October 27, 2020

Mr. Paul Brugger, P.Eng.
Barrick Gold Corporation
1084 County Rd 8
Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0

Re: **Project No. THB-00090132-IG**
2020 Tailings Facility Examination
Cullaton Lake Gold Mine, Nunavut
Licence No. 1BR-CUL1828

Dear Mr. Brugger:

Further to your authorization we have carried out a visual geotechnical examination of the tailings impoundment facility at the former Cullaton Lake Gold Mine (the Site) in Nunavut. The site is owned by Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick). The facility includes Tailings Ponds 1 and 2 (TP1 and TP2) and associated dams. The field examination was performed on September 10, 2020 by the undersigned, Ms. Renata Klassen, P.Eng. The attached survey plan in Appendix A (January 30, 1995) illustrates the general layout of the facility.

This report includes a brief history and a summary of previous annual inspection findings and concerns as requested by the Nunavut Water Board in a letter to Barrick dated June 9, 2004, commenting on the 2003 Tailings Dam Examination report. Annual reports since then have been similarly presented.

Additionally, and in accordance with Licence No. 1BR-CUL1828 Part E, this report comments on the following citation: *"The biannual geotechnical inspection shall include monitoring of the encapsulated Shear Lake Waste Rock 'cap' for erosion and shall be carried out until a time that vegetation is sufficiently established, so as to stabilize the cap and preclude significant erosion thereof."*

1. Historical Summary

The Site of the Cullaton Lake Gold Mine is located in Nunavut at approximately 61^{O}16' north latitude and 98^{O}30' west longitude. The Site is geographically located relative to the following communities (approximately):

- 670 km north of Thompson, MB;
- 250 km west of Arviat, NU;
- 416 km south of Baker Lake, NU;
- 416 km northwest of Churchill, MB.

The Site is at the tree line near the border between continuous and discontinuous permafrost zones. Daily air temperatures measured at the Arviat weather station (located 250 km east of the Site) indicate that Arviat, NU is in the continuous permafrost zone with the average air temperature of -9.3°C (Canadian Climate Normals 1981-2010). Air temperatures measured at the Ennadai Lake weather station (located 150 km west-southwest of the Site) suggest air temperatures somewhat warmer than in Arviat, NU; however, long term temperature means could not be calculated due to limited weather data. There is no weather station at the Site.

Access to the Site is normally gained by charter air flights from Thompson, MB or Churchill, MB to the 1460 m gravel airstrip located about 8 km north of TP1.

The Site area features undulating terrain with shallow surficial soils overlying bedrock. The surficial deposits consist mainly of a bouldery glacial till with localized surface organic deposits. The soil matrix of the glacial till is a well-graded, silty sand with no clay to traces of clay (i.e., exhibit little or no plasticity).

The Cullaton Lake Gold Mine's construction and mill startup of a 300 tonnes per day complex was completed in early fall of 1981 with its first gold pour in December 1981. Total gold produced from the B-Zone and the Shear Lake zones to August 1985, was over 100,000 ounces when, for economic reasons, it was decided to put the property on temporary closure on a care-and-maintenance basis. The property has remained closed since September 1985.

Based on the mill records, a total of 373,000 tonnes of ore was processed, of which approximately 150,000 tonnes came from the B-Zone with the balance of 223,000 tonnes coming from the Shear Lake Zone. Laboratory analyses previously showed that the tailings from the B-Zone have a relatively high acid generation potential; however, there was no evidence, either physical or chemical, that acid drainage had been taking place within the tailings impoundment area. This lack of effect is attributed to three main factors:

- The majority of the tailings are either submerged below water and/or saturated, such that there is a lack of oxygen required for oxidation;

- The tailings are frozen for about eight months of the year and only the top layer of the tailings thaws. This, and the fact they remain saturated, limits water movement through the tailings, with resulting limited oxidation;
- The acid kinetic reaction from the tailings impoundment becomes substantially diluted and is not detectable in the surrounding environment.

The principal concern of the Water Board, with respect to abandonment of the tailings impoundment facility, was the potential generation of acidic drainage. As part of the Closure Plan[1], the objectives were to minimize acid generation by:

- Maintaining water cover over the tailings within the pond to prevent access by oxygen;
- Placement of cover material over the exposed tailings to reduce access by oxygen;
- Maintaining the remaining tailings in a frozen state (permafrost), by thickening the cover material.

The homogeneous tailings dams were constructed in the late 1970s or early 1980s (presumably) with local silty sand and gravel till (there are no design or construction records). Maximum dam height was about 5.5 m above original ground.

Previous inspections of the tailings dams and ponds have been performed and reported on by EXP and Trow Associates Inc. (a former identity of EXP Services Inc.) since the preparation of the Closure Report. A summary of findings and recommendations from the previous reports (inspections from 1992 to 2018) is attached in Appendix C.

2. Current Inspection – September 10, 2020

The field examination of TP1 and the associated Dam 1 was carried out by Ms. Renata Klassen, P.Eng. of EXP**,** on September 10, 2020. The field examination was carried out two years from the last inspection and in general accordance with the Nunavut Water Board Water Licence No. 1BR-CUL1828 Type "B" issued October 15, 2018 for a ten-year term.

The TP2 and Dam 2 spillway on TP2 were not visited this year due to limited time on site. Barrick provided photographs from the Dam 2 spillway subsequently taken on September 14, 2020, and two of the photographs are included in this report to illustrate the general conditions.

Access to the Site was gained by a charter flight from Thompson, MB. The charter flight landed at the Site at about 11:30 am, local time. The former mine site and tailings impoundment facility were

[1] Abandonment and Restoration Plan, Cullaton Lake Gold Mines Ltd. Reference No. F-90132-A/E. May 7, 1991. Prepared for Corona Corporation by Trow Consulting Engineers Ltd.

reached from the gravel airstrip by about half an hour trip with an all-terrain vehicle. Passengers had to return to the charter flight by 4 pm.

EXP understands that no construction activities or other disturbance has taken place at the site since the 2018 inspection.

Dam 1 was visually examined for signs of distress such as seepage, ponding, settlement and cracking. Photographs were taken on the day of the inspection and select photographs are included in the Photographs section of this report. The current inspection was completed within one day of the last year's inspection on September 11, 2018.

The sections below summarize the findings of the 2020 inspection.

2.1 Climate

The Environment Canada precipitation records available for Arviat, NU (the closest station to the Site for which historic data are available) are shown in Table 1, below. The precipitation records indicate that the precipitation in the four months preceding the 2020 inspection was similar to, or slightly less than, the 1981 to 2010 Climate Normals. This precipitation pattern and the relatively small size of the TP1, could account for the water levels similar to the ones observed, as discussed below.

Table 1: Historic Precipitation for Arviat

Month	Total Precipitation (mm)							
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	1981 – 2010 Canadian Climate Normals
Sep	42.8	49.3	36	97.8	0	0	24.7	44.0
Oct	36.4	76.4	29.6	9	37.6	12.1*	19.6	24.5
Nov		1.1	4.3	2.8	1.4	7.9*	3.6	18.6
Dec	2.1	4.2	2.9			6.7*	5.2*	18.3
Jan	77.6	25	8.8	0	0	13.1	0.3	10.1
Feb	43.9	23.1	14.6	0	7.2	2.3	0.4	6.6
Mar	32.3	5.6	2.6	46.2	41.3	5.1	6.8	11.4
Apr	10.7	1.6	13.8	0	6.5	19.9*	1.8	12.5
May	17	1.6	10.4		2.2	9.1*	20.8	18.2
Jun	11.9	36.9	17.4	87.6	21.1	58.4*	22.0*	29.6
Jul	32.9	21.7	33.3	16	54.9	16.1	37.9*	36.7
Aug	89.7	35.4	42.2	0.5	10.6	178.0	41.9*	56.0
Total	397.3	281.9	215.9	259.9	182.8	329	185	286.5

Source: Environment Canada Arviat A NAVCAN, Climate ID: 2300427
**Source Environment Canada Arviat CLIMATE, Climate ID: 2301153*

2.2 Tailings Facility TP1 and Dam 1

Photo 1 shows an aerial view of TP1 and its location relative to TP2. Photo 2 shows TP1, the revegetated tailings beach and Dam 1 with the spillway and the low point south of the spillway. The tailings beach adjacent to the northwest edge of the pond had been previously covered with local till as reported in Trow's/EXP's previous inspection reports.

2.2.1 Water Levels

The water level in TP1 was slightly higher than in 2018 but slightly lower than in 2017. Comparison of photographs from present and past inspections suggests that the water level this year was about 0.1 m lower than in 2017 at a similar time. The spillway appeared dry. No water was observed in the rockfill comprising the spillway channel bottom, as shown in Photos 3 and 4. A piece of rock marked with a measuring tape observed from the south as shown in Photo 4 appears somewhat away from the water's edge in 2020. Photo 5 shows the measuring tape on the rock observed from the north.

Photographs of the quarry and the low area downstream of the TP1 spillway were taken and compared to the photographs taken in previous years. The comparison indicated that the water level in the quarry was visibly higher in 2020 than in both 2017 and 2018, as shown in Photo 6. The water level in the low area downstream of the TP1 spillway also appeared higher this year compared to the previous years.

2.2.2 Seepage and Ponding

No seepages were observed on the day of the inspection. There was no evidence of any dam internal soil erosion or piping. This should continue to be monitored during subsequent inspections.

Minor ponding west of the TP1 pond shown in Photo 2 was observed consistent with observations from previous years.

Wet Spot 1 first identified in 2018 was observed in 2020. Wet Spot 1 is in the area of the low point, about 20 m north of the low point and 15 m downstream of the dam toe, as shown in Photo 2. Wet Spot 1 exhibited slightly more wetness than in 2018, as shown in Photo 7. Taking a few steps through the bush up-elevation from Wet Spot 1 towards the pond revealed a small area of ponding located tight against the access road embankment. The access road adjoins the crest south of TP1 spillway. While no water flow was observed, the small area of ponding appeared to be draining to Wet Spot 1. The elevation of Wet Spot 1 and the small area of ponding appeared to be below the water level of the pond. The area of Wet Spot 1 is marked with pink flagging. This area should be monitored during future inspections.

Wet Spot 2 first identified in 2018 was observed in 2020. Wet Spot 2 is on the north side of the dam near the water sampling point 940-22, about 15 m downstream of the dam toe. Wet Spot 2 had a trace of standing water by a cluster of boulders like in 2018, as shown in Photo 8. Closer observation of the

area surrounding Wet Spot 2 suggested that ponding is likely related to drainage from the surrounding area. The location of Wet Spot 2 is shown on the survey plan in Appendix A.

The spot first identified as wet in 2010 and called the "wet spot" was observed in 2020. The "wet spot" exhibited no wetness in 2020. The spot is located south of the spillway halfway down the downstream face of Dam 1, as shown on Photo 2 and the survey plan in Appendix A. The "wet spot" is visible from the dam crest and is currently marked with a piece of rebar and red flagging.

2.2.3 Ground Freezing

Depth to frost at the time of the inspection was estimated to be 1.8 m from thermistor readings as provided by Barrick. This depth was consistent with the depth to frost estimated from drilling in 2018 also provided by Barrick. Depth to frost is affected by air temperatures and factors such as snow cover, vegetation cover, wind and exposure. Ground temperatures are presently measured at the Site.

2.2.4 Stability

Photos 9 and 10 show views of the upstream face and crest, and downstream face of Dam 1, respectively. Typically, the embankment, which is constructed principally with local cohesionless till, is irregular in section and surface grade. Average side slopes of the upstream and downstream sides are typically about 3H:1V and 6H:1V, respectively. The downstream side is estimated to be as steep as 3H:1V in a few areas. The dam height varies up to about 4 m. The dam crest width varies but is generally in the order of 15 m.

Some small erosion scars were observed on both the upstream and downstream sides; however, as described below, they appear to continue to stabilize with vegetation and self-armouring with larger rock particles from the till and previously placed mine waste rock. These scars do not appear to be increasing in size, based on visual comparisons of previous years. Minor sloughing on the upstream slope south of the low point was observed similar as in 2018, as shown in Photo 11 and on the survey plan in Appendix A.

Localized longitudinal cracking first identified in 2017 was observed in 2018, as shown in Photo 12. The cracking was located where the access road adjoins the crest south of the spillway, as shown on the survey plan in Appendix A. The cracking appeared to be self-armouring with rock and vegetation. The localized surface cracking first identified in 2017 on the crest north of the spillway was observed filled with smaller size granular material. These cracks do not have an impact on Dam 1 performance. The cracking should be monitored during subsequent inspections.

The TP1 spillway was visually inspected. The spillway appeared to have more vegetation growth compared to 2018, as shown in Photo 4. The inspection revealed that the rockfill covering the liner in the spillway works as intended thus confirming that addition of fine rockfill in 2005 was an enough treatment. The small erosion of the rockfill on the south bank of the spillway was noted to be in a

similar condition as in 2018. Small areas of the liner became exposed in this area most likely due to a steeper grade. Minor liner was found exposed near the water's edge similar to 2017. The rockfill in the spillway should be monitored for erosion and rockfill replaced if the exposed areas become larger.

Based on this inspection and following a review of available inspection reports, Dam 1 is considered stable.

2.2.5 Tailings

No unsubmerged or exposed tailings were observed within the pond. Photos 13 and 14 show the overall view of the pond and the west side of the pond.

Vegetation on the till covered tailings is increasing gradually based on the comparative visual observations of previous years. The density of the vegetation visibly increased since 2017, as shown in Photos 1 and 2.

2.2 Tailings Pond TP2 and Dam 2

Tailings pond TP2 and Dam 2 were not visited by EXP in 2020 due to limited time on site. Our review is only based on photographic comparison between ones provided by Barrick taken on September 14, 2020 (Photos 15 and 16) and EXP photos taken in the past years. Photo 15 shows Dam 2 observed from the TP2 spillway location. As with Dam 1, the principal construction material was local cohesionless till. Dam 2 section and surface grade is irregular, although less so than Dam 1. The crest width varies but is in the order of 15 m.

Photo 16 shows the TP2 spillway looking towards the TP2 pond. The drainage area for TP2 is significantly larger than for TP1.

On site discussions with Mr. Paul Brugger of Barrick, the provided photographs and previous inspections suggest that Dam 2 is not in any distress and is considered to be stable.

3. Shear Lake Waste Rock Cap

The Shear Lake waste rock cap was inspected this year. The Shear Lake waste rock pile, located on the east side of Shear Lake, some 4.5 km north of the former mill site (at the TP1), was reportedly capped with local, compacted glacial till to promote runoff and reduce infiltration. Some erosion control on the till cap was performed in 2005. A berm approximately 0.5 m high is surrounding the pile near the bottom reaching to the pile top on the south and west sides. Photo 17 (B) shows a 2020 aerial view of the Shear Lake waste rock pile.

Photos 17 (A) and (B) compare vegetation growth on the Shear Lake waste rock pile. The comparison indicates that the vegetation continues to visibly improve, especially on the majority of the side slopes.

Photo 18 and 19 show improved vegetation on the east and south slopes, respectively. The vegetation growth is still sparse on the top of the pile, as shown in Photo 20.

It would be key to note that the efforts by Barrick staff in 2005 to reseed the waste rock cap, especially the side slopes, as erosion control measure improved vegetation in most areas.

Consistent with previous inspection findings, very few small erosion gulleys/channels (20 mm to 30 mm deep/wide) were noted on the side slopes. These generally are short and do not extend the full length of the slope. Most of these had been filled to some extent with small granular material in 2005, to minimize further erosion.

Subsequent inspections should be made to verify the efficacy of the vegetation/till cover system. Any erosion gullies that form should be repaired with fine rock/gravel. It is expected that it will take several more years for the vegetation to establish itself fully.

4. Recommendations

Based on the visual inspections EXP performed between 1992 and 2020, it is considered that no erosional or other detrimental forces have diminished the integrity of Dam 1 at the Cullaton Lake Gold Mine. Dam 1 is stable and serves its intended function of providing storage and water cover for the tailings in TP1 pond.

It is recommended that:

- the condition of the TP1 spillway continues to be monitored for erosion and if any is apparent, remedial measures, such as the addition of additional rockfill, be implemented;
- the water levels are monitored for how they serve as cover for the tailings;
- Wet Spot 1 and the “wet spot” exhibiting no water in 2020 are monitored during each subsequent visit;
- the cracking first identified in 2017 is monitored during each subsequent visit; and
- the frequency of the formal geotechnical inspections be reduced to once every three years. While the inspections have been largely qualitative, there has been no visible evidence of deterioration of the dam or spillway structures over the last several years.

Flight requirements limited time on site thus preventing the conduct of a visual inspection of Dam 2 at TP2. A comparative review of pictures taken at TP2 in 2020 and in previous years suggests that the reviewed locations are in a similar condition. No recommendations for TP2 and Dam 2 and given at this time.

5. Closure

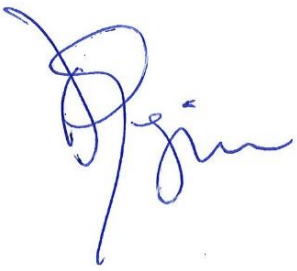
We trust that this letter report meets your current requirements. Should you require clarification, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
EXP Services Inc.

Prepared by:

Renata Klassen, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Geotechnical Engineer

Reviewed by:



Demetri N. Georgiou, MASc., P.Eng.
Branch Manager/Principal Engineer

Attach: Photographs
Appendix A – 2020 Site Plan
Appendix B - Figures
Appendix C – Summary of Previous Inspections

Photographs

Photo 1: Aerial view of TP1 and TP2 (looking southeast).

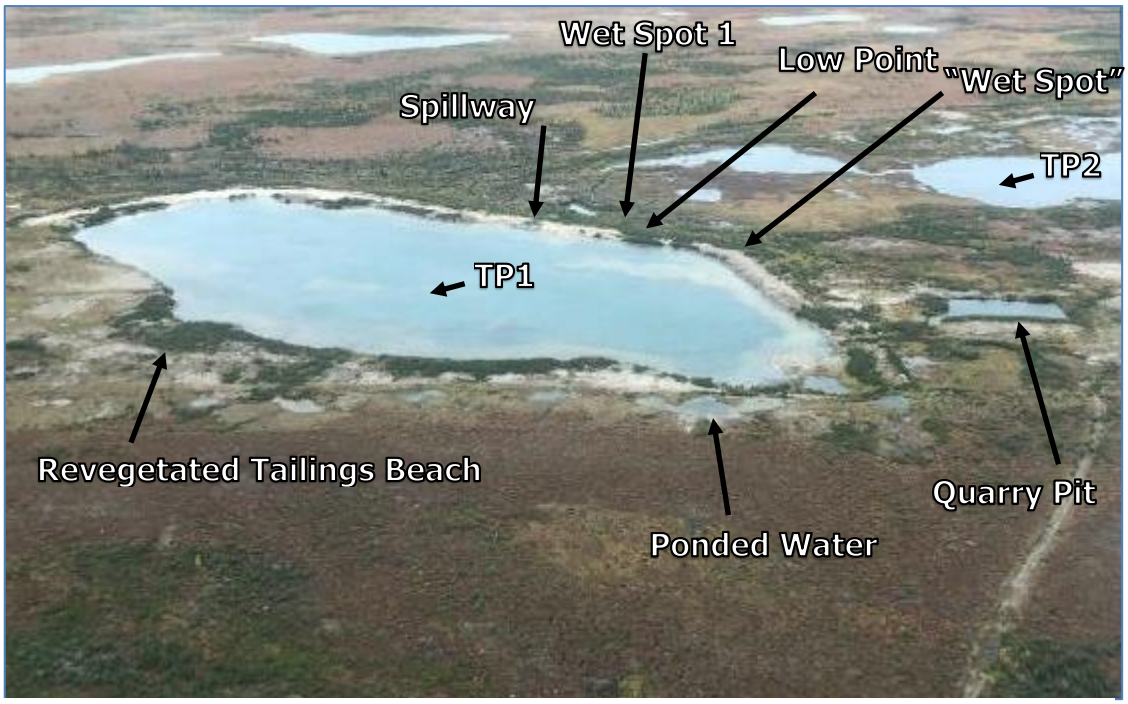


Photo 2: Aerial view of TP1 (looking northeast).

Photo 3: No water visible in TP1 spillway (looking north across the spillway).

Photo 4: No water visible in TP1 spillway (looking up-spillway towards the pond).

Photo 5: 0.4 m between the water surface and top of rock is marked with a measuring tape.

Photo 6: Water level in the quarry (looking southeast).

Photo 7: Wet Spot 1 exhibiting wetness.

Photo 8: Wet Spot 2 likely related to drainage from surrounding area.

Photo 9: Dam 1 upstream face and crest north of TP1 spillway (looking southeast).

Photo 10: Dam 1 downstream face north of the low point (looking north).

Photo 11: Minor sloughing on the upstream slope south of the low point.

Photo 12: Longitudinal cracking self-armouring with rock and vegetation.

Photo 13: TP1 (looking north).

Photo 14: West side of the TP1 pond with the water level near the vegetation line (looking south).

Photo 15: Dam 2 (on the right) seen from TP2 spillway (looking northwest). Photo provided by Barrick.

Photo 16: TP2 spillway with flow looking upstream to TP2 pond. Photo provided by Barrick.

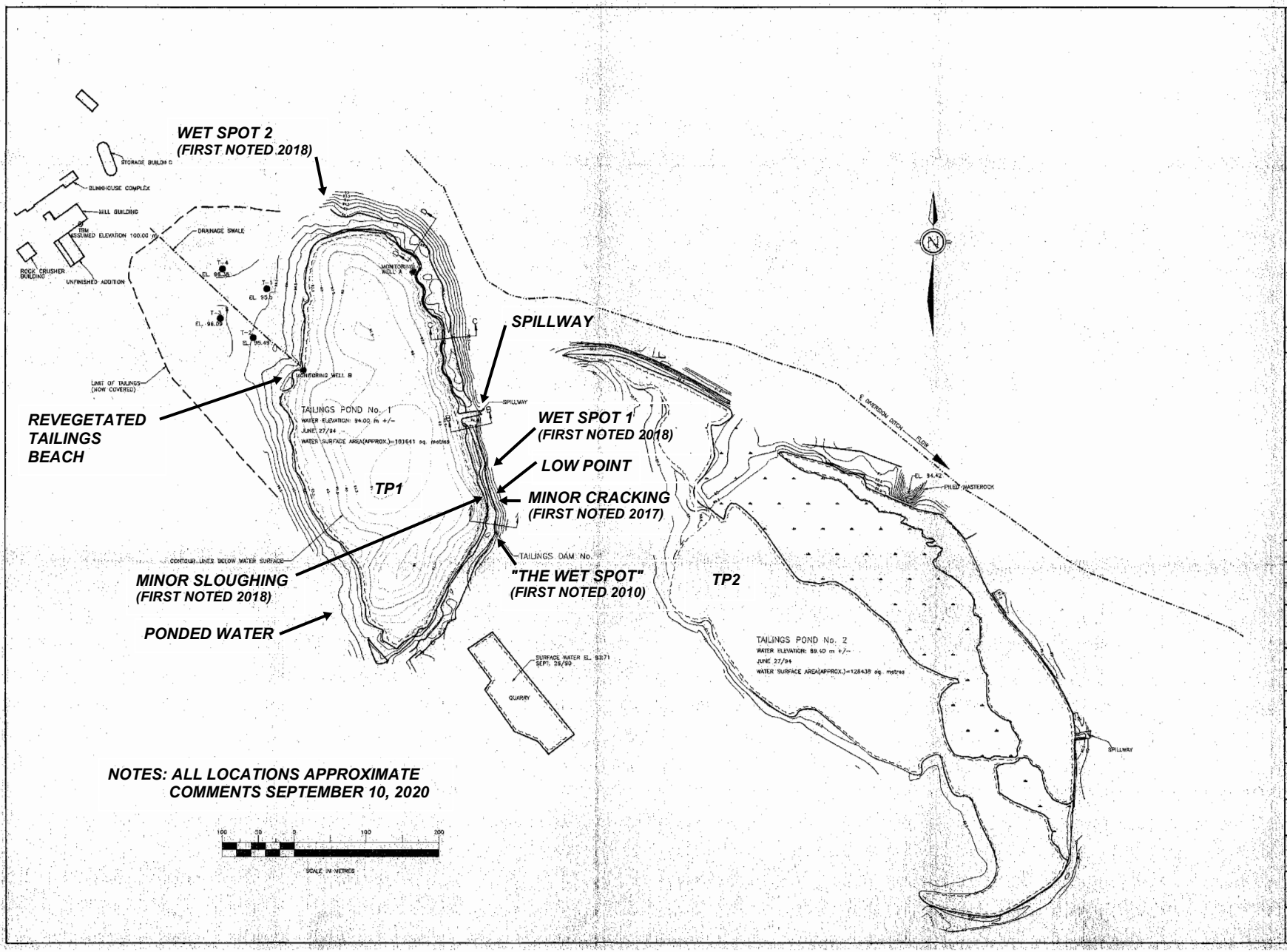
Photo 17: Comparison between aerial views from 2020 and 2017 of Shear Lake Waste Rock Pile

Photo 18: Stable gravel/till covered east slope of Shear Lake Waste Rock Pile (looking west)

Photo 19: South slope of Shear Waste Rock Pile showing grasses (looking north).

Photo 20: Top of Shear Lake Waste Rock Pile (looking north).

Appendix A – 2020 Site Plan



TROW CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD.
Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

LEGEND

- MONITORING WELL
- BENCHMARK
- THERMOSTERS

NOTES:

1. DATA INTERPRETED FROM TROW ENGINEERING SURVEY(JUNE 27/94) AND SURVEY BY H.I.W. SURVEYS LTD.(NOV. 10/90).
2. BENCH MARK IS LOCATED ON CONCRETE SLAB AT NORTH EAST CORNER OF MILL BUILDING. ASSUMED ELEVATION: 100.00m
3. ALL ELEVATIONS ARE SHOWN IN METRES.

REVISIONS

No.	Date:	Revision:

Client: HOMESTAKE CANADA

Project: CULLATON LAKE MINE CLOSURE

Title: TAILINGS POND SURVEY
CULLATON LAKE, N.W.T.

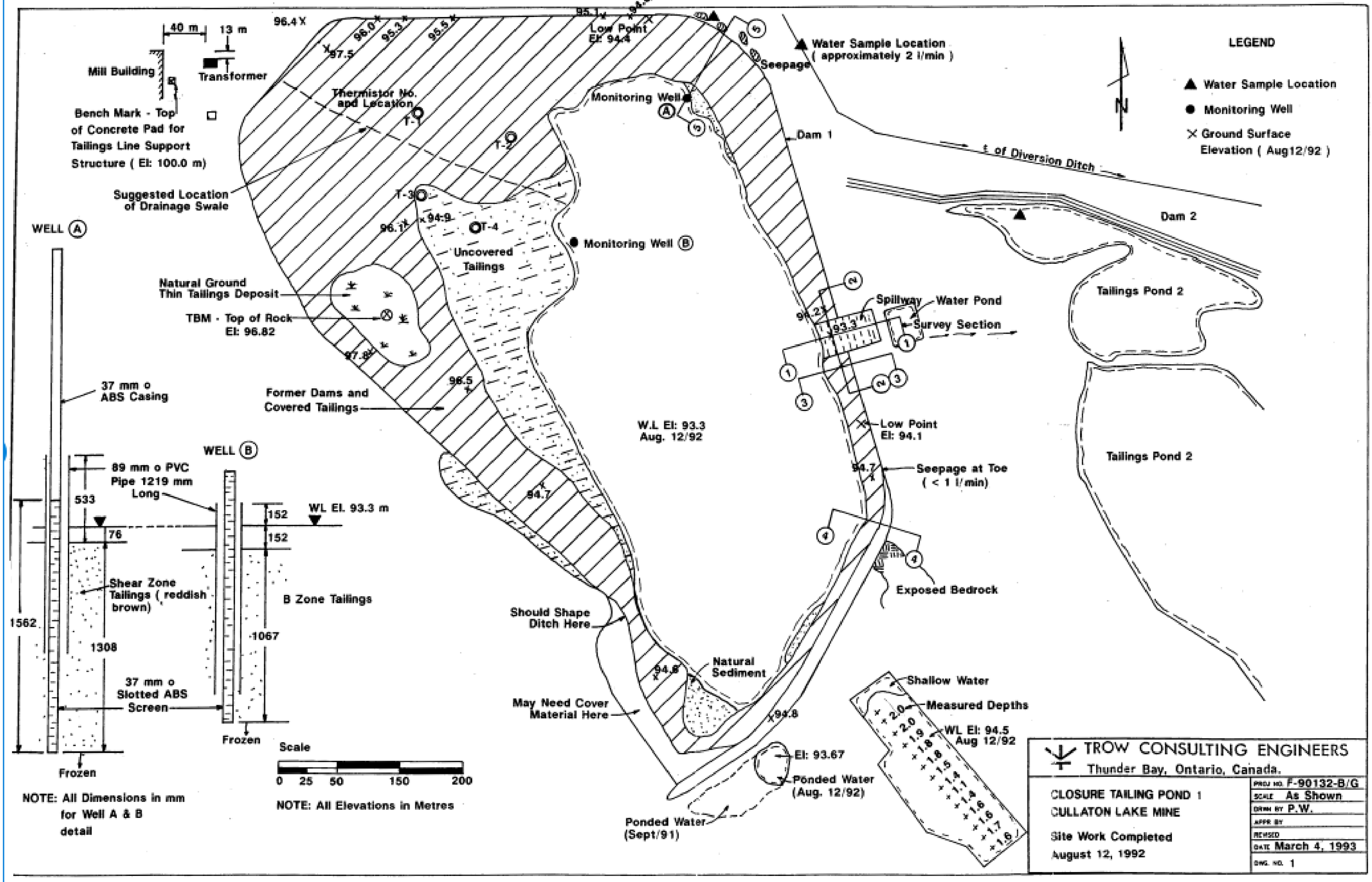
Project No.	Dwg. No.:
F-90132-A/G	1

Drawn By:	Reviewed By:
PW/DT	DK

Date: JANUARY 30, 1995

Scale: 1 : 2500

Appendix B – Figures

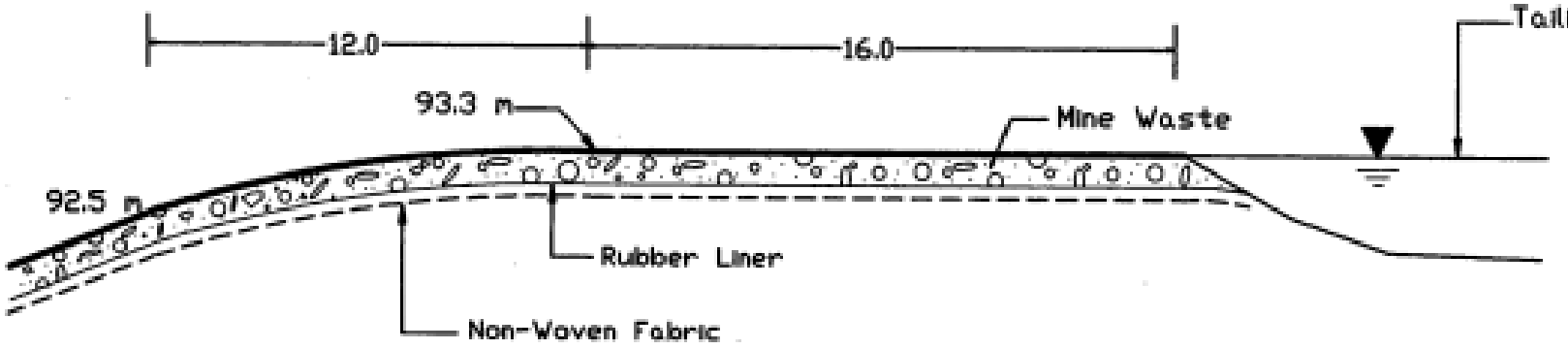


TROW CONSULTING ENGINEERS
Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

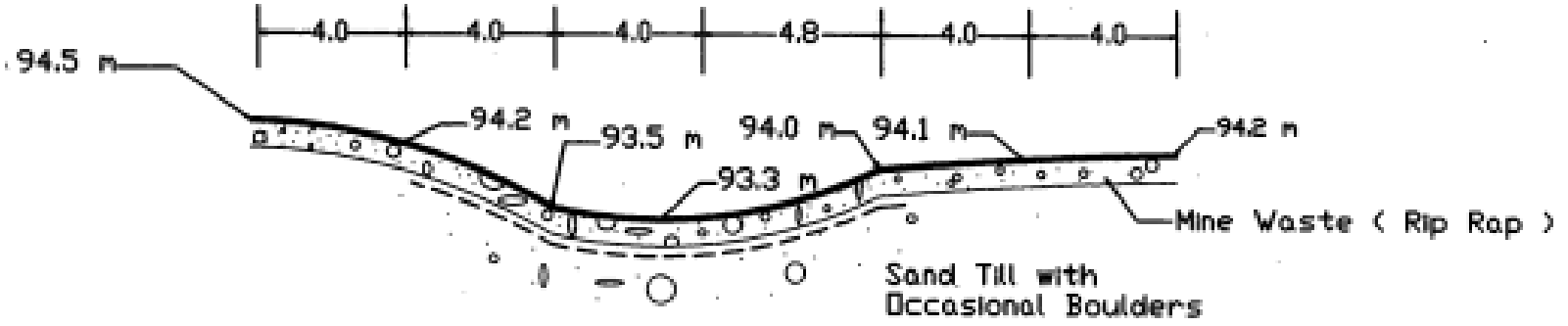
CLOSURE TAILING POND 1
CULLATON LAKE MINE

Site Work Completed
August 12, 1992

PROJ NO.	F-90132-B/G
SCALE	As Shown
DRWN BY	P.W.
APPR BY	
REVISED	
DATE	March 4, 1993
DWG. NO.	1



SECTION 1 - Longitudinal (Looking South)



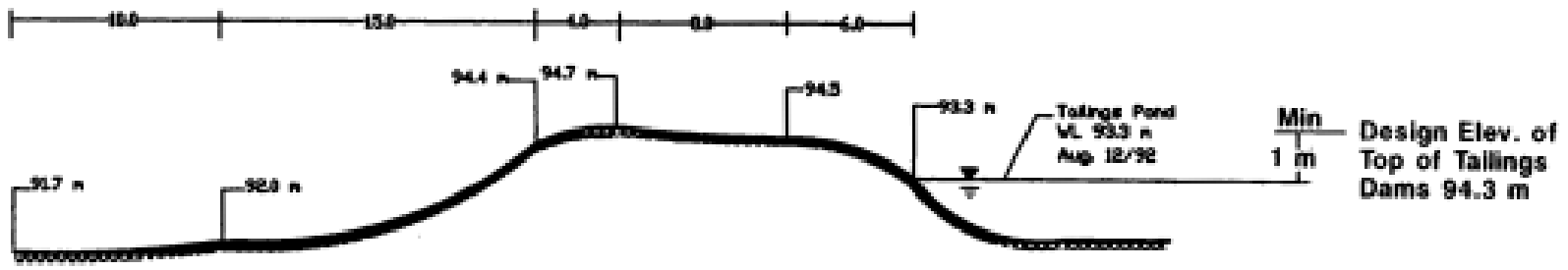
SECTION 2 _ Transverse (Looking East)

Vertical N.T.S.
Horizontal Scale

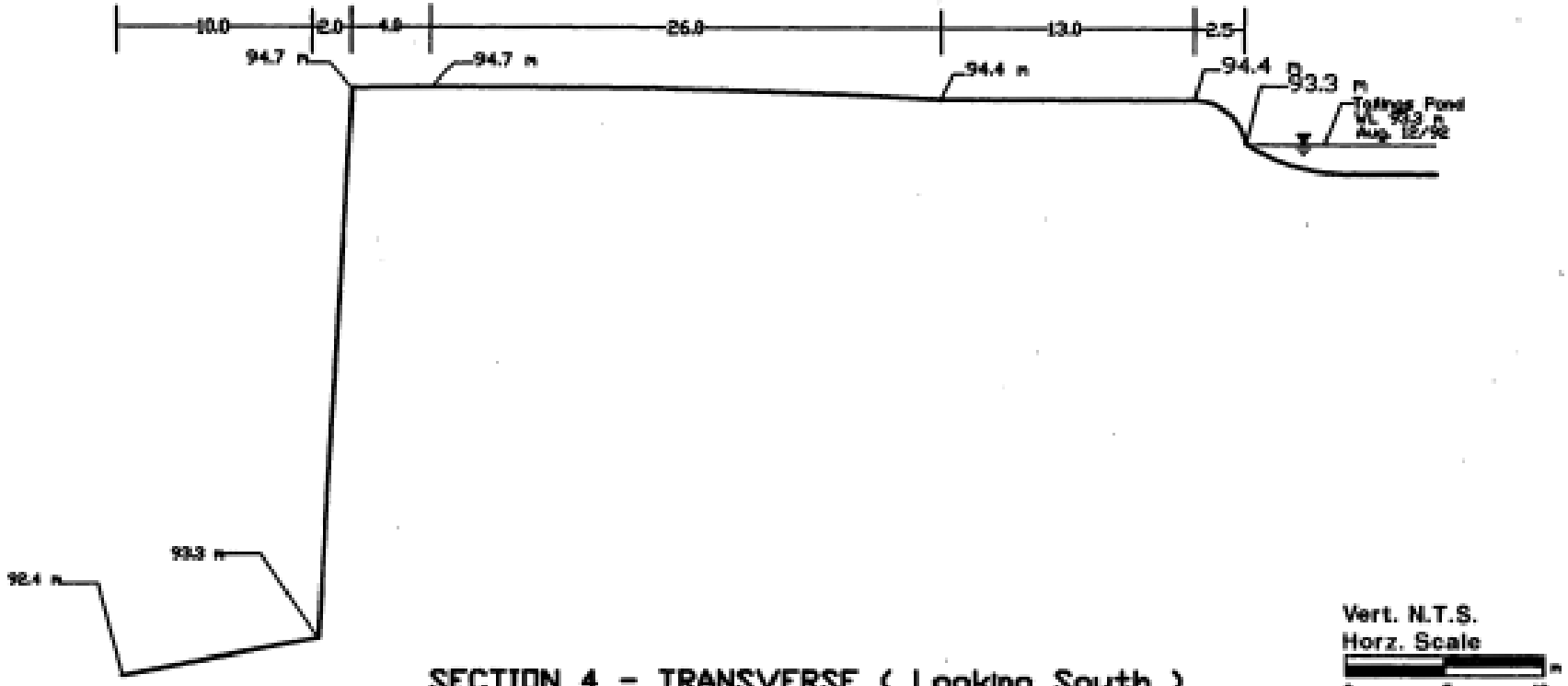
0 5 10 m

Reference No. F-90132-A/G

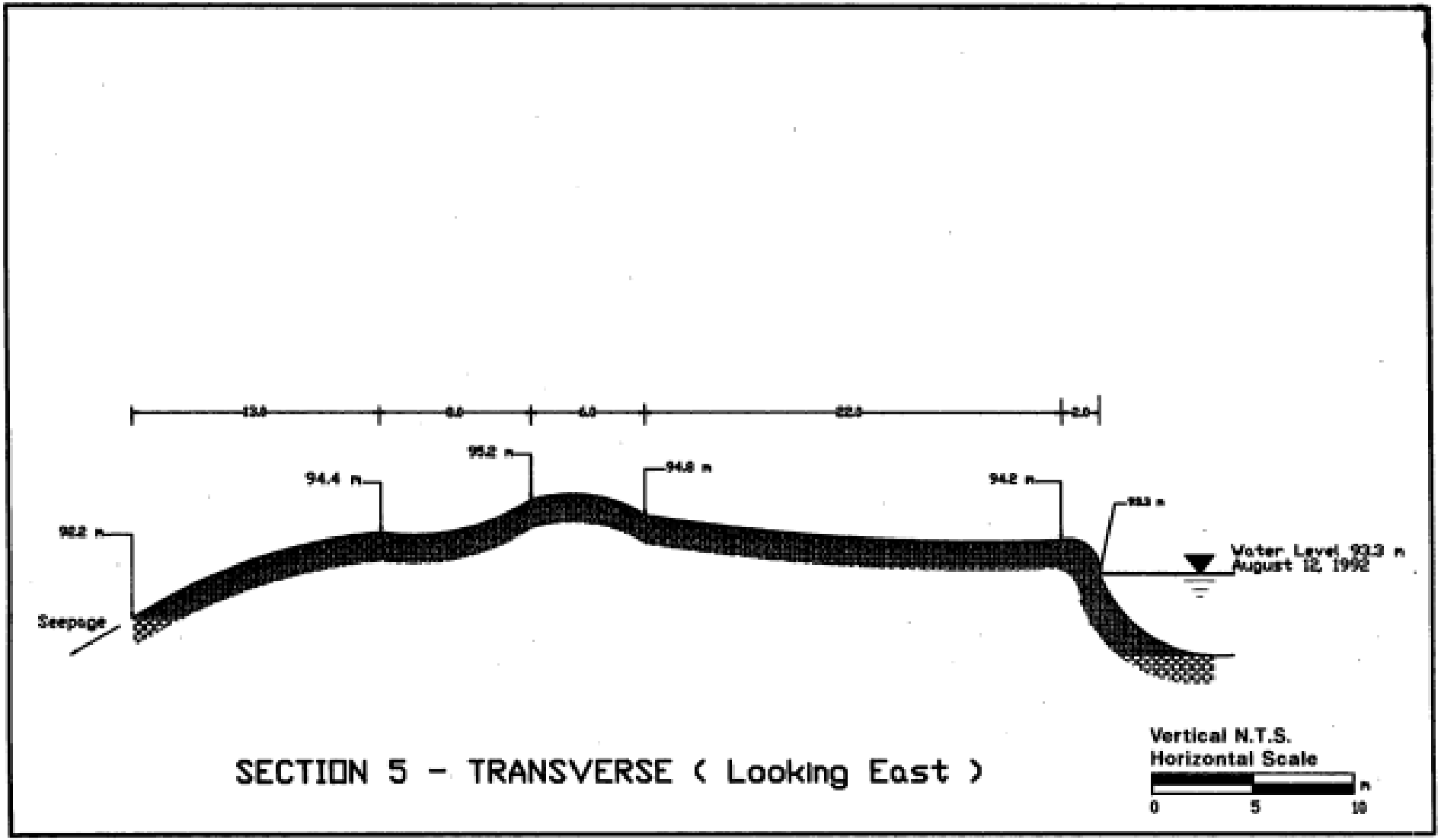
Drawing No. 2



SECTION 3 - TRANSVERSE (Looking South)



SECTION 4 - TRANSVERSE (Looking South)



SECTION 5 - TRANSVERSE (Looking East)

Appendix C - 2020 Summary of Previous Inspections

Summary of Previous Inspections at Cullaton Lake Gold Mine (to 2018)

Previous inspections of the tailings dams and ponds have been performed and reported on by EXP and Trow Associates Inc. (a former identity of EXP Services Inc.) since the preparation of the Closure Report. A summary of findings and recommendations from the previous reports (inspections from 1992 to 2018) is provided below.

Note that ownership of the property has changed over the years. These reports should be on file with the Water Board and with Barrick.

August 1992 Inspection – Reported to Homestake Canada Ltd. (March 15, 1993)

The attached Drawings No. 1 to 4 (Appendix B), are reproduced from the 1992 inspection report and serve to illustrate the conditions at the time. Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- the Pond No. 1 spillway exceeds the design requirements (wider channel and flatter slopes) given in the Closure Plan and was constructed with non-woven filter fabric on the cohesionless subgrade soil and covered with a rubber liner and about a 300 mm thick layer of graded waste rock;
- a few minor seeps were observed on the downstream side of Dam No. 1;
- no recommendations were made other than to conduct a detailed site survey.

June 1994 Inspection – Reported to Homestake Canada Ltd. (February 1, 1995)

A detailed survey of the tailings impoundment area and structures was completed. Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- the pond elevations of Pond No. 1 and No. 2 were 94.0 m and 89.4 m, respectively;
- no seepage evidenced on the downstream side of either dam;
- spillways in good condition;
- dams appear stable;
- no evidence of exposed tailings in Tailings Area No. 1;
- no recommendations were made.

September 1996 Inspection – Reported to Homestake Canada Ltd. (November 27, 1996)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- the tailings dams are presently stable, and in good condition with no signs of distress or erosion;
- although there were a few wet areas near the downstream toe of Dam No. 1, no seeps were visible; wetness may have been due to recent rainfall accumulations;
- the water level in Pond No. 1 was the same as it was in 1994;
- there were no exposed tailings in the area;
- it was recommended that some minor repair work be undertaken to address the exposed liner at the Dam No. 1 spillway, and that damaged and exposed sections of liner be removed from Dam No. 2.

July 1999 Inspection – Reported to Homestake Canada Ltd. (October 13, 1999)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- some small erosion scars were observed on both upstream and downstream sides of Tailings Dam No. 1, likely due to erosion of the previously flattened slopes;

- upstream and downstream slopes of about 3H:1V and 6H:1V, respectively, and crest width varies up to 15 m;
- Pond No. 1 level about 93.7 m, slightly lower than the 94.0 m of previous inspections;
- no unsubmerged tailings observed;
- no seepages observed at either dam;
- both dams considered stable;
- no recommendations were made.

July 2001 Inspection – Reported to Homestake Canada Ltd. (February 6, 2002)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in 1999, except Pond No. 1 water level was about 0.3 m higher at elevation 94.0, similar to previous years;
- no recommendations were made.

July 2003 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (October 15, 2003)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in 2001;
- the erosion scars previously identified in 1999 appear to be naturally revegetating and self-armouring with larger rock particles from the dam fill;
- the weir in the Dam No. 1 spillway had been removed subsequent to the 2001 inspection;
- no recommendations were made.

July 2004 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (February 9, 2005)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in 2003;
- the erosion scars previously identified appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill;
- a recommendation to repair the rubber liner and restore the design configuration of the base of the Dam No. 1 spillway channel was made.

August 2005 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (October 3, 2005)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the erosion scars previously identified appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill;
- local fine rockfill (25 mm to 75 mm size) was sourced and placed in the Dam No. 1 spillway channel to cover much of the exposed rubber liner that was previously evident in a few locations. Up to about 100 mm thickness was placed and it was recommended that this be monitored during future inspections.

August 2006 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (October 11, 2006)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;

- the previously identified erosion scars on Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was about 100 mm to 150 mm lower than in 2005, due to a relatively dry period. There was no flow over the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve.

July 2007 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (February 11, 2008)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified erosion scars on Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill;
- no new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was about 100 mm higher than in 2006 and only a minor trickle was observed at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve.

September 2008 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (December 16, 2008)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was a few centimetres lower than in 2007 and only a minor trickle was observed at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve.

August 2009 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (October 27, 2009)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;

- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was a few centimetres higher than in 2008 and only a minor trickle was observed at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill, that was placed on the spillway in 2005, was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- flow in the Dam No. 2 spillway channel was slightly less than in 2008;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve;
- recommendation to reduce monitoring frequency to every three years was made.

August 2010 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (February 28, 2011)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was a few centimetres lower than in 2009 and only a minor trickle was observed at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- a wet spot was identified on the downstream slope, south of the spillway. No seepage was observed. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level. It was recommended to mark this location in the field for future monitoring;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- flow in the Dam No. 2 spillway channel was a trickle and slightly less than in 2009;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve;
- as in 2009, a recommendation to reduce monitoring frequency to every three years was made.

August 2011 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (December 15, 2011)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was a few centimetres lower than in 2010 and only a minor trickle was observed at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified during the 2010 inspection, on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was collected water, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level. The location was marked with a length of rebar, as previously recommended in the 2010 inspection report;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;

- there was no flow observed in the Dam No. 2 spillway channel;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

August 2012 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (January 23, 2013)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was two to three centimetres lower than in 2011 and only a minor trickle was observed through the rockfill at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified (in 2010) on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was a minor amount of collected water, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level and the location was previously marked with a length of rebar.
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- there was minor flow observed through the rockfill of the Dam No. 2 spillway channel;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

August 2013 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (February 28, 2014)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was two to three centimetres lower than in 2012 and only a minor trickle was observed through the rockfill at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was a minor amount of accumulated water, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level. The location is marked with a length of rebar.
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- there was no flow observed through the rockfill of the Dam No. 2 spillway channel;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake waste rock storage area continues to improve;

- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

August 2014 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (September 18, 2014)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was similar to that in 2013 and only a minor trickle was observed through the rockfill at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was a minor amount of accumulated water, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level and the location is marked with a length of rebar.
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- there was no flow observed through the rockfill of the Dam No. 2 spillway channel;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake waste rock storage area continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

September 2015 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (December 4, 2015)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years and as per the 2014 inspection, except as noted below;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was up to a few centimetres higher than in 2014 and only a minor trickle was observed through the rockfill at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was a minor amount of accumulated water, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level and the location is marked with a length of rebar.
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake waste rock storage area continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

August 2016 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (November 22, 2016)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam No. 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill. No new erosion was apparent;
- the pond level in Pond No. 1 was up to a few centimetres higher than in 2015 and only a minor trickle was observed through the rockfill at the Dam No. 1 spillway;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- no seepages through the dam were observed;
- at the wet spot, which was previously identified on the downstream slope south of the spillway, there was no seepage observed, although there was a minor wetness, which may have been from recent precipitation. The elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level and the location is marked with a length of rebar.
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake Waste Rock Pile continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

September 6, 2017 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (September 28, 2017)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years except for water level in TP1 pond being significantly lower compared to previous years;
- the water level in TP1 pond was about 0.4 m lower than in 2016; TP1 spillway appeared dry;
- no seepages through Dam 1 were observed;
- minor ponding was observed west of TP1 pond consistent with previous years;
- the “wet spot”, first identified in 2010 on the downstream slope south of TP1 spillway, exhibited no wetness; the elevation of this spot was about 150 mm to 300 mm below the pond water level and the location is marked with a length of rebar;
- depth to frost was 1.3 m;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill; no new erosion was apparent;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- minor localized longitudinal cracking was observed where the access road adjoins the crest south of TP1 spillway;
- minor localized surface cracking was noted north of TP1 spillway;
- no exposed tailings were observed within the pond;
- Dam 2 and TP2 spillway appeared to be stable;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake waste rock pile continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.

September 11, 2018 Inspection – Reported to Barrick Gold Inc. (September 25, 2018)

Observations with respect to the tailings impoundment included:

- similar observations as in prior recent years;
- the water level in TP1 pond was observed to be at the lowest level noted in the recent years; it was about 0.3 m lower than in 2017; TP1 spillway appeared dry;
- no seepages through Dam 1 were observed;
- minor ponding was observed west of TP1 pond consistent with previous years;
- the “wet spot”, first identified in 2010 on the downstream slope south of TP1 spillway, exhibited no wetness; the location is marked with a length of rebar and red flagging;
- a trace of standing water was observed about 20 m north of the low point and 15 m downstream of the dam toe; the spot was named Wet Spot 1 and marked with a pink flagging;
- a trace of standing water was observed by a cluster of boulders on the north side of the dam near the water sampling point 940-22, about 15 m downstream of the dam toe; the spot was named Wet Spot 2;
- Depth to frost was reported from drilling to be 1.8 m; this was about 0.5 m deeper than measured in hand excavated holes in previous years;
- the previously identified small erosion scars on the upstream of Dam 1 appeared to be continuing to revegetate naturally and to self-armour with larger rock particles from the dam fill; no new erosion was apparent;
- no erosion of the fine rockfill that was placed on the spillway in 2005 was observed;
- the minor localized longitudinal cracking, where the access road adjoins the crest south of TP1 spillway, was observed in similar condition as in 2017;
- minor localized surface cracking was noted north of TP1 spillway;
- no material positively identified as tailings was observed unsubmerged or exposed within the pond; the low water level in 2018 resulted in limited amounts of material visible in the pond above the water surface south of the spillway and on the west side of the pond;
- Dam 2 and TP2 spillway are considered to be stable;
- vegetation on the till cap on the Shear Lake waste rock pile continues to improve;
- as in previous years, a recommendation to reduce the examination (by a geotechnical engineer) frequency to every three years was made.