer is determined as the soil which, at some time of the year, reaches a temperature at or above the freezing point. The active layer freezes each winter and below the active layer, the soil is assumed to remain permanently frozen.

The modelling program requires input data including mean monthly air temperatures throughout the year. Detailed temperature data are available for Carmacks, 700 m lower than the site. Based on discussions with Environment Canada personnel in their Vancouver weather office, adjustments were made to the Carmacks data to account for the higher elevation of the site. Initially, average values of 4°C less than the Carmacks data were used. However, Carmacks data less 3°C produced results more closely matching those observed on site. Consequently, 3°C less than the Carmacks data was adopted for subsequent modelling.

To calibrate the model, input values including soil parameters and temperature data were adjusted until results agreed with observed field conditions. For the clean terrace sand, which is the preferred construction material, an active layer of about 2 m to 3 m is expected to develop, as seen in the in situ deposits. Where the silty grey sand exists at surface, the modelling shows an active layer of less than about 0.5 m, as observed on the right abutment.

Based on the above results, it is concluded that the active layer in the dam may penetrate to about 3 m below the crest elevation. Where the dam height lessens on the abutments, there is potential for the active layer to penetrate into the foundations. On the left abutment, where the foundations are formed in clean terrace sand, or rocky colluvium, this will not be a problem. However, on the right abutment and valley bottom, and part

of the left abutment beneath the low section of the dam, some fine-grained, ice-rich soils exist in the foundations. To avoid thawing of fine-grained, potentially ice-rich soils, raising of the crest will be required in these areas. By providing a minimum fill thickness of 4.0 m in all areas of fine grained soils where the foundation surface is at or below the design maximum pond elevation, thawing of these critical zones can be avoided.

4.3 Stability Analysis

Unfrozen Dam Condition

Stability analyses were carried out to determine the cross sectional geometry required to ensure adequate stability of the dam under static and seismic conditions, for the worst case (unlikely) where both the dam and the foundations are thawed.

For the chosen cross sectional geometry, the minimum factor of safety against failure under static conditions is about 2.2.

A stability analysis has been carried out to assess the possibility of failure for a case where foundation soils thaw. This could result in loose sands which may be subject to liquefaction under seismic conditions. Details of the analysis are given in Appendix IV. The results indicate that, to achieve a factor of safety of 1.1, considered reasonable for this case, requires a dam with a base width of at least 80 m. The dam configuration given in Drawing D-3003 meets the necessary criteria, with a base width of about 90 m.

Frozen Dam Condition

A relatively broad-crested dam is required to avoid three-dimensional heating effects and allow freezing of the dam. It is generally accepted in the literature that a dam width to height ratio of about 3:1 is acceptable. The width is taken as the horizontal distance between upstream and downstream faces of the dam at the elevation of the pond water

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level. In a situation where a tailings beach exists against the dam, the horizontal thickness of the tailings can be included in the calculation. If we assume that the tailings beach is developed to within 1.0 m of the dam crest elevation, and the freeboard above the pond level is 2.0 m, then, the horizontal tailings thickness will be about 100 m. Adding his 100 m to the horizontal dam width at this elevation provides an adequate effective dam width. Consequently, a conventional dam crest width of about 6 m would be acceptable. These calculations are conservative, because the pond level would normally be kept much lower than 2 m below the dam crest.

4.4 Dam Cross Section

Two stability analyses were carried out, as described above, to determine geometric design parameters for a frozen dam and an unfrozen dam. The results indicate that the cross sectional geometry required to ensure stability for the two conditions are very similar. Consequently, for this level of design, the following basic cross sectional geometry has been chosen:

۲	Crest Width	6 m
	Upstream Slope Angle	2.5H:1V
►	Downstream Slope Angle	3.5H:1V
	Minimum fill thickness over fine grained soils	4.0 m

In addition, a minimum fill depth of 4.0 m should be maintained in all areas where the foundation surface is at or below the design dam crest elevation, except where the foundation is formed of the clean terrace sands.

This geometry results in a dam which meets stability requirements for both frozen and unfrozen states. Drawing D-3004 illustrates the proposed dam cross sectional geometry of the dam.

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The dam is a homogeneous earthfill structure constructed from the fine to medium grained yellow-brown sand located as a terrace deposit at the site. Grain size tests indicate that this sand contains up to about 10% silt. The siltier grey sand located beneath the terrace deposit is also suitable for construction, but, because of poorer drainage, contains more ice and therefore may be more difficult to excavate. Test pits indicated that in July, the terrace sands were thawed to a depth of about 2 m and that the grey silty sands (insulated with moss) were thawed to a depth of only about 0.5 m or less.

Alternatively, the downstream portion of the dam could be constructed from mine waste rock. If this option is pursued, a suitable filter would be required between the sand fill and the rock fill portions of the dam.

The dam foundations should be excavated to below the active zone, or about 1.5 m to 2.0 m. Below this depth, no significant ice lenses were noted in drill holes, except on the right abutment. Within the active zone, significant ice was noted in drill cuttings and test pits.

Erosion protection will be required on the downstream face of the dam, on the crest, and on the upstream face above the tailings beach. Waste rock from the open pit will be suitable for this purpose. A layer of rock about 0.5 m thick will be sufficient.

4.5 Spillway and Water Diversions

The tailings facility will require an emergency spillway during mine operation to avoid any potential for overtopping of the dam during extreme storm events. The emergency spillway would be upgraded to a permanent spillway following closure of the mine. At that time, because water discharge from the system would be acceptable (following

degradation of any remaining cyanide), Dome Creek would be allowed to flow through the pond and over the spillway.

It appears that the best location for the spillway is on the left (north) abutment. Overburden depths are relatively shallow in that area, probably allowing the spillway crest to be developed in bedrock. Overburden in the area consists of terrace sands and rocky colluvium. Development of the spillway trench in these soil types will avoid problems associated with open excavations in permafrost-rich fine grained soils. Portions of the spillway, such as the outlet channel, to be excavated in sandy soils would require riprap available from the open pit waste. A preliminary alignment and typical cross section for the spillway are shown on Drawing D-3003.

Alternatively, the spillway may be developed in the right abutment. Because of the steep slopes, neither the drill or the backhoe could access this area during the 1994 site investigation. However, if soil conditions permit, a spillway on the right abutment may require a smaller excavation than on the left abutment. Further site investigation will be required to determine overburden depths and the soil types in the area south of the dam (right abutment) to confirm feasibility of this option.

Hydrology aspects of the spillway are discussed in Section 5.

4.6 Seepage Control

It is understood that, during mine operation, cyanide destruction will take place in the mill prior to tailings discharge to the tailings pond. However, some cyanide may remain in the tailings and it will be desirable to maintain a zero discharge system. For this reason seepage should be minimized through the dam. The dam, being built from fine to medium sand with a low percentage of fines, will be a semi-pervious structure. However, we understand that the tailings to be stored in the impoundment will be quite fine due to the grind in the mill and the high proportion of clay minerals in the ore. By

developing a tailings beach on the upstream face of the dam, a very low-permeability structure can be realized and seepage will be greatly reduced.

A seepage analysis was carried for an unfrozen dam condition out using the twodimensional finite element computer program SEEP/W. The results of the seepage analysis (see Appendix V) indicate that the dam will be well drained with all seepage occurring in the lowermost 1 m of the dam. Total seepage through the dam is estimated to be less than 1 ℓ /sec. This is dependent on development of a tailings beach on the upstream face of the dam. Hydraulic conductivities of the various materials used in the analysis are given in Table 4.1.

	Table 4.1	Summary	of Hydraul	ic Parameters	Used in	Seepage Analysi	is
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MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY
Deep foundation soils - will remain frozen and essentially impermeable	1 x 10 ⁻⁹ m/s
Shallow foundation soils - assumed to be thawed to a depth of about 5 m - consist of fine to medium sands with varying silt content	1 x 10 ⁻⁵ m/s
Dam - compacted clean fine to medium sand with up to about 10% fines	1 x 10 ⁻⁴ m/s
Tailings - high fines content - permeability may be as low as 1×10^7 m/s	1 x 10 ⁻⁶ m/s

In the most probable event that the permafrost front moves up into the dam to a height higher than the pond level, seepage will be reduced to near zero.

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5. HYDROLOGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

5.1 Climate and Extreme Events

Feasibility level hydrological studies were carried out by Klohn Leonoff (Klohn Leonoff 1988 and 1990). The following information was extracted from these studies unless otherwise noted.

Climatological data has been obtained from the nearest Environment Canada meteorological station, No. 2100300, which is located 60 km east of the site at Carmacks. The weather station is at an elevation of 524 m, 776 m below the minesite elevation of 1300 m. Precipitation data from this station were used for the water balance studies. Evaporation data was obtained from Fort Selkirk, Environment Canada Station No. 2100600, located approximately 80 km northwest of the minesite at elevation 454 m.

Precipitation at Mt. Nansen falls in the form of both rain and snow. Snow begins falling in November and remains on the ground until May. We understand that typically, a snowpack of 1 m occurs. Approximately 40% of the annual precipitation falls as snow. Some rainfall occurs as early as April, but the majority of rainfall occurs from June to August. The most intense rainfall occurs in July. Mean annual precipitation values on a monthly basis are summarized in Table 5.1 along with a 200-year return period wet year and a 10-year return period dry year.

The evaporation data for Fort Selkirk is presented in Table 5.1. The highest evaporation rate occurs in June. Water losses due to evaporation drop off significantly in the winter as temperature drops. During the summer months of May through August, evaporation is nearly five times the value of the average precipitation.

TIME (minutes)	INTENSITY (mm/hr)
5	5.2
10	5.2
15	5.2
20	5.2
25	5.6
30	30.6
35	121.2
40	30.6
45	5.6
50	5.6
55	5.2
60	5.2

Table 5.2 One-Hour 200-Year Return Period Storm

For the purposes of preliminary sizing of a closure spillway a statistical Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) was estimated using data from Carmacks. This methodology (National Research Council of Canada) uses the mean and standard deviation of the annual extreme precipitation values. The resulting 1 hour, 6 hour and 24 hour PMP rainfall depths were 63 mm, 76 mm, and 108 mm. These estimates are adequate for this feasibility level study. For final design a detailed site specific PMP and Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) study may be required, including an assessment of seasonal variation and maximized snowpack conditions.

5.2 Diversion Channel Design

To divert the flow of Dome Creek around the tailings pond, a diversion channel could be constructed on the left abutment of the dam, as shown on Drawing D-3003. A catchment area of approximately 2.26 km² contributes flow to the diversion channel. Based on the 200-year return period 1 hour storm, the peak discharge in the channel was estimated to be 9.1 m³/s. A trapezoidal channel 3 m wide at the base, 2 m deep with 2H:1V side slopes and a longitudinal slope of 0.1% is adequate to convey the peak

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level of study. Further studies would be required for detailed design of the closure spillway. To carry this discharge, a closure spillway 10 m wide would have a depth of flow of 1.6 m.

As shown on Drawing D-3003, the spillway has been located on the left abutment. This is subject to the field confirmation of bedrock location on this abutment. The location of the spillway should be reevaluated if, based on additional field investigation, bedrock and soil conditions are more favourable on the right abutment. Based on the studies presented, we recommend that an operational spillway 5 m wide be constructed. The invert of this spillway should be set a minimum of 1.7 m below the crest of the dam, thus providing approximately 0.5 m of freeboard during a 200-year return period flood. Upon mine closure, this spillway could be widened or deepened to provide discharge capacity for the PMF. Alternatively, the dam could be raised approximately 1.5 m to provide sufficient discharge capacity to pass the PMF with the 5 m wide spillway.

A waste rock lined spillway discharge channel is required to carry the spillway flow down the slope and into Dome Creek. The diversion channel could tie into the spillway discharge channel downstream of the spillway crest.

5.4 Water Balance

A preliminary water balance was carried out to determine if a diversion ditch was required to minimize discharge from the pond. Using annual water volumes it was determined that a small surplus of water would result if a diversion ditch was constructed. Based on this analysis, a monthly water balance analysis, including a diversion ditch, was carried out and is presented in Appendix VI. For final design purposes, refinements to the monthly water balance including detailed mill water requirements should be carried out to determine the variation in pond level to ensure sufficient freeboard during operation and to minimize discharge. The water balance

assumes a water reclaim system would be used continuously, to recycle water to the mill, so there is no net addition of water from the mill. Domestic and sewage water, which would be discharged with the tailings, have not been accounted for. However, their volumes would be small compared to the other factors and would not have a significant effect on this level of water balance calculation.

The annual precipitation values of 271 mm, 370 mm and 200 mm, corresponding to mean year, 200-year wet year, and 10-year dry year, were used. A catchment runoff coefficient of 0.6 was used for the mean and dry years while a value of 0.8 was used for the wet year. The natural pond catchment area was estimated to be 0.46 km², with the Dome Creek diversion channel in place. Without the diversion channel in place, the natural pond catchment area would increase to 2.72 km². The pond area was estimated to be 0.04 km² for this preliminary monthly analysis. An annual evaporation of 452.9 mm was used. Seepage losses were assumed to be zero for this level of study. Since information was not available on tailings transport water nor reclaim requirements, these were not accounted for in the water balance. These must be accounted for at the next level of design. The loss of water to voids was estimated to be approximately 44 000 m³/year based on a daily deposition rate of 300 tonnes/day, in-place dry density of 1.25 tonnes/m³ and a specific gravity of 2.75. A volume of tailings of 40 000 m³/yr was assumed to enter the tailings pond raising the pond water level.

The results of the monthly water balance are shown in Appendix VI. Results indicate that, with a stream diversion in place, there may be an annual net gain of water in the pond of about 20 000 m³ to 30 000 m³, in an average year. The pond level rises from a starting level of El. 1137 m in August of Year 1 to El. 1146.2 m at the end of July in Year 3. In the winter months the monthly water balance indicates a water deficit. Once tailings transport water and reclaim requirements are known, the pond level water level

September 26, 1994

in the fall must be estimated to ensure that sufficient water is available to supply the reclaim requirements over winter.

During a wet year, a surplus of about 90 000 m³ may result. This translates into a pond rise, above average levels, of 1 m to 2 m assuming no spillage of water from the pond. In a dry year, close to zero excess water would result along with pond levels 1 m to 0.5 m below average levels. Based on the water balance analysis, if a diversion channel is not constructed, then under average conditions an excess of approximately 400 000 m³ could result.

To minimize excess water, we recommend construction of the Dome Creek diversion channel. During a dry year water could be spilled from the diversion channel into the pond to add water, if required. It is recommended that, for final design, refinements to the monthly water balance be carried to include slurry transport water and reclaim water.

Excess water would be discharged to Dome Creek, and may require treatment to meet water quality guidelines. Assessment of water chemistry and treatment is beyond the scope of this report. We understand that these questions are being addressed by others.

5.5 Seepage Collection

There may be some seepage through the dam, particularly in the early part of the operation, prior to freezing of the dam. If the quality of seepage water is unacceptable, a small seepage recovery pond may be required to catch any seepage and allow it to be pumped back into the pond.

A preliminary design for the seepage collection dam has been prepared and is presented in Drawing D-3003. The dam would be built of compacted sand, from the same borrow as the main dam. The dam would be about 2 m high above original topography, and would be founded in an excavation about 1.5 m deep.

Both the impoundment and the dam would be lined with an impermeable geosynthetic membrane to eliminate seepage. The membrane would be anchored in a trench extending below the active zone into permanently frozen ground to provide a positive cutoff.

A sump is provided at the upstream toe of the dam. Water would be pumped from the sump back to the main tailings impoundment.

The seepage recovery impoundment would be required to be able to store the runoff from a design storm. To minimize this requirement, diversion ditches would be provided to divert slope runoff from adjacent valley sides. Only seepage and runoff from the immediate area and main dam would be collected. Calculations indicate that a dam 2 m above original ground would provide adequate storage. This conceptual design will be refined as part of final design.

POND OPERATION

6

To avoid seepage through the thawed portion of the dam (active zone) the pond level should be kept at least 3 m below the dam crest elevation. This value (3 m) may be adjusted based on monitoring of the active zone as the permafrost develops in the dam. However, the tailings beach can be developed above pond level, essentially up to dam crest elevation, to reduce seepage.

Summer Operation

To reduce the permeability of the dam and to increase the effective horizontal width of the dam, it will be necessary to develop a tailings beach against the dam. This must be accomplished during the first summer of operation. The beach will be created by spigotting tailings from the crest of the dam. Tailings discharged at the dam is expected to slope away from the dam at approximately 1%. During operation, tailings should be spigotted from the dam during summer months each year. This will likely be possible from about May to September.

Water separated from the tailings slurry will form a pond where it can be reclaimed for use at the mill. A minimum water depth of 2.0 m should be maintained in the pond to allow enough depth to allow the fines to settle prior to the water being reclaimed and pumped back to the mill.

Winter Operation

During winter operations, ice lens formation or glaciation could interfere with the tailings discharge. This could lead to a reduction in the reclaim water as ice freezes into the beach causing a decrease in the in situ density of the tailings deposit. Possibly of even greater importance, significant volumes can be taken up by ice, reducing the available storage for tailings. To avoid this problem, single-point, subaqueous deposition of the tailings through the ice-covered pond will be required during the winter months.

Sufficient excess water should be stored in the pond at the end of summer to ensure sufficient reclaim water over winter.

Placement of the tailings subaqueously in the water will reduce the average in situ density of the tails. The solids will tend to build up a flat cone in the pond area, reducing the depth of reclaimable water and reducing the beach areas. Controlled spigotting in the summer will be necessary to re-create the beaches for the following year.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following summary and conclusions have been drawn from the study:

- ▶ Of the four sites studied to date, Site #4 is the most attractive site for development of a tailings storage dam.
- It is both technically feasible and practical to build a tailings dam at Site #4 to impound 300 000 tonnes of tailings.
- ▶ The valley topography at Site #4 is well suited to a possible later dam raise. This would increase storage capacity to accommodate the discovery of additional ore reserves. In this regard, Site #4 is much more attractive than the other three sites previously considered.
- ▶ The foundations at Site #4 consist of sandy soils with varying amounts of fines. Occasional gravelly layers exist within the sandy soils. Some organic rich horizons are present, especially on the right abutment.
- ▶ If the foundation materials thaw, only very minor settlement will occur in the sandy soils. The organic-rich soils will consolidate significantly if melted, but because of their limited thickness, total settlement in the dam will not be large.
- Significant ice occurs in about the upper 1.5 m of the overburden at Site #4.
- ► The estimated annual precipitation values for a mean year, 200-year wet year, and 10-year dry year are 271 mm, 370 mm and 200 mm respectively. The statistically estimated 1 hour, 6 hour and 24 hour Probable Maximum Precipitation(PMP) depths are 63 mm, 76 mm, and 108 mm. The estimated annual evaporation is 452.9 mm.
- A diversion channel should be constructed to divert Dome Creek around the tailings pond. During a dry year, water could be spilled from the diversion channel into the pond to make up possible water deficits.
- An operational emergency spillway 5 m wide should be constructed. Initial siting is on the left abutment but it may be located on the right abutment, based on subsequent investigations. The invert of this spillway should be in rock and set a minimum of 1.7 m below the crest of the dam. A riprap lined discharge channel should be provided.
- A closure spillway approximately 10 m wide with an invert in rock and set 2.0 m below the dam crest should be built.

The water balance indicates that, with the diversion in place and, under somewhat drier than normal conditions, discharge may be avoided. However, to allow for less than perfect diversion efficiency, higher than average rainfall, or other water balance upsets, provision should be made to allow discharge from the pond.

This study has proven the feasibility of developing a tailings storage facility at Site #4, and that Site #4 is the most attractive location available. For detailed design, some refinements will be required, as listed below:

- A detailed site-specific PMP and Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) study, should be carried out including an assessment of PMF seasonal variation and maximized snowpack conditions.
- ▶ Sizing and locating of the closure spillway should be carried out.
- The water balance should be refined by including details of slurry transport water and reclaim water.
- Collection of climatic data for the site should be commenced as soon as staff are on site on a regular basis to maintain equipment.
- ► Test pits or other methods should be employed to investigate soil depth and condition on both abutments, and particularly the right (south) abutment.

KLOHN-CRIPPEN CONSULTANTS LTD.

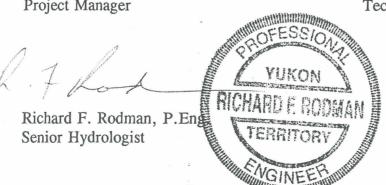
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Blair S. Trenholme, P.Eng. Project Manager

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for Peter C. Lighthall, P.Eng. Technical Reviewer



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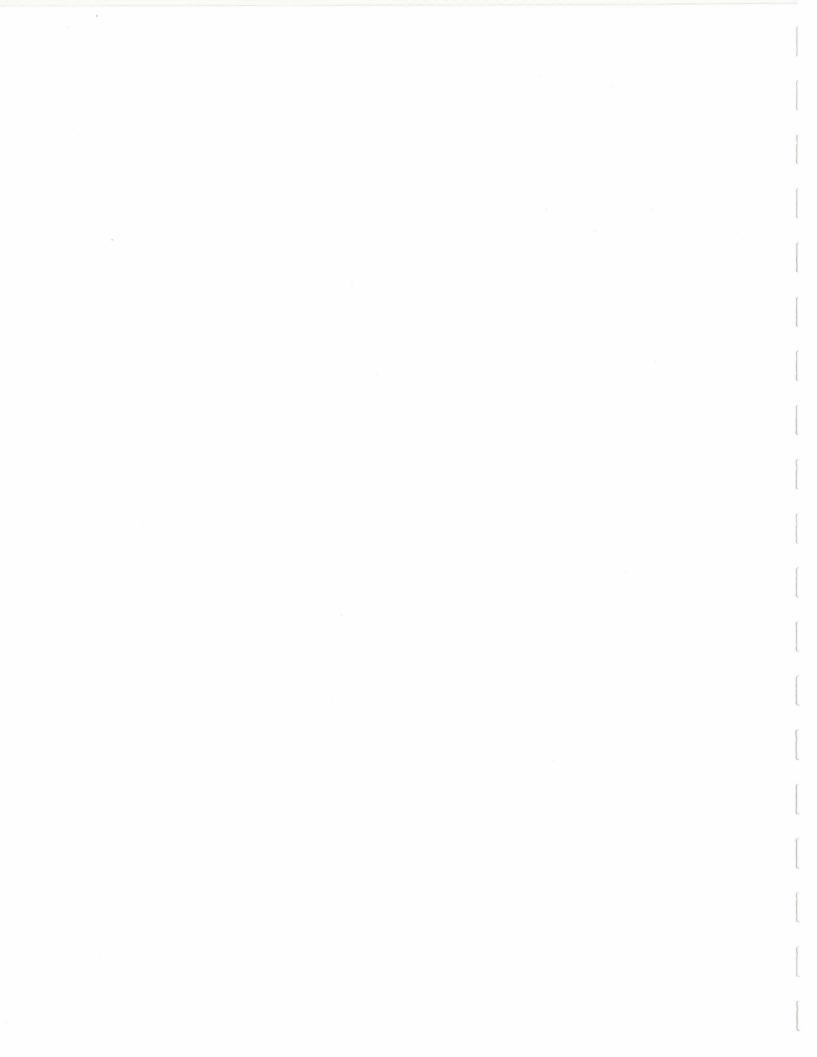
Geocon (1990). "Thermal Performance of Earth Structures at Lupin Mine, Contwoyto Lake, Northwest Territories"; report prepared for Echo Bay Mines Ltd. and Permafrost Research Station, Terrain Science Division, Geological Survey of Canada.





APPENDIX I

Seismic Evaluation



	ENCOLUCION CANADA RESOURCES CANADA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA	CES, SIDNEY, BC	RESSOL	MINES ET ES CANADA ON GEOLOG			
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a financia a	PROBABILITY OF EXCEEDENCE	0.010	0. 005	0.0021	0. 001		
	IN 50 YEARS/ PROBABILITE DE DEPASSEMENT EN 50 ANS	40 %	22 %	10 %	5 %		
-	PEAK HORIZONTAL GROUND ACCELERATION (G)				te t com e ⊿ têz e⊶ e⊶ e · · ·	une Q = Q1 · Q1. Gas	
	ACCELERATION HORIZONTALE MAXIMALE DU SOL (Q)	0.057). 074	0.095	0.117		
	PEAK HORIZONTAL GROUND VELOCITY (M/SEC)	0. 126	0. 163	0. 217	0. 262		
	VITESSE HORIZONTALE MAXIMALE DU SDL (M/SEC)						
1.	* REFERENCES NEW PROBABILISTIC STRONG SEIST OF CANADA: A COMPILATION OF EA P.W. BASHAM, D.H. WEICHERT, F. EARTH PHYSICS BRANCH OPEN FILE	M. ANGUIN,	URCE ZONE AND M. J.	S, METHOD BERRY		SULTS.	
2.	ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS OF NE SEISMIC GROUND-MOTION MAPS OF A.C. HEIDEBRECHT, P.W. BASHAM, CANADIAN JOURNAL OF CIVIL ENGI	J. H. RAINE	R, AND M.		70-680,	1983.	
З.	. NEW PROBABILISTIC STRONG GROUND MOTION MAPS OF CANADA. P.W. BASHAM, D.H. WEICHERT, F.M. ANGLIN, AND M.J. BERRY, BULLETIN OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, VOL. 73, NO. 2, P. 563-595, 1985.						
4A.	SUPPLEMENT TO THE NATIONAL BUD CHAPTER 1: CLIMATIC INFORMATIC CHAPTER 4: COMMENTARY J: EFFEC	IN FOR BUILD	ING DESIQ			3178.	
4B.	SUPPLEMENT DU CODE NATIONAL DU CHAPITRE 1: DONNEES CLIMATIQUE CHAPITRE 4: COMMENTAIRE J: EFF	S POUR LE CA	ALCUL DES				
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SITE

MT. ANSEN, YUKON

ZONING FOR ABOVE SITE/ ZONAGE DU SITE CI-DESSUS

1985 NBCC/CNBC: ZA = 2; ZV = 4; V = 0.20 M/S

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VELOCITY ZONE/ ZONE DE VITESSE ZV=4 ZONAL VELOCITY/ VITESSE ZONALE 0.20 M/S

1985 NBCC/CNBC ** SEISMIC ZONING MAPS/ CARTES DU ZONAGE SEISMIQUE

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0.04	1	0. 05
0.08	2	0. 10
0.11		4
0.16	3	0.15
	4	0.20
0.23	5	0.30
0.32		
	6*	0.40%
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* ZONE 6: NOMINAL VALUE/ VALEUR NOMINALE 0.40; SITE-SPECIFIC STUDIES SUGGESTED FOR IMPORTANT PROJECTS/ ETUDES COMPLEMENTAIRES SUGGEREES POUR DES PROJETS D'IMPORTANCE.

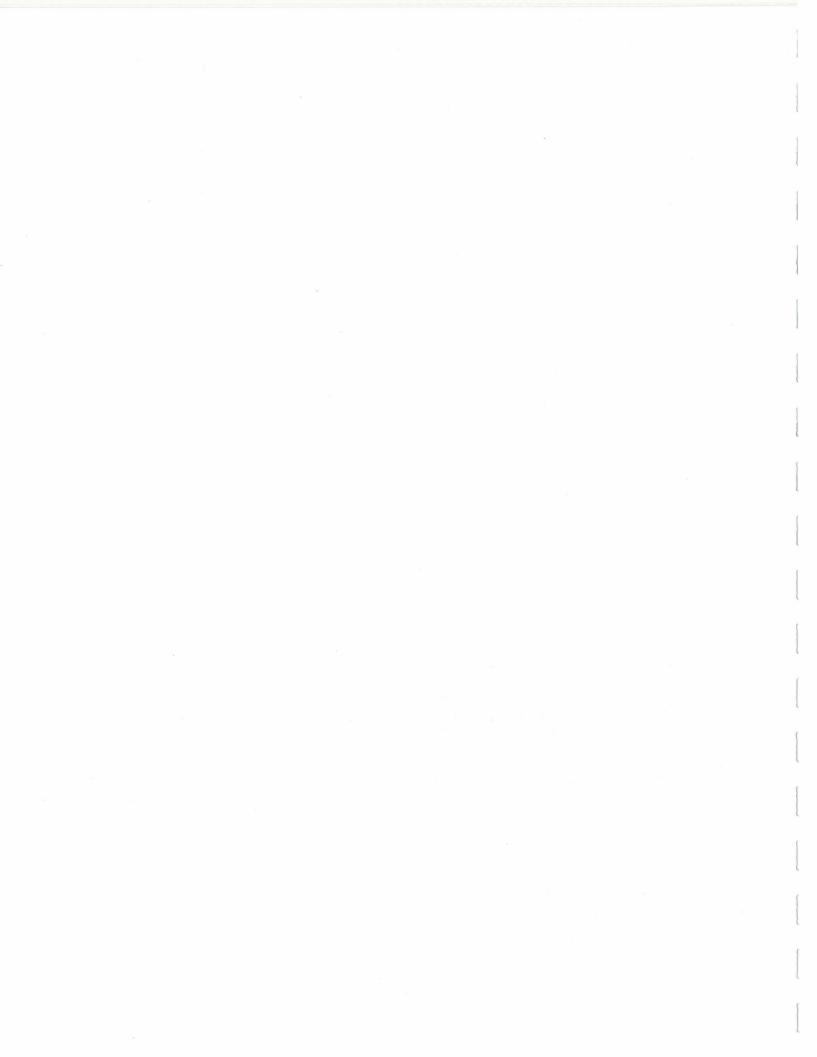
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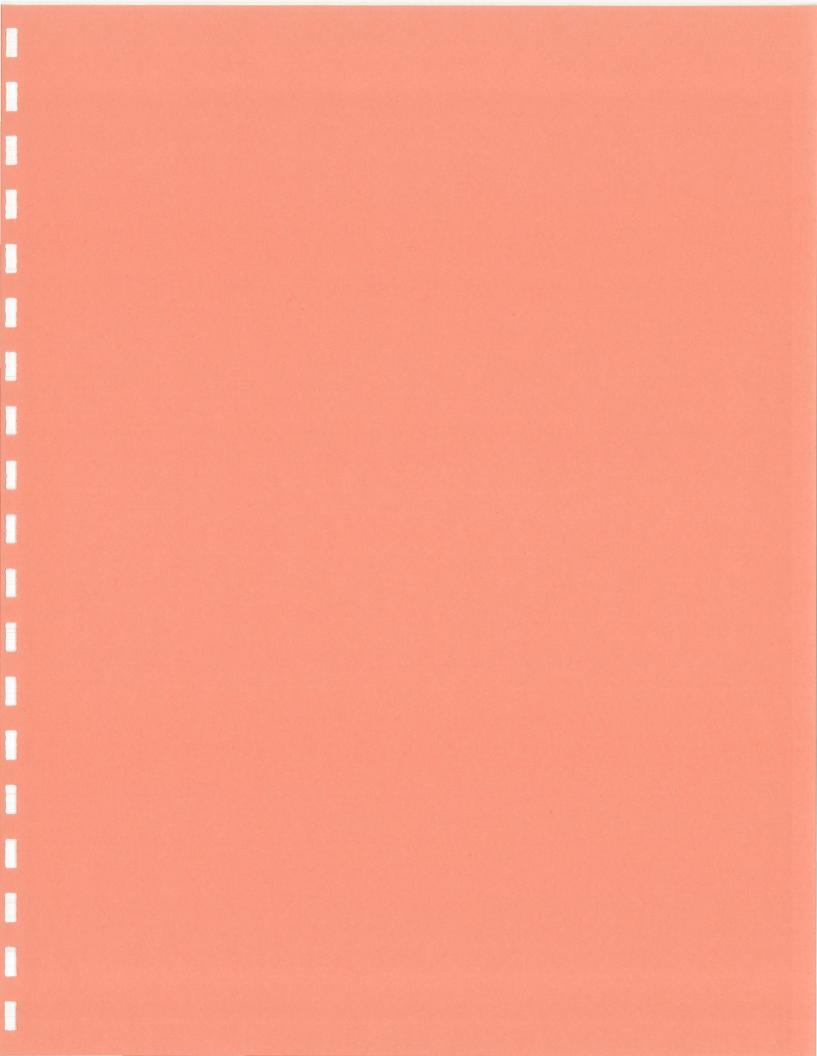
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2.	IF/SI	(ZA -	ZV) <	1,		===>	ZA(EFF)	-	ZV	-	1.
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(SEE REFERENCE 2 CITED ABOVE, [PAGE 677) (VOIR PAGE 677 DE LA REFERENCE 2 CI-DESSUS)

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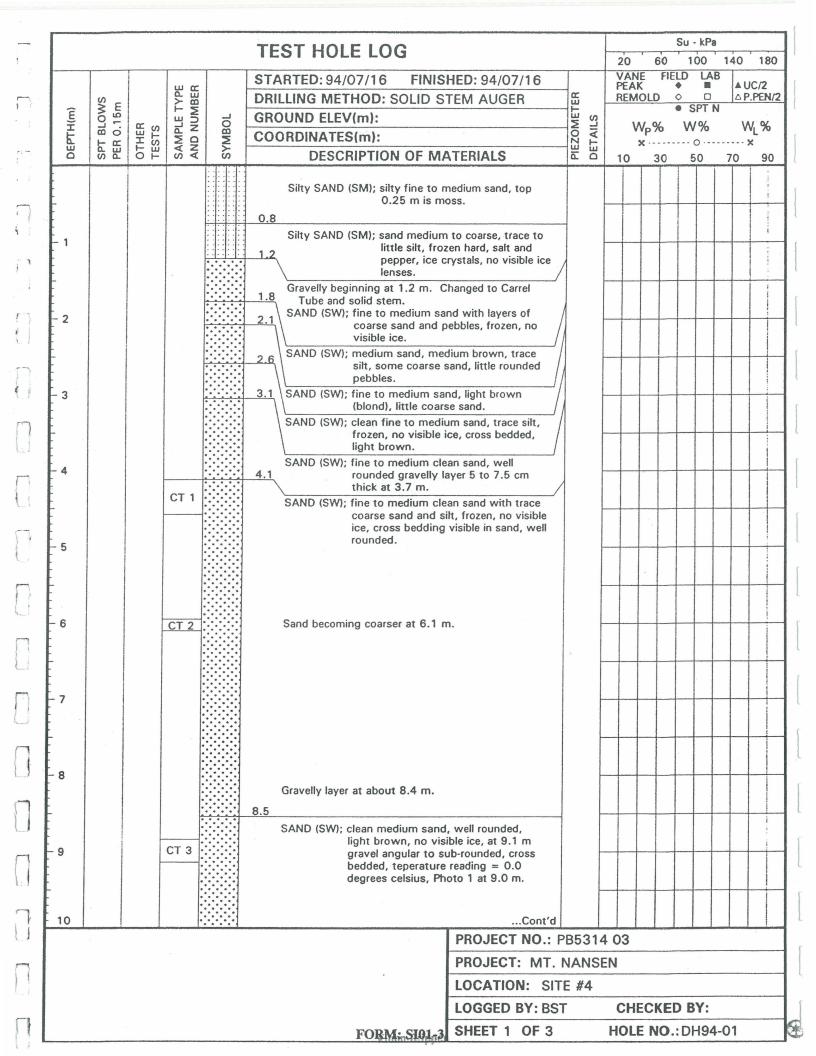
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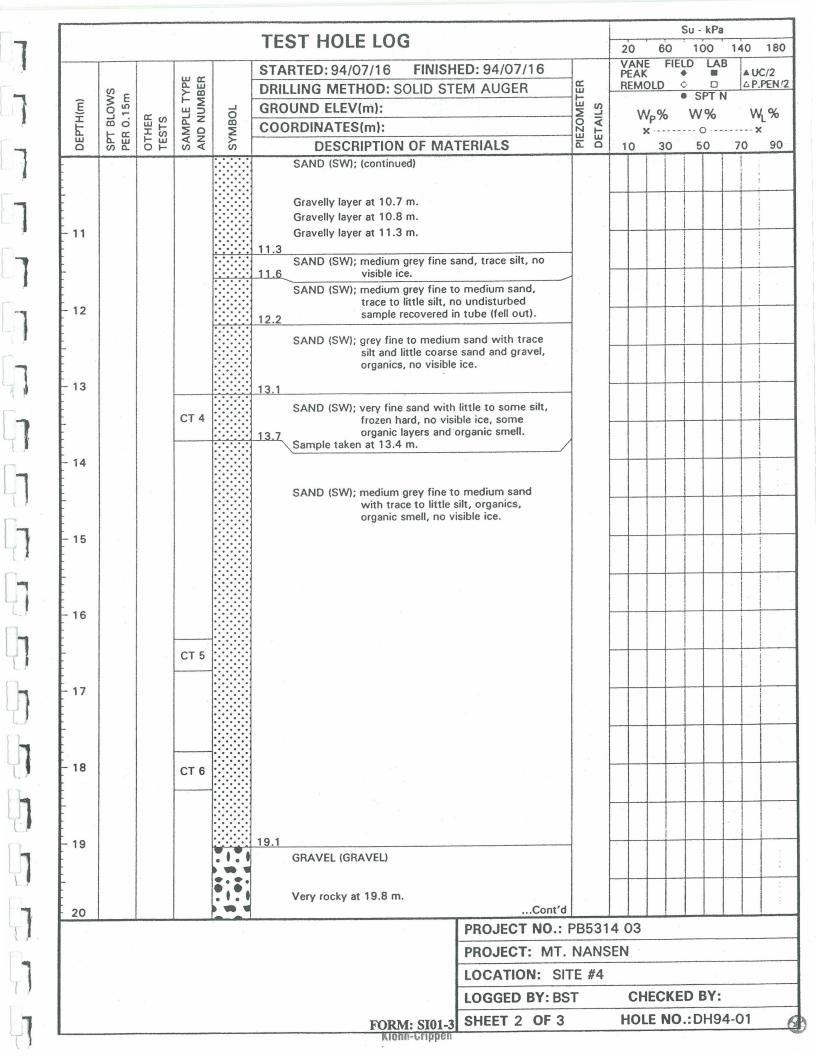
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APPENDIX II

Test Pit Logs and Borehole Logs

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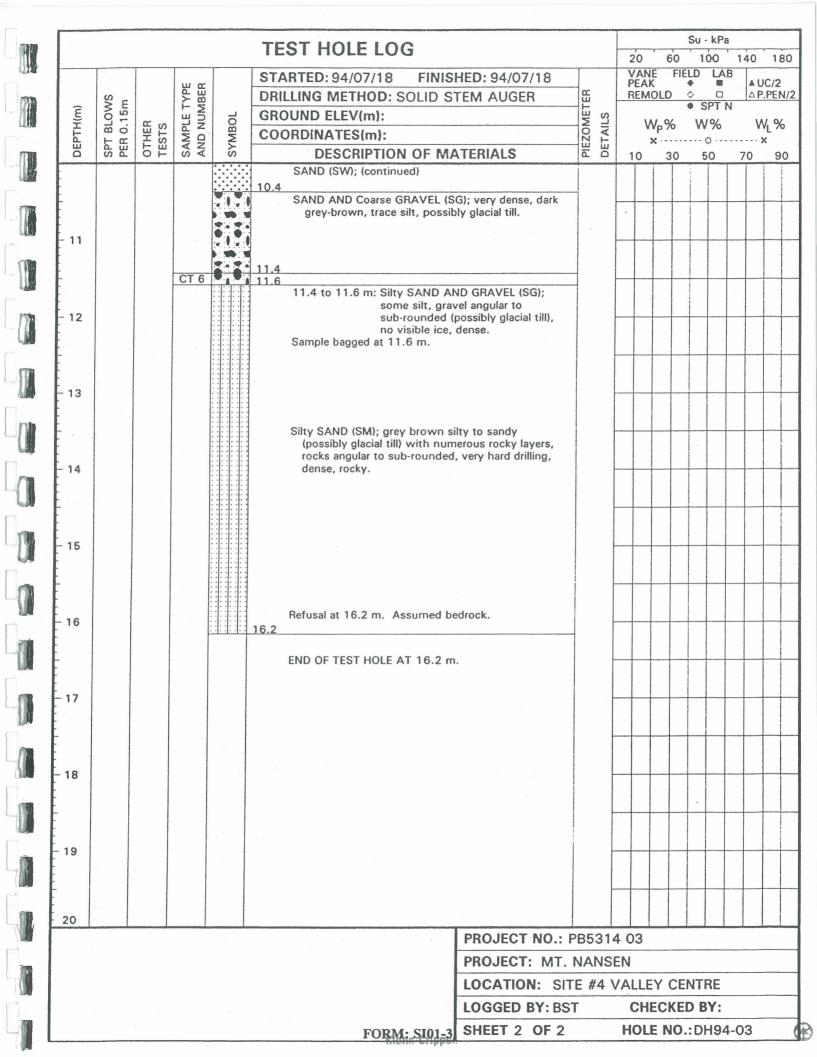




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Ē			-		lenses each 1 mm organic-rich layer	at 1.2 m depth,							
- 2						ows no visible ice, own, well rounded.							
- - 			CT 0		2.4 SAND (SW); dark brown, fine to organics, no vis. id		1						
- 3			CT 2		SAND (SW); light brown fine to becoming coarser	medium sand							
Ē			а		silt, some pebbles, angular rock below	no visible ice, 40%							
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-4					SAND (SW); fine to medium sar to little pebbles, no								
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Ē					0.5-1.0 mm i								
- 5					organics. Sample taken at 4.4 m. High ice content in cuttings (4.6	6 to 5.3 m).							
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- 6	а 1				crystals to 3 a layers of froze Sample taken at 5.8 m.	mm in size, ice rich en peat.				<u></u>			
-	1 2				Silty SAND (SM); silty fine sand strong organic	c odour, numerous							
		ŀ			6.7 roots, some v 7.0 Silty SAND (SM); highly organic	isible ice crystals. silty sand, brown.							
-7			CT 4		SAND (SW); light grey fine to m	edium sand, trace g visible in sand, no							
					7.6 visible ice, angular organics melt to ve	pebbles at 7.6 m,							
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01/770H		ELEVA				SAM	PLE		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES . COLDUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCTUR
SKETCH	LOG	TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING
vel. brown									0-5cm organic soil
SAND			0.2 -						Scm-20cm medium brown
									fine SAND, some roots,
light			0.4-						Volcanie ash mixed in top
brown			-						5 cm
SAND			0.6						7
			-						20 cm - 2.5m fineto
			0.8-						medium clean SAND, cross
			-						belded, netium lense no visible ice, light brow
			1.0-						no o isina cie, my prou
			1.2 -						Refusal on solidly trong
			1.6						ground at 2.5m
			1.4						0.
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SKETCH	LOG ELEV	IUCFININ	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING AND SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
Moss & peat		0.2				,	0-20cm Moss & Peat
3ANO		-					20cm-50cm Medium SAND clean, no visible cce
		0.4-					salt & pepper texture
REFUSAL		0.6					
FROZEN SOLIO							Refusal at 50 cm in
							solidly frozen SAND, as
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LOG LEGEND IIII SHLT IN SAND CLAY CLAY	* 54	MPLE CO		DIST	TURBED	^E <u>SAM</u> B - T C - P	PLING HIN WAL	METHOD	** <u>SHIPPING</u> CONTAINER 6 - SHOVEL 0 - TUBE S-PLIOFILM H- CARVED J P - WATER CONTENT THI T-METAL C BLOCK Q - GLASS JAR U - WOODEN R - CLOTH BAG
SKETCH	LOG	ELEVA- TION	DEPTH	*	++ TYPE	SAMI NO.		RET'D.	DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES, COLOUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCT SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTI SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER A GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
ORGANIC SOIL \$ COOTS			0.2						0-30 cm Organic 50 and roots
SAND			- 0.4_ -						30 cm - 50 cm fire to medium SAND, little
FROZEN SAND			0.6 -						silt (source of silt me be ash?) salt & peppe no visible ice
			- 0.1 -						Refusal on solidly tros Sand, as above, at 50
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						SAM	PLE		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES
SKETCH	LOG	TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO	SIZE	RET'D.	COLDUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TECTURE, STRUCTUR SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
& roots									0-10 cm organic soil
ASA ASA	1		0.2_						\$ roots
SAND			0.4 -						10 cm - 12 cm volcanie ast
									mixed with underlying
			0.6-						Sand & overlying organi
			0.8-						12 cm - 1.0 m medium tra
			-						fine to medium clean SAA trace silt, no visible
frozen			1.0-						•
SAND									Lle
			1.2-						Refusal at 1.0 m on
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PROJECT MT. NI	WSA	V Go	NON	INE	-		EATHE	R CL	GAR INSPECTOR B.TRENHOLME
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		ELEVA				SAMF	PLE		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES
SKETCH	LOG	TION	DEPTH (m)	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	COLOUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCTURE, SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING AND SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
organic soil & roots									0-10 cm organic soil
			0.2						trasts
SAND									
			0.4-						10 cm- 50 cm grey-brown
	-		í -						fine to coarse SAND,
frozen SAND			0.6-						Trace silt some petbles
			-				·		sand rounded, pebbles
			28						angular to sub-rounded
			-						larger fragments more
									angular. No visible de
			-						
			_						Retural on frozen SAND
			-						as above at 50 cm
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							T		SAME	PLE		R- CLOTH BAS DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES
	SKET	CH	. <i>h</i>	LOG	TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	COLDUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCTU SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTIN SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AN GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
		IL, Ra	ors									0-10 cm organic soil
SAND	, ASP	1	7			0.2 -						t roots
	- 4.10					0.4-						10cm-12cm mixed sand an
	SANC)				-			1			Volcanie ash
						0.6						12 cm - 1.2 m medium brown
						0.8						SAND trace silt
												sond wellrounded, no
0	- 11 - 0	- 0.0				1.0-						visible ice. Loose
Ko	CRY A	T BOTIC	m			-						P.C. P. Come SAM
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												Some angular rock frags at base of pit - 1 be close to bebrock?
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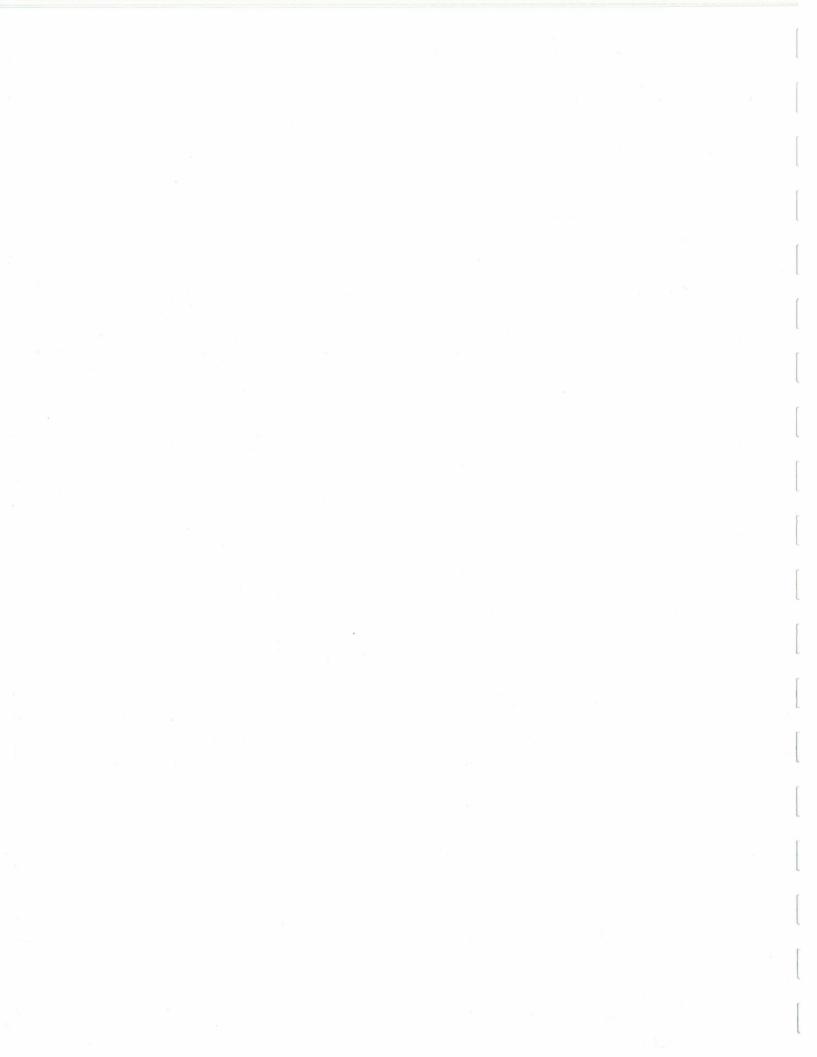
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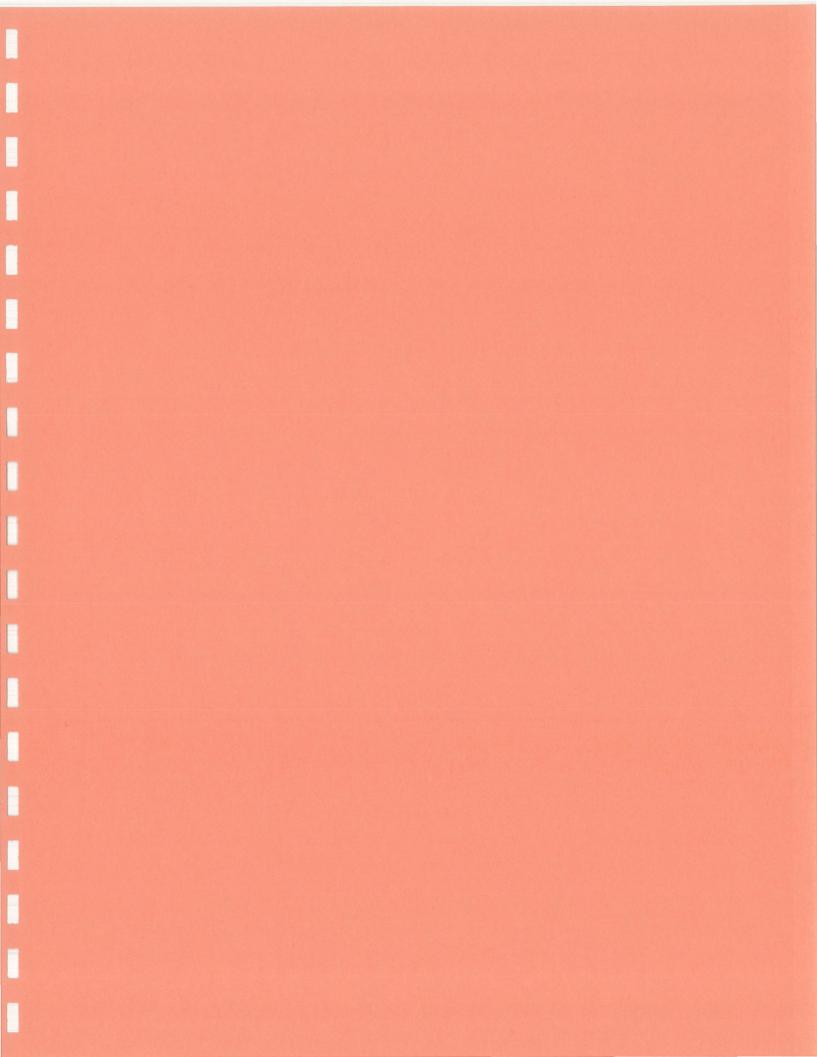
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LOG LEGEND SHLT SAND CLAY CLAY GRAVE		6000		DIST	URBED	8 - T C - P	HIN WAL	METHOD L TUBE AMPLER	** SHIPPING CONTAINER G-SHOYEL 0-TUBE S-PLIOFILM BA N-CARVED J P-WATER CONTENT TIM T-METAL CAN BLOCK Q-GLASS JAR U-WOODEN BOD R-CLOTH BAG
						SAMI	PLE		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES
SKETCH	LOG	ELEVA- TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	- COLOUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCTURE, SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING A SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
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SAND		1	0.2 -						20 cm - 30 cm oxide stainer
FROZEN			0.4-			1			sult & pepper SAND
¥			-						fire to medium
									Retural on frozen SAND,
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	1.00					SAM	મદ		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES
SKETCH	LOG	ELEVA- TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	- COLOUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSITY, TEXTURE, STRUCTUR SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.
DRGANIL SOIL							-		0-15cm organic soil \$100
\$ ROOTS	-		0.2						15Cm - 1.2m
									Clean Fine to medium
			0.4_						SAND, med. bown,
SAND			-						no visible ice med
			0.6-						dense, some angular
									pepples - Angular
			0.8		1				broken rock at base
			-						of pit - close to
angular rock at base			1.0						bedrock!
			-						P.C. P. C. SMID
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LOCATION, LATITUDE	- topolo - and - they are	***				FINISHED 19				
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METHOD OF EXCAVATION		HCK H	OE						WATER LEVELS	
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CLAY CLAY CON GRAVE	002	6000 FAIR		LOS	TURBED	C - F		AMPLER	H-CARVED , P-WATER CONTENT TIM T-METAL CAN BLOCK Q-GLASS JAR U-WOODEN BO R-CLOTH BAG	
		/		SAMPLE			PLE		DESCRIPTION AND FIELD NOTES	
SKETCH	LOG	ELEVA- TION	DEPTH	*	** TYPE	NO.	SIZE	RET'D.	- COLOUR, CONSISTENCY, DENSTY, TECTURE, STRUCTURE SHAPE AND SURFACE CONDITION OF GRAINS, TESTING SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT, WATER AND GAIN, ODOUR, ETC.	
ORGANIC SOIL, rook									0-10 cm organic soil \$ roo	
			0.2-						10 cm - 1.5 m	
									Colluvial soil, SAND,	
			0.4-						trace to little silt,	
		× .	í -						some angular publes	
			0.6-						no vinble ice	
SANDY			-							
COLLUVIUM		K	0.8-						Refusal on tructured	
									rock at 1.5 m	
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APPENDIX III

Thermal Analysis

BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Appendix III - Thermal Analysis

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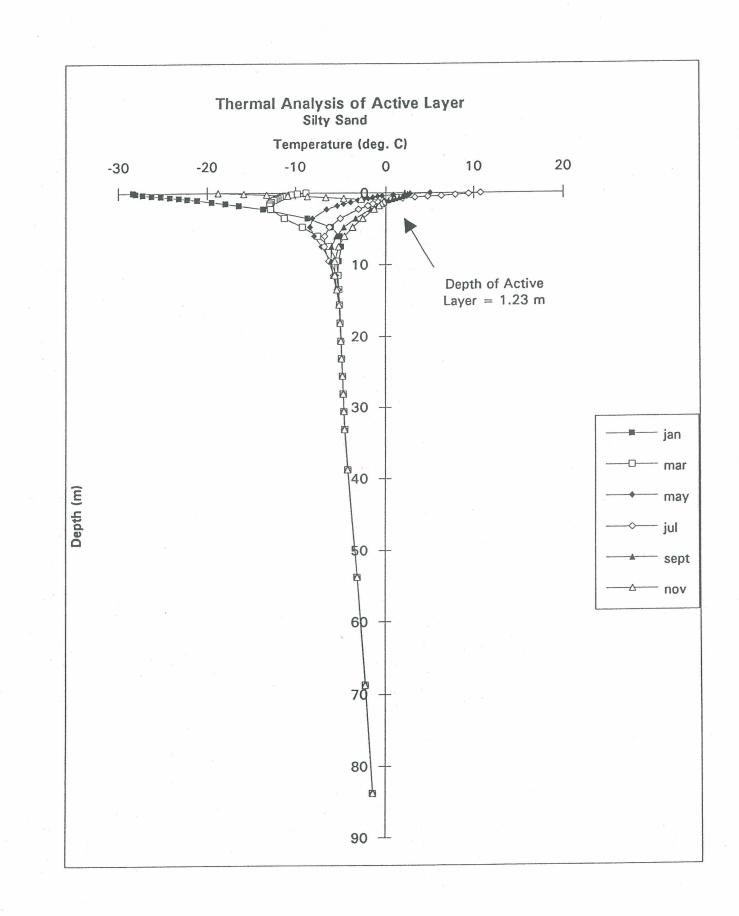
September 26, 1994

APPENDIX III THERMAL ANALYSIS

Thermal analyses were carried out to determine the depth of the active layer. Two plots are shown (terrace sand and silty sand) representing the two main soil types on site. The terrace sand will probably be used for low construction.

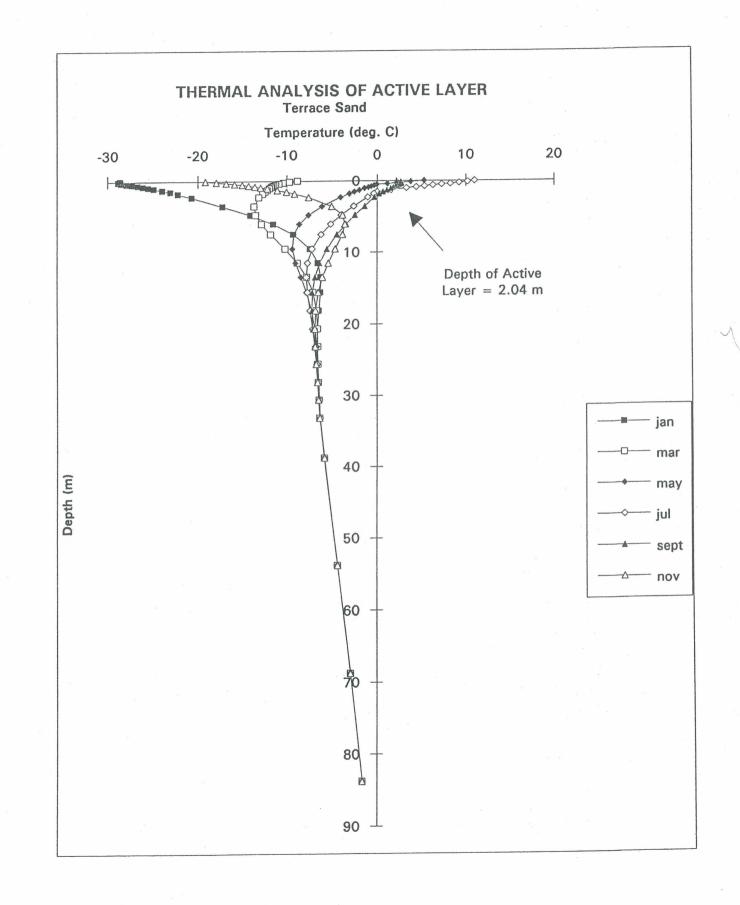
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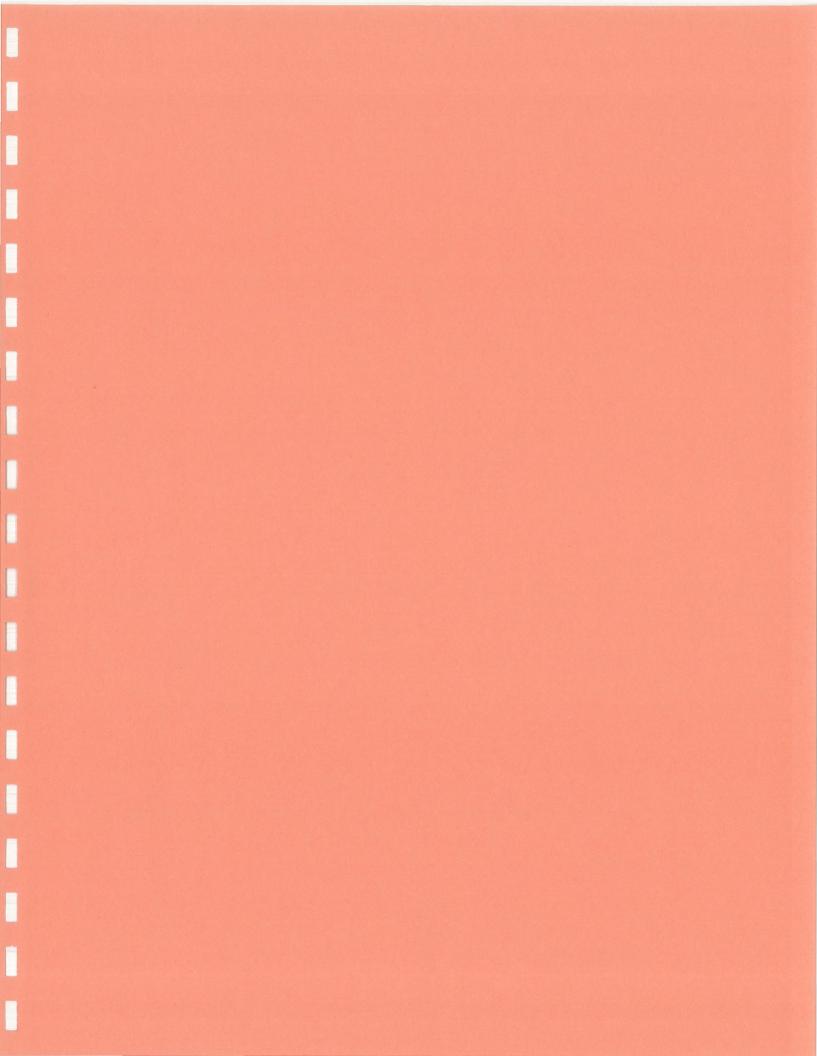
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APPENDIX IV

Stability Analysis for Foundation Liquefaction

BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Appendix IV - Stability Analysis for Foundation Liquefaction

APPENDIX IV

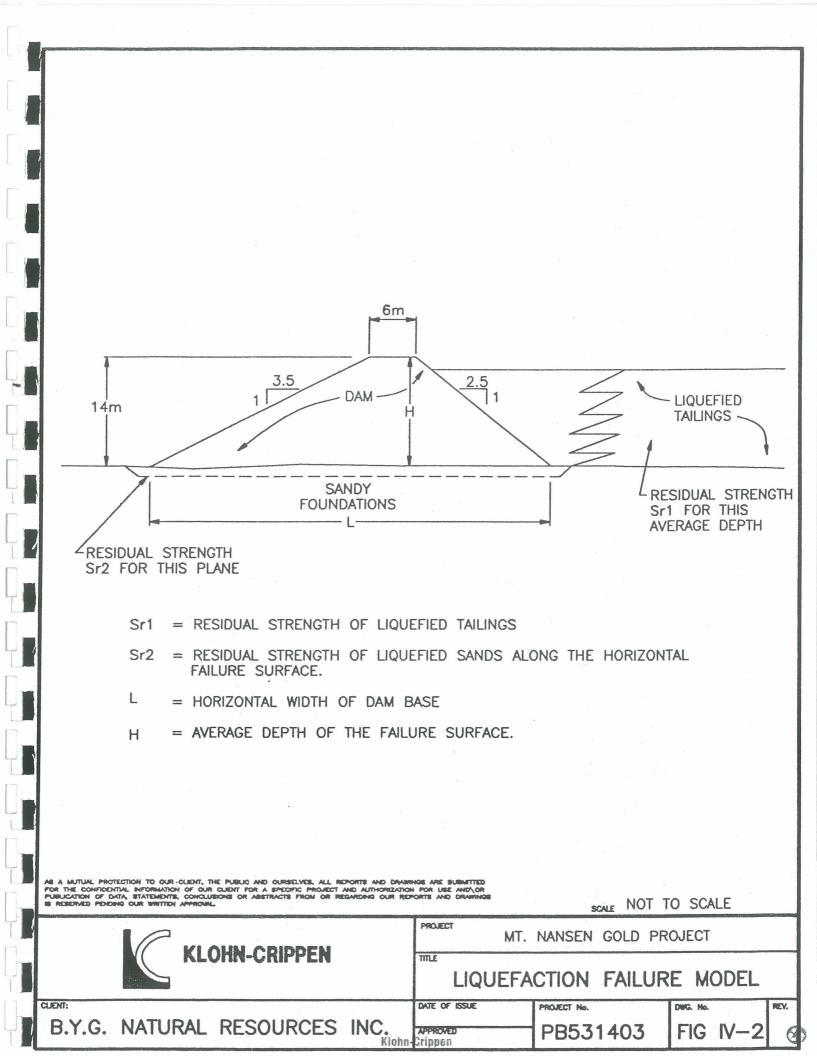
STABILITY ANALYSIS FOR FOUNDATION LIQUEFACTION

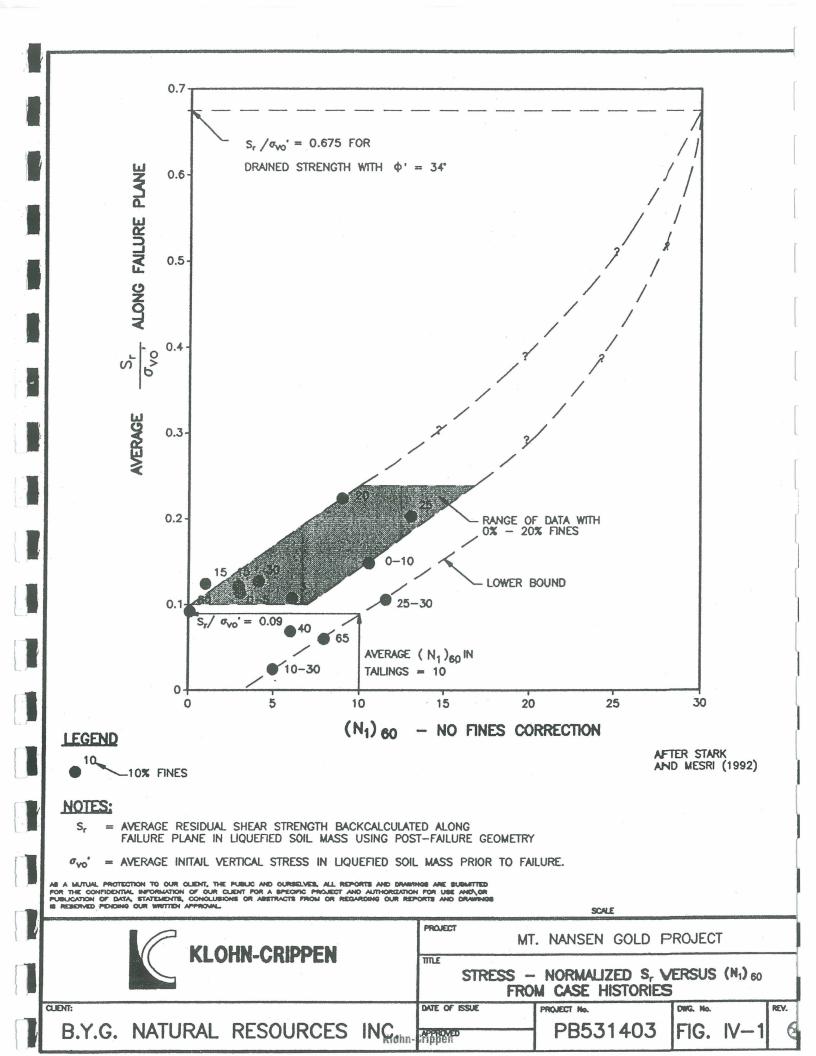
There is a small potential for thawing of the foundations, particularly at the beginning of operations. This could result in loose sands which may be subject to liquefaction under seismic conditions. The residual strength of the tailings following liquefaction (S_{r1}) has been assessed using relationships developed from case histories (see Figure IV.1). Using these relationships, the residual strength can be estimated as a fraction of the initial vertical stress (σ_{v0}) related to the (N₁)₆₀ value. The (N₁)₆₀ value is normally derived from cone penetration tests. However, this is impossible in frozen ground. Based on previous experience, (N₁)₆₀ values in the range of 8 to 10 are conservatively assumed for the thawed foundation sands and for the tailings. From the lower bound of the plot of (N₁)₆₀ vs. S_r/ σ_{v0} ' (see Figure IV.1 after Stark and Mesri, 1992), a value of 0.09 is implied for S_r/ σ_{v0} '. Consequently, a residual strength for liquefied tailings and foundation sands of 0.09 times the vertical stress is assumed for design.

For the overall stability of the embankment, a simple two-dimensional model is used to calculate a factor of safety (see Figure IV.2). It is assumed that the entire saturated mass of tailings behind the embankment will liquefy. It is also assumed that a layer of saturated sand in the foundations will also liquefy, producing a potential horizontal failure path underneath the dam. The dry density of the tailings is assumed to be about 1.25 tonnes/m³ (12.26 kN/m³). The dry density of the compacted sand embankment is assumed to be about 1.75 tonnes/m³ (17 kN/m³). The residual strength following liquefaction (S_{rl}) of the tailings is calculated according to the average depth of tailings, or about 6 m:

 $S_{r1} = (0.09)(12.26 \text{ kN/m}^3)(6 \text{ m}) = 6.6 \text{ kPa}$

PB 5314 0304 940825





BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Appendix IV - Stability Analysis for Foundation Liquefaction

The driving force (P_d) is generated by the hydrostatic head of the liquefied tailings (behaving as a dense slurry) behind the embankment, less a small strength component calculated from the residual strength (S_{r1}). The driving force is calculated according to the following equation:

$$P_d = 0.5 \gamma h^2 - 2 S_{r1}$$

 $P_d = (0.5)(12.26)12^2 - (2)(6.6) = 869 \text{ kN/m}$

If we assume that the average depth of embankment dam above the foundation failure surface is about 8 m, then the residual strength (S_{r2}) along the basal failure plane is:

$$S_{r2} = (0.09)(17 \text{ kN/m}^3)(8 \text{ m}) = 13.8 \text{ kPa}$$

The length (L) of the failure surface times the residual strength (S_{r2}) gives the force resisting failure (P_r). Assuming a foundation length of 100 m, the resisting force is calculated according to the following equation:

$$P_r = L S_{r2}$$

 $P_r = (100)(13.8) = 1377 \text{ kN/m}$

So the factor of safety against failure is equal to the ratio of the resisting force over the driving force:

$$F = P_r / P_d = 1377/869 = 1.6$$

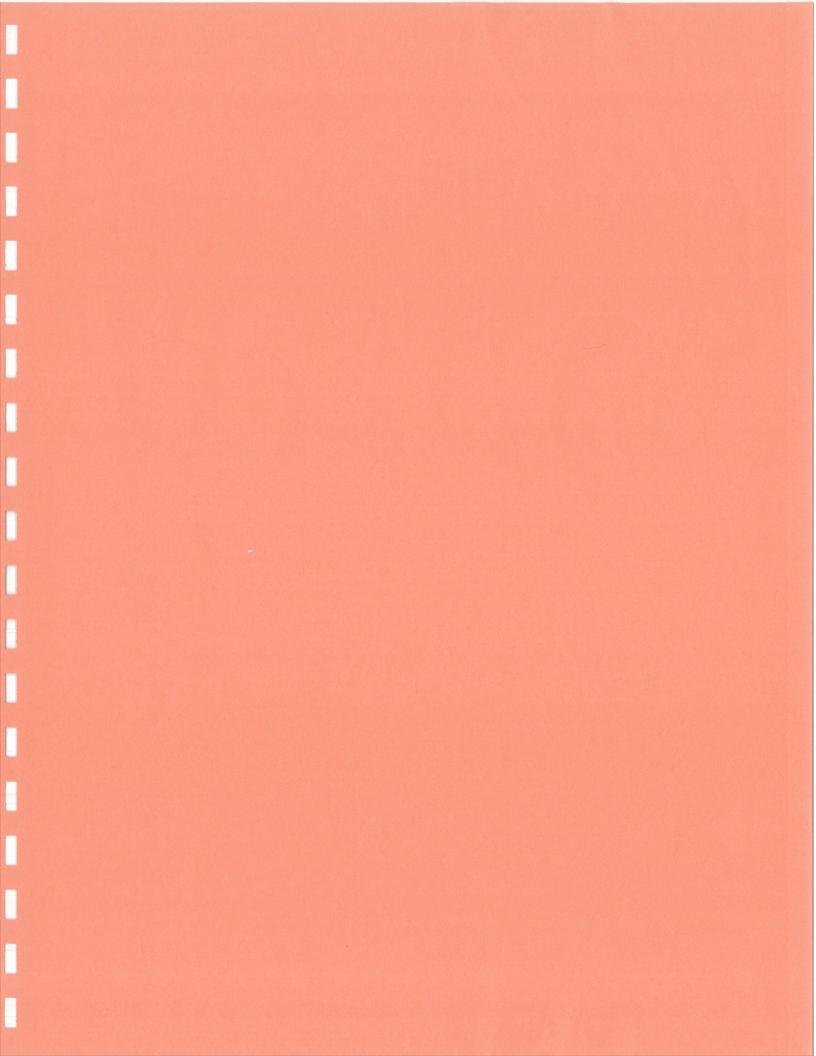
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BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Appendix IV - Stability Analysis for Foundation Liquefaction September 26, 1994

From this it can be seen that the factor of safety is proportional to the length of the failure surface, or the width of the dam. For this situation, a factor of safety of 1.1 is considered appropriate for design. A factor of safety of 1.1 is achieved when the dam base width is about 80 m.

PB 5314 0304 940825





BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Mt. Nansen

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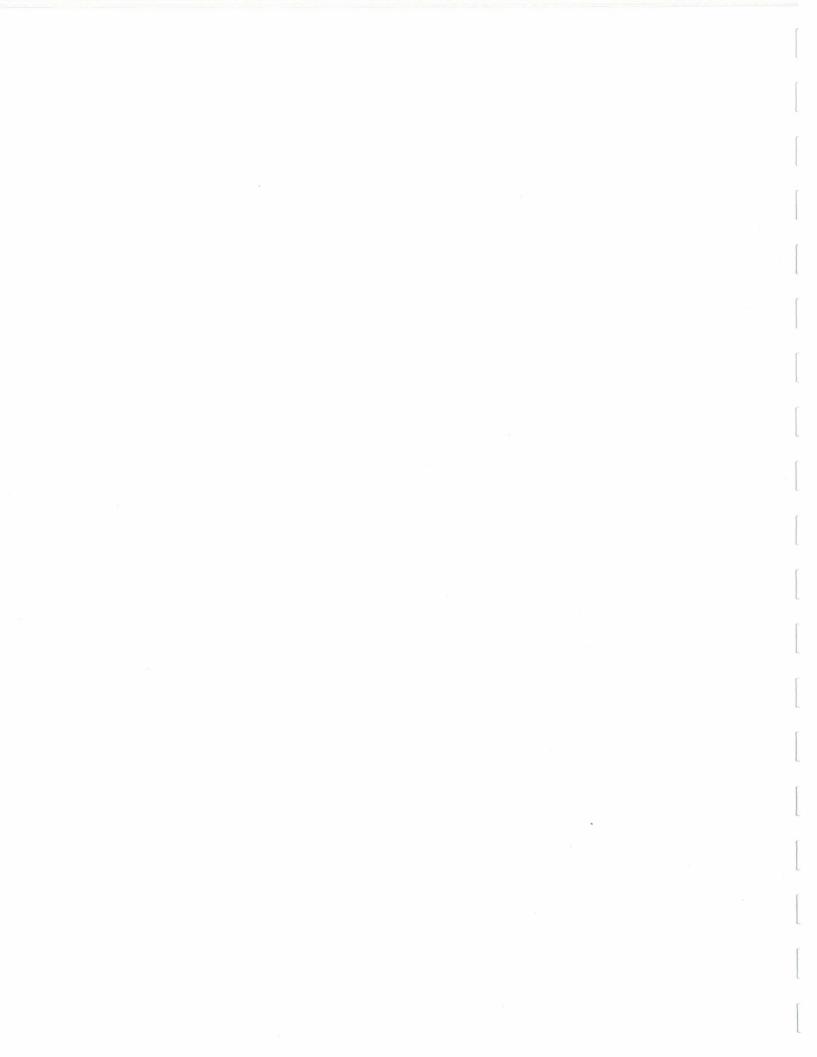
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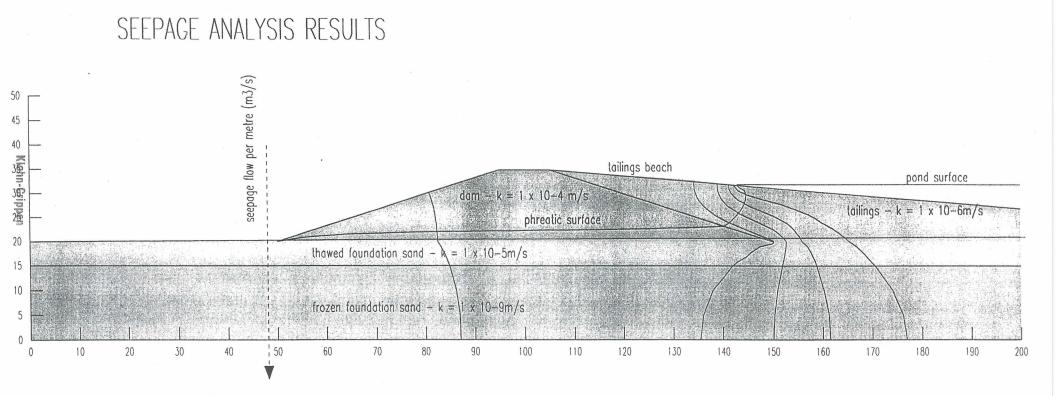
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APPENDIX V

Seepage Analysis









BYG NATURAL RESOURCES Mt. Nansen

DRAWINGS

A-3001	Location Plan
D-3002	General Arrangement Plan
D-3003	Plan, Section and Profile, Site #4

B



