

# NANISIVIK MINE, A DIVISION OF CANZINCO LTD.

# 2009 ANNUAL GEOTECHNICAL INSPECTION

# NANISIVIK MINE, NUNAVUT

# **FINAL**

PROJECT NO.: 0255-019-03 DATE: MARCH 26, 2010 **DISTRIBUTION LIST:** 

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Project No. 0255-019-03 March 26, 2010

Mr. Bob Carreau
Vice President, CSR and Sustainability
Breakwater Resources Limited
Suite 950, 95 Wellington Street West
Toronto, ON
M5J 2N7

# RE: 2009 ANNUAL GEOTECHNICAL INSPECTION NANISIVIK MINE, NUNAVUT

Dear Bob,

Please find attached our above captioned report on the 2009 Annual Geotechnical Inspection undertaken at Nanisivik Mine. The report has been finalized to reflect your review comments.

If there are any questions or comments regarding this report, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Regards,

**BGC ENGINEERING INC.** 

per:

[Original Signed By:]

Geoff Claypool, M.Eng., P.Eng. Geological Engineer (direct line 403/250-5185 ext. 104)

Enclosure: Report, Drawings, Appendices

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# LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nanisivik Mine is wholly owned and operated by CanZinco Ltd., which is a division of Breakwater Resources Ltd. (Breakwater). Nanisivik Mine is located on the Borden Peninsula on northern Baffin Island, just south of Strathcona Sound, as shown on Drawing 1.

Mining operations at Nanisivik ceased in September 2002. Site operations are currently conducted under Nunavut Water Board License 1AR-NAN0914 (the License), dated April 1, 2009 which entitles CanZinco (the Licensee) to use water and dispose of waste associated with the closure and reclamation activities and post-closure monitoring at the Nanisivik Mine. Part I, Item 5 of the License states the following:

"The Licensee shall undertake a geotechnical inspection, to be carried out annually by a Geotechnical Engineer, during the months of July, August or September and reported as set out in Part I, Item 6. The inspection shall be conducted in accordance with the Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines, where applicable and be consistent with the "2008 Annual Geotechnical Inspection" (BGC Engineering Inc., January 30, 2009), taking into account all major earthworks and any changes to the project."

Additionally, the Nunavut Water Board's Letter of Approval for the Mine Reclamation Plan (NWB 2004) states the following:

"In addition to the requirements outlined in Part H, item 6, of the previous License (NWB1NAN0208), the Licensee shall include inspection of all portals, adits, mine openings, ventilation shafts associated with the mine and an examination of the area around the Industrial Complex ice lens."

Also, the approved Nanisivik Mine Reclamation and Closure Monitoring Plan (Gartner Lee Ltd. [GLL] 2004a) states that the annual geotechnical inspection will include "all earth structures, water diversions, rock slopes and soil covers by a professional engineer." As per the Monitoring Plan, "the engineers report will include a professional review and assessment of all thermal monitoring information and flow information relevant to a physical stability assessment."

In fulfillment of these regulatory requirements, Mr. Bob Carreau, Vice-President CSR and Sustainability for Breakwater, requested that BGC Engineering Inc. (BGC), conduct an inspection visit. The current report provides a summary of the conditions observed and any resulting recommendations and maintenance issues. Table 1 provides a list of the structures that were included within the inspection.

Table 1. Summary of Inspection Items

Facility Type	Inspection Item
	West Twin Dike
	Test Cell Dike
Francisco and Containment	East Twin Creek Diversion Dike
Embankments and Containment	East Adit Treatment Facility
Structures	Day Tank Farm Area
	Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm
	West Twin Outlet Channel
	Surface Cell
	Test Cell
	Toe of Test Cell Dike
	Toe of West Twin Dike
	Landfill
Thermal Covers	West Open Pit
	East Open Pit
	Oceanview Open Pit
	Area 14
	Upper Dump Pond
	Industrial Complex
	00/01 Portals and crown pillar
	17 N Portal
	Oceanview Portal
	K-Baseline Portal
Mine Onesiane Cress Biller	Area 14 Portal
Mine Openings, Crown Pillars and Raises	9S Portal
and Raises	Former Portal to Mill Foundation
	Lower Adit
	Shale Hill Raise
	Oceanview East and West Raises
	Area 14 Raise
	Mt. Fuji Shale Borrow Area
	West Twin Shale Borrow Area
	East Twin Shale Borrow Area
	Area 14 Shale Borrow Area
Shale and Armour	Townsite Shale Borrow Area
Borrow Areas	Shale Hill Shale Borrow Area
	Twin Lakes Delta Armour Borrow Area
	Kuhulu Lake Road Borrow Area
	09S/17N Armour Borrow Area
	Chris Creek Armour Borrow Area
	Chins Creek Affilour Borrow Area

All pre-1998 site investigation work, geotechnical design and construction monitoring of the West Twin and East Adit containment structures was carried out by Terratech, a division of SNC Inc. and Mr. Frank Tordon, P.Eng. Initial design work relating to the East Twin diversion dike and channel and the dump containment ponds was provided by Kilborn Engineering Ltd. Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder) prepared the annual inspection reports for the waste containment dikes in 1998 and 1999, while BGC has provided the annual inspection reports since 2000. These other reports should be reviewed, in combination with this current report, for the sake of consistency regarding performance and maintenance issues.

# 2.0 MINE RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES

The Final Closure and Reclamation Plan was submitted to the Nunavut Water Board for review and approval in March 2004. The review process included a technical meeting in Yellowknife in May 2004 and a public hearing in Arctic Bay in June 2004. The Board conveyed its approval of the plan in a letter to Breakwater dated July 6, 2004.

The reclamation of the mine site has been ongoing since August 2004. Since then, the following reclamation activities related to the geotechnical inspection have been completed:

- Permafrost aggradation or "thermal" covers were constructed over tailings in the Surface Cell, Test Cell, toe of the Test Cell Dike, toe of the West Twin Dike and at the Upper Dump Pond.
- Thermal covers were constructed over waste rock in the West Open Pit, East Open Pit, Oceanview Pit and Area 14 Waste rock pile.
- A thermal cover was constructed over the Nanisivik Landfill.
- A thermal cover was constructed over the Industrial Complex Foundation, which had been backfilled with metals contaminated soil.
- Portal plugs and thermal covers were constructed at the Lower Adit, 09 South Portal, Oceanview Portal, K-Baseline Portal, 17 North Portal, 88 North Portal, 00 Portal and 01 Portal.
- A fill pillar was constructed beneath the 00/01 crown/rib pillar.
- The West Twin Dike Spillway was constructed to convey water from the Surface Cell to the Reservoir.
- The West Twin Outlet Channel was constructed to control the water level in the Reservoir.
- Additional armour was applied to a portion of the face of the East Twin Creek Diversion Berm.
- The East Adit Treatment Facility was decommissioned by breaching each of the dikes.
- The Day Tank Farm was decommissioned by removing the tanks, liner and berms.
- The Lower Dump Pond was decommissioned by removing the berms, tailings and the liner and transporting them to the underground mine workings.
- The Concentrate Storage Shed was dismantled and a surficial cover was constructed over the concrete floor slab.
- The road separating the Polishing Pond and the Reservoir was breached and the culverts and stop log control structure were removed.

These reclamation measures are summarized in the project completion report (BGC 2009b) and documented in detail in various as-built reports referred to throughout this document. With the exception of the reclamation of the Main Tank Farm and some minor maintenance and ongoing monitoring programs, reclamation of the Nanisivik Mine site is now essentially complete.

# 3.0 CLIMATE REVIEW

Climatic data has been collected by Environment Canada since 1976 at the Nanisivik Airport, which is located approximately 10 km south of the West Twin Disposal Area and approximately 250 m higher in elevation. The recorded climate data were analysed in Golder (1998) to provide a basis for deriving the existing climate parameters such as precipitation, air temperatures and lake evaporation at the project site. The following list is a summary of the main climatic parameters based on the data available in 1998:

- The mean annual air temperature (MAAT) was estimated to be -15.2°C.
- The mean annual precipitation totals was estimated to be 240 mm.
- The 24 hour Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) value was estimated to range from 140-210 mm.
- The mean annual lake evaporation value, as measured at the Nanisivik site, was approximately 200 mm.

Drawing 2 illustrates the long-term mean monthly temperature values (Nanisivik Airport) versus the monthly values for 2009. Table 2 provides a summary of the climate data recorded at the Nanisivik airport since 2003.

Table 2. Summary of Climate Data 2003-2009

	Mean Annual Air Temperature (°C)	Total Annual Precipitation (mm/yr)
Long Term Averages (1977-2008)	-14.7	282
2003	-13.3	333
2004	-15.7	305
2005	-13.5	502
2006	-12.4	455
2007	-13.0	~250*
2008	-13.7	n/a
2009	-13.0	n/a

<sup>\*</sup>Data record missing data from entire month of December.

It should be noted that the weather station at the Nanisivik Airport operated by Environment Canada was replaced in 2008 and is no longer capable of recording precipitation amounts.

As indicated in Table 2, 2009 was an above average year for air temperature. The MAAT was approximately 1.7°C warmer in 2009 than the long term average. In 2009, the mean monthly temperatures were generally equal to, or warmer than, the long term average for each month.

It should also be noted that although 2009 was observed to be warmer than average, the observed air temperatures were still significantly cooler than the "High Sensitivity" estimate

for global warming, -10.1°C, used in the thermal cover design, as documented in BGC (2004b).

To further assess the thaw season climate data, the average monthly temperatures and thaw degree days between May and September for 2003 through 2009 are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of Thaw Season Climate Data 2003-2009

	Average Monthly Air Temperatures (°C)					Average Air Temperature	Air Thawing
Parameter	May	June	July	August	September	From May to September (°C)	Index (°C x Days)*
Monthly Average (1977-2008)	-10.3	-0.2	5.1	1.8	-5.3	-1.8	298
2003	-8.6	0.0	6.3	0.3	-5.1	-1.4	309
2004	-9.2	-1.8	2.8	1.2	-4.8	-2.4	154
2005	-11.3	1.4	4.6	4.1	-4.8	-1.2	337
2006	-6.1	-1.7	5.7	4.7	-1.9	+0.1	352
2007	-12.4	0.7	9.4	5.2	-5.4	-0.5	507
2008	-5.2	1.2	6.9	2.5	-5.8	-0.1	390
2009	-9.9	0.3	8.0	4.2	-5.5	-0.6	413

<sup>\*</sup> Thaw Degree Day values were calculated using mean daily temperatures.

The data indicates that the average monthly temperature between May and September in 2009 was -0.6°C, approximately 1.2°C warmer than the long term average and 0.5°C cooler than the average temperature recorded over the same time period in 2008. However, when the thaw season air temperatures are converted to air thawing indices (ATI), it is apparent that the summer months in 2009 were warmer than the summer months in 2008. Because of its focus on the air temperatures during the thaw season, ATI are considered to be a better parameter to characterize thawing potential for each individual year than MAAT values. Drawing 3 provides the ATI for the years 1977 through 2009. As can be seen, since 1998, only two years (2002 and 2004) have experienced ATI lower than the long term average. Drawing 3 also compares the monthly ATI for the years 1977 through 2008 with the monthly ATI observed in 2009. As can be seen, the ATI calculated for June was lower than the long term average. However, the ATI calculated for July and August were significantly greater than the long term average for these months. This demonstrates the warmer than average air temperatures experienced by site in the summer months of 2009.

# 4.0 MINE DESCRIPTION

Mining was conducted at Nanisivik Mine between 1976 and 2002. During that time, mining was conducted at four small open pits (West Open Pit, East Open Pit, East Trench and Oceanview Open Pit) and underground (Main Lens, Area 14, Oceanview and K-Baseline). The location of each mining area is illustrated on Drawing 1. The ore was processed at the mill and the tailings were transported to the West Twin Disposal Area (WTDA), located at West Twin Lake.

The WTDA is comprised of an upper, solids retention pond, named the Surface Cell, and a lower, water retention pond, called the Reservoir, as shown on Drawing 4. The Surface Cell and Reservoir are separated by the West Twin Dike, a frozen-core, rockfill dike. Prior to construction of the West Twin Dike, tailings were deposited throughout the original West Twin Lake. After construction of the dike, tailings were primarily deposited into the Surface Cell. Excess water was then siphoned or pumped from the Surface Cell into the Reservoir from where it was reclaimed for use in the mill. The Reservoir was subsequently further separated by constructing the Test Cell Dike, creating additional tailings disposal capacity in what was known as the Test Cell.

The Reservoir and a final polishing pond were separated by a rockfill causeway and stop log structure. Water from the polishing pond was then discharged to Twin Lakes Creek at the decant structure located at the outlet from the pond. The decant structure was replaced in 2005 by the West Twin Outlet Channel. In September 2008, the stop log structure was removed and the rockfill causeway was breached allowing the Reservoir and Polishing Pond to behave as a flow-through hydraulic system.

# 5.0 REVIEW OF 2008 MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2008 Annual Geotechnical Inspection Report (BGC 2009a) outlined a number of maintenance recommendations. These recommendations, and their status, as observed during the 2009 inspection, are provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary and Status of 2008 Maintenance Recommendations

Inspection Item	Recommended Maintenance	2009 Comments / Actions
Main Tank Farm spill containment berm	Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:     Repair the area of the containment berm affected during the adjacent hydrocarbon soils excavation.      Cover areas of exposed liner and repair any observed tears in the liner.	<ul> <li>Repair of containment berm was reviewed and appeared to be effective at temporarily maintaining stability of affected area of dike.</li> <li>The liner remains exposed in areas on the inside of the berm.</li> <li>No additional maintenance required considering imminent decommissioning of tank farm.</li> </ul>
West Twin Dike Spillway	Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:  Re-level access road. Fix settlement area near spillway outlet. Re-grade area near deflection berms. Apply additional armour to edge of south side access ramp.	Maintenance work undertaken in 2008 was reviewed and observed to be effective in improving long term stability of spillway area.
West Twin Outlet Channel	<ul> <li>Monitor water level upstream of the wall to assess seepage losses.</li> <li>Continue to inspect the wall for additional cracking.</li> </ul>	Water level in Reservoir and Polishing Pond monitored throughout open water season of 2009. Improved stability of upstream water levels observed during open water season.      No additional cracking was noted.
Surface Cell Tailings Cover	Backfill thermokarst feature observed along south edge of cover.	This action has not been complete. The identified area appears to be stable. The area should continue to be monitored for further settlement.

Inspection Item	Recommended Maintenance	2009 Comments / Actions
Test Cell/ Test Cell Dike Cover	<ul> <li>Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:</li> <li>Place riprap lower on the slope at the shoreline at the Test Cell outlet.</li> <li>Apply additional compactive effort along north-south arm of Test Cell Dike.</li> </ul>	Recommendation has been addressed; additional riprap was placed lower on the slope at the shoreline at the Test Cell outlet, additional compactive effort was applied to the north-south arm of the Test Cell Dike.
Toe of West Twin Dike/ Toe of Test Cell Dike	<ul> <li>Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:</li> <li>Spread riprap currently stockpiled at shoreline at Toe of West Twin Dike.</li> </ul>	Recommendation has been addressed; stockpiled riprap was spread along shoreline at toe of West Twin Dike.
West Open Pit Waste Rock Cover	Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008: Complete spreading of armour on west face. Compact the armour surface.  Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:	<ul> <li>Recommendation has been addressed, armour surface has been compacted.</li> <li>An attempt was made to spread the armour on the west face of the landfill. This was not considered practical from a construction stand point.         Considering the observed stability of the area, additional maintenance is no longer considered necessary.     </li> <li>Recommendation has been addressed, armour applied to access road area at front of the pit</li> </ul>
17 N Portal	<ul> <li>Apply armour to access road area at the front of pit.</li> <li>Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:         <ul> <li>Backfill thermokarst feature.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Recommendation has been addressed, thermokarst feature was backfilled.</li> <li>Additional deformation occurred following backfilling, thus continued visual monitoring is recommended.</li> </ul>
Oceanview Portal	Repair settlement in SW corner.	No maintenance completed.     Settlement appears to have stabilized and additional repair work no longer considered necessary.

Inspection Item	Recommended Maintenance	2009 Comments / Actions
Townsite Shale Borrow Area	Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:     Re-slope crest of pit (portion which remains near vertical).	Recommendation has been addressed, borrow area has been re-sloped and graded.
	<ul> <li>Regrade floor of pit when material removal complete.</li> </ul>	
Former Portal to Mill Foundation	<ul> <li>Review the following maintenance work undertaken post-inspection in 2008:</li> <li>Armour surface of portal plug.</li> </ul>	Recommendation has been addressed, surface of portal plug was armoured.
Instrumentation/ Monitoring	Frost gauge maintenance /     replacement should be complete     prior to the start of the 2009     monitoring season in April.	All instrumentation recommendations have been addressed.
	Install thermistor at the West Open Pit.	
	Install thermistor at the Industrial Complex.	

Any maintenance items identified in previous inspections that have yet to be addressed, or have only been partially addressed, have been carried forward as recommendations for 2009. More information regarding the 2009 maintenance requirements is provided in Section 6.

#### 6.0 2009 INSPECTION CONDITIONS

Mr. Geoff Claypool, P.Eng., conducted the geotechnical site inspection between August 21 through 22, 2009. Each of the elements from Table 1 was inspected on foot. Pertinent observations concerning the physical condition of each element were recorded by photograph. The photographs and field notes constitute the field record which provides the basis for this formal report.

#### 6.1 Embankments and Containment Structures

Several embankments and containment structures were constructed at Nanisivik Mine throughout its history for various purposes. These include the following:

- West Twin Dike;
- Test Cell Dike;
- East Adit Treatment Pond Dike;
- East Adit Retention Pond Dike;
- Day Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm; and
- Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm.

The following sections provide a summary of the inspection conditions at each of the structures mentioned above. It should be noted that since the West Twin Dike and Test Cell Dike have been incorporated into the Surface Cell and Test Cell tailings covers, respectively, the inspection conditions for these structures are reviewed in Section 6.4 (Thermal Covers).

# 6.1.1 East Adit Treatment Facility Dikes

#### **Construction Details**

The East Adit Treatment Facility was located approximately 3 km east of the mill, downslope from the East Adit area, as shown on Drawing 1. The facility was comprised of a Treatment Pond and a Retention Pond, both of which employed earthen dikes to retain surface water flow. Water that flows through this area is runoff water from the surrounding drainage basin, where the water quality is affected and/or impacted by natural mineralized soil and rock.

Both dikes are shale rockfill structures mixed with a combination of one or more of the following: regional talus, glacial till, marine clay and/or bentonitic clay. The Treatment Pond Dike is approximately 5 m above the surrounding ground surface. The Retention Pond Dike is approximately 3 m above the surrounding ground surface.

Commitments were made in the 2004 Reclamation and Closure Plan (CanZinco 2004) to restore natural drainage by breaching/removing any man made diversions or catchments. As such, both dikes were breached in late 2006. The breaches are approximately 5 m wide at the base and are sloped back to the remnant crest of the dikes at an angle of approximately 3(H):1(V).

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# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-1). The main observations made during the inspection are summarized by the following:

- Some ponding of water was noted in the East Adit Retention Pond. The ponding was slightly reduced in aerial extent as compared to previous years.
- Some channelization of remnant sediments was observed in the East Adit Treatment Pond.

Additional grading could be done at the former Retention Pond to further reduce the size of the remaining shallow pond although the soft ground conditions in the area may prevent this action due to practical construction considerations. It should be noted that this pond does not appear to be creating a negative environmental impact and the small depression that contains the pond will likely fill with sediment over time eventually eliminating the pond. As such, additional remedial actions at the EATF are not considered necessary.

# 6.1.2 Day Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm

#### **Construction Details**

The Day Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm was located just uphill from the Industrial Complex, as shown on Drawing 1. The berm provided contingency storage for fuels should the day tanks leak or spill. The berm was approximately 4 m high, at its highest point, and had a crest width of approximately 2 m.

CanZinco (2004) details the reclamation plan for the facility which involves the following:

- The liner is to be removed and disposed of underground according to the Waste Disposal Plan.
- Hydrocarbon contaminated soils are to be relocated to the underground mine, in accordance with the Underground Waste Disposal Plan.
- The areas which are disturbed during reclamation are to be backfilled and/or contoured to their surroundings.

In 2007, the day tank farm was decommissioned. According to site staff, the tanks, liner and berm were removed and transported to the underground mine workings. Site staff also indicated that some hydrocarbon contaminated soil was excavated and was also transported to the underground mine workings.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-2). The main observation made during the inspection was that the area where the day tank farm used to be was well drained and no ponding of surface water was observed.

No additional maintenance was recommended for this area, in terms of geotechnical requirements. As documented in SRK (2009), all geo-environmental considerations at the Day Tank farm area have been addressed.

## 6.1.3 Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm

#### **Construction Details**

The Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm is located adjacent to the loading dock at Strathcona Sound, just west of the concentrate storage building (Drawing 1). The purpose of the berm is to provide contingency storage for fuels should the fuel storage tanks leak or spill.

The berm is approximately 5 m high at its highest point and has a crest width of 1-3 m. The side slopes of the berm are approximately 1.5H:1V to 2H:1V.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-3). The main observations made during the inspection are summarized by the following:

- No seepage was observed at the toe of the berm.
- No erosion or sloughing of either the upstream or downstream face of the berm was observed.
- A portion of the berm was removed adjacent to the hydrocarbon soils excavation outside the containment facility. A buttress had been constructed at the base of the berm by site staff in this area in late 2008 to enhance stability of the berm in the short term.
- The liner is exposed at several locations on the inside of the containment berm.

It should be noted that the inspection of the Main Tank Farm area was limited to surficial observations of the dike. Due to practical limitations, as in previous inspections, no assessment of the integrity or effectiveness of the buried, internal liner was undertaken.

During the excavation of hydrocarbon contaminated soils in the dock area between 2006 and 2008, a portion of the main tank farm spill containment berm was affected. The affected area was approximately 20 m long (lateral distance along the berm), from the crest to the toe of the berm. The excavation has resulted in an over-steepening of the berm face and exposure of the GCL liner.

In general, the berm appears to be in a satisfactory condition. The area affected by the excavation was buttressed in 2008 to enhance stability. Exposures of the GCL liner remain and the HDPE liner remains exposed on the inside of the berm. Breakwater has committed to decommissioning the Tank Farm facility. The decommissioning plan includes removal of the tanks and berm, reclamation of any contaminated soils in the tank farm footprint and regrading the area to permit free drainage of the area (Jacques Whitford 2009). This work is

scheduled to be undertaken in 2010/ 2011, pending approval of the reclamation plan by the NWB. Considering the imminent decommissioning of the facility, no maintenance is currently recommended for the Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm.

# 6.2 Water Conveyance Structures

Several water conveyance structures were constructed at Nanisivik Mine, both prior to, and during the reclamation process. These include the following structures:

- West Twin Dike Spillway;
- West Twin Outlet Channel; and
- East Twin Creek Diversion Berm and Channel.

The following sections provide a summary of the inspection conditions at each of the structures mentioned above.

# 6.2.1 West Twin Dike Spillway

#### **Construction Details**

The West Twin Dike Spillway is located at the south end of the Surface Cell, as shown on Drawing 4. The spillway conveys water from the Surface Cell to the Reservoir. The physical details of the spillway are summarized by the following:

- The spillway is approximately 550 m long.
- The bottom of the spillway is approximately 6 m wide.
- The grade of the spillway bottom varies from 0% at the inlet to 7% near the middle of the spillway and 2% at the outlet.
- The bottom of the spillway is founded on rock from the inlet to 100 m down gradient of the access ramp. The remainder of the spillway bottom is comprised of rockfill.
- The side slopes of the spillway vary from near vertical in rock to approximately 3(H):1(V) in soil side slopes.
- Side slopes composed of poor quality rock or soil are armoured with riprap.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-4). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- A small pond was observed at the spillway inlet on the Surface Cell cover. The
  maximum depth of the pond was estimated to be between 20 and 30 cm. The pond
  appeared to be smaller in size compared to previous years.
- The base of the spillway was observed to have been regraded in response to the recommendation in the 2008 inspection report. The base of the spillway was observed to be clear and free of any debris. Water was flowing into the base of the spillway from the Surface Cell. A minor amount of erosion was noted in the base of the spillway, approximately 50 m downstream of the access ramp. This erosion likely

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occurred during spring freshet. The current level of erosion is considered minor, but warrants continued visual monitoring in subsequent inspections.

- The access road adjacent to the edge of the spillway was regraded in response to the recommendation in the 2008 inspection report.
- The settlement area previously noted near the outlet of the spillway was backfilled, as per the recommendation in the 2008 inspection report.
- Water was observed flowing into the spillway along the edge of the south side of the
  access ramp, as has been previously noted. The area appears to have now selfarmoured (fine grained particles washed away leaving coarse grained gravel and
  cobbles). As such, erosion no longer appears to be a concern.

No additional maintenance was recommended for the spillway area based on the 2009 inspection. The area should continue to be visually monitored for any signs of erosion or permafrost degradation induced deformation of the side slopes.

#### 6.2.2 West Twin Lake Outlet Channel

#### **Construction Details**

The West Twin Lake Outlet Channel is located in the northeast corner of the WTDA, as shown on Drawing 4. The channel conveys water from the Reservoir into Twin Lakes Creek. The channel replaces the former decant station located in the same area. The main design feature of the channel is a steel-reinforced, concrete wall which provides water retention and elevation control for the water level in the Reservoir. The physical details of the channel are summarized by the following:

- The concrete wall is approximately 17 m long and 0.3 m thick.
- The central portion of the wall where the flow occurs is 7 m wide and has an invert elevation of approximately 370.2 m.
- The wall contains sloping side walls (4(H):1(V)) and the elevation of the top of the side walls is approximately 370.8 m.
- The concrete wall is founded into the underlying bedrock via a steel-reinforced, concrete footing.
- The channel is armoured to approximately 370.8 m elevation, upstream and downstream of the wall.
- A plunge pool is located downstream of the wall to provide energy dissipation during flooding events.

In 2007, a geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) was installed upstream of the concrete wall, as suggested in the 2006 inspection report. This was completed in response to observations of declining water levels upstream of the wall during periods of low inflows. The declining water levels were inferred to suggest seepage losses through the foundation of the wall. As such, the GCL approach was suggested as a way to limit the potential for these seepage losses.

In September 2008, the culverts in the East Twin access road that had previously impeded the flow from the Reservoir to the Polishing Pond were removed and the Reservoir is now considered to be a fully flow-through hydraulic system at the normal water level. Due to the limited depth of the breach, the former East Twin access road restricts flow into the former polishing pond area at lower water levels.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-5). In 2009, water was observed to be flowing over the outlet wall for much of the open water season. Water level measurements relative to the invert elevation were manually taken by site staff throughout 2009 (Drawing 5). Based on these measurements, the water level upstream of the wall was within approximately 2 cm of the invert elevation throughout much of 2009. This is an improvement in the stability of the water level compared to 2008, which is also shown on Drawing 5. The water level upstream of the wall was observed to drop late in the fall (early September) as inflows into the Reservoir ceased. By October, when the Reservoir and former polishing pond area are fully ice-covered, the Polishing Pond area appears to be essentially drained, while the main Reservoir remains around the normal water level due to the restrictions of flow created by the remnant East Twin Access Road.

This observed performance of the wall in 2009 suggests the following:

- Seepage losses through the foundation of the outlet continue.
- During periods of high to normal inflows, the water level in the Reservoir is maintained near the design normal water level despite these seepage losses.
- During periods of low to no inflows, the water level in the former Polishing Pond is reduced, but the water level in the main Reservoir is maintained near the normal water level by the remnant East Twin Access Road.

Based on the water quality measurements collected in 2008 and 2009, the seepage losses through the foundation of the wall do not appear to be influencing the overall performance of the West Twin Area reclamation measures. However, the seepage losses at the wall should continue to be monitored and additional seepage control measures may be required should the seepage losses be considered excessive (*i.e.*, water levels approaching the design low water level, as illustrated on Drawing 5, during open water season).

#### 6.2.3 East Twin Creek Diversion Dike and Channel

#### **Construction Details**

The East Twin Creek Diversion Dike is located along Twin Lakes Creek between East Twin Lake and the West Twin Outlet Channel, as shown on Drawing 4. The diversion dike and channel deflect flow from East Twin Lake away from its previous drainage course, which drained directly into West Twin Lake (the Reservoir). The flow from the diversion channel combines with the flow from the Reservoir downstream of the West Twin Outlet Channel.

The diversion dike is approximately 2 m above the adjacent ground level and is comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles derived from the nearby Twin Lakes sand and gravel deposit. A portion of the dike was regraded during reclamation construction to be less susceptible to erosion. Additionally, the regraded portion of the dike was armoured with riprap to prevent future erosion from occurring.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-6). No indications of erosion of the dike were observed. The armoured portion of the dike was inspected and observed to be in satisfactory condition. No additional maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.3 Thermal Covers

The following sections provide information regarding each of the thermal covers constructed at site. Each section provides details regarding the construction of each cover, a summary of the observations made during the 2009 inspection and reviews the monitoring data collected from each area in 2009.

An additional note on the interpretation of the geothermal monitoring data; for the purposes of interpretations made in this report, the following assumptions were made:

- In the active layer, ground conditions are considered "thawed" when ground temperatures of 0°C and warmer are observed.
- In the talik, ground conditions are considered "thawed" when ground temperatures of warmer than -0.5°C are observed. This is to account for freezing point depression effects which have been noted at the site.

#### 6.3.1 Surface Cell Tailings Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the tailings in the Surface Cell in 2004 and 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 1 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. It should be noted that, due to surface grade considerations, significantly increased shale thicknesses (greater than 2 m thick) were applied to approximately 30% of the Surface Cell. Additionally, due to practical construction considerations related to the grain size distribution of the armour materials, the armour layer thickness regularly exceeded 0.25 m. The shale was sourced from the Mt. Fuji and Area 14 borrow areas (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit (Drawing 1). The Surface Cell tailings cover is drained by a series of swales which convey surface water to the spillway inlet located at the south end of the Surface Cell. The spillway transfers water draining off of the Surface Cell into the Reservoir. It should be noted that surface flow is not regularly

observed on the Surface Cell and that the majority of the water flow occurs sub-surface due to the coarse nature of the cover materials.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-7). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- Some cracking of the cover along the east/west trench was observed, approximately to the same degree, as was observed in 2008.
- A small pond was present at the spillway inlet, as it was in 2008. The maximum depth
  of water was approximately 20-30 cm. The aerial extent of the pond appeared to be
  less than it has been observed during previous inspections.
- Some small thermokarst features were observed along the south edge of the cover.
   These thermokarst features were observed in 2008 and do not appear to have changed substantially since that time.
- No erosion of the cover materials was noted.

The following maintenance items were recommended:

 Visually monitor the small thermokarst features observed near the south edge of the cover for continued surface deformation.

# **Monitoring Data**

The Surface Cell is instrumented with ten thermistors, seven vibrating wire piezometers, six frost gauges and two monitoring wells. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 6. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided, for interpretation purposes, on Drawings 7 through 13.

The instrumentation has two main purposes; monitor the depth of the active layer thaw and monitor the ground temperatures, pore pressures and water quality in the talk during freezeback.

Drawing 7 provides data from the thermistors installed along the periphery of the Surface Cell talik. The graphs illustrate the following:

- The entire tailings profile along the periphery of the talik appears to be frozen.
- Cooling of ground temperatures continues throughout the entire profile, even at depth (*i.e.*, 25 m at 03-07, 20 m at 03-20 and 18 m at 03-15).
- The rate of cooling in 2009 appeared to be at a similar rate as was observed in 2008 (*i.e.*, 03-20).

Drawing 8 provides data from thermistors installed closer to the centre of the talik. The graphs illustrate the following:

• The upper 15 to 18 m of the ground profile appears to be frozen.

- The ground profile continues to cool with time.
- The -0.5°C isotherm continues a downward progression with time.

Drawing 9 illustrates the downward progression of the freezing front over time in the Surface Cell. The depth of the -0.5°C isotherm from various thermistors is plotted against the distance from the crest of the West Twin Dike. As can be seen, the data suggests the -0.5°C isotherm has migrated between 5 and 10 m downwards since pre-reclamation conditions observed in 2003. The data also illustrates how the thickness of frozen ground increases with proximity to the West Twin Dike.

Drawing 9 also illustrates that the freeze-back of the Surface Cell talik is proceeding quicker than anticipated, compared to the results of the geothermal analysis documented in BGC (2004a). This is illustrated by comparing the observed depth of the -0.2°C isotherm with the freeze-back envelope predicted by the original geothermal modelling.

Drawing 10 provides data collected from some of the piezometers installed in the Surface Cell talik. The graphs indicate the following:

- The piezometers indicate that pore pressures within the Surface Cell talik are generally about 8 m artesian and continue to increase with time. However, higher pore pressures have been observed in piezometers BGC05-10 and BGC 03-35. These elevated pore pressures are attributed to continued freezing of the pore water immediately surrounding the piezometer tip. As can be seen, the piezometer tip temperature of both instruments is approximately -2.2°C. As such, the pore pressures recorded at these piezometers are not considered to be reflective of pore pressures widely distributed within the Surface Cell talik and thus are not considered to negatively impact the stability of the West Twin Dike.
- The elevated pore pressures observed at depth in the Surface Cell remain well below the trigger levels established in BGC (2009c) and are not considered to negatively impact the stability of the West Twin Dike.
- The temperature of the unfrozen pore water continues to remain cooler than 0°C, confirming that the talik pore water exhibits a freezing point depression of between 0.2°C and 0.5°C.

Drawing 11 illustrates the relationship between talik pore pressures and downward migration of the freezing front. As can be seen, the pore pressures are observed to be somewhat cyclic in nature with periods of increases followed by periods where the pore pressures remain relatively stable. On Drawing 11, the pore pressure data from piezometer BGC03-32 is plotted against geothermal data from nearby thermistor BGC03-15. The geothermal data is taken from the thermistor node located at approximately the same depth as the piezometer (~17-18 m bgs). Based on this plot, the periods of pore pressure increase appear to correspond to the period of geothermal cooling at depth. Additionally, the periods when the pore pressures are observed to be stable appear to correspond to the period of geothermal

warming at depth. This intuitively makes sense, since the pore pressures increases are observed when freezing front migrates downwards, essentially decreasing the size and extent of the talik.

Drawings 12 and 13 provide data collected from thermistors and frost gauges important to monitoring active layer thaw and interpreting overall cover performance. The graphs indicate the following:

- The depth of active layer thaw was generally confined to within the cover materials or the very top of the tailings throughout 2009.
- The geothermal performance of the cover continues to improve with time. The tailings remain frozen throughout the year and the active layer thickness is decreasing with time (*i.e.*, BGC03-11). Additionally, the time period in which the base of the overlying cover materials are thawed continues to decrease with time (*i.e.*, BGC03-20).
- The maximum active layer thaw depth interpreted from the thermistors on Drawing 12 ranged from 1.2-1.5 m bgs. It should be noted that the interpretation of active layer thickness using thermistor data is based on a linear extrapolation between temperatures of the nodes located across the tailings/ cover interface. The geothermal profile across the tailings cover interface is non-linear, due to the ice saturation within the base of the shale. As such, the interpretations of active layer thaw depths based on thermistor data are considered to be conservative. It should also be noted that thermistor nodes actually located in tailings were generally observed to exhibit sub-zero ground temperatures year round.

It should be noted that the frost gauges were installed to provide visual evidence of shallow ground temperature behaviour for monitoring personnel, inspectors, or community residents. As such, they should not be considered precision ground temperature monitoring units, as this task is accomplished by the thermistor monitoring network.

The results of water quality testing undertaken on samples collected at the inlet of the West Twin Dike Spillway are also provided on Drawing 13. As can be seen, the concentration of zinc in the water coming off the Surface Cell continued to be low throughout 2009, and was not detectable in almost all samples collected in 2009. The data suggests that the improved geothermal performance of the Surface Cell cover system observed since 2007 has had beneficial effects on the quality of the surface water runoff.

The results of the water quality testing completed on the samples collected from the monitoring wells installed in the Surface Cell talk are provided in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of Water Quality Monitoring Results from Surface Cell Talik Monitoring Wells

Monitoring	Sample Date	Field Parameters		Total Metals Concentrations (mg/L)		
Well	Cample Date	рН	Conductivity (mS/cm)	Cadmium	Lead	Zinc
BGC05-11	October 13, 2005	10.94	3.23	<0.001	0.004	0.01
(closer to	August 27, 2006	11.29	3.69		0.058	0.08
edge of	September 5, 2007*	10.5	3.18	0.0013	0.064	0.09
talik)	August 16, 2008			0.018	0.44	0.30
tankj	August 4, 2009	10.08	2.07	0.004	0.176	0.34
BGC05-12	October 13, 2005	10.28	4.92	0.004	0.628	0.54
(closer to	August 27, 2006	10.33	3.69		0.208	0.29
centre of	September 5, 2007*	9.7	3.00	0.0037	0.127	0.17
talik)	August 16, 2008			<0.001	0.02	<0.1
talik)	August 4, 2009	10.21	2.99	0.0016	0.522	0.37

<sup>\*</sup> Note: pH and conductivity values were derived from separate samples collected on August 10, 2007.

The results from the water quality testing indicate the following:

- The zinc concentrations closer to the freezing front (BGC05-11) increased slightly in 2009.
- The zinc concentrations closer to the freezing front at the edge of the talik are increasing over time.
- The zinc concentrations closer to the centre of the talik appear to be fluctuating over time, with no discernable temporal trend.
- The zinc concentrations closer to the centre of the talik were nominally equivalent to the zinc concentration at the edge of the talik.

The increasing concentration of metals observed closer to the freezing front is likely related to rejection of metals as the pore water freezes, a process known as cryo-concentration. This process was expected to occur as the talik freeze-back occurs. The elevated metal concentrations have likely resulted in an increased freezing point depression, as previously discussed.

#### 6.3.2 West Twin Dike

#### **Construction Details**

The West Twin Dike is a frozen core, upstream constructed, earth fill dike that separates the Surface Cell and the Reservoir (Drawing 4). The dike is constructed of frozen, compacted shale and founded on frozen, settled tailings. The dike is approximately 14 m high and the downstream face slopes at an angle of approximately 15°. The downstream face of the dike was surfaced with a 0.25 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of sand, gravel and cobbles sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-8). The main observations made during the inspection are summarized by the following:

- No settlement or cracking of the crest was noted.
- The downstream face of the dike shows no indications of erosion or settlement.
- No seepage was noted on the face of the dike or at the toe of the dike.

In general, the dike appeared to be in a satisfactory condition and no maintenance was recommended.

# **Monitoring Data**

The West Twin Dike is instrumented with five thermocouple cables installed within the dike and four thermistors and one vibrating wire piezometer installed from the crest of the dike. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawings 6 and 14. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring, for interpretation purposes, are provided on Drawings 15 through 17.

Drawing 15 provides data from thermistors BGC03-33 and BGC03-34, which provide a continuous geothermal monitoring profile from 5 m below the crest of the dike to approximately 24 m bgs, approximately 6 m below the base of the dike. The data indicates the following:

- The entire profile is cooling over time.
- The small zone of tailings between 22 and 24 m bgs previously considered to be thawed now appears to have cooled below -1.0°C, likely indicating the pore water has now become frozen.
- The rate of cooling appears to be similar to what was observed in 2008.

Drawing 16 provides data from additional thermistors installed from the crest of the dike, as well as one vibrating wire piezometer installed within the thawed zone at depth. The data indicates the following:

- The profile immediately upstream of the dike is frozen (cooler than -0.5°C) to at least 20 m bgs.
- The geothermal profile immediately upstream of the West Twin Dike continues to cool with time, at a similar rate since 2006.
- The pore pressures within the small thawed zone at approximately 24.5 m bgs (approximately 6.5 m below the base of the dike) are approximately 6 m artesian and continue to increase over time. The elevated pore pressures observed at depth remain well below the trigger levels established in BGC (2009c) and are not considered to negatively impact the stability of the West Twin Dike.
- The piezometric tip temperature suggests a freezing point depression of 0.3°C.

Drawing 17 provides data from the thermocouples installed within the dike. The data indicates that the dike and the immediate dike foundation remained in a frozen state throughout 2009. It should be noted that the thermocouple data is quite erratic and is only considered accurate to within 1°C (compared to +/- 0.2°C accuracy of the thermistors). Hence, only general conclusions or trends based on the data obtained from the thermocouples are stated herein.

#### 6.3.3 Test Cell Tailings Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the Test Cell in 2004 and 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 1 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. It should be noted that, due to surface grade considerations, significantly increased shale thicknesses (greater than 2 m) were applied to approximately 20% of the Test Cell. Additionally, due to practical construction considerations related to the grain size distribution of the armour materials, the armour layer thickness regularly exceeded 0.25 m. The shale was sourced from the Mt. Fuji, East Twin and Area 14 borrow areas (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit (Drawing 1). The Test Cell tailings cover is drained by a main swale which conveys surface water directly into the Reservoir.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-9). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No ponding on the cover was observed.
- The riprap at the Test Cell outlet had been extended below the normal water line, as recommended in 2008.

No additional maintenance items were recommended.

#### **Monitoring Data**

The Test Cell is instrumented with two thermistors, four vibrating wire piezometers, two frost gauges and two monitoring wells. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 14. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawings 18 and 19.

Drawing 18 provides geothermal and piezometric monitoring data collected from the Test Cell in 2009. The data indicates the following:

• The subsurface profile to 15 m depth in the Test Cell at the base of the West Twin Dike (BGC05-04) is colder than -4°C and is assumed to be frozen. The geothermal

profile continues to cool with time, even at a depth of 15 m where cooling of more than 2°C has been observed since 2008.

- As suggested by thermistor BGC05-29, the subsurface profile inside the former location of the Test Cell dike is frozen (colder than -0.5°C) to approximately 18 m bgs and continues to cool with time.
- The pore water pressures throughout the talk generally range from 1 to 3 m bgs.
   Generally only a nominal increase in pore pressure (< 0.5 m) was observed in 2009, compared to 2008.</li>
- The temperature of the unfrozen pore water is generally between -0.2 and -0.4°C and continues to slowly cool with time.

Drawing 19 provides data collected from thermistors and frost gauges important to monitoring active layer thaw in the Test Cell and interpreting overall cover performance. The graphs indicate the following:

- The active layer thaw was generally confined within the cover materials throughout 2009.
- The geothermal performance of the cover in 2009 is slightly better than what was observed in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Additionally, the time period in which the base of the overlying cover materials are thawed continues to decrease with time (i.e., BGC05-04).

The results of the water quality testing completed on the samples collected from the monitoring wells installed in the Test Cell talik are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of Water Quality Monitoring Results from Test Cell Talik Monitoring Wells

Monitoring	Sample Date	Field Parameters		Total Metals Concentrations (mg/L)		
Well	Sample Date	рН	Conductivity (mS/cm)	Cadmium	Lead	Zinc
BGC05-21	August 27, 2006	9.43	4.92		0.501	0.950
(Centre of	September 5, 2007*	9.5	6.74	0.0272	0.34	1.31
Test Cell)	July 25, 2008			0.0221	0.106	0.38
BGC05-23	August 27, 2006		>5		0.150	1.010
(Edge of	September 5, 2007*	7.9	>20	0.06	0.30	2.00
Test Cell)	August 3, 2009	6.98	>20	0.03	0.20	2.00

<sup>\*</sup> Note: pH and conductivity values were derived from separate samples collected on August 10, 2007.

No sample was collected from monitoring well BGC05-21 in 2009 due to the heat trace not functioning properly. Attempts will be made to repair the heat trace and collect a sample in 2010.

The data indicates the following:

- The metals concentrations in BGC05-23 were similar to the concentrations observed in 2007.
- Despite the hydraulic connectivity between the Test Cell talik and the Reservoir, the higher zinc concentrations exhibited by the pore water in the Test Cell talik does not appear to be negatively impacting the water quality in the Reservoir.

Data from the monitoring wells in the Test Cell should be reviewed with a note of caution. Since the wells are not artesian, they may not be as well developed as the wells in the Surface Cell. As such, the water quality parameters derived from the lab results may not be entirely representative of the pore water quality within the talik. Additionally, since only limited data is available, any temporal trends suggested by the data should also be viewed with caution. The sampling methodology and recharge capabilities of the monitoring wells in the Test Cell will be re-evaluated in 2010 to determine if on-going sample collection is warranted.

## 6.3.4 Test Cell Dike

#### **Construction Details**

The Test Cell Dike is an earth fill dike that separates the Test Cell and the Reservoir (Drawing 4). The dike is constructed of frozen, compacted shale and founded on frozen, settled tailings. The dike was approximately 4 m high. During reclamation, the top 2 m of shale material in the dike was removed and placed in the Test Cell as cover material. The remnant dike was surfaced with a layer of armour material, approximately 0.25 m thick. As such, the dike is now essentially integrated into the Test Cell cover.

## **Inspection Conditions**

The main observation made during the inspection was that additional compactive effort had been applied to the surface of the north/south arm of the Test Cell Dike, as was recommended in the 2008 inspection report. No additional maintenance items were recommended based on the 2009 inspection of the Test Cell Dike.

#### **Monitoring Data**

The Test Cell Dike is instrumented with three thermistors. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 14. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 20. The monitoring data indicates the following:

- The dike and foundation immediately beneath the dike remained in a frozen state throughout 2009.
- The foundation of the dike is frozen below 20 m bgs.
- The subsurface profile beneath the dike continues to cool.

- The freezing front is migrating downwards, as shown by the data from BGC03-22 which illustrated the migration of the -0.5°C isotherm from approximately 17 m bgs in 2003 to approximately 21 m bgs in 2009.
- The vibrating wire piezometer (BC05-24) installed approximately 20 m below ground surface beneath the dike has now frozen back as indicated by the tip temperature below -2.0°C and the corresponding increase in pore pressures. This increase in pore pressures is considered to be localized and associated with the freeze-back and is not considered to be representative of pressures throughout the Test Cell talik.

#### 6.3.5 Toe of Test Cell Dike Tailings Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the tailings at the toe of the Test Cell Dike in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 1 m thick (minimal thickness) layer of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimal thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. It should be noted that, due to surface grade considerations, shale fill thickness in excess of the 1 m minimum thickness was applied to the tailings beach at the toe of Test Cell Dike, especially immediately adjacent to the remnant Test Cell dike. The shale was sourced from the Mt. Fuji and Area 14 borrow areas (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit (Drawing 1). The riprap was sourced from the dolostone outcrop at the south end of the West Twin Dike.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-10). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No erosion of the riprap or disturbance due to ice plucking was observed.

In general, the tailings cover at the toe of the Test Cell Dike appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### **Monitoring Data**

The cover at the toe of the Test Cell Dike is instrumented with two thermistors, one vibrating wire piezometer and two frost gauges. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 14. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 21. The graphs indicate the following:

• The subsurface profile at the toe of the Test Cell dike (BGC05-27) between 4 m and 17 m bgs is colder than -0.5°C and is assumed to be frozen. Based on the monitoring data, the geothermal profile above 17 m appears to be cooling with time. The upper portion of the subsurface profile is frozen, despite being along a shoreline which was periodically submerged in water during operations of the tailings disposal area. The

fact that permafrost exists at this location, to the extent it does, is considered beneficial to the overall Test Cell talik freeze-back. This is because it exceeds expectations and assumptions made in the contaminant loading model (CanZinco 2004) which assumed a completely thawed tailings profile adjacent to the water.

- The monitoring data from piezometer BGC05-28 indicates piezometric elevation of approximately 370 m. This is nominally the elevation of the water level in the Reservoir. This demonstrates the hydraulic connectivity between the tailings at depth and the Reservoir remains intact.
- The geothermal performance of the cover at the toe of the Test Cell dike was inferred to be improved over the performance in 2009, based on the thermistor data. As illustrated on Drawing 20, the temperature of the tailings near the cover/tailings interface was consistently frozen and cooler in 2009 compared to previous years. The frost gauge data suggests the active layer migrated through the cover into the top of the tailings by late July. Thawing of the tailings along the shoreline of the Reservoir at the toe of the Test Cell Dike due to the heat source provided by the water in the Reservoir was also assumed in the contaminant loading model (CanZinco 2004).

#### 6.3.6 Toe of West Twin Dike Tailings Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the tailings at the toe of the West Twin Dike in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 1 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Mt. Fuji and Area 14 borrow areas (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit (Drawing 1). The riprap was sourced from the dolostone outcrop at the south end of the West Twin Dike.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-11). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- The riprap that was stockpiled along the shoreline in 2008 was placed as recommended in the 2008 inspection report.
- No erosion of the riprap along the shoreline was observed.

No additional maintenance items were recommended.

## **Monitoring Data**

The tailings cover at the toe of the West Twin Dike is instrumented with two thermistors. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 14. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 22. The graphs indicate the following:

- The subsurface profile between the bottom of the active layer and the bedrock surface is colder than -4°C and is assumed to be frozen.
- The temperatures at depth measured by Thermistor BGC05-26 are warmer than those observed at the same depth by Thermistor BGC03-19. This is likely due to the fact that BGC05-26 was placed in the area where the decant water from the Surface Cell used to be discharged. This was an area of consistent water cover (1-2 m deep) which likely resulted in a warmer geothermal profile at depth.
- The subsurface thermal regime is continuing to cool with time.

# **West Twin Disposal Area Water Quality**

As required in the current Water License, water quality sampling and testing were undertaken at the West Twin Outlet Channel throughout the open water period in 2009. This channel is considered the final discharge point for water from the WTDA before entering the environment in Twin Lakes Creek. Samples were collected weekly and subsequently forwarded to a laboratory for a variety of tests. Water samples were tested for pH, conductivity, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), total metal concentrations, and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>). The total zinc concentrations observed at the West Twin Outlet Channel throughout 2009 are illustrated on Drawing 23. As can be seen, the total metal concentrations observed throughout 2009 met discharge criteria, as they have since the covers were completed in 2005. Additionally, the maximum zinc concentrations observed in 2009 were lowest in the available monitoring record which dates back to 1996. It should also be noted that the maximum zinc concentrations observed annually have been trending lower since reclamation of the WTDA began in 2004. The data suggests that the thermal covers, and the water cover in the Reservoir, are effective in limiting metal loading to the water in the Reservoir.

It should also be noted that the TSS values obtained from the samples collected throughout the year were generally below the detection limit (<2 mg/L) which is well below the discharge criteria (30 mg/L) and generally an improvement over values recorded during previous years. This is an important and positive observation considering 2009 was the first full year of discharge since the breach of the East Twin access road was completed.

Stantec (2010) should be referenced for a detailed review of the results of the water quality monitoring program undertaken in 2009.

#### 6.3.7 Landfill Cover

# **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the Nanisivik Landfill in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Townsite Shale borrow area. The armour material was sourced

from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit. The face of the landfill is sloped at approximately 3(H):1(V).

It should be noted that the thermal cover constructed at the Landfill was built over an existing surficial shale cover that was continuously placed and maintained during operations as part of the on-going landfill operating procedures (for pest control and protection against wind transport). No attempts were made during construction of the thermal cover in 2005 to verify the existing cover thickness and thereby reduce the fill requirements. Therefore it can be assumed that the thermal cover is thicker than just the material placed in 2005.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-12). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed, either on the upper flatter portion of the cover or on the sloping face of the Landfill.
- No seepage was observed at the toe of cover during the time of the inspection.
- Some exposed shale was observed on the lower portion of the west face. This is due
  to an insufficient amount of armour material available for covering and is not related
  to erosion. An attempt was made to spread the armour over the exposed shale but
  was determined to be impractical, from a construction standpoint. Considering the
  observed stability of the area, additional maintenance is not considered necessary.
- The armour surface was observed to have been compacted, as per the recommendation in 2008.
- No areas of significant settlement were observed in the cover.

No additional maintenance items were recommended.

## **Monitoring Data**

The Landfill cover is instrumented with one thermistor and one frost gauge. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 24. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 25. The graphs indicate the following:

- The landfill debris underlying the cover remained frozen throughout the year.
- The geothermal profile within the underlying landfill debris is cooling with time.
- The active layer thaw did not penetrate into the underlying waste material.
- The thermal performance of the landfill cover was improved in 2009 compared to 2008. This is inferred from both the frost gauge and thermistor data provided on Drawing 25. The frost gauge data indicates the active layer thickness in 2008 reached a maximum depth of approximately 1.7 m bgs. Additionally, the maximum temperature recorded at the thermistor node located at 2.3 m bgs, near the cover/landfill debris interface, was approximately -1.8°C, which is approximately 0.2°C cooler than the maximum temperature observed in 2008.

# 6.3.8 West Open Pit Waste Rock Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the West Open Pit in 2006. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Townsite Shale borrow area. The armour material was sourced from the local borrow source located along the road between the 09S portal and the 17 North Portal. The face of the West Open Pit cover is sloped at a maximum angle of approximately 3(H):1(V).

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-13). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the armour surface was noted.
- No areas of settlement were observed during the 2009 inspection.
- No seepage water was observed at the toe of the cover.
- The roadway across the toe of the cover area was armoured in response to the 2008 recommendation.

No maintenance items were recommended in 2009.

## **Monitoring Data**

The West Open Pit cover is instrumented with one thermistor (BGC08-01). The purpose of the thermistor is to monitor the freeze-back of the underlying backfill materials as well as the active layer thaw within the cover materials. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 26. The results of the monitoring undertaken in 2009 are provided on Drawing 27. The graphs indicate the following:

- The waste rock used to backfill the open pit has frozen back.
- The active layer thaw penetrated through the cover into the upper 0.5 m of the fill in 2009.

It should be noted that the thermistor was installed late in 2008 and that 2009 was the first year in which monitoring data was collected from the West Open Pit. Data collected in subsequent years will permit assessment of temporal trends to be undertaken.

# 6.3.9 East Open Pit Waste Rock Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the East Open Pit in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale

was sourced from the Shale Hill shale borrow area. The armour material was sourced from the local borrow source located along the road between the K-Baseline Portal and Kuhulu Lake. The face of the East Open Pit cover is sloped at a maximum angle of approximately 3(H):1(V). A remnant highwall exists along the south edge of the pit area. The remnant highwall ranges from 1 to 5 m high and is sloped back at an angle of approximately 60°. A bench exists between a portion of the remnant highwall and the main portion of the cover system.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-14). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- Some minor surface erosion was noted on the upper portion of the cover.
- A minor amount of seepage was observed at the toe of the cover.
- Some loosening of the rock in the remnant highwall was observed.
- Some cracking of the crown pillar was noted.

In general, the East Open Pit cover appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended. The loose rock observed in the East Open Pit highwall will eventually fall onto the adjacent bench and does not pose any concern with respect to access to the underground workings. The cracking in the crown pillar at the East Open Pit does not appear to be advanced from 2008, but should continued to be visually monitored for additional deformation.

The minor erosion noted on the surface of the cover was not unexpected. The armour material at this location contains a fine grained fraction that was expected to wash away with time. As such, the armour thickness at this location, and many others where alternative armour materials were used, was increased to 0.35 m. The coarse grained fraction of the armour material is expected to limit the amount of erosion that can occur, without negatively affecting the geothermal performance of the cover.

# **Monitoring Data**

The East Open Pit Waste Rock cover is instrumented with two thermistors and two frost gauges. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 28. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 29. The graphs indicate the following:

- Data from Thermistor BGC05-02, installed in the area with a thin layer of waste rock backfill (approximately 3 m thick), indicates the waste rock has frozen back and continues to cool with time.
- Data from Thermistor BGC05-03, installed in the area with a thick layer of waste rock backfill (approximately 9 m thick), indicates the waste rock, and hydrocarbon contaminated soil buried at depth, has frozen back and continues to cool with time.

- The active layer monitoring data from Thermistor BGC05-03 indicates that the active layer was confined within the cover materials throughout 2009. The thermal performance of the cover continues to improve with time, suggesting that icesaturation at the base of the cover is occurring.
- The measurements collected from frost gauge FG13 suggests increased performance compared to previous years and suggests that the active layer was confined to the cover materials throughout 2009.

#### 6.3.10 East Trench Waste Rock Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the East Trench in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Shale Hill shale borrow area. The armour material was sourced from the local borrow source located along the road between the K-Baseline Portal and Kuhulu Lake. The face of the East Trench cover is sloped at an angle ranging between 4(H):1(V) and 6(H):1(V).

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-15). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- Minor surface erosion was observed near the upslope edge of the cover where a minor amount of water was observed running onto the surface of the cover.
- No seepage was observed at the toe of the cover.

In general, the East Trench cover appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

## 6.3.11 Oceanview Open Pit Waste Rock Cover

#### **Construction Details**

A thermal cover was constructed over the Oceanview Open Pit in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Shale Hill borrow area (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Chris Creek "A" borrow area (Drawing 1). The face of the Oceanview Open Pit cover is sloped at a maximum angle of approximately 3(H):1(V). The surface of the cover in the bottom of the pit slopes to the north at a grade of approximately 3%.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-16). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No ponded water was observed on the surface of the cover.
- The upslope water deflection berm appeared to be effective in directing surface water away from the cover. This was inferred from visual indications of flowing water along the upslope edge of the berm.
- Minor surface erosion was noted along the side slope at the south end of the cover.
   The erosion was noted to be slightly more progressed than was observed in 2008.
- Some seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- Some staining was observed on the east edge of the cover. The stained area appeared to originate upslope of the extent of the cover and appeared to cover a similar extent to what was observed in 2008.

In general, the Oceanview Open Pit cover appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended. The surficial erosion should continue to be visually monitored for additional progression.

As discussed previously, minor erosion of the surface of the cover was not unexpected. Similar to the East Open Pit cover, the armour material at this location contains a fine grained fraction that was expected to wash away with time. As such, the armour thickness was increased to 0.35 m. The coarse grained fraction of the armour material, which can be observed in photos on Drawing I-17, is expected to limit the amount of erosion that can occur, without negatively affecting the geothermal performance of the cover.

## **Monitoring Data**

The Oceanview Pit Waste Rock cover is instrumented with one thermistor and one frost gauge. The location of each of these instruments is provided on Drawing 30. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 31. The graphs indicate the following:

- The active layer was confined within the cover materials throughout 2009.
- The waste rock underlying the cover has frozen back and remained completely frozen throughout 2009.
- The geothermal profile beneath the cover materials continues to cool with time.
- Based on the thermistor data collected from BGC05-01, the geothermal performance
  of the cover in 2009 was similar to the performance observed in 2008. The maximum
  active layer thaw depth indicated by Thermistor BGC05-01 was estimated to be
  approximately 1.5 m bgs.
- The maximum active layer thaw depth indicated by Frost Gauge FG16 was measured to be approximately 1.25 m bgs, an improvement compared to the maximum thaw value of 1.55 m bgs observed in 2008.

#### 6.3.12 Area 14 Waste Rock Cover

#### **Construction Details**

Area 14 is a satellite ore body situated on a west-facing slope, approximately 1 km to the east of East Twin Lake (Drawing 1). A waste rock pile was created outside the portal during mining operations. In 1988, the waste rock pile was flattened and a thermal cover was constructed over the top of the waste rock pile, but the face was left exposed.

In 2005, the thermal cover at the Area 14 waste rock pile was completed by constructing a cover over the exposed face and armouring the entire surface of the cover. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. All shale was sourced from the Area 14 shale borrow area (Drawing 1). All armouring material was sourced from the hill side immediately north of the Area 14 portal.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-17). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover materials was observed.
- No areas of significant settlement were observed in the cover.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.

In general, the Area 14 waste rock cover appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

# **Monitoring Data**

The Area 14 Waste Rock cover is instrumented with one thermocouple and one frost gauge; locations for each of these instruments are provided on Drawing 32. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 33. The graphs indicate the following:

- The underlying waste rock remained frozen throughout 2009.
- The active layer thaw was limited to the upper 1.3 m of the cover and did not penetrate into the underlying waste rock in 2009.
- The geothermal performance of the cover in 2009 was nominally equivalent to the performance observed since 2006.

It should also be noted that the water quality monitoring data collected in Chris Creek, down gradient of the Area 14 waste rock pile, continued to be well within the regulatory criteria throughout 2009.

# 6.3.13 Upper Dump Pond Tailings Cover

#### **Construction Details**

The upper dump pond was an emergency tailings storage containment cell located between the water tank and the West Twin Disposal Area, as shown on Drawing 1. A thermal cover was constructed over the tailings in the Upper Dump Pond in 2005. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick (minimal thickness) layer of granular shale overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer (minimal thickness) of armour material comprised of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was sourced from the Townsite shale borrow area (Drawing 1). The armour material was sourced from the Twin Lakes Delta deposit (Drawing 1).

# **Inspection Conditions**

The main observations from the inspection are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the surface of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- No areas of significant settlement were observed.

In general, the Upper Dump Pond tailings cover appears to be in a satisfactory state. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

# **Monitoring Data**

The Upper Dump Pond tailings cover is instrumented with one frost gauge. The location of this instrument is provided on Drawing 34. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 35. The graph indicates the following:

- The active layer thaw was limited to the upper 1.7 m of the cover and did not penetrate into the underlying tailings in 2009.
- The geothermal performance of the cover in 2009 was improved compared to the performance observed in 2008.

## 6.3.14 Industrial Complex Foundation Cover

#### **Construction Details**

The Industrial Complex is located approximately 1 km north of the townsite (Drawing 1). The Industrial Complex housed the concentrator, DMS circuit, power plant, maintenance shops, warehouse, administration and technical offices and associated facilities. The facility was built on bedrock and a reinforced concrete foundation.

The Industrial Complex was dismantled between 2005 and 2006 and the remnant foundation was backfilled with metals contaminated soils. In 2008, a thermal cover was constructed over the backfilled foundation. The thermal cover consists of a 2 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of armour

material. The shale was sourced from the Mill Area deposit and the armour materials were locally sourced. The sloping face of the cover is approximately 3(H):1(V).

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-18). The main observations made during the inspection are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the surface of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was observed at the toe of the cover.

In general, the Industrial Complex cover appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

# **Monitoring Data**

The Industrial Complex Foundation cover is instrumented with one thermistor. The location of this instrument is provided on Drawing 36. Select plots providing the results of the monitoring are provided on Drawing 37. The graph indicates the following:

- The waste rock used to backfill the open pit has frozen back.
- The active layer thaw penetrated through the cover into the upper 0.5 m of the fill in 2009.

It should be noted that the thermistor was installed late in 2008 and that 2009 was the first year in which monitoring data was collected from thermistor BGC08-02. Data collected in subsequent years will permit assessment of temporal trends to be undertaken.

## 6.4 Mine Openings

6.4.1 00/01 Portals and Crown Pillar

#### **Construction Details**

#### 00 Portal

The 00 Portal is located at the edge of the West Open Pit at western end of the mine, as illustrated on Drawing 1. The 00 Portal was the principal access at the western extremity of the mine. The portal measured approximately 5 by 5 m in cross section. The brow immediately above the portal was approximately 4 to 5 m high.

In 2005, the portal was backfilled with waste rock. The backfill was placed approximately to within 1 m of the top of the portal and into the portal approximately 5 m from the entrance. The backfill extended outside the portal face and was sloped at an angle of approximately 3(H):1(V) and graded into the overall backfill of the West Open Pit. A thermal cover was subsequently constructed over the waste rock as part of the West Open Pit thermal cover.

## 01 Portal

The 01 Portal was located at the western end of the mine, as shown on Drawing 1. The 01 Portal housed the main ventilation fans during mining operations which were mounted in a plate steel bulkhead. The portal opening was approximately 22 m wide and 4 m high. The brow immediately above the portal was approximately 4-5 m high.

In 2005, the portal was backfilled with waste rock. The backfill was placed approximately to within 1 m of the top of the portal and into the portal up to the face of the bulkhead. The backfill extended outside the portal face and was sloped at an angle of approximately 3(H):1(V) and graded into the overall backfill of the West Open Pit. A thermal cover was subsequently constructed over the waste rock as part of the West Open Pit thermal cover.

#### 00/01 Crown Pillar

A stope connecting the 00 and 01 portals was located approximately 5 m behind the West Open Pit highwall. A portion of the rock between the 00 and 01 portals, known as the 00/01 rib pillar, was removed during later stages of mine development as part of the pillar recovery program. After the recovery of a portion of the rib pillar, a crack developed in the crown pillar above the area that had been mined. In 2005, a fill pillar was constructed beneath the cracked portion of the crown pillar to provide additional support and prevent development of an opening into the mine workings if the pillar were to collapse. The pillar was constructed out of waste rock and was constructed approximately to within 1 m of the top of the opening.

#### **Inspection Conditions**

The area of the West Open Pit cover where the portals had existed was inspected in August 2009. The observations are summarized by the following:

- No indications of surface deformation were observed.
- No indication of seepage from the mine workings was observed.

No maintenance of the portal plugs or the cover over the portal plugs was recommended.

The crown pillar was also inspected from surface. The observations are summarized by the following:

- No additional cracking was observed.
- Based on visual observations, the existing cracking did not seem to dilate further since 2008.
- No visually distinguishable deformation was observed in the crown pillar.

In general, the portal plugs constructed for the 00 and 01 portals and the 00/01 crown pillar appear to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

## 6.4.2 17 North Portal

#### **Construction Details**

The 17 North Portal was a culverted portal giving access to the Main Ore Zone. The location of the portal is illustrated on Drawing 1. The 17 North Decline was approximately 5 by 5 m in cross section and the culvert was half round with a diameter of 5 m and a length of 28 m. The culvert was supported by a 0.25 m thick by 2 m high concrete wall on either side and extended 5 m inside the dolostone bedrock of the drift.

In 2005, the culvert was removed and the portal was backfilled with granular shale derived from the Shale Hill borrow area. The backfill was placed to within 1 m of the top of the portal and extended into the portal for approximately 4 m. The backfill extended outside the portal face and was sloped at an angle ranging between 4(H):1(V) and 7H:1V and graded into the surrounding topography. A 0.35 m thick layer of armour material, derived from the Kuhulu Lake borrow area, was then applied to the surface of the shale backfill.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-19). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the surface of the cover was observed.
- The thermokarst feature that was observed in 2008 was backfilled, as recommended. Additional surface deformation was noted during the 2009 inspection.
- No seepage was observed at the toe of the cover.
- Surface water was observed flowing along the east edge of the cover in response to the rainfall during the inspection.

It was recommended that the thermokarst feature continue to be visually monitored for additional surface deformation.

#### 6.4.3 Oceanview Portal

#### **Construction Details**

The Oceanview Portal was a bare rock entrance into the north side of the Oceanview underground workings. The location of the portal is illustrated on Drawing 1. The Oceanview decline had a cross section of approximately 5 by 5 m. The brow of the portal was approximately 5 m in height.

Prior to 2004, the portal had been backfilled with waste rock and covered over with locally derived overburden materials. In 2005, a thermal cover was constructed over the existing portal plug. The cover consisted of a 2.0 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer of armour material consisting of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was derived from the Shale Hill borrow area. The armour material was derived

from the Chris Creek "A" deposit. The thermal cover was extended to the east and north of the portal entrance in an old ore stockpile area. Additionally, a water deflection berm was constructed upslope of the cover extension to prevent concentrated surface water from flowing over the cover area.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-20). The main observations from the inspection are summarized by the following:

- A small area of surficial settlement was observed near the southwest corner of the portal cover. The settlement area appears to have stabilized as it has not changed significantly since it was first observed in 2006.
- Some minor cracking was noted along the east edge of the portal cover.
- No seepage was observed at the toe of the cover.
- The surface water deflection berm appeared to be effective in diverting water around the cover extension.

It was recommended that the settlement area and cracking continue to be visually monitored for additional deformation.

#### 6.4.4 K-Baseline Portal

#### **Construction Details**

The K-Baseline portal was a culverted entry used to access the K-Baseline ore body. The location of the portal is illustrated on Drawing 1. The K-Baseline decline was approximately 5 m by 5 m in cross section and the culvert was half round with a diameter of 5 m and a length of 28 m. The culvert was supported by two concrete pony walls, 1 m wide by 2.4 m high, on both sides. The concrete pony walls extended 3 m inside the dolostone bedrock of the drift.

In 2004, the culvert was removed and the portal was backfilled with waste rock. In 2005, a thermal cover was constructed over the waste rock portal plug. The cover consisted of a 2.0 m thick layer (minimum thickness) of granular shale overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer of armour material consisting of sand, gravel and cobbles. The shale was derived from the Shale Hill borrow area. The armour material was derived from the Chris Creek "A" deposit. An additional thermal cover was constructed over the area below the road immediately outside the portal where mineralized soils and additional waste rock were located. A surficial cover of shale was also constructed adjacent to the thermal cover to improve drainage conditions.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-21). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- No areas of significant settlement were observed in the cover.
- Some minor cracking was noted on the surface of the cover.

In general, the K-Baseline portal appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.5 Area 14 Portal

#### **Construction Details**

The Area 14 Portal was a bare rock portal that provided access to the Area 14 underground workings. Mining ceased in this area around 1987 and the portal was backfilled with waste. The waste was covered and contoured with shale in 1987 and 1988.

In 2005, locally derived armour material was stockpiled adjacent to the portal cover for construction of the final armour layer. In late 2006, the stockpiled armour materials were spread over the portal area.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-22). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- No areas of significant settlement were observed in the cover.

In general, the Area 14 portal appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.6 09 South Portal

## **Construction Details**

The 09 South Portal is located at the western end of the mine, as shown on Drawing 2. The 09 South Portal is a culverted entry giving access to the Main Ore Zone. The 09 South drift is approximately 5 m by 5 m in cross section. The culvert is round with a diameter of 5 m and a length of 28 m. The bottom of the culvert is filled with rockfill to provide a smooth floor. The culvert extends approximately 13 m inside the shale bedrock of 09 south drift, leaving 15 m exposed on surface, a portion of which is covered with talus from the slope above.

The 09 South Portal remained open until the fall of 2008 to provide access to the underground workings during the underground waste disposal program. Once the underground waste disposal program was complete in September 2008, work on permanent closure of the 09 South Portal began.

In 2008, the culvert was removed and the portal was backfilled with granular shale derived from the Mill Area deposit. The backfill was placed to within 0.5 m of the top of the portal and extended into the portal for approximately 5 m. The backfill extended outside the portal face and was sloped at an angle of approximately 4(H):1(V) and graded into the surrounding topography. A 0.25 m (minimum thickness) layer of locally derived armour material was then applied to the surface of the shale backfill.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-23). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- Some minor cracking and deformation of the cover was noted.

It was recommended that the cracking and deformation continue to be visually monitored for changes.

# 6.4.7 Lower Adit

## **Construction Details**

The Lower Adit is located at the western end of the mine near the Industrial Complex, as illustrated on Drawing 2. The Lower Adit provided the main access into the underground crusher and fine ore bin, as well as secondary access to the Main Ore Zone.

The Lower Adit Portal remained open until the fall of 2008 to provide ventilation to the underground workings during the underground waste disposal program. Once the underground waste disposal program was complete in September 2008, work on permanent closure of the Lower Adit Portal began.

In 2008, the portal was backfilled with granular shale derived from the Mill Area deposit. The backfill was placed to within 0.5 m of the top of the portal and extended into the portal for approximately 5 m. The backfill extended outside the portal face and was sloped at an angle of approximately 4(H):1(V) and graded into the surrounding topography. A 0.25 m (minimum thickness) layer of locally derived armour material was then applied to the surface of the shale backfill.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-24). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- No erosion of the cover was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the cover.
- No cracking or deformation of the cover was noted.

In general, the Lower Adit portal plug appears to be in satisfactory condition. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.8 Portal to Mill Foundation

#### **Construction Details**

A portal was driven beneath the Mill building in 1980 as part of emergency repair operations for the Mill. The portal is located approximately 70 m south of the Mill, adjacent to Twin Lakes Creek. The portal provided access to an ice lens which was present beneath the mill building. As part of the repair operations, the ice lens was mined out and concrete pillars were constructed to provide additional support for the Mill. After the repair operations were complete, the portal was plugged with shale rock fill.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-25). The main inspection observations are summarized by the following:

- The portal plug was armoured, as recommended in 2008.
- No erosion of the armoured portal plug was observed.
- No seepage was noted at the toe of the portal plug.

In general, the portal plug appears to be physically stable. No additional maintenance was recommended.

## 6.4.9 Shale Hill Raise

#### **Construction Details**

The Shale Hill Raise provided ventilation for the underground workings in the Shale Hill area. The location of the raise is illustrated on Drawing 1. The 3 m diameter raise was approximately 47 m deep. During mining operations, the raise was sealed with a 3 m diameter steel tank with the bottom cut out and with two adaptors in the top for 36-inch ventilation fans. The tank was fixed to a cemented collar at the top of the raise.

Prior to 2005, the surface structure was removed and, according to mine site records, the Shale Hill raise was backfilled with waste rock. A mound of shale was constructed at surface with side slopes of approximately 3(H):1(V). In 2005, a 0.35 m thick layer of locally derived

armour material was applied to the surface of the mound to complete the remediation of this raise.

## **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-26). During the inspection, the armour surface appeared to be stable with no visual indications of erosion or surface deformation. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.10 Oceanview East Raise

#### **Construction Details**

The Oceanview East Raise was situated at the extreme east end of the Oceanview underground workings. The location of the raise is illustrated on Drawing 1. The 4 by 4 m raise was approximately 10 m deep and provided ventilation for the underground workings in the Oceanview area. During mining operations, the raise was covered with a wooden wind deflector with a locked door.

In 2002, the wooden deflector was removed and, according to mine site records, the raise was backfilled with waste rock. During backfilling, it was noted that an ice plug was present in the raise at a depth of approximately 1.5 m below ground surface. As such, waste rock was placed only to this depth. A 3 m high mound was placed on top of the raise to accommodate for possible future settlement of the ice plug. The mound was constructed of shale and surfaced with coarse rock.

## **Inspection Conditions**

During the inspection, the armour surface appeared to be stable with no visual indications of erosion or surface deformation. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.11 Oceanview West Raise

#### **Construction Details**

The Oceanview West raise was located near the west end of the Oceanview underground workings, as shown on Drawing 1. The 3 m diameter raise is approximately 26 m deep and provided ventilation for the underground workings. The raise was covered by a steel enclosure with a locked wooden cover.

In 2002, the steel enclosure was removed and, according to mine site records, the raise was backfilled with waste rock as part of the progressive reclamation of the mine site. During backfilling, it was noted that an ice plug was present in the raise at a depth of approximately 1.5 m below ground surface. As such, waste rock was placed only to this depth. A 3 m mound was placed on top of the raise to accommodate for possible future settlement of the ice plug. The mound was constructed of shale and surfaced with coarse rock.

# **Inspection Conditions**

During the inspection, the armour surface appeared to be stable with no visual indications of erosion or surface deformation. As such, no maintenance was recommended.

#### 6.4.12 Area 14 Raise

#### **Construction Details**

The location of the Area 14 Raise is illustrated on Drawing 1. The raise had a cross section of 5 m by 5 m and an approximate depth of 8 m. Mining ceased in this area around 1987 and the raise was completely backfilled to the floor of the underground workings. Backfilling was completed with waste rock and the surface was then covered and contoured with shale in the summer of 1987 and 1988.

#### **Inspection Conditions**

During the inspection, it was observed that armour material had been applied to the surface area but no surficial mound had been constructed. Given the stability exhibited by the raise plug over a period of 20 years, additional surficial material is not considered necessary.

#### 6.5 Shale and Armour Borrow Areas

#### 6.5.1 Shale Borrow Areas

Several shale borrow areas were developed during the reclamation process to provide material for construction of the thermal covers. The borrow areas include the following:

- Mt. Fuji
- Area 14
- West Twin
- East Twin
- Shale Hill
- Townsite

The borrow areas were reclaimed once no longer required. The reclamation efforts included regrading of slopes for stability and sufficient grading of the floor of each borrow area to provide for positive drainage of surface water.

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-27). The main observations are summarized by the following:

- Mt. Fuii
  - The benches are beginning to fill in from the ravelling of the remaining bench faces and are expected to eventually form a stable slope at the natural angle of repose.

- The instability observed at the crest in previous inspections does not appear to be retrogressing further up slope.
- Only minor ponding was observed in the floor. The floor is considered well drained.
- No issues requiring maintenance were observed.

#### Area 14

- o In general, the re-graded pit walls appear to be stable.
- One area of erosion is occurring at the north end of the borrow area where natural surface water discharge occurs into the pit. At this location, the overburden material has been eroded down to the top of the bedrock and has been deposited into the floor of the pit.
- No ponding of water was observed at the time of the inspection, but there
  has been significant thermokarsting at the entrance to the pit. As such, it is
  likely that this impedes drainage at some point in the year. The material is
  sufficiently fractured that any ponded water likely drains when the ground
  thaws.

#### West Twin

- o In general, the re-graded pit walls appear to be stable.
- No ponding was observed in the floor of the pit.
- No issues requiring maintenance were observed.

#### East Twin

- o In general, the re-graded pit walls appear to be stable.
- o No ponding was observed in the floor of the pit.
- o No issues requiring maintenance were observed.

#### Shale Hill

- o In general, the re-graded pit walls appear to be stable.
- No ponding was observed in the floor of the pit.
- No issues requiring maintenance were observed.

#### Townsite

- The upper portion of the pit walls were re-sloped, as recommended in the 2008 report.
- No ponding was observed in the floor of the pit.
- The bottom of the pit floor was graded, as recommended in the 2008 report.

#### 6.5.2 Armour Borrow Areas

Several armour borrow areas were developed during the reclamation process to provide material for construction of the thermal covers. The borrow areas include the following:

- Twin Lakes Delta deposit
- Chris Creek "A" and "B" deposits
- Kuhulu Lake Road deposit
- 09S/17N Road deposit

#### Area 14

The borrow areas were reclaimed once no longer required. The reclamation efforts included sufficient grading of the floor of each borrow area to provide for positive drainage of surface water.

The main observations are summarized by the following:

- Twin Lakes Delta deposit
  - The floor of the quarry was, in general, well drained. The surface water flows to the north edge of the borrow area and then proceeds to flow west to the Reservoir.
  - Only isolated thermokarsting was observed in the floor of the quarry.
  - No issues requiring maintenance were observed.
- Chris Creek "A" and "B" deposits
  - The floor of the quarry was observed to be well drained.
  - o Some minor thermokarsting was observed in the floor of the quarry.
  - No issues requiring maintenance were observed.
- Kuhulu Lake Road deposit
  - The floor of the borrow area was graded in late 2006 in response to thermokarsting identified during the 2006 inspection. Since the grading in 2006, some additional minor thermokarsting has occurred, but to a much lesser degree than what was observed in 2006. In general, the borrow area appeared to be well drained and no additional maintenance was recommended.
- 09S/17N deposit
  - The face of the borrow area did not exhibit any indications of erosion or thermokarsting.
  - No issues requiring maintenance were observed.
- Area 14 deposit
  - o Some minor thermokarsting was observed in the borrow area.
  - Given the stability exhibited by the area over the past few years, additional grading is no longer considered necessary but the area should continue to be monitored.

## 6.6 Other Areas

#### 6.6.1 Concentrate Storage Shed

## **Construction Details**

Dismantling of the Concentrate Storage Shed was completed in 2007. The concrete floor slab was left in-place and covered with a surficial cover of locally derived materials. According to mine site staff, the cover is approximately 30 cm thick, although this was not confirmed during the site inspection. The area adjacent to the Concentrate Storage Shed

foundation, where metals contaminated soils had been excavated, was also backfilled and re-sloped to prevent ponding.

# **Inspection Conditions**

Select photos from the inspection are provided in Appendix I (Drawing I-28). The main observations made during the inspection are summarized by the following:

- A portion of the surficial cover over the remnant concrete pad had been removed by the Coast Guard.
- No erosion of the remaining cover was observed.
- No seepage from the cover area was noted.
- No ponding was noted on the surface of the cover or any areas immediately adjacent to the cover.

It was recommended that the removed portion of the Concentrate Storage Shed surficial cover be returned to a satisfactory condition.

# 6.7 Summary of 2009 Maintenance Recommendations

The maintenance items recommended throughout Section 6 are summarized in Table 7.

Table 7. Recommended 2009 Maintenance Items/ Action items

Inspection Item	Recommended Maintenance/ Action items
East Adit Treatment Area	No maintenance required.
Day Tank Farm spill containment berm	No maintenance required.
Main Tank Farm spill containment berm	No maintenance required.
West Twin Dike Spillway	No maintenance required. Continue to monitor for
	any signs of erosion or permafrost degradation
	induced deformation of side slopes.
West Twin Outlet Channel	No maintenance required. Continue to monitor
	seepage losses.
East Twin Creek Diversion Channel	No maintenance required.
Surface Cell Tailings Cover	No maintenance required. Continue to monitor
	thermokarst areas for additional deformation.
West Twin Dike	No maintenance required.
Test Cell/ Test Cell Dike Cover	No maintenance required.
Toe of West Twin Dike/	No maintenance required.
Toe of Test Cell Dike	
Landfill Cover	No maintenance required.
West Open Pit Waste Rock Cover	No maintenance required.
East Open Pit/	No maintenance required. Continue to visually
East Trench Waste Rock Cover	monitor cracking in EOP crown pillar and minor
	surficial erosion of EOP and East Trench covers.
Oceanview Pit Waste Rock Cover	No maintenance required. Continue to visually
	monitor surficial erosion along backslope.
Area 14 Waste Rock Cover	No maintenance required.
Upper Dump Pond Cover	No maintenance required.
Industrial Complex Cover	No maintenance required.

Inspection Item	Recommended Maintenance/ Action items
00/01 Portals and crown pillar	No maintenance required. Continue to monitor
	cracking in WOP crown pillar.
17 N Portal	No maintenance required. Continue to visually
	monitor thermokarst area for additional deformation.
Oceanview Portal	No maintenance required. Continue to visually
	monitor settlement and cracking areas.
K-Baseline Portal	No maintenance required.
Area 14 Portal	No maintenance required.
09 South Portal	No maintenance required. Continue to visually
	monitor area of cracking and surficial disturbance.
Lower Adit	No maintenance required.
Former Portal to Mill Foundation	No maintenance required.
Shale Hill Raise	No maintenance required.
Oceanview East and West Raises	No maintenance required.
Area 14 Raise	No maintenance required.
Mt. Fuji Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Townsite Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
West Twin Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
East Twin Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Area 14 Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Shale Hill Shale Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Twin Lakes Armour Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Kuhulu Lake Road Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Chris Creek Armour Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Area 14 Armour Borrow Area	No maintenance required.
Concentrate Storage Shed	Return removed portion of surficial cover to
	appropriate state.
Instrumentation/ Monitoring	No maintenance required.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Embankments**

The Main Tank Farm Spill Containment Berm is planned to be removed and remediated in 2010/2011. Considering its imminent removal, no maintenance is considered necessary, despite some minor deficiencies. The East Twin Creek Diversion berm is performing as anticipated and is considered fully remediated. The East Adit Treatment Facility Dikes were breached in 2006. The flow through the Treatment Pond was observed to be relatively unimpeded. However, some ponding was observed in the Retention Pond. Additional grading could be completed to improve drainage through this area and prevent ponding, but given that no negative environmental impacts are known to result from the ponding, additional grading is not considered necessary at this time.

## **Hydraulic Structures**

The West Twin Dike Spillway is functioning as intended and only minor deformation in the base and side slopes of the spillway has occurred. Maintenance was expected to be required for the spillway during the initial years following construction given the ground conditions encountered during construction. The maintenance items recommended in 2008 were addressed and appear satisfactory.

A small head pond develops in the Surface Cell cover at the spillway inlet. The presence of the head pond is not considered to negatively affect the overall cover performance hence the elimination of the head pond is not considered necessary. The size of the pond appeared reduced in 2009 compared to previous years inspections. This reduction in pond size may continue over time as the intact rock in the base of the spillway inlet becomes more permeable due to freeze thaw effects.

The flow through hydraulic system created by the breach of the East Twin Lake Access Road in 2008 appeared to improve the stability of the water level upstream of wall during periods of regular inflows into the Reservoir. During periods of reduced or no inflow into the Reservoir, which usually occurs in the fall and early winter, the water level in the remnant polishing pond upstream of the wall was observed to be reduced, likely due to seepage losses through the foundation of the wall. However, the water level in the main portion of the Reservoir, upstream of the access road breach was maintained at appropriate levels by the impedance to flow provided by the remnant access road. Based on the water quality measurements collected in 2008 and 2009, the seepage losses through the foundation of the wall do not appear to be affecting the overall performance of the West Twin Area reclamation measures. The seepage losses at the wall should continue to be monitored and additional seepage control measures may be required should the seepage losses be considered excessive (*i.e.*, water levels approaching the design low water level, as illustrated on Drawing 5, during open water season).

#### **Thermal Covers**

The thermal covers appear to be physically stable with only minor erosion observed in isolated areas. The thermal performance of the covers has stabilized and, in many cases, show continued improvement. For the most part, the active layer thaw was contained within the thermal cover at most locations. This is despite the above average air temperatures experienced by site during the summer months in 2009. Improvement has also been observed in the quality of the surface water runoff from the Surface Cell cover system. This is an indication of the beneficial impacts related to improved geothermal performance of the cover system. Additionally, the water quality observed at the final discharge point for the West Twin Disposal Area has also been observed to remain well below the discharge criteria.

It is anticipated that, over time, the ice saturation will continue to progress within the base of the cover materials. As this occurs, the geothermal performance of the covers will continue to improve, further confining the active layer thaw within the cover.

#### Talik Freeze-back

Talik freeze-back is occurring as anticipated in the Surface Cell. Cooling of the subsurface profile is continuing, with the upper 10-20 m of the subsurface profile being frozen back. The ground temperatures in the middle of the talik appear to have stabilized after previously experiencing a slight warming trend. The pore pressures in the talik continue to increase, but have been shown to be lowest near the dike and highest in the centre of the talik. The water quality in the Surface Cell talik appears to be changing with time in response to freeze-back of the tailings, as anticipated.

Talik freeze-back in the Test Cell appears to be occurring, at a slower rate than the Surface Cell talik. The subsurface profile beneath the old Test Cell dike appears to be frozen back down to a depth of approximately 20 m. The piezometers in the Test Cell have demonstrated that the Test Cell talik and Reservoir are hydraulically connected. This was expected based on the available information on the Test Cell talik (BGC 2004a) and was assumed during the development of the contaminant loading model (CanZinco 2004).

## Mine Openings, Crown Pillars and Raises

The covers constructed over the mine openings appear to be physically stable. Features noted at the Oceanview, 17N and 09S portal plugs warrant continued visual assessment and may require maintenance should physical stability not be achieved. The cracks observed in the EOP and WOP crown pillars should continue to be visually monitored for signs of progression.

# **Shale and Armour Borrow Areas**

In general, the shale and armour borrow areas appear to be physically stable and are not causing any significant ponding to occur. They should continue to be monitored to determine if additional maintenance items are required.

# 8.0 CLOSURE

This report provides a performance assessment of numerous structures at the Nanisivik Mine, based on a one-time visual observation and a review of monitoring instrumentation for some of the dikes and thermal covers.

We trust the information provided herein meets your present requirements. Thank you for allowing BGC to be of service, once again, to Nanisivik Mine. If you have any questions or require additional details, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

**BGC ENGINEERING INC.** 

[Original Signed By:]

Geoff Claypool, M.Eng., P.Eng. Senior Geological Engineer

Reviewed By:

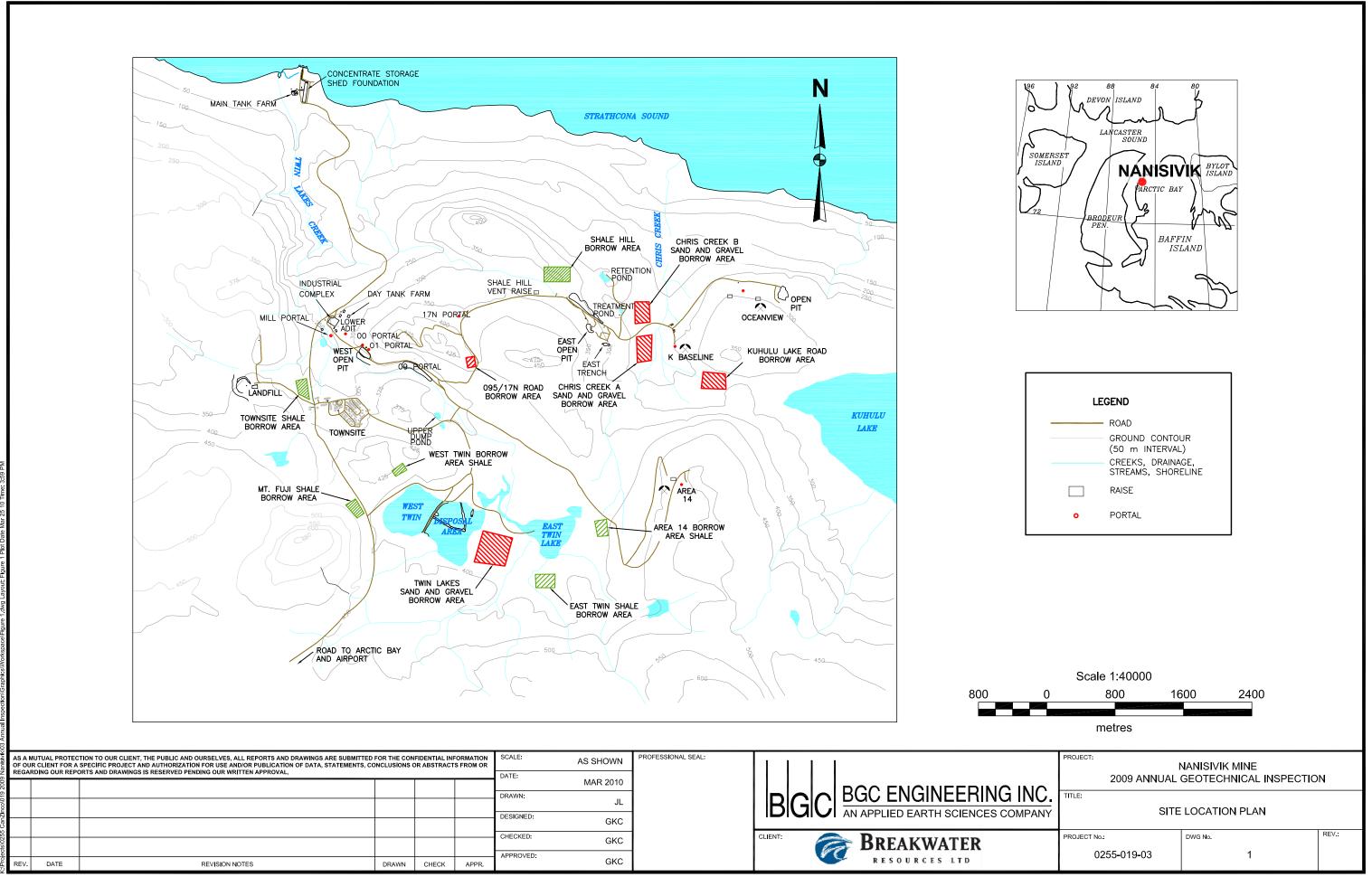
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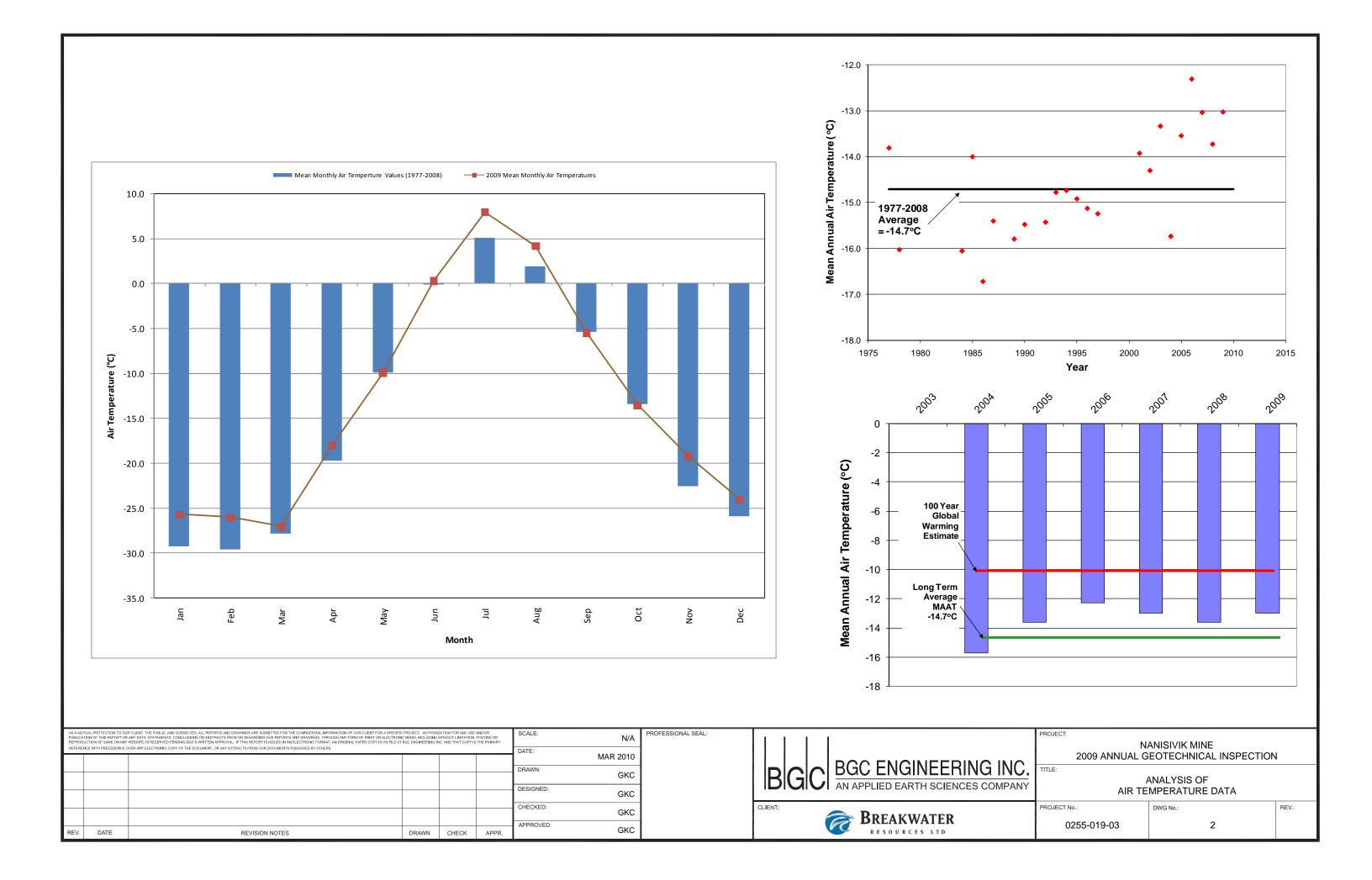
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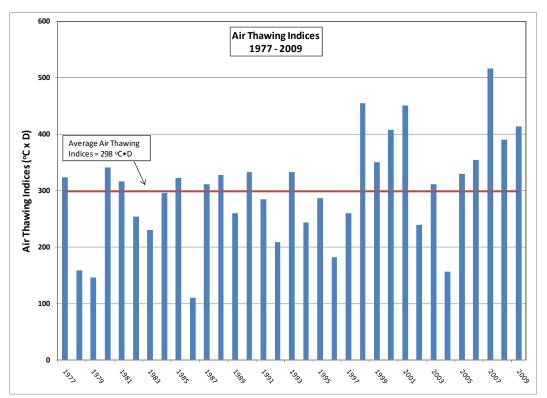
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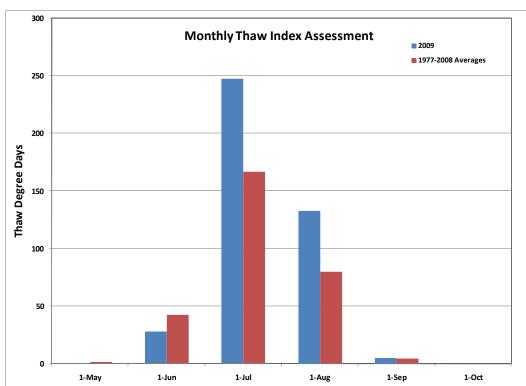
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# **DRAWINGS**









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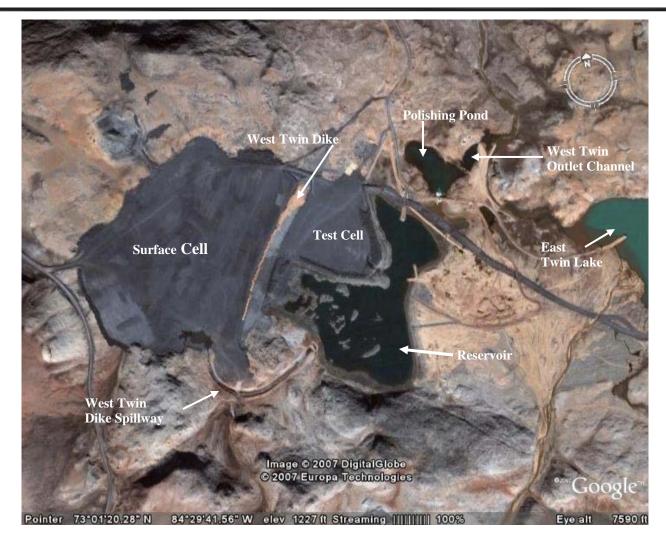
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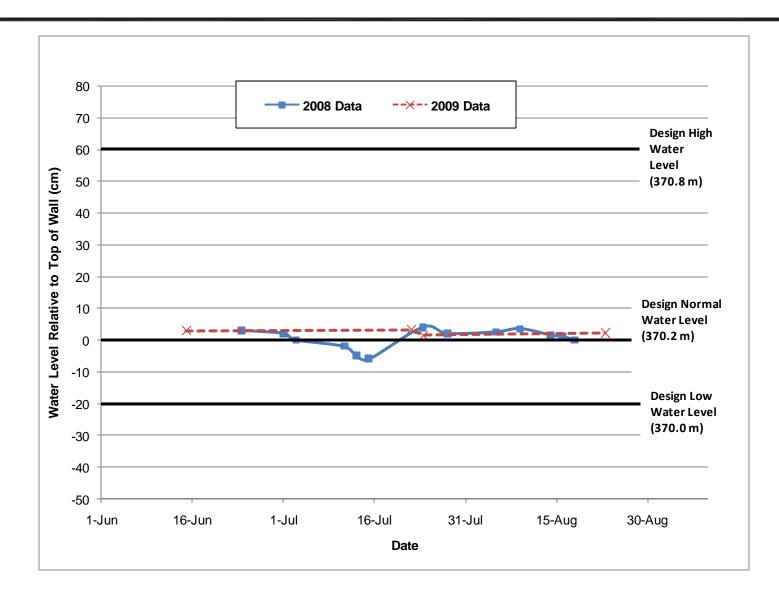


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# **Note:**

- 1. Photo derived from Google Earth January 10, 2008
- 2. Approximate date of photo is July 2005.

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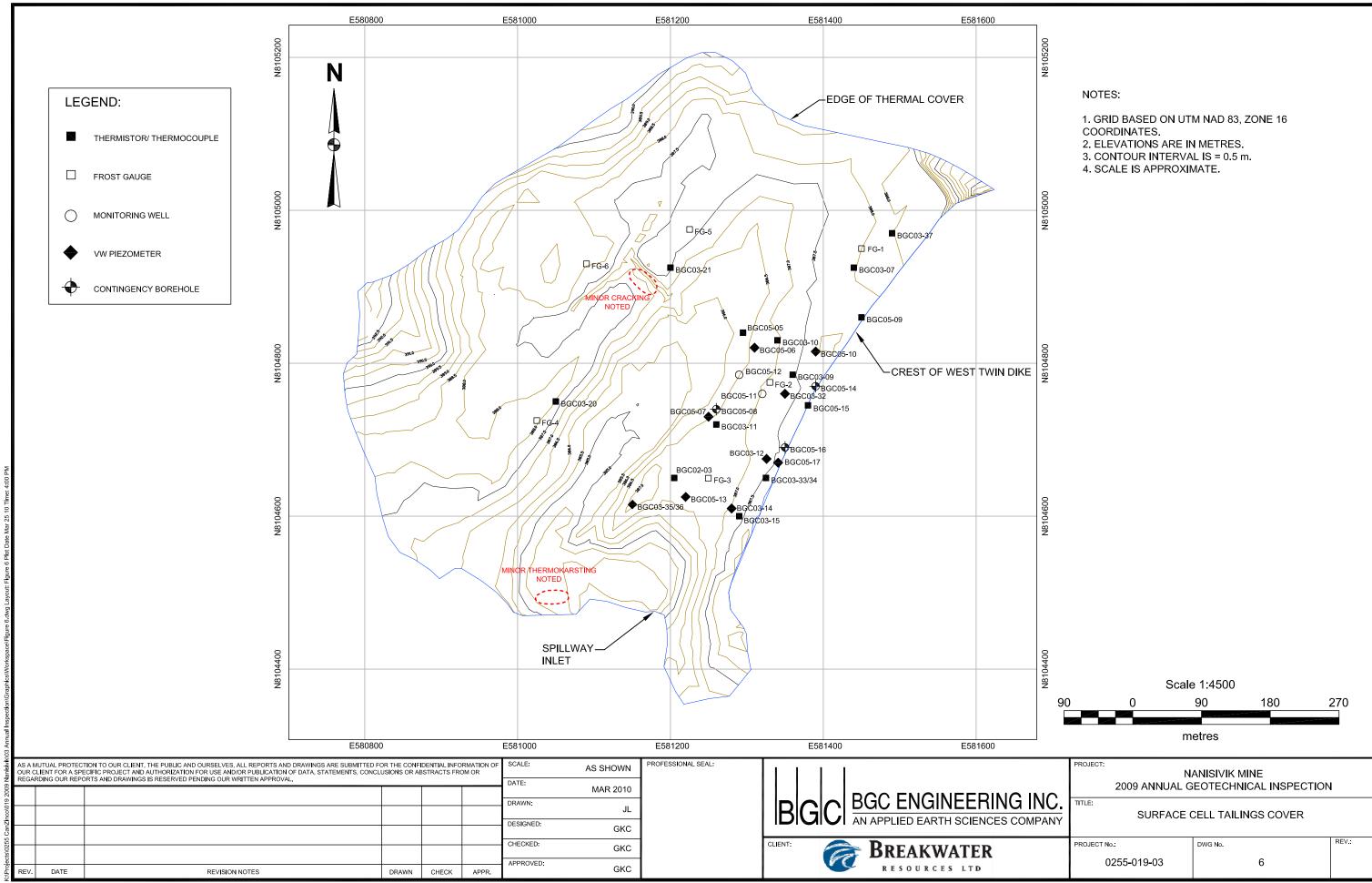
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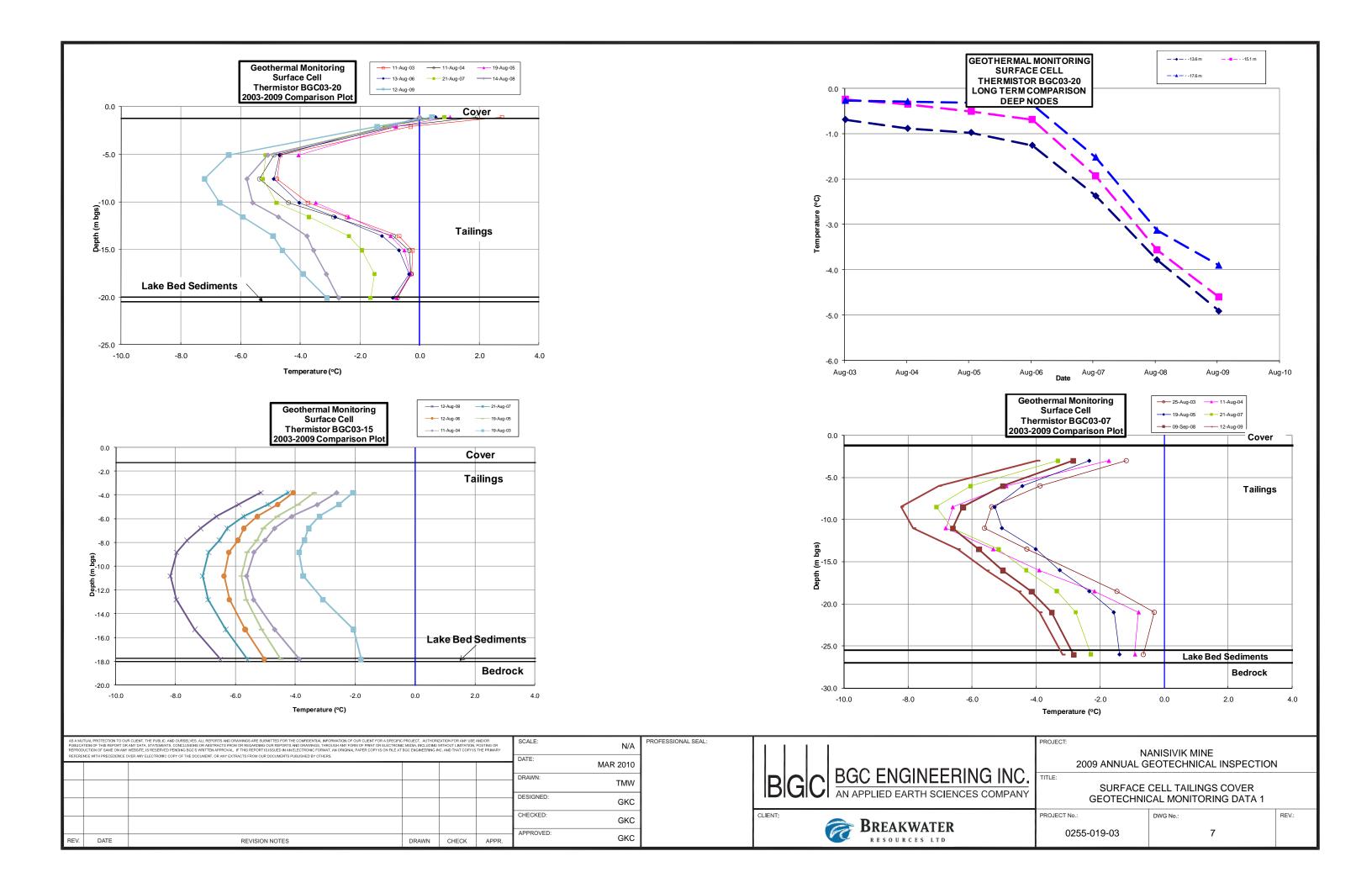
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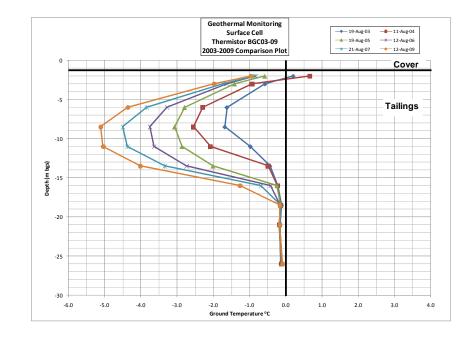
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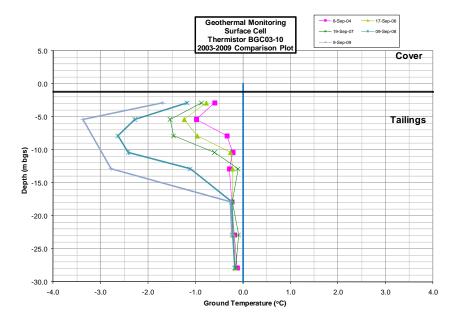
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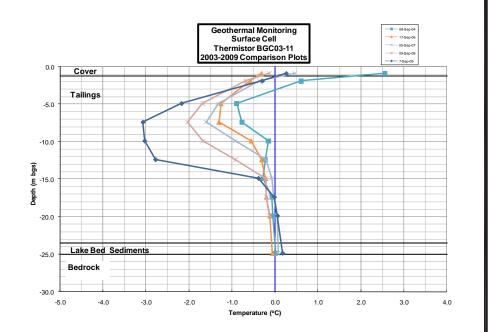


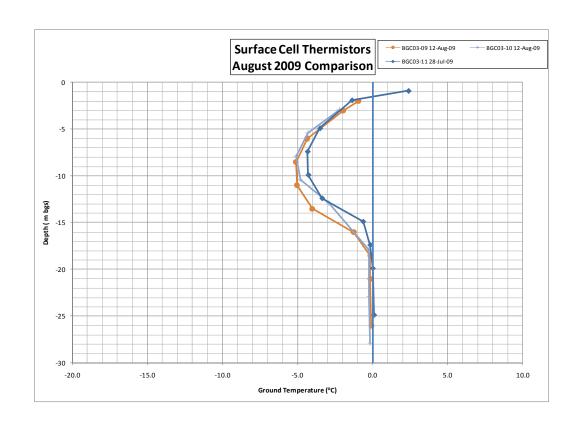


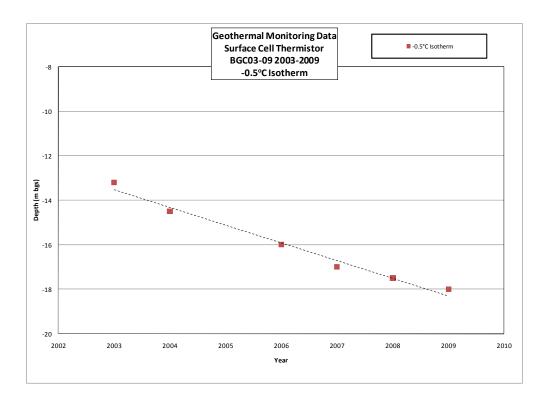




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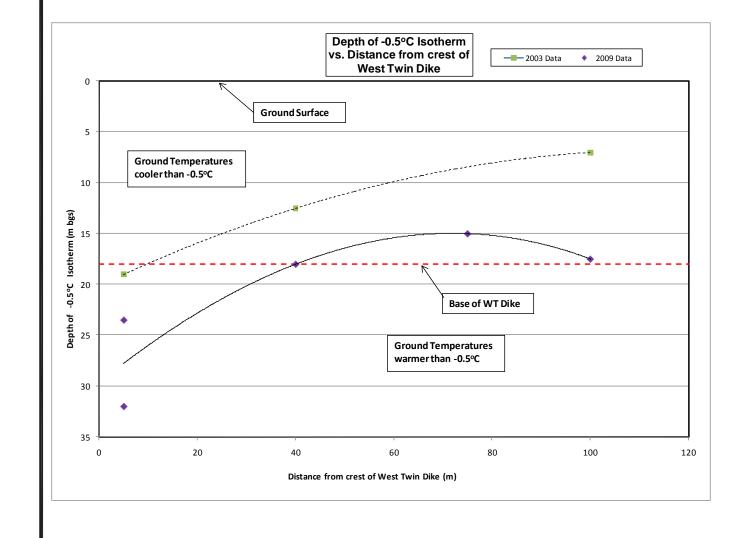


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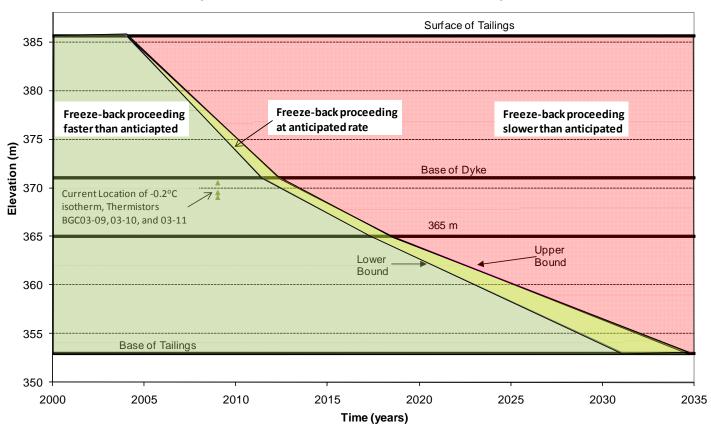
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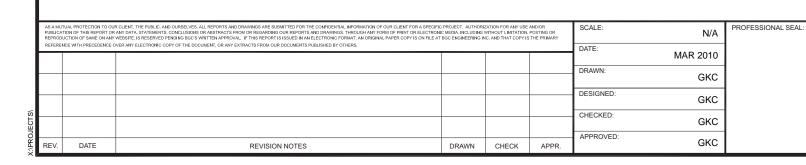
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# Freeze-Back Envelope Compared to Monitoring Data (Surface Cell Thermistor, -0.2°C Isotherm)





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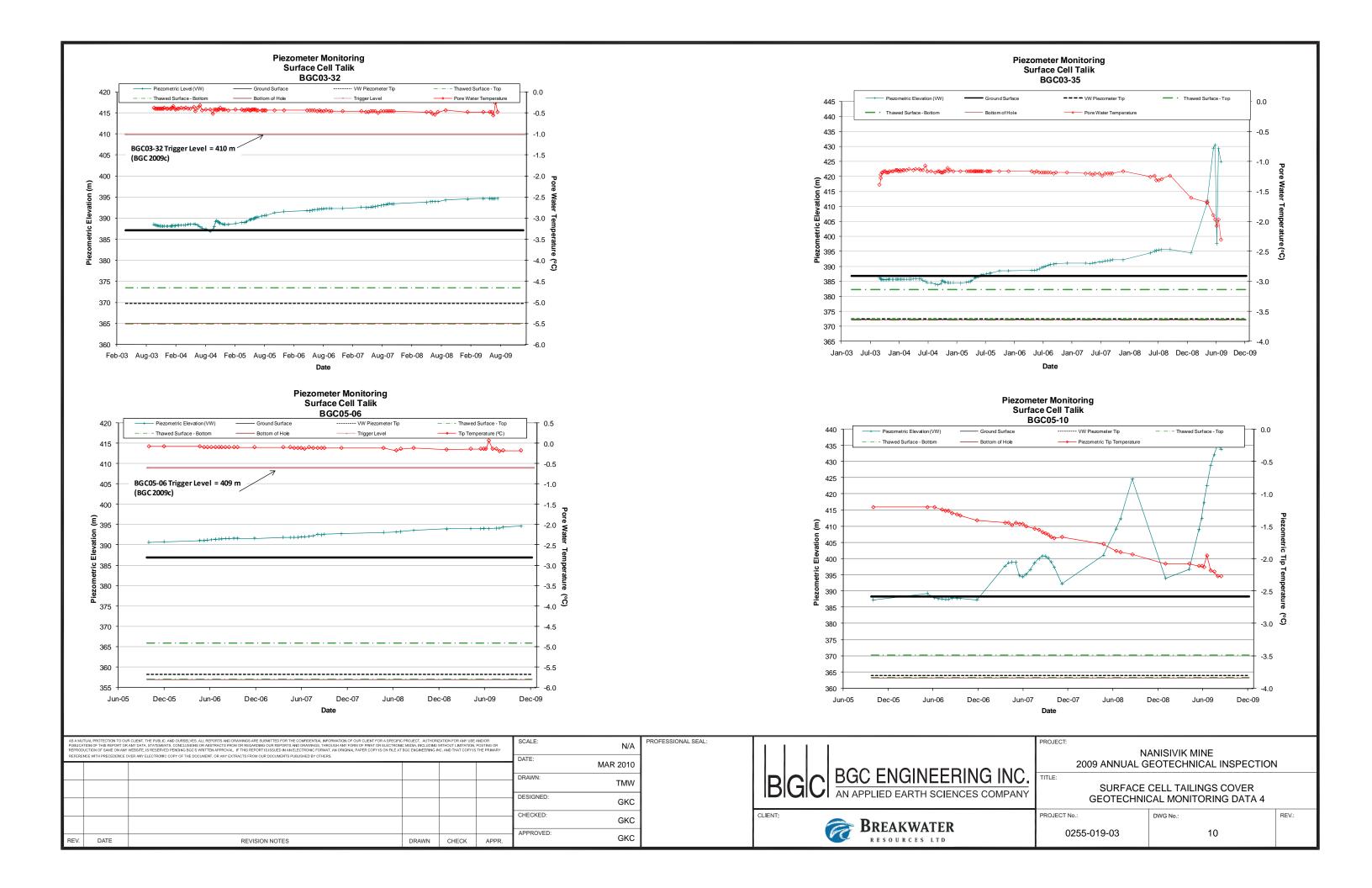
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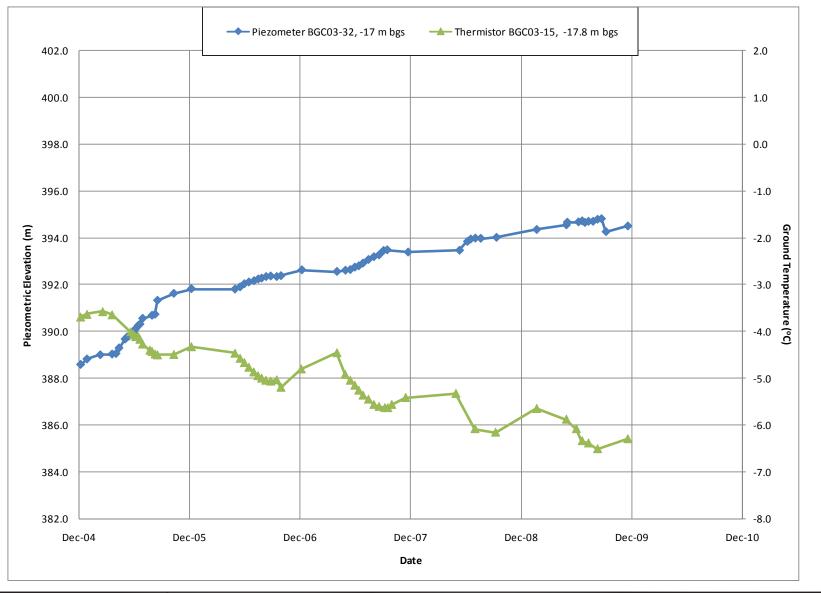
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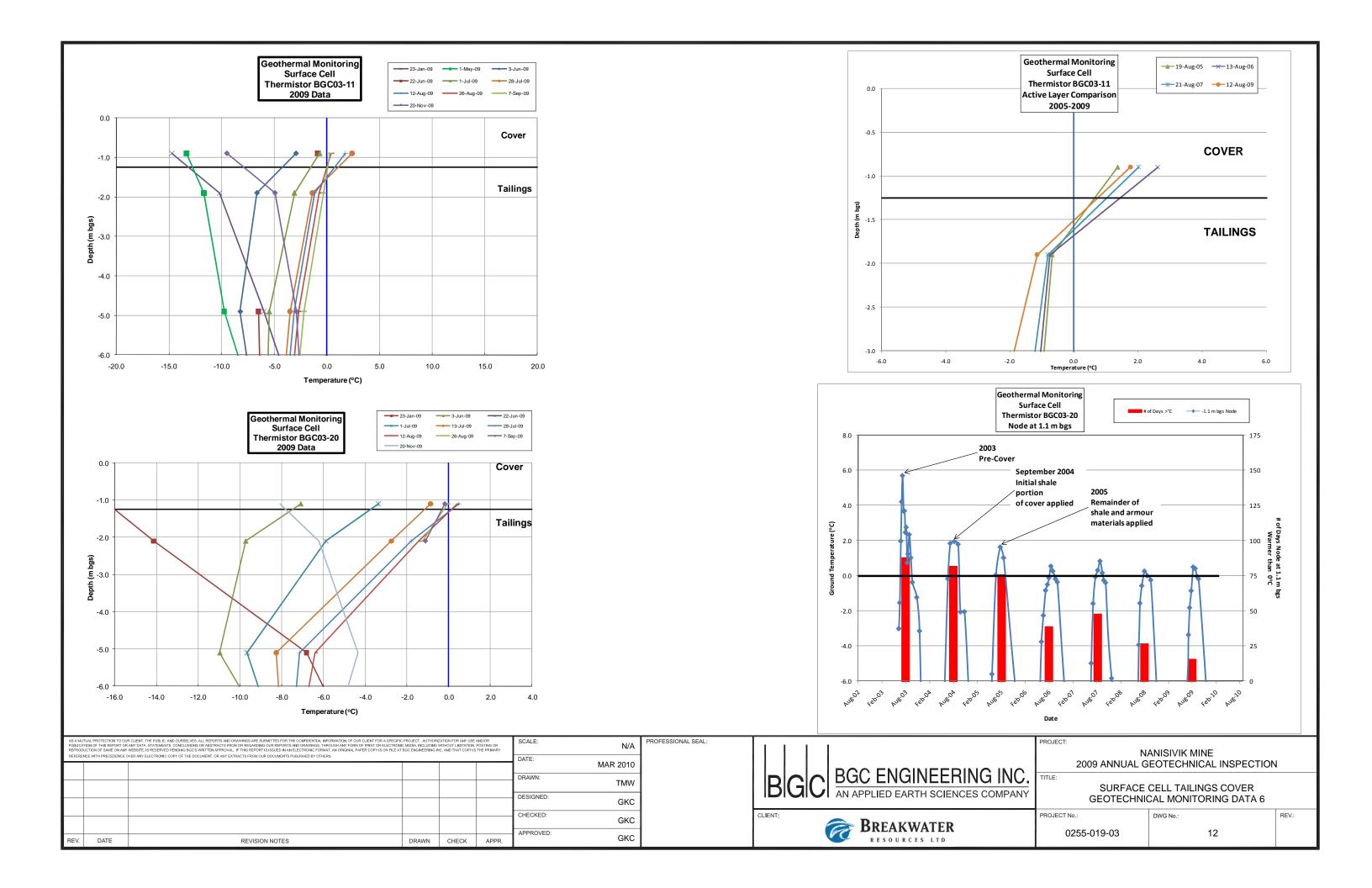
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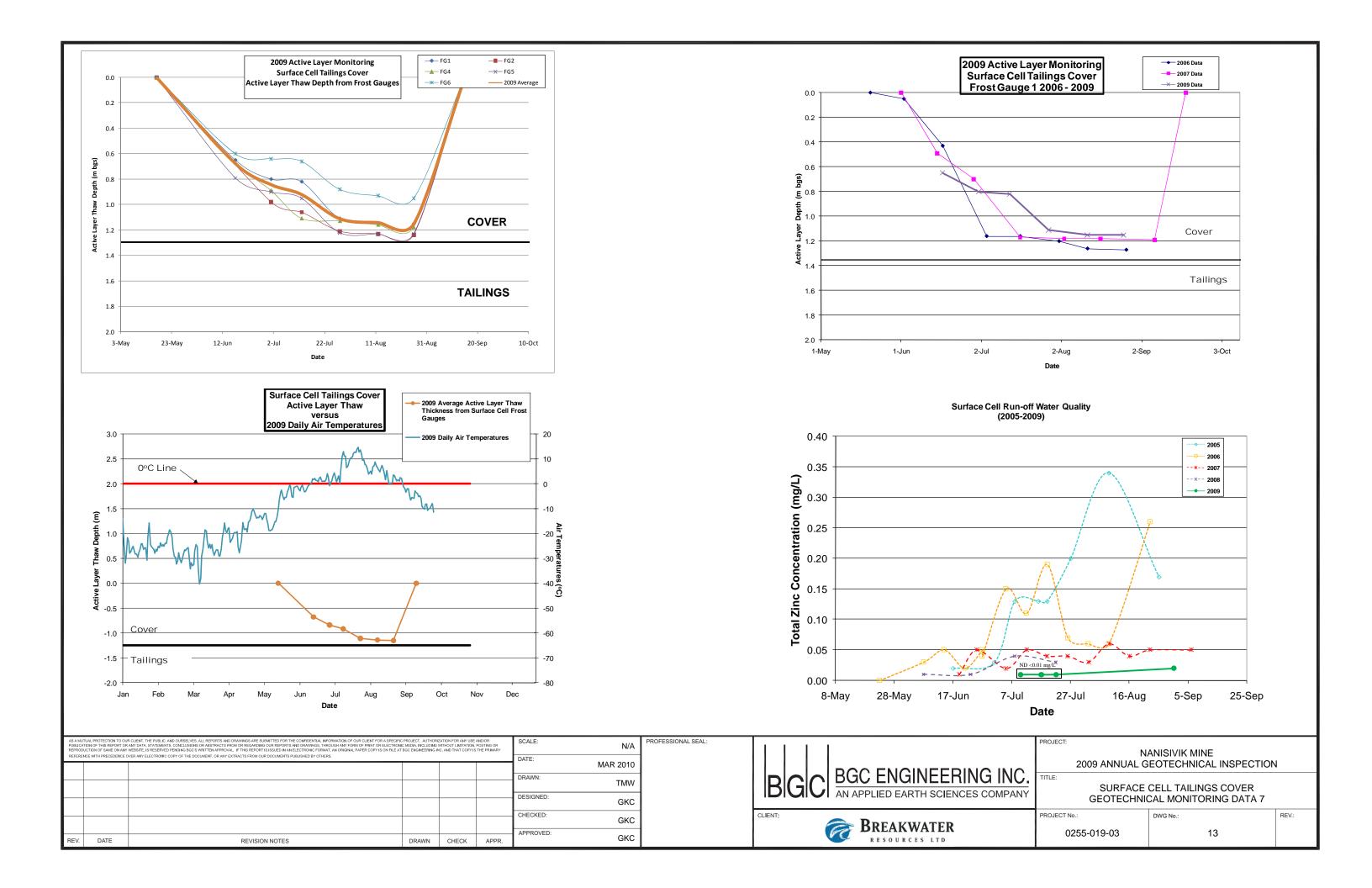
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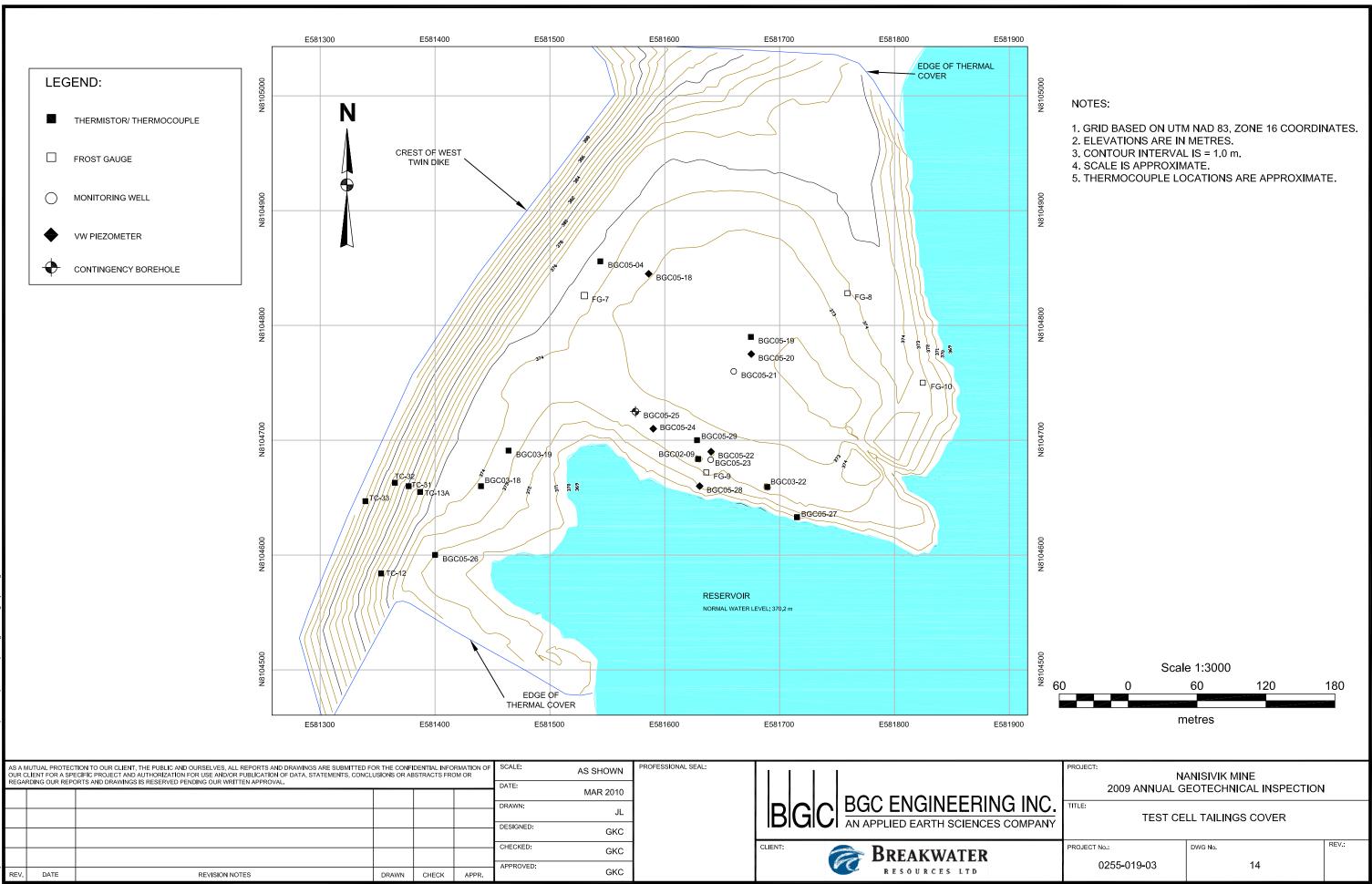
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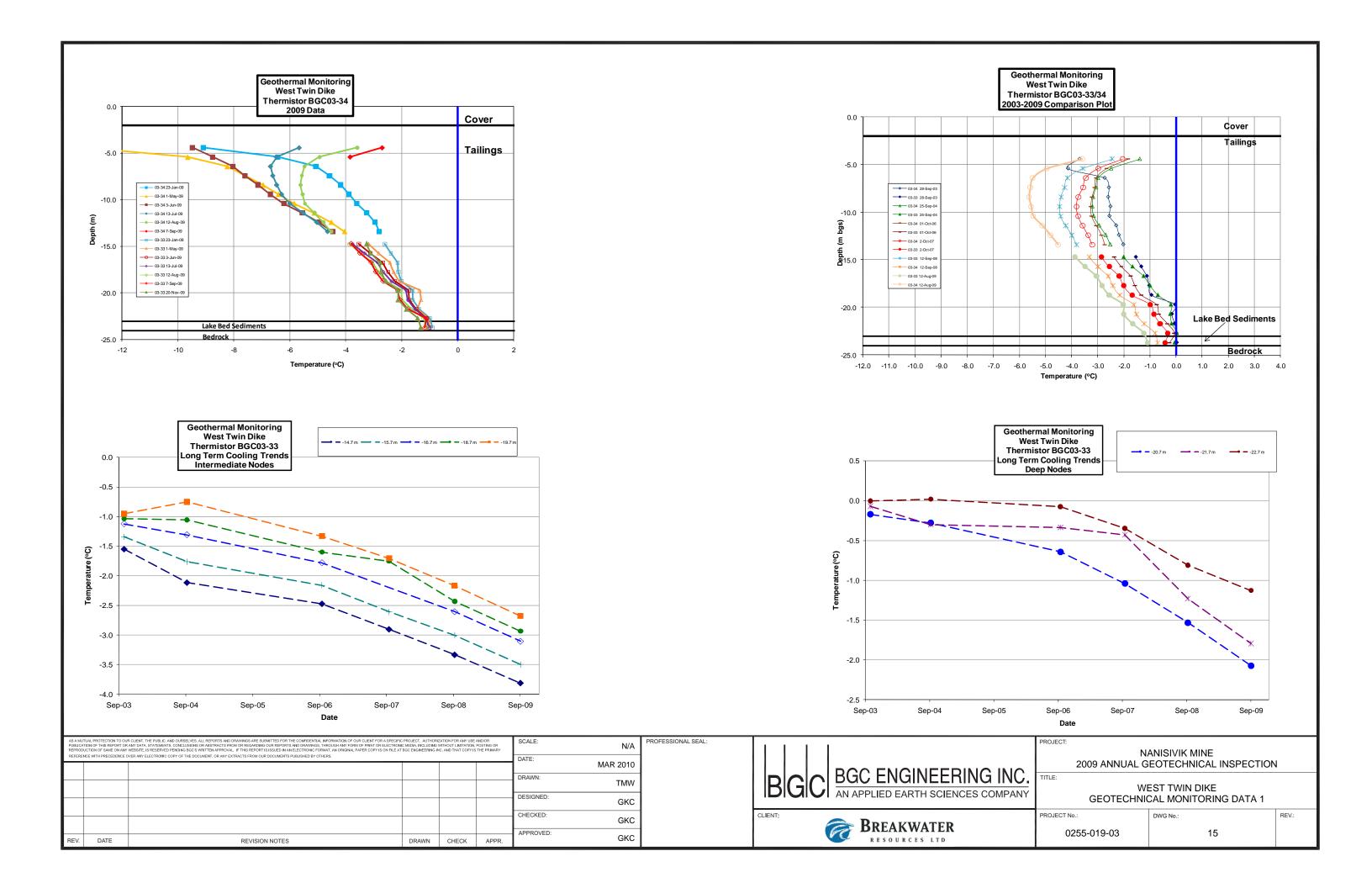
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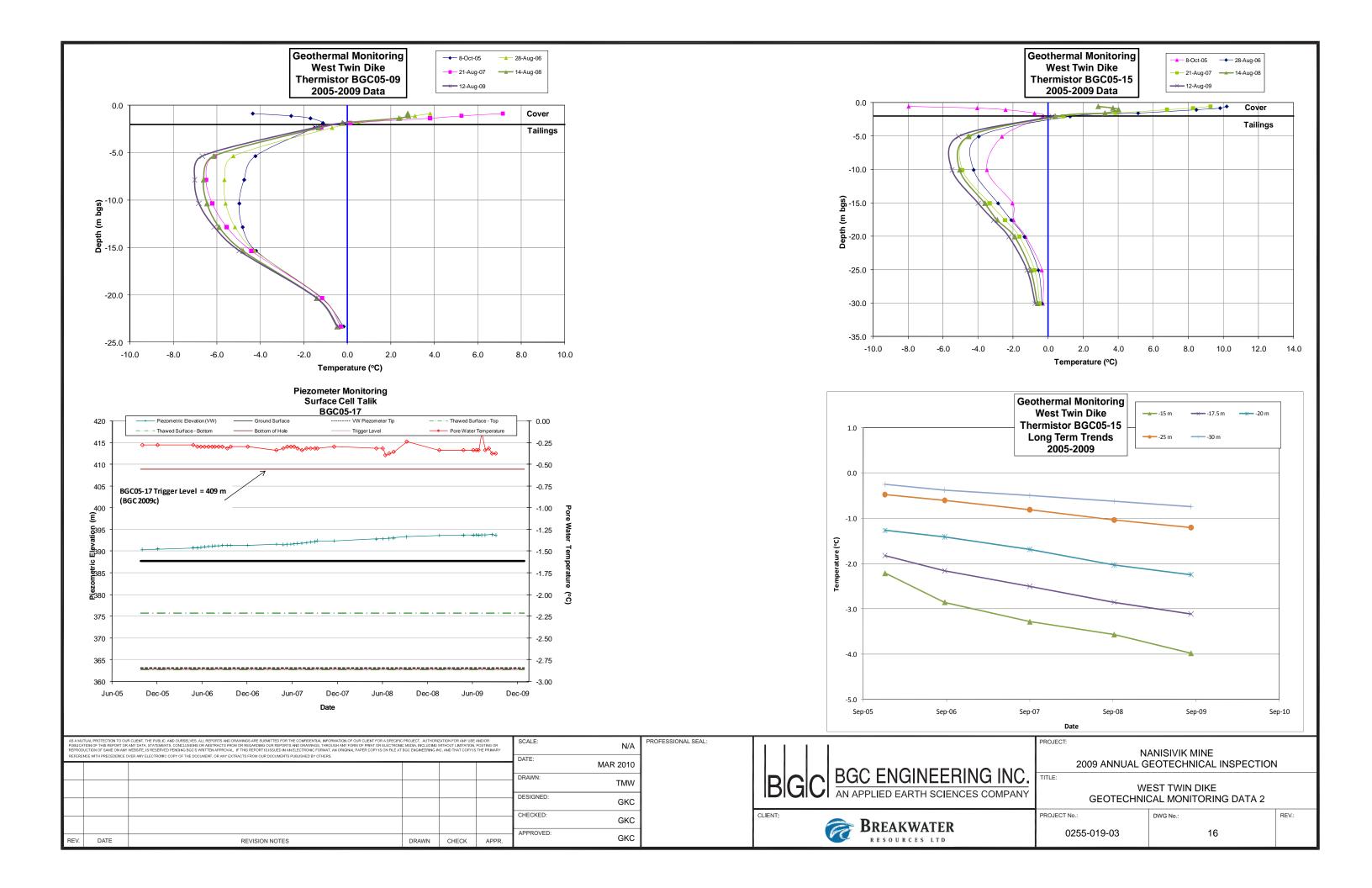
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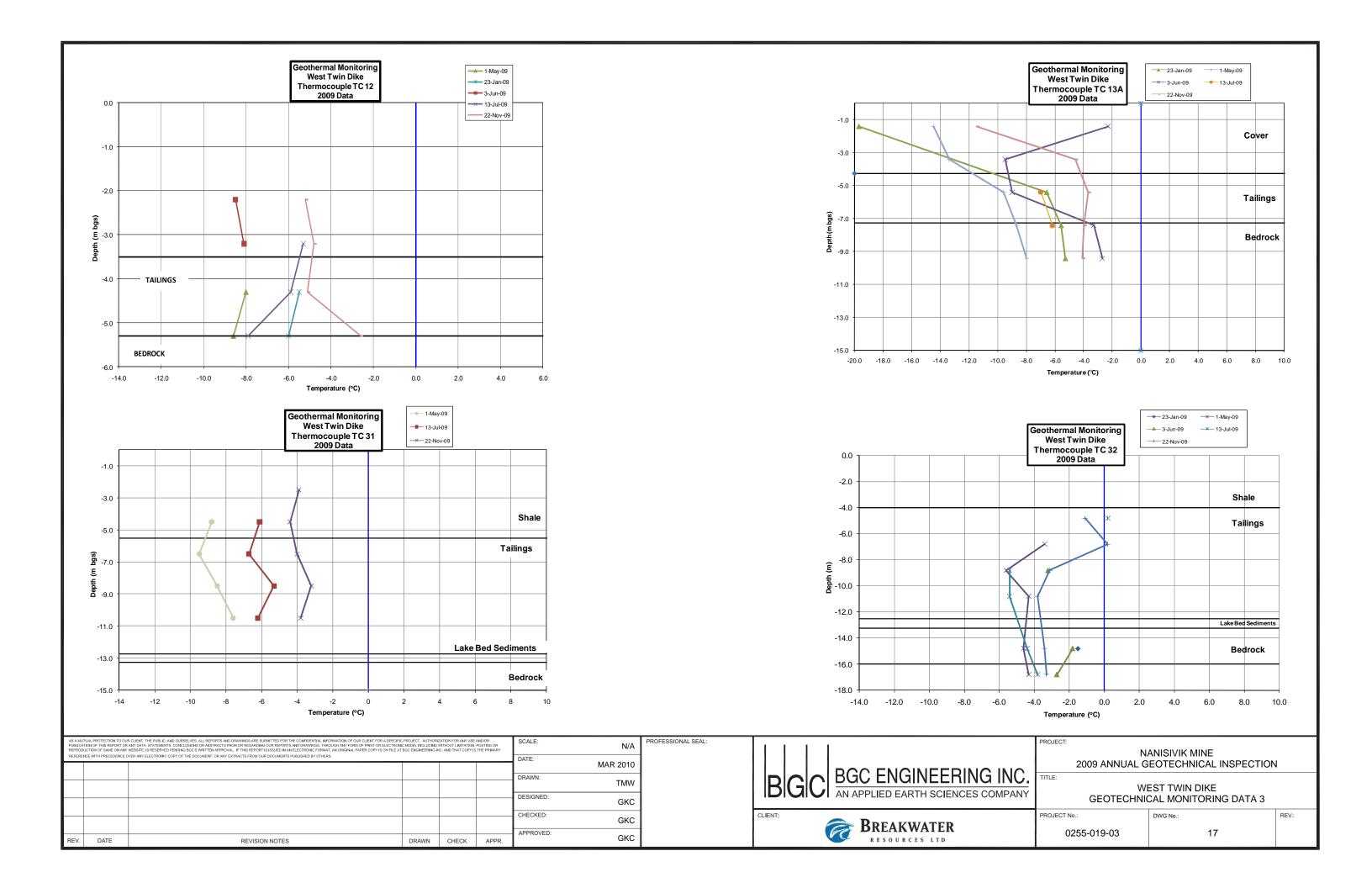


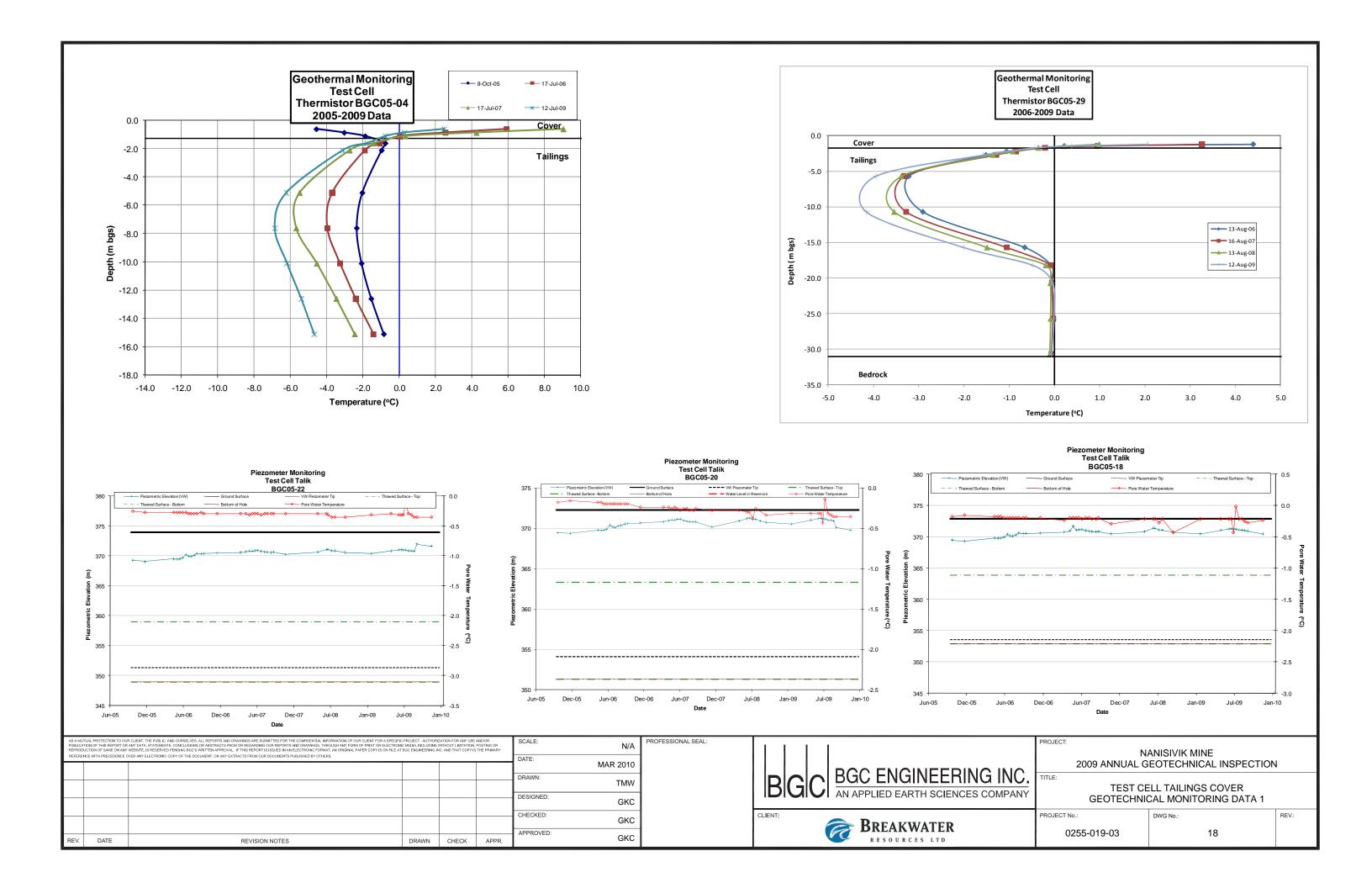


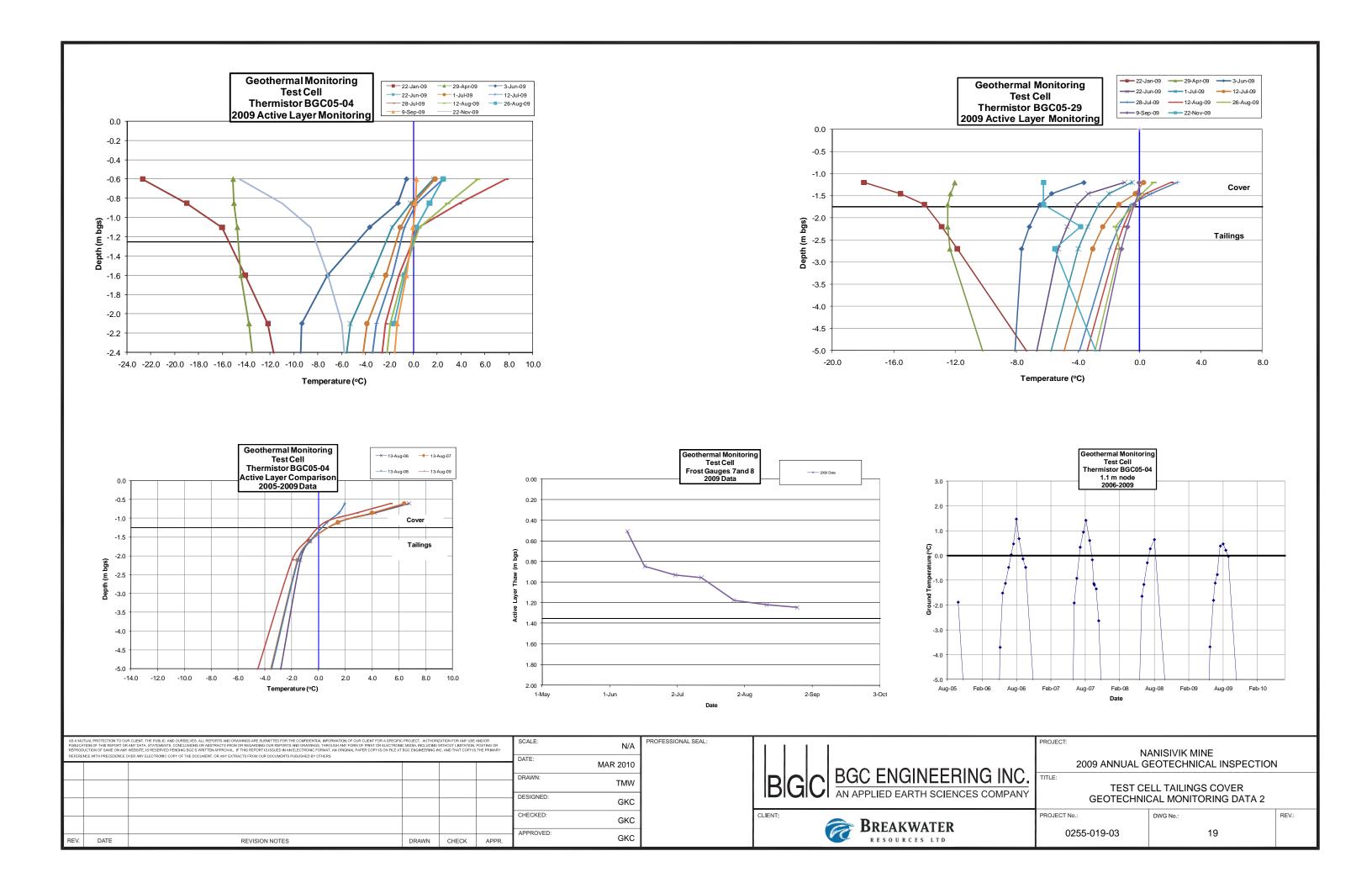


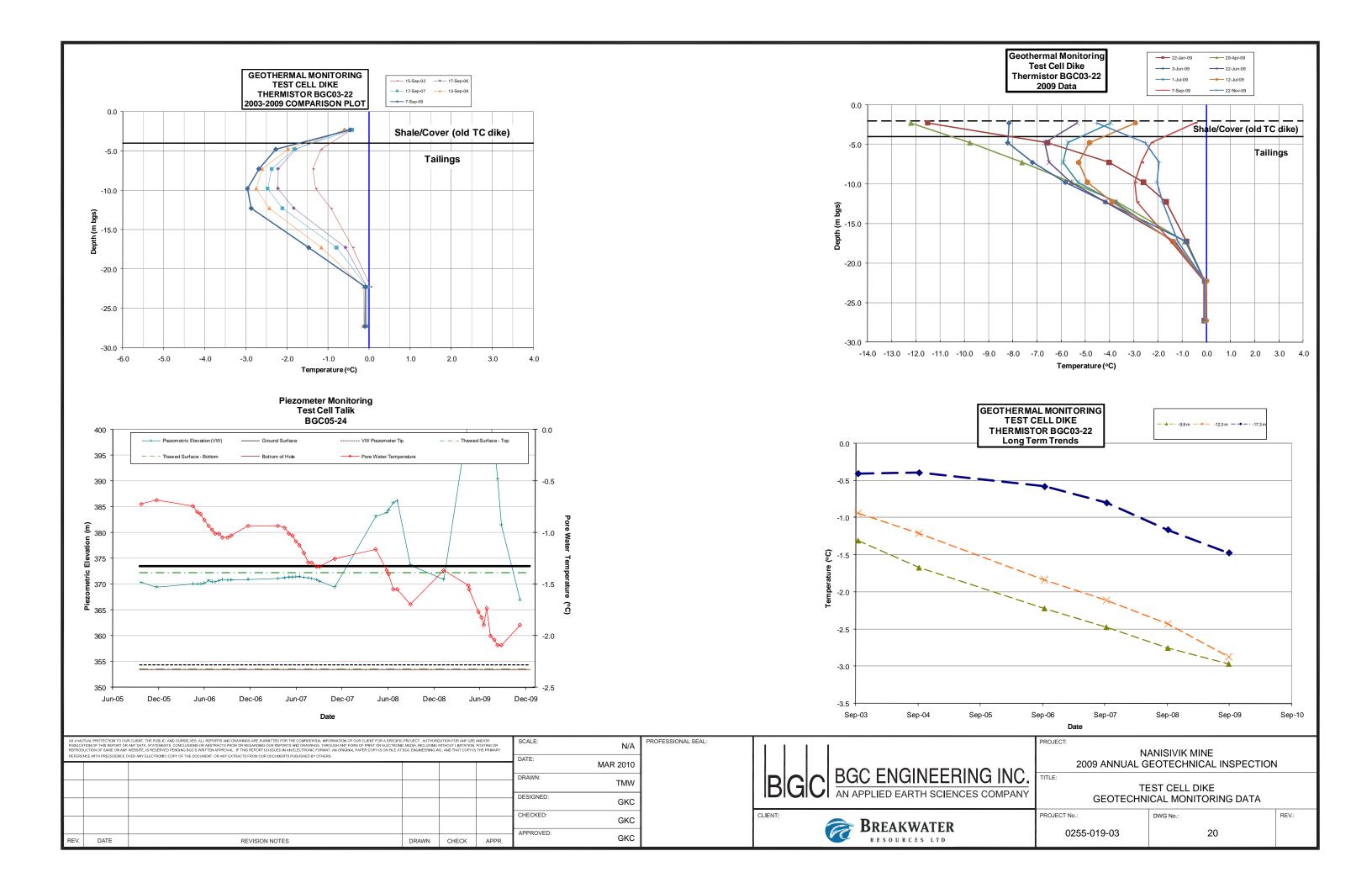


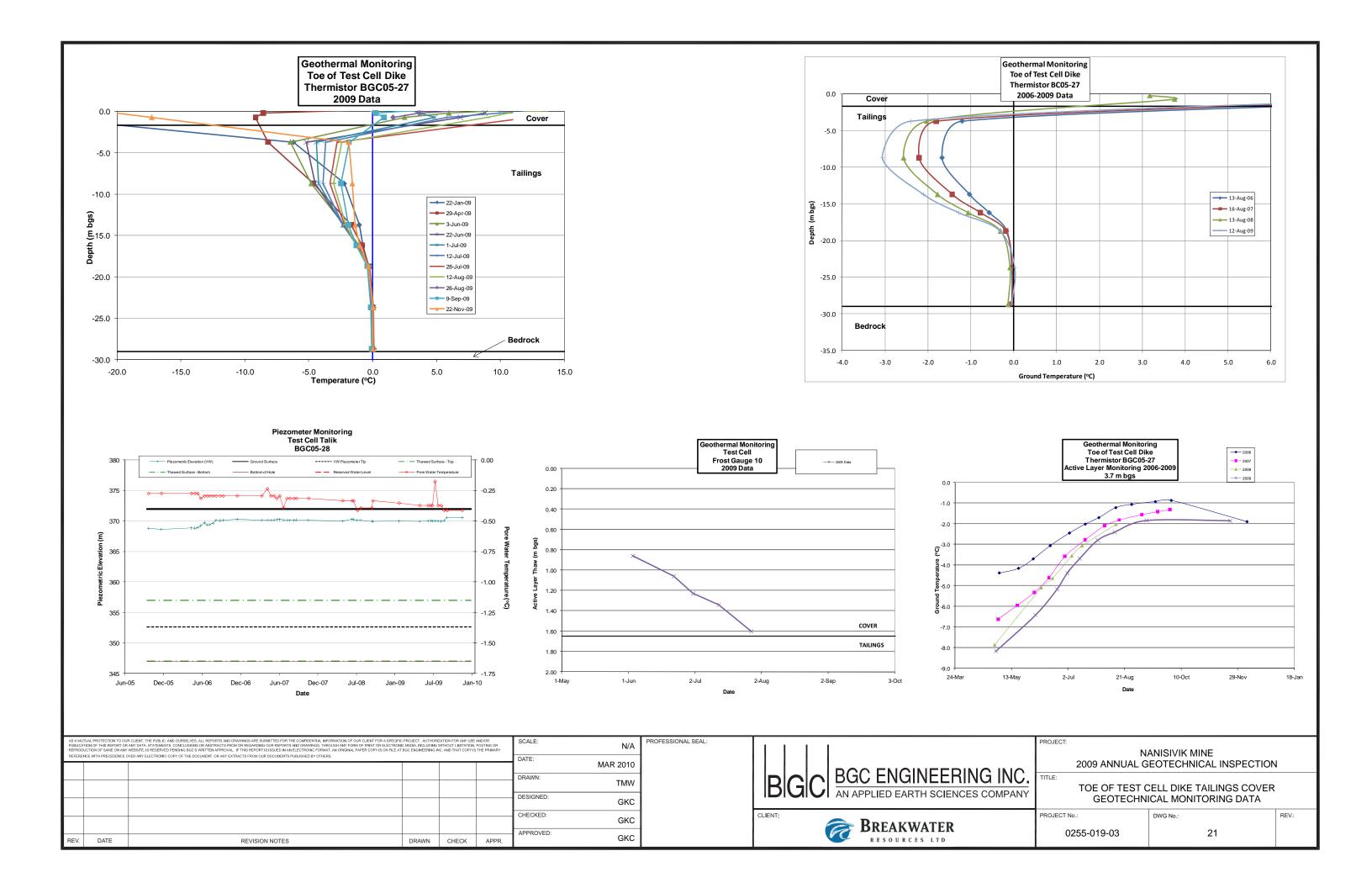


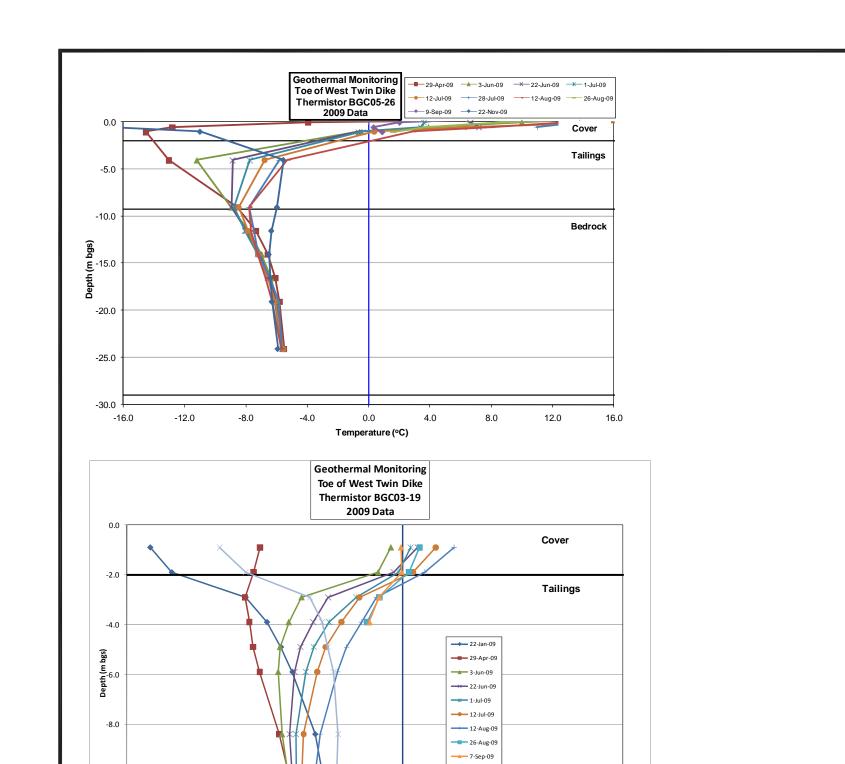


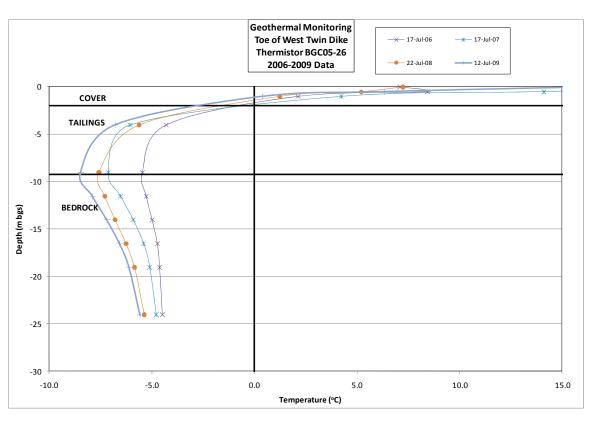


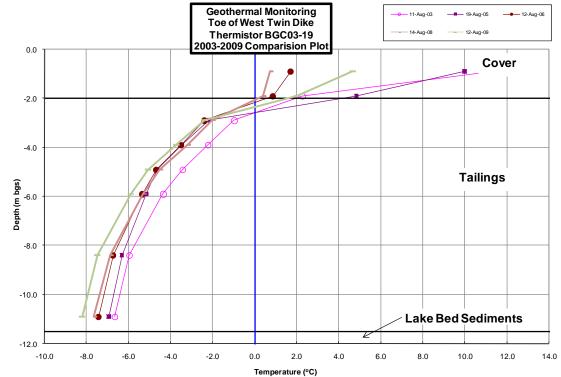


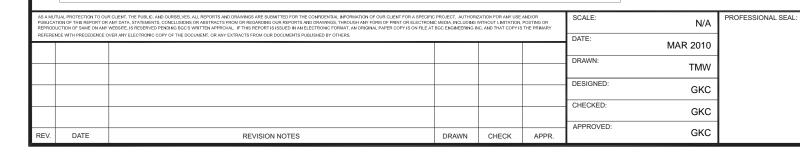












Temperature (°C)

**Lake Bed Sediments** 

-10.0

-12.0

-15.0

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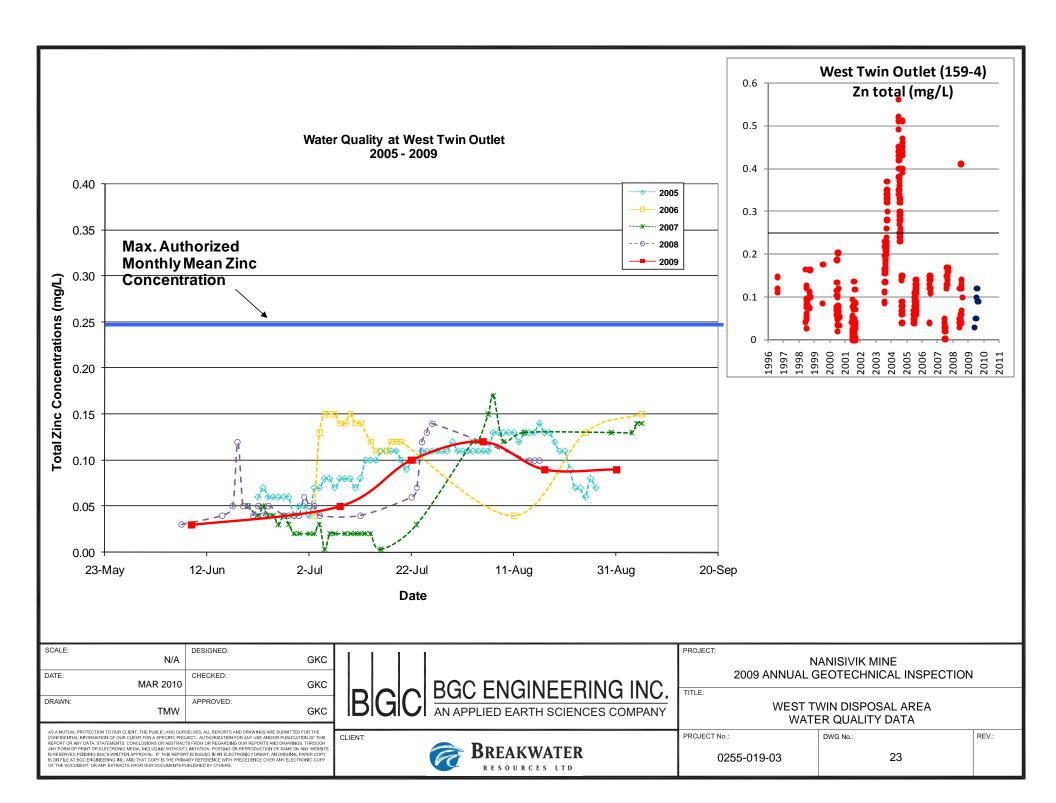
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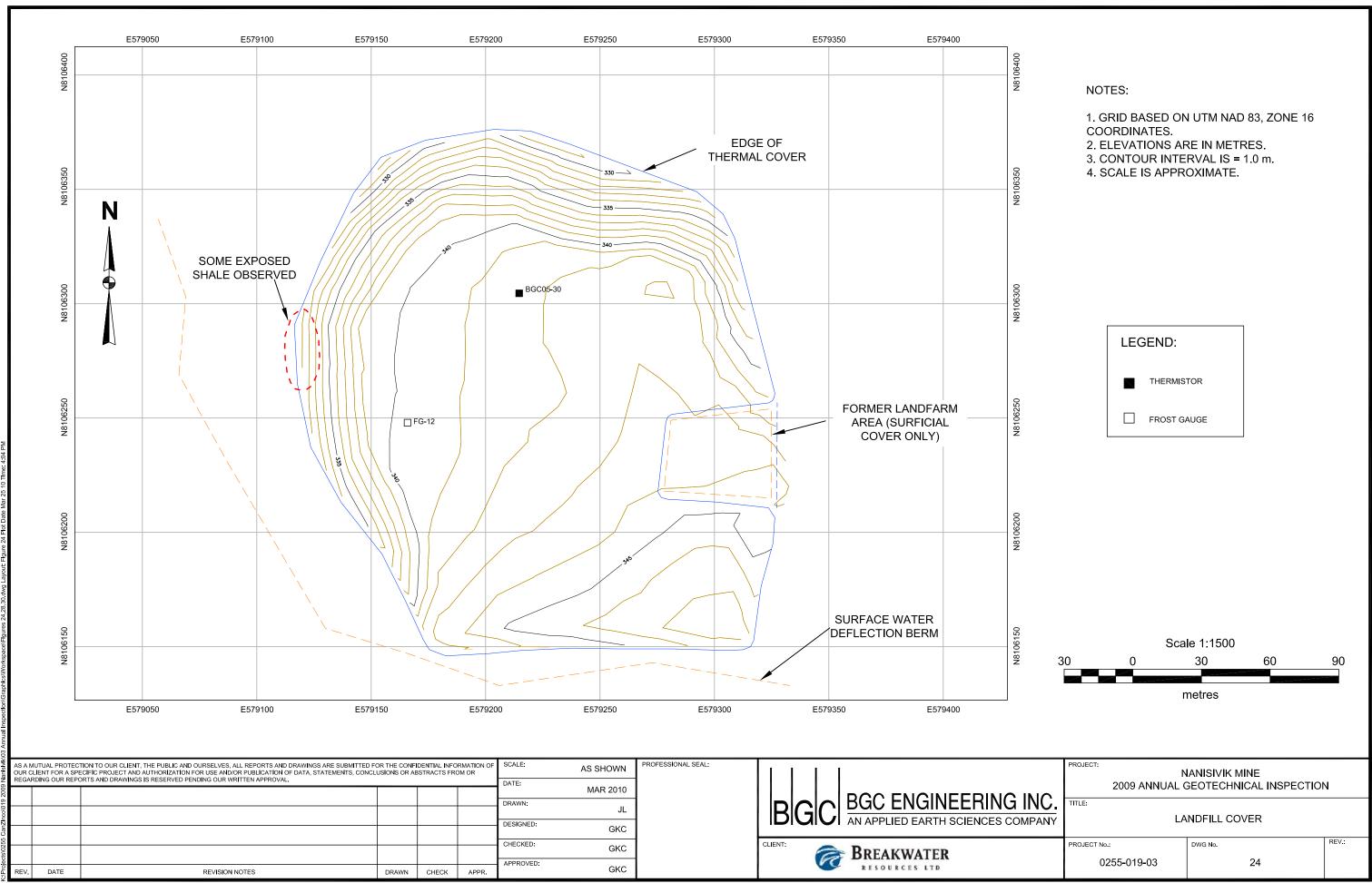
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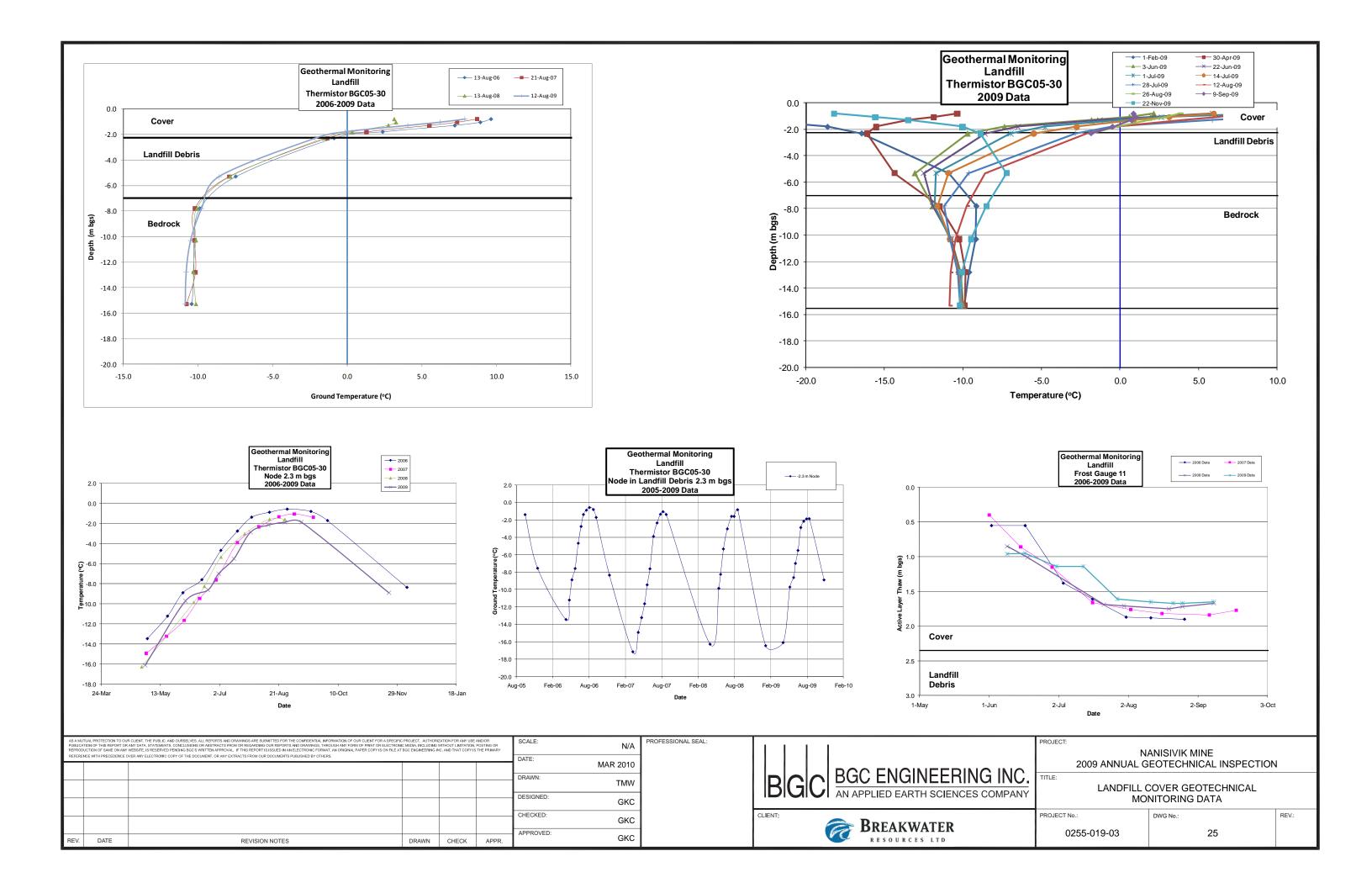
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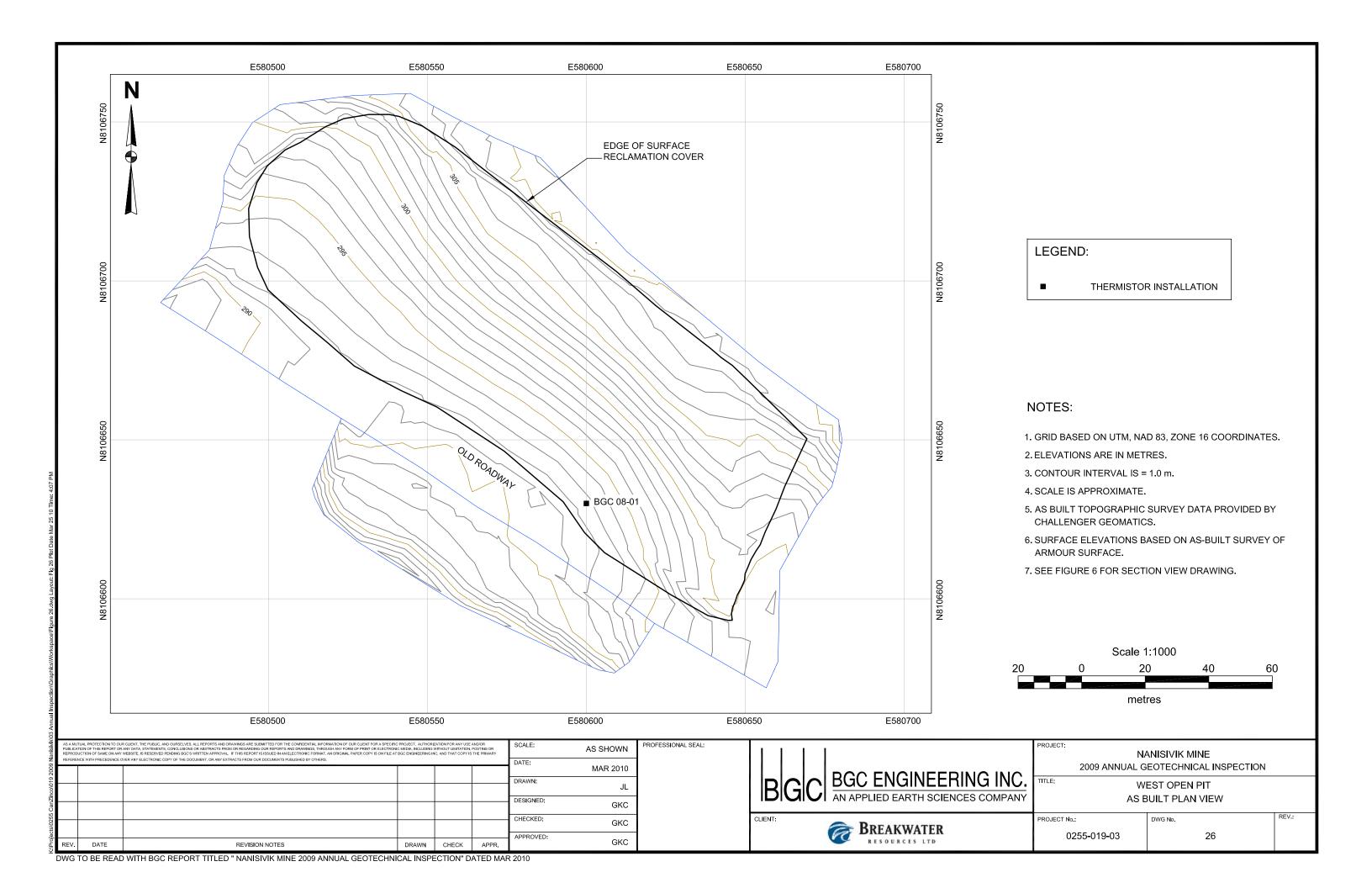
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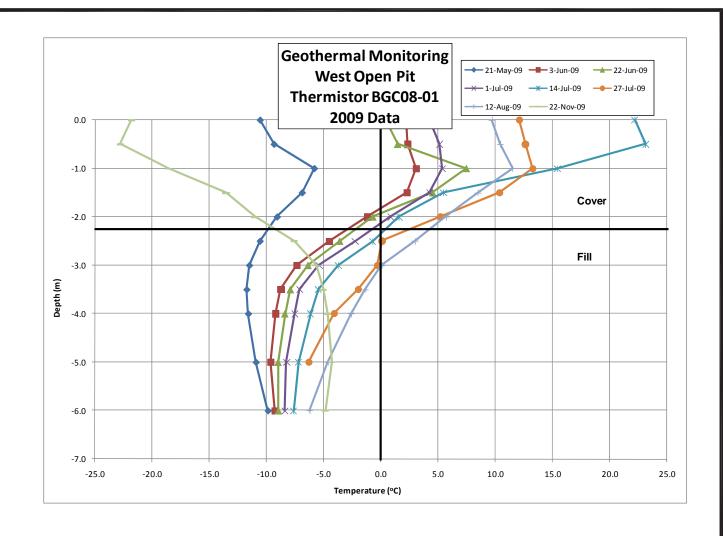
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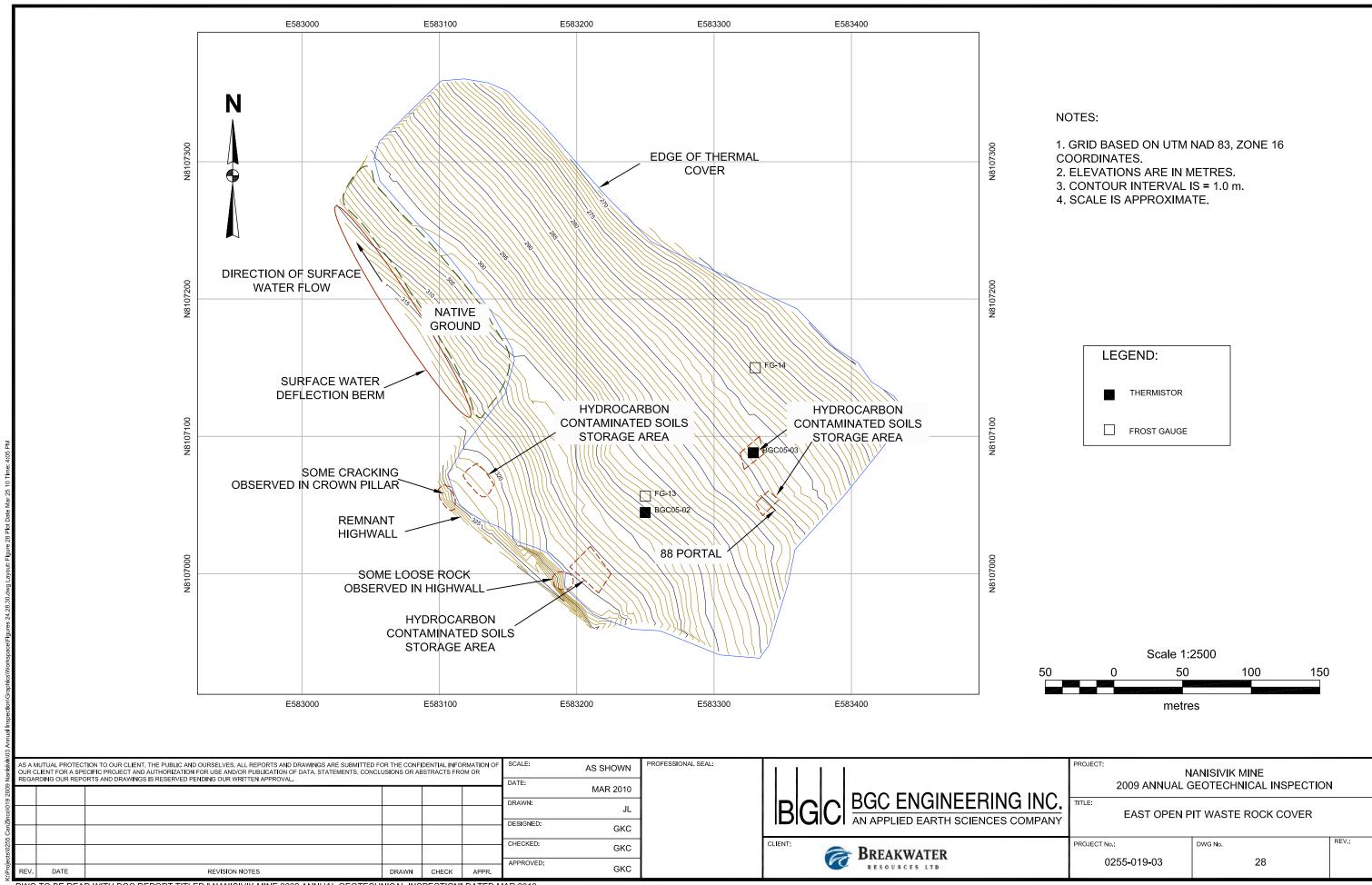
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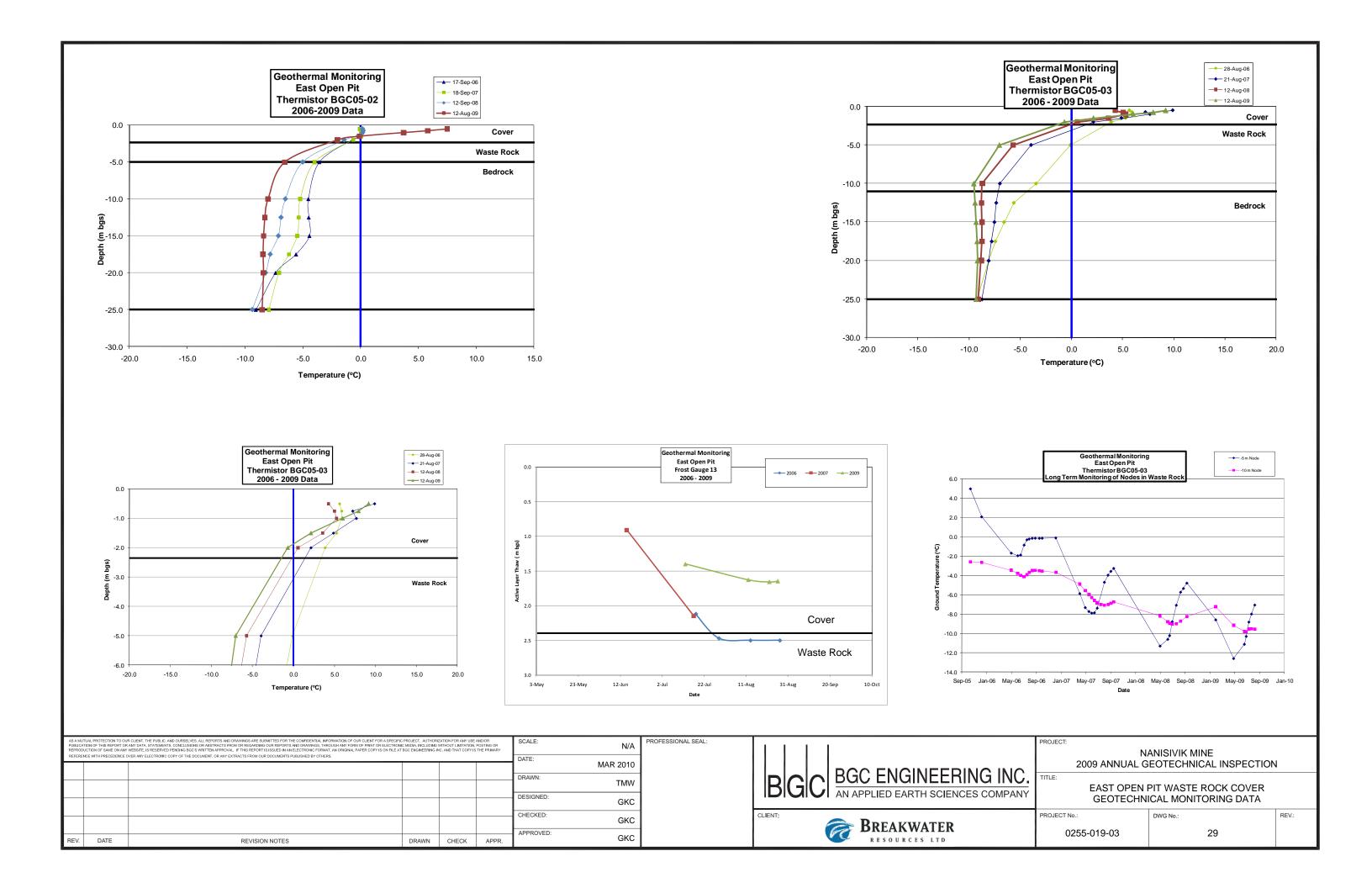


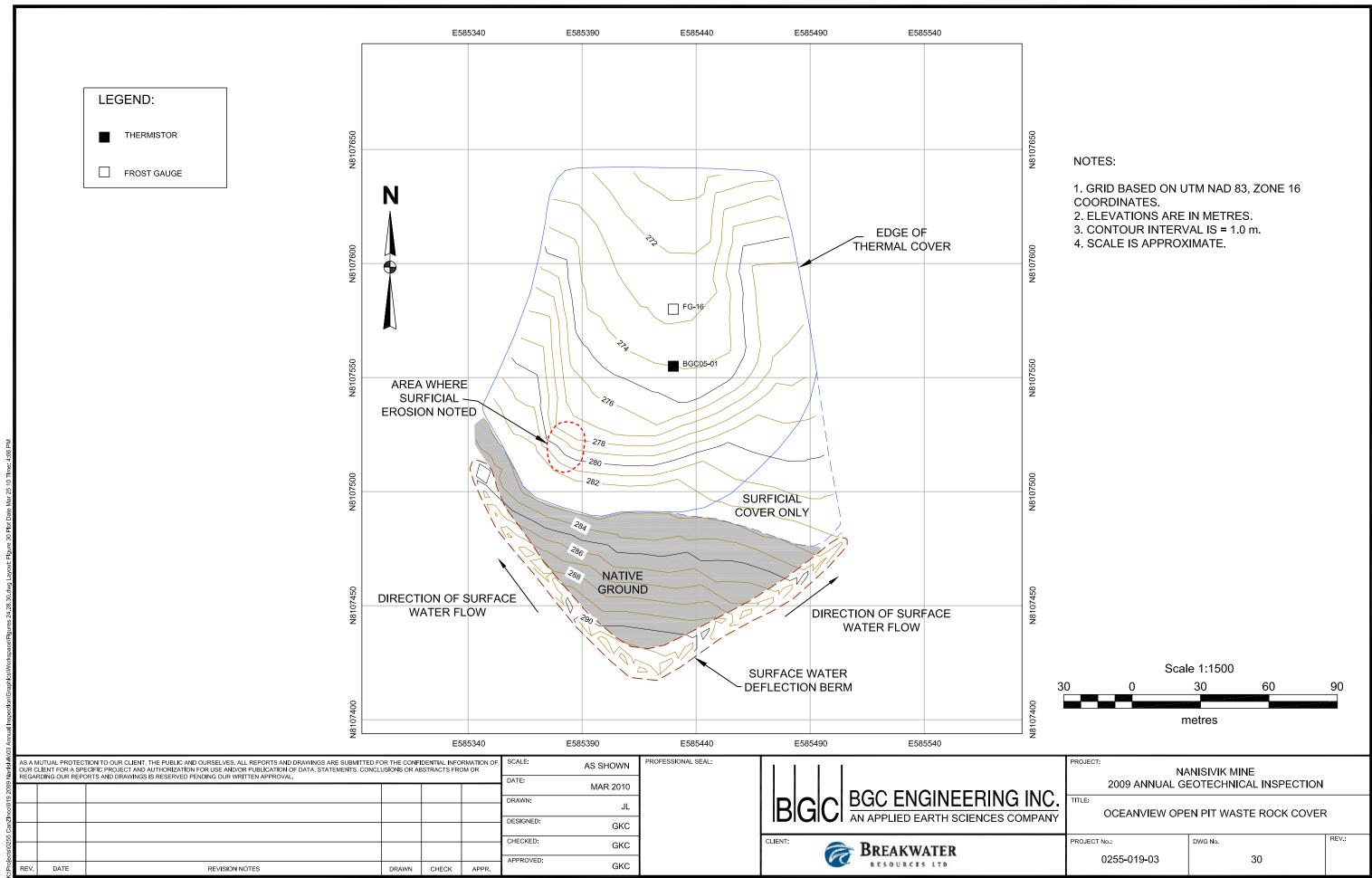
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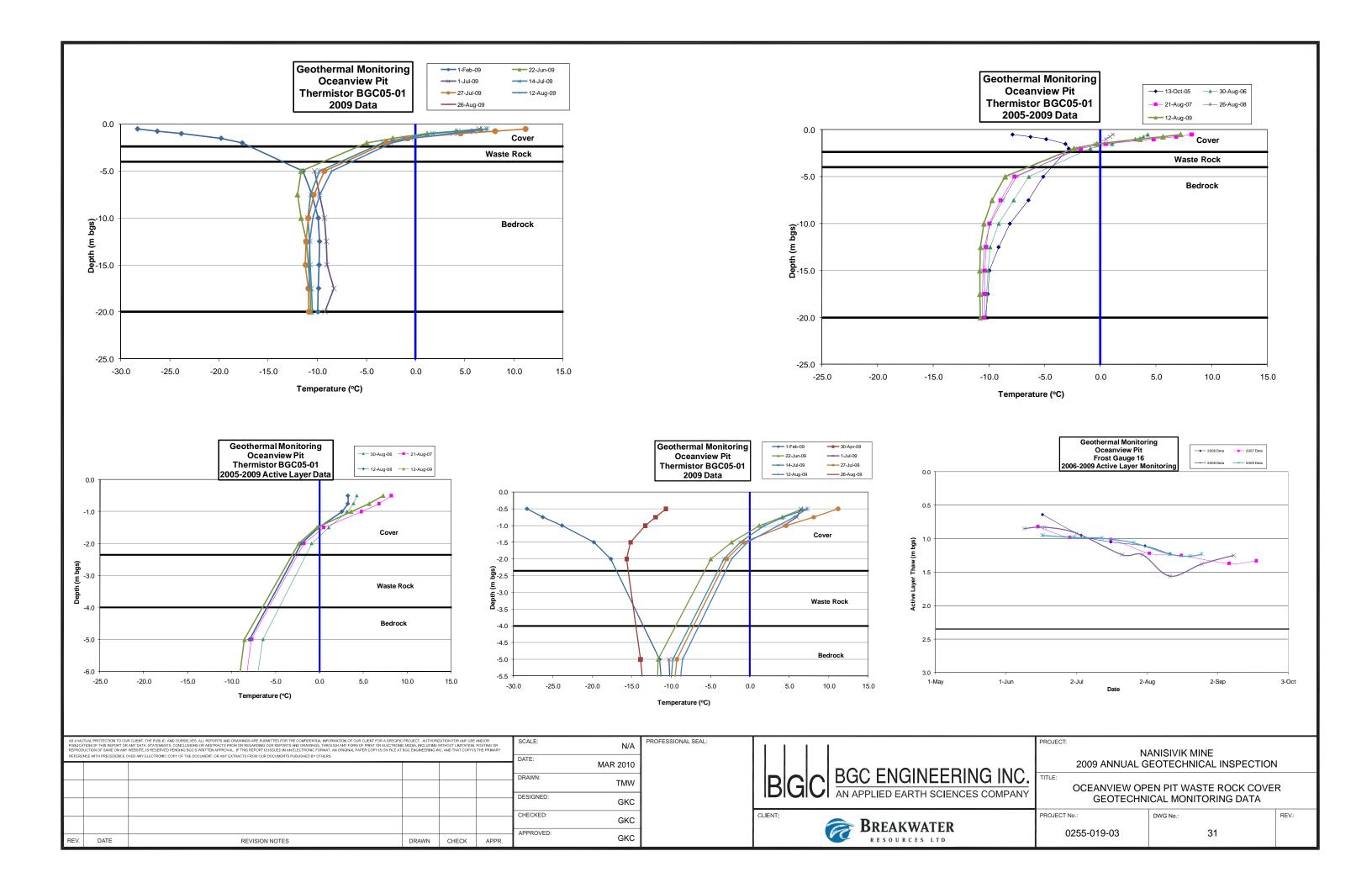
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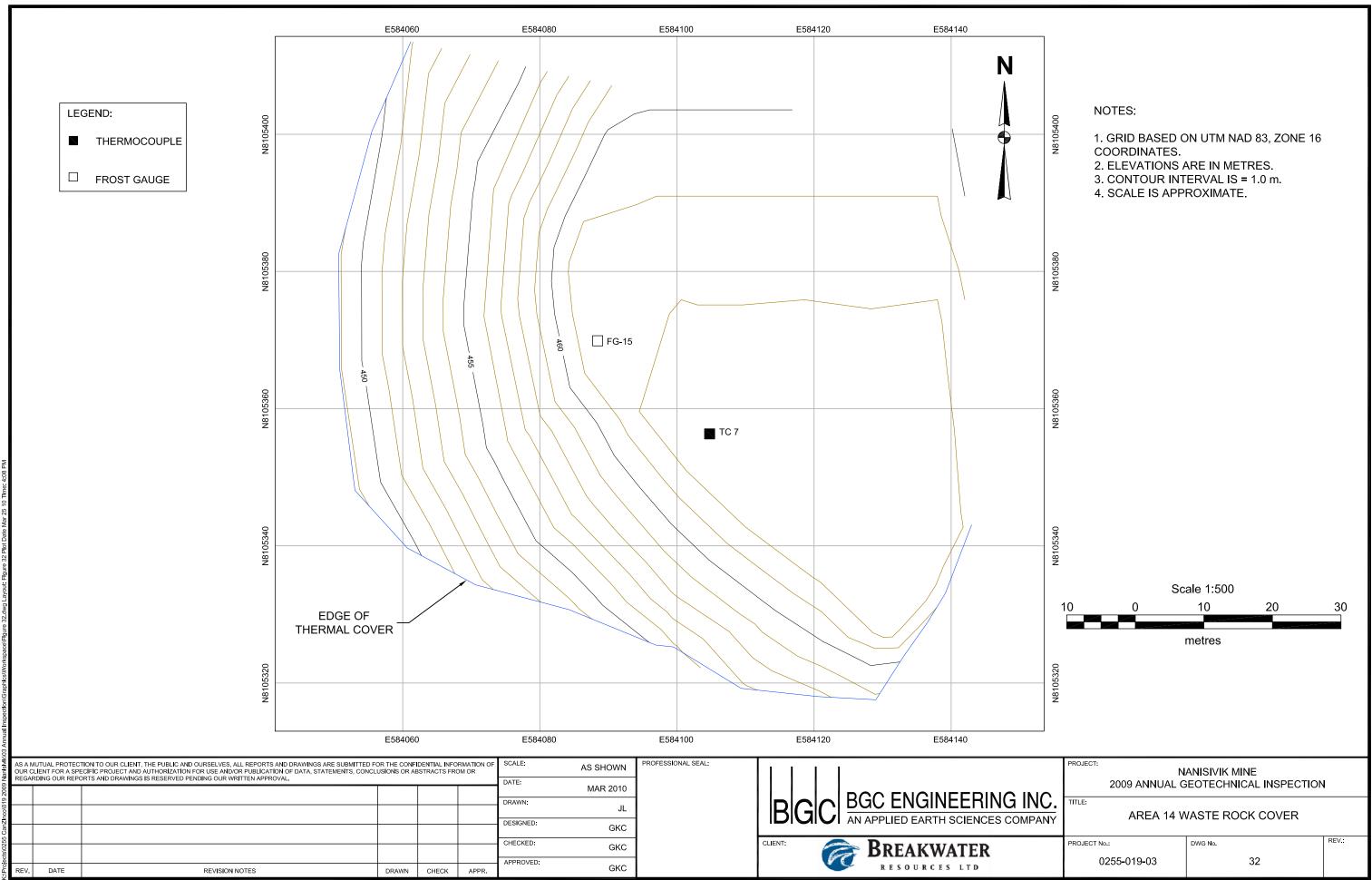
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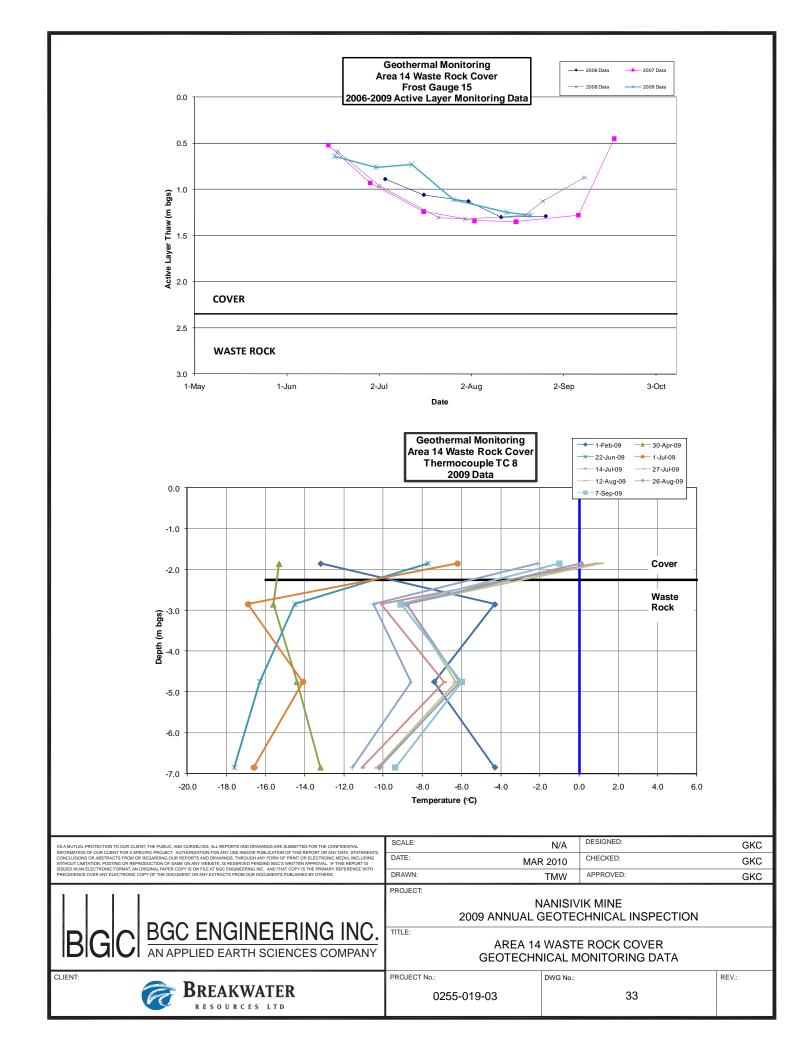


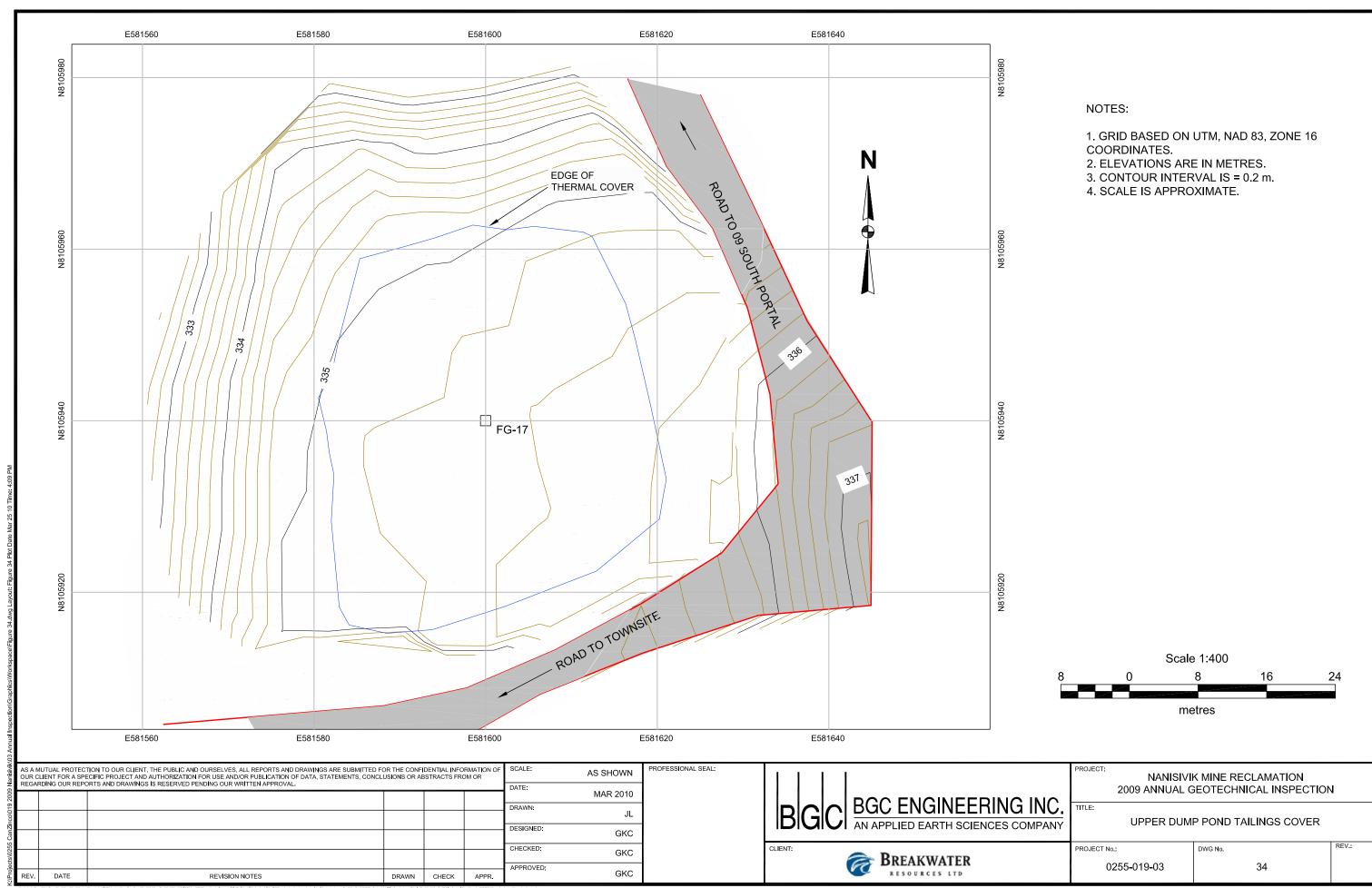


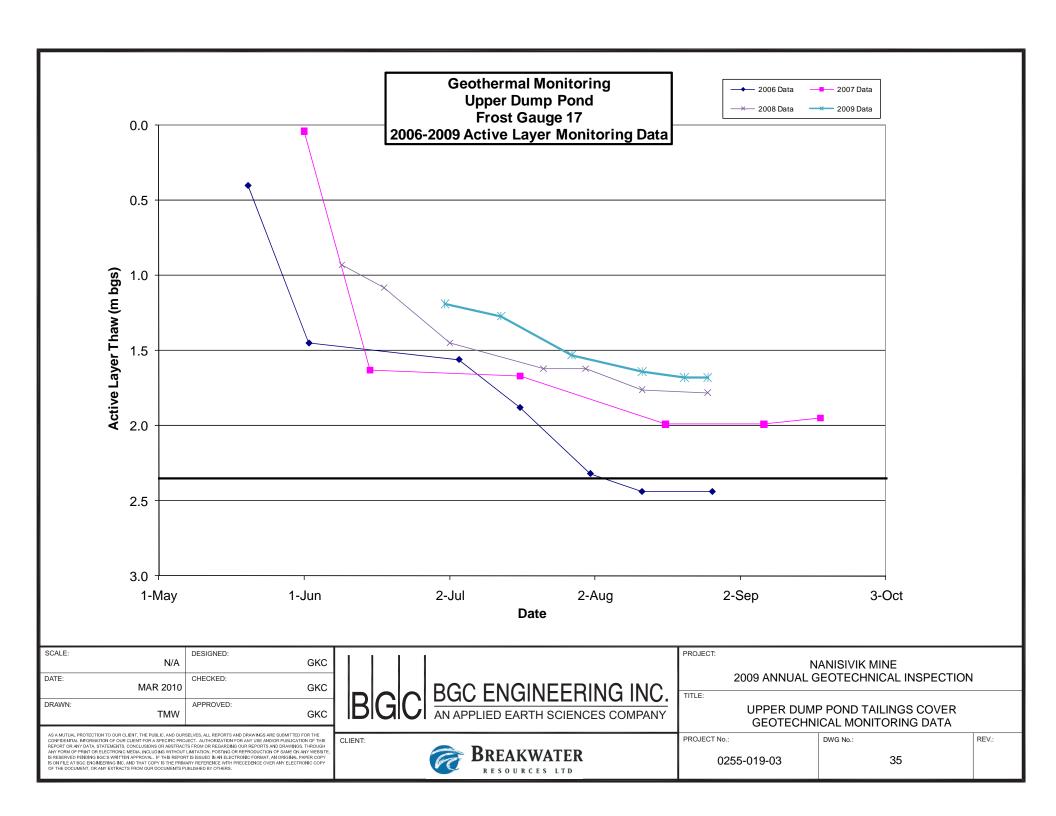


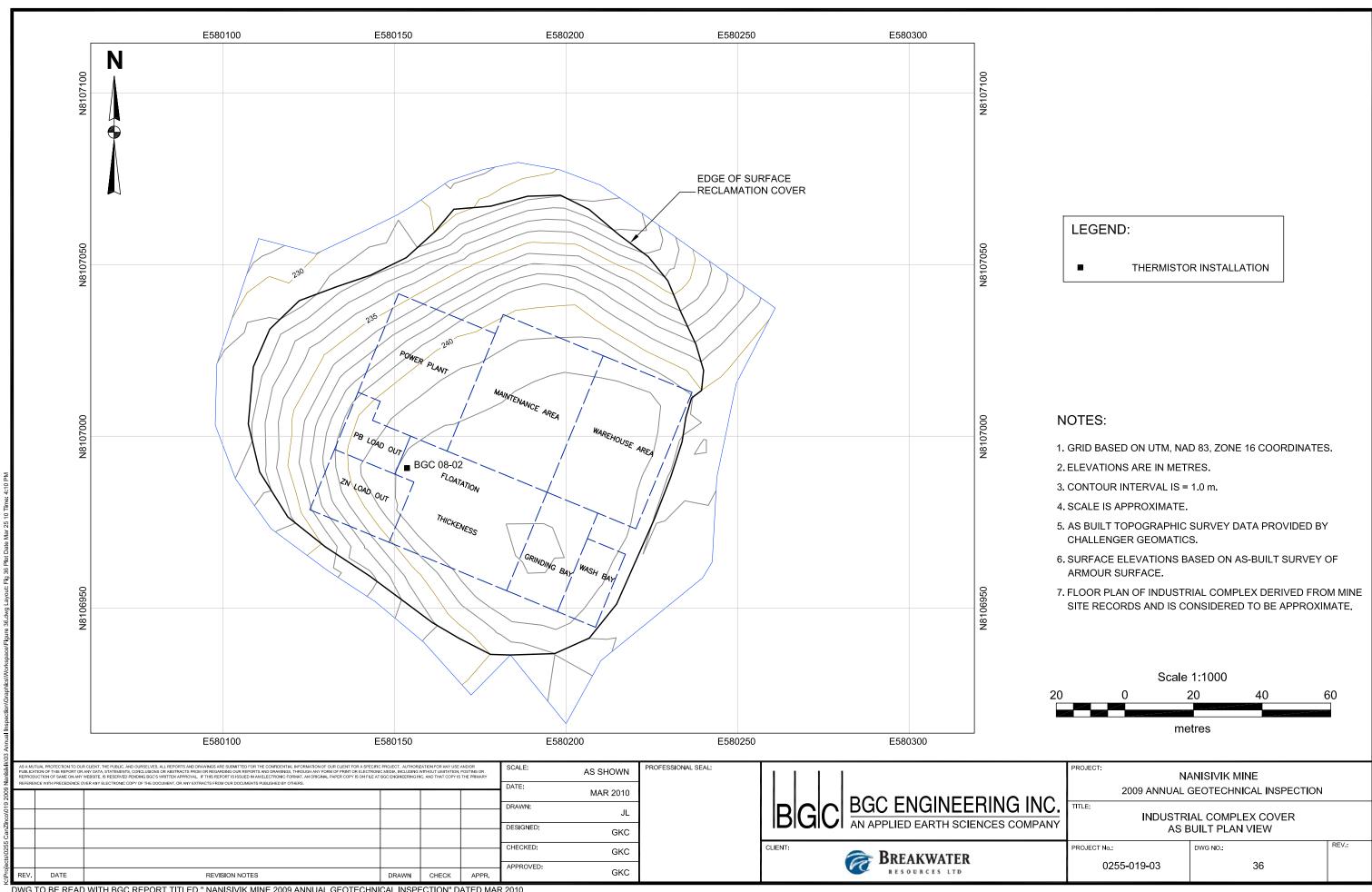


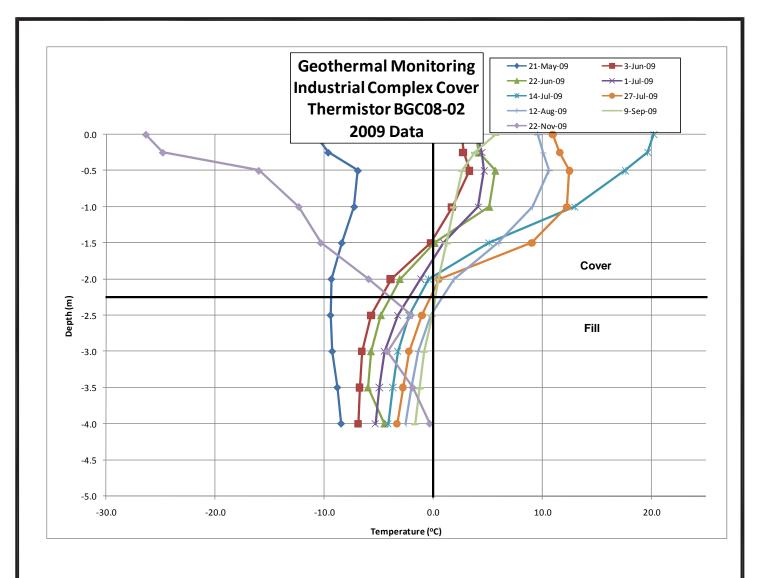












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## APPENDIX I INSPECTION PHOTOS

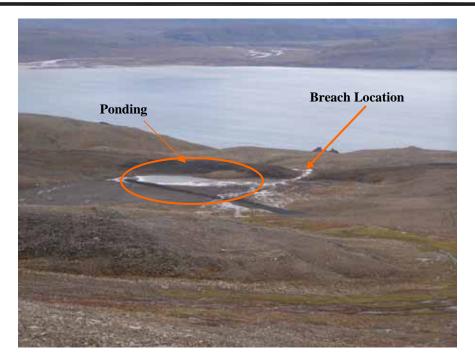


Photo 1 East Adit Retention Pond as seen from EOP Cover. Note ponding in northwest corner of area.



Photo 2 East Adit Treatment Pond. Channelized sediments in the bottom of the East Adit treatment pond.

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Photo 3 Industrial Complex as seen from Stol Port. Note location of former Day Tank Farm.

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Photo 4 Inside of Main Tank Farm containment berm. Note water retained in retention pond.







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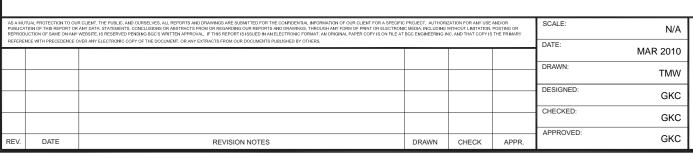
MAIN TANK FARM SPILL CONTAINMENT BERM

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Photo 9 Head pond at spillway entrance. Note presence of exposed armour material in middle of pond which indicates a reduction in the water level of the retained pond.





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WEST TWIN DIKE SPILLWAY

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Photo 8 Flow through WT Dike Spillway as seen from bottom of access ramp.



Photo 10 Small section of erosion in base of the spillway.



Photo 11 West Twin Outlet Wall in mid-August. Note water is flowing over the wall.



Photo 13 West Twin Outlet Wall in early September. Note reduction in water level upstream of wall.

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Photo 12 West Twin Outlet Wall in mid-August 2009.



Photo 14 West Twin Outlet Wall in early October 2009. Note reduction in water level upstream of wall.



Photo 15 Flow through East Twin Creek Diversion Channel. View looking upstream.



Photo 16 Flow through East Twin Diversion Channel. View looking at left bank and downstream.

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Photo 17 Surface of Surface Cell Cover. View looking north.



Photo 18 Surface of Surface Cell Cover. View looking south.

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Photo 19 Crest of West Twin Dike. View looking north.



Photo 20 Face of the West Twin Dike. View looking south.

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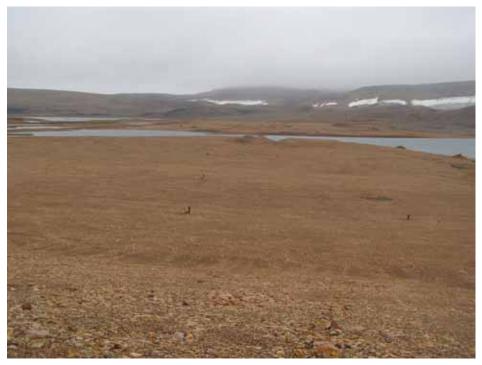


Photo 21 Test Cell cover as seen from the crest of West Twin Dike.



Photo 22 Rip rapped Test Cell outlet. Note riprap extended below water line.

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Photo 23 Riprap along toe of North/South arm of Test Cell Dike.



Photo 24 Riprap along toe of East/West arm of Test Cell Dike.

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Photo 25 West Twin Dike as seen from the Twin Lakes Delta.



Photo 26 Rip rapped shoreline at Toe of West Twin Dike tailings cover .



Photo 27 Riprap along shoreline of tailings cover at the toe of the West Twin Dike.

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Photo 28 Face of the Landfill cover.



Photo 30 Landfill cover as seen from Stol Port.

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Photo 31 West Open Pit waste rock cover as seen from Stol Port. Note that the road has been armoured over.



Photo 33 Surface of West Open Pit cover, roadway is armoured as requested in 2008.

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Photo 32 Crack in the West Open Pit crown pillar. Similar condition to what was observed in 2008.



Photo 34 Surface of West Open Pit cover, roadway is armoured as requested in 2008.

NANISIVIK MINE 2009 ANNUAL GEOTECHNICAL INSPECTION

WEST OPEN PIT WASTE ROCK COVER

DWG No.: REV.: 0255-019-03 I-13



Photo 35 Surface of East Open Pit cover.



Photo 37 Crack in the crown pillar at the East Open Pit. No changes noted since 2008.

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Photo 36 Base of the remnant East Open Pit highwall, some loose rock was noted.



Photo 38 Minor surficial erosion observed on surface of East Open Pit cover.

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Photo 39 East Trench cover as seen from the upslope area.



Photo 40 Very minor rill erosion attributed to constant seepage on surface of East Trench cover. Similar to what was observed in 2008.

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Photo 41 Minor erosion on the south face of the Oceanview Pit Cover.



Photo 43 Minor rill erosion in southwest corner of Oceanview Open Pit cover. Note self armouring occurring. Erosion does not appear to have progressed significantly since 2008.

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OCEANVIEW OPEN PIT WASTE ROCK COVER



PROJECT No.: DWG No.: REV.: 0255-019-03 I-16



Photo 42 Minor rill erosion occurring on Oceanview Pit cover.



Photo 44 Rockfill placed against the toe of the Oceanview Open Pit cover.



Photo 45 Face of the Area 14 Portal Cover. View looking south. Note frost gauge instrument at the crest of the slope.



Photo 46 Upper flat surface of the Area 14 waste rock cover.

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Photo 47 Industrial Complex cover as seen from Stol Port. Note that this cover was completed over metals contaminated soil and the original foundation during the summer of 2008.



Photo 48 Northeast slope of the Industrial Complex cover.

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Photo 49 Surface of the 17N Portal Cover looking downslope.



Photo 50 Backfilled thermokarst feature in 17N Portal Cover. Note that it is continuing to show signs of surficial disturbance.

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Photo 51 Settlement depression at the southwest corner of the Oceanview Portal cover. Note that the depression does not appear to have progressed since 2008.



Photo 52 Oceanview Portal cover as seen from the upslope edge of the cover. Note minor cracking along the right (east) edge of the cover. No changes noted since 2008.

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Photo 53 Surface of inclined face of K-Baseline Portal Cover. Note the cracking that is occurring.



Photo 54 Surface of upper flatter portion of K-Baseline Portal Cover.

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Photo 55 Armoured Surface Area 14 Portal plug.

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Photo 56 Surface of 09 South Portal Plug where cover buts against crown pillar.



Photo 57 Cracking and deformation noted along east edge of portal cover.

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Photo 58 Lower Adit cover as seen from Stol Port.



Photo 59 Surface of Lower Adit cover as seen toe area.

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Photo 60 Mill Portal plug. Note that armour material was applied to the surface of the cover as recommended in 2008.

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Photo 61 Shale Hill Raise cover.

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Photo 62 Mt. Fuji shale borrow area. Note that slopes are falling and are naturally reclaiming to the angle of repose.



Photo 64 Mt. Fuji shale borrow area. Note the natural cover material is falling down from above over the benches.

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Photo 65 Mt. Fuji shale borrow area as seen from the Stol Port.





Photo 66 Concentrate Storage shed floor as seen from Stol Port. Note that a large section has been exposed as the cover was removed.



Photo 67 Exposed Concentrate Storage Shed floor. Cover was recently removed by the Coast Guard.

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