

PHASE 2 OF THE HOPE BAY PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Appendix V5-1G

Hope Bay Belt Project: 2011 Hydrology Baseline Report



Hope Bay Mining Limited

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT

2011 Hydrology Baseline Report



HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT

2011 HYDROLOGY BASELINE REPORT

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Prepared for:



Hope Bay Mining Limited

Prepared by:



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Vancouver, British Columbia

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT
2011 Hydrology Baseline Report

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Hope Bay Belt Property is located approximately 125 km southwest of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, on the south shore of Melville Sound. The property consists of a greenstone belt running in a north/south direction. The belt is approximately 80 km long, with three main gold deposit areas. The Doris and Madrid deposits are located in the north end of the belt and the Boston deposit is located in the south end of the belt.

The potential Phase 2 Project involves developing deposits in the Madrid and Boston areas and includes a proposed all-weather road connecting the north and south areas of the belt. Rescan Environmental Services Ltd. (Rescan) was contracted by Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML) to carry out baseline studies to support the permitting of the Phase 2 Project in 2011.

This report presents the findings of the 2011 hydrology baseline study. The objective of the 2011 hydrology program was to collect additional hydrometric data to support permitting of the Phase 2 Project. This report presents the methods used to collect and analyze hydrometric data for 2011 as well as the results obtained for the basins located within the Doris/Madrid and the Boston areas. The report also includes a comparison of the 2011 results to on-site historical data and regional data.

A network of 19 hydrometric monitoring stations within the belt was operated during 2011. In the Doris/Madrid area, 10 hydrometric monitoring stations were remobilized, one new station was installed, and two existing lake level stations were maintained. In the Boston area five hydrometric monitoring stations were remobilized and one new station was installed.

The 2011 open water period extended from early-June until mid-November. In 2011, runoff estimates for drainage basins located within the belt varied. The estimated mean annual runoff was 185 mm for basins in the Doris/Madrid area and 158 mm for basins in the Boston area.

Hydrologic conditions in 2011 were wetter than the two previous monitoring years. The estimated 2011 annual runoff values were approximately 31% higher than in 2010. In terms of annual runoff, the mean estimate for the Doris/Madrid area exceeded the magnitude associated with a 1-in-100 year recurrence interval.

The timing of the annual peak flows varied among the monitored watersheds located within the Phase 2 Project Area. Two distinct high water events were observed at the stations located in the Doris/Madrid area. The first event occurred during the spring freshet period in mid-June and was largely driven by snowmelt. This event was the annual peak for stations Patch-Hydro, Ogama-Hydro, PO-Hydro, Reference-B-Hydro, and Koignuk-Hydro. The second event occurred in early July and was largely driven by 32 mm of rain that fell between June 30 and July 1. This event was the annual peak for stations TL2 (Doris Upstream), TL3 (Doris Downstream), and Roberts-Hydro. Annual peak flows in the Doris/Madrid area ranged from 2.53 m³/s at Patch-Hydro to 299.5 m³/s at Koignuk-Hydro. Two distinct high water events were also observed in the monitored basins located within the Boston area. However, unlike the basins in the Doris/Madrid area, the annual peak in the Boston area occurred during the freshet period in mid- to late-June and was driven by snowmelt. The annual peaks in the Boston area ranged from 0.51 m³/s at Stickleback-Hydro to 95.41 m³/s at Aimao In-Hydro. Peak flows in most of the drainage basins in the Phase 2 Project Area exceeded the magnitude of events associated with a 1-in-100 year recurrence interval.

Observed low flows for the drainage basins in the Doris/Madrid area occurred between early-to late-September and ranged from 0.084 m³/s at PO-Hydro to 7.58 m³/s at Koignuk-Hydro. The observed low flows for the drainage basins in the Boston area occurred in mid-August in most watersheds and ranged from below 0.01 m³/s at the station East Tailings-Hydro to 3.29 m³/s at Aimaq Out-Hydro.

In the Doris/Madrid area, changes in lake water levels recorded from June 1 to October 3 ranged from 0.235 m at Windy Lake to 0.737 m at Doris Lake, respectively. In the Boston Area lake level variation for Aimaokatalok Lake was 2.46 m.

Tide levels were measured by a hydrometric station installed near the existing jetty located in the southern part of Roberts Bay from July 24 to September 28. The tides in Roberts Bay were microtidal (< 2 m tidal range) and semi-diurnal. Daily tide ranges were generally between 0.25 and 0.35 m (average: 0.30±0.07 m), with a maximum tidal range (the difference between high and low water in one tidal cycle) of 0.33 m on September 20, 2011 during the spring tide.

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT
2011 Hydrology Baseline Report

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HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT
2011 Hydrology Baseline Report

Table of Contents

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT

2011 HYDROLOGY BASELINE REPORT

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Acknowledgements.....	iii
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables.....	viii
List of Plates	ix
List of Appendices.....	ix
Glossary and Abbreviations	xi
1. Introduction	1-1
2. Hydrologic Setting.....	2-1
2.1 Arctic Hydrology	2-1
2.2 Study Area	2-3
2.2.1 Climate	2-3
2.2.2 Physiography	2-3
2.2.3 Watersheds	2-4
2.3 Available Hydrologic Data.....	2-7
2.3.1 Historical Site Data.....	2-7
2.3.2 Regional Data	2-8
3. Methods	3-1
3.1 Hydrometric Monitoring Network.....	3-1
3.2 Hydrometric Station Setup.....	3-2
3.3 Hydrometric Levelling Surveys	3-8
3.4 Current Velocity Measurements and Discharge Calculations	3-8
3.5 Stage Discharge Rating Curves	3-9
3.6 Lake Levels	3-10
3.7 Tide Levels	3-10
3.8 Discharge Hydrographs	3-10
3.9 Hydrologic Indices	3-11
4. Results.....	4-1
4.1 Doris/Madrid Area	4-1
4.1.1 Discharge Measurements	4-1

4.1.2	Lake Levels	4-2
4.1.3	Tide Variations.....	4-7
4.1.4	Stage-discharge Relations.....	4-7
4.1.5	Annual Discharge Hydrographs	4-9
4.1.5.1	Monthly Volumetric Outflow	4-9
4.1.6	Hydrologic Indices	4-14
4.1.6.1	Annual Runoff.....	4-14
4.1.6.2	Monthly Runoff Distribution.....	4-15
4.1.6.3	Peak and Low Flows	4-15
4.2	Boston Area.....	4-15
4.2.1	Discharge Measurements	4-15
4.2.2	Lake Levels	4-18
4.2.3	Stage-discharge Relations.....	4-21
4.2.4	Annual Discharge Hydrographs	4-21
4.2.4.1	Monthly Volumetric Outflow	4-21
4.2.5	Hydrologic Indices	4-24
4.2.5.1	Calculated Annual Runoff	4-24
4.2.5.2	Monthly Runoff Distribution.....	4-24
4.2.5.3	Peak and Low Flows	4-25
5.	Discussion	5-1
5.1	General Climatic Conditions of the Study Area	5-1
5.2	Comparison of 2011 Data to Historical Site Data	5-1
5.3	Comparison of Results Between the Doris/Madrid and Boston Areas	5-1
5.4	2011 Results in the Regional Context	5-14
6.	Summary	6-1
	References.....	R-1

List of Figures

FIGURE	PAGE
Figure 1-1. Hope Bay Belt Project Location	1-2
Figure 1-2. Site Layout Options Considered for Phase 2 Baseline Program, 2011.....	1-3
Figure 2.1-1. Theoretical Typical Annual Flow Hydrograph for a Small Arctic Watershed	2-2
Figure 2.2-1. Main Watersheds in the Study Area.....	2-5
Figure 2.3-1. WSC Hydrometric Stations near the Project Area with More than 5 Years of Hydrologic Data.....	2-10
Figure 3.1-1. Location of 2011 Hydrometric Monitoring Stations within the Doris/Madrid Area, Hope Bay Belt Project	3-3

Figure 3.1-2. Location of 2011 Hydrometric Stations within the Boston Area, Hope Bay Belt Project	3-5
Figure 4.1-1. 2011 Recorded Lake Water Levels in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-3
Figure 4.1-2. 2011 Recorded Lake Water Levels in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-4
Figure 4.1-3. 2011 Recorded Lake Water Levels in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-5
Figure 4.1-4. 2011 Recorded Lake Water Levels in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-6
Figure 4.1-5. Tidal Fluctuation at Roberts Bay, July to September 2011	4-8
Figure 4.1-6. 2011 Annual Flow Discharge Hydrographs	4-10
Figure 4.1-7. 2011 Annual Flow Discharge Hydrographs	4-11
Figure 4.1-8. 2011 Monthly Volumetric Outflow Doris/Madrid Area.....	4-12
Figure 4.1-9. 2011 Monthly Volumetric Outflow Doris/Madrid Area.....	4-13
Figure 4.1-10. Monthly Runoff Distribution for 2011 for Watersheds in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-16
Figure 4.1-11. Monthly Runoff Distribution for 2011 for Watersheds in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-17
Figure 4.2-1. 2011 Lake Water Levels at Aimaokatalok Lake	4-20
Figure 4.2-2. 2011 Annual Discharge Hydrographs in the Boston Area.....	4-22
Figure 4.2-3. 2011 Monthly Volumetric Outflow in the Boston Area	4-23
Figure 4.2-4. Monthly Runoff Distribution for 2011 in the Boston Area.....	4-26
Figure 5.2-1. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-2
Figure 5.2-2. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-3
Figure 5.2-3. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-4
Figure 5.2-4. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-5
Figure 5.2-5. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-6
Figure 5.2-6. Doris/Madrid Historical Hydrographs	5-7
Figure 5.2-7. Boston Historical Hydrographs.....	5-8
Figure 5.2-8. Boston Historical Hydrographs.....	5-9
Figure 5.2-9. Boston Historical Hydrographs.....	5-10
Figure 5.2-10. Boston Historical Hydrographs	5-11
Figure 5.2-11. Boston Historical Hydrographs	5-12
Figure 5.2-12. Boston Historical Hydrographs	5-13
Figure 5.4-1. Results of Flood Frequency Analysis for WSC Station (10TF001) Freshwater Creek near Cambridge Bay.....	5-17

List of Tables

TABLE	PAGE
Table 2.3-1. Summary of Historic Hydrometric Stations in the Doris/Madrid Area	2-7
Table 2.3-2. Summary of Historic Hydrometric Stations in the Boston Area.....	2-8
Table 2.3-3. Regional Water Survey of Canada (WSC) Stations Relevant to the Study Area.....	2-8
Table 3.1-1. 2011 Hydrometric Monitoring Stations of Streams and Lakes in the Doris/Madrid Area	3-1
Table 3.1-2. 2011 Hydrometric Monitoring Stations of Streams and Lakes in the Boston Area.....	3-2
Table 4.1-1. Summary of Completed Discharge Measurements in the Doris/Madrid Area in 2011	4-1
Table 4.1-2. Recorded Lake Water Levels for the 2011 Open Water Season in the Doris/Madrid Area ...	4-2
Table 4.1-3. Summary of 2011 Stage-discharge Rating Equations in the Doris/Madrid Area.....	4-7
Table 4.1-4. Monthly Volumetric Outflow in the Doris/Madrid Area ($m^3 \times 10^6$)	4-14
Table 4.1-5. 2011 Annual Runoff and Mean Annual Discharge in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-14
Table 4.1-6. 2011 Monthly Runoff Distribution (mm) in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-15
Table 4.1-7. 2011 Annual Peak Flow and Unit Yield in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-18
Table 4.1-8. Daily Low Flows (July to September 2011) in the Doris/Madrid Area	4-18
Table 4.2-1. Summary of 2011 Discharge Measurements in the Boston Area	4-19
Table 4.2-2. Summary of 2011 Rating Equations for Hydrometric Stations in the Boston Area	4-21
Table 4.2-3. Monthly Volumetric Outflows in the Boston Area ($\times 10^6 m^3$).....	4-24
Table 4.2-4. 2011 Annual Runoff and Mean Annual Discharge in the Boston Area	4-24
Table 4.2-5. 2011 Monthly Runoff Distribution (mm) in the Boston Area	4-25
Table 4.2-6. 2011 Annual Peak Flow and Unit Yield in the Boston Area.....	4-25
Table 4.2-7. Daily Minimum Flows (July to September 2011) in the Boston Area.....	4-25
Table 5.3-1. 2011 Annual Runoff and Mean Annual Flow.....	5-14
Table 5.4-1. Summary of Estimated Annual Runoff (mm) Values by Different Recurrence Intervals for the Lakes in the Doris/Madrid Area.....	5-14
Table 5.4-2. Summary of Estimated Daily Peak Flows by Different Recurrence Intervals for the Lakes in the Doris/Madrid Area	5-15
Table 5.4-3. Summary Estimated Daily Peak Flows by Different Recurrence Intervals for Selected Water Survey of Canada Stations	5-16
Table 5.4-4. Summary Estimated Daily Peak Flows by Different Recurrence Intervals for On-site Monitoring Stations with Drainage Areas Larger than $100 km^2$	5-16
Table 5.4-5. Summary of 2011 7-Day Low-Flows and Estimated 7-Day Low-Flows by Different Recurrence Intervals for the Lakes in the Doris/Madrid Area	5-16

Table 6-1. 2011 Annual Runoff and Mean Annual Discharge for Drainage Basins Located within the Doris/Madrid and Boston Areas	6-1
Table 6-2. Summary of Estimated Annual Runoff (mm) Values by Different Recurrence Intervals for the Lakes in the Doris/Madrid Area.....	6-2
Table 6-3. 2011 Annual Peak Flows for Drainage Basins located within the Doris/Madrid and Boston Areas.....	6-3
Table 6-4. Summary of Estimated Daily Peak Flows by Different Recurrence Intervals for the Stations in the Doris/Madrid and Boston Areas	6-3
Table 6-5. 2011 Annual Low Flows in the Doris/Madrid and Boston Areas	6-4

List of Plates

PLATE	PAGE
Plate 2.2-1. Oblique aerial view facing north in the Doris/Madrid area. The majority of the lakes are elongated and oriented on a north-south axis. Wolverine and Patch lakes are in the foreground of the photograph. Hope Bay is located in the background. Photograph taken on June 7, 2010.....	2-4
Plate 2.2-2. Oblique aerial view looking north in the Doris/Madrid area. In the distance note how Doris Mesa represents the highest terrain feature that dominates the surrounding landscape. Photograph taken on June 12, 2011.	2-7
Plate 3.2-1. Photographs illustrating the range of site conditions that need to be considered for the hydrometric station layouts.	3-7

List of Appendices

Doris/Madrid Area

- Appendix A1. Discharge Measurements
- Appendix A2. Summary of Daily Mean Lake Water Level
- Appendix A3. Rating Curves
- Appendix A4. Summary of Survey Information
- Appendix A5. Hydrographs

Boston Area

- Appendix B1. Discharge Measurements
- Appendix B2. Rating Curves
- Appendix B3. Summary of Survey Information
- Appendix B4. Hydrographs

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT
2011 Hydrology Baseline Report

Glossary and Abbreviations

Glossary and Abbreviations

Terminology used in this document is defined where it is first used. The following list will assist readers who may choose to review only portions of the document.

ADCP	Acoustic Doppler current profiler.
7-day low flow	The minimum average 7-day flow that occurs over a specified period, such as a month, season or year.
Active Layer	Surface layer of earth materials that thaws and refreezes on an annual basis.
Annual Runoff	Annual runoff is a measure of the hydrologic response of a watershed. It is often presented as a depth, in mm, over an entire watershed allowing direct comparison with precipitation totals.
Arctic-Nival	A hydrological region located in continuous permafrost regions where deep infiltration is impeded by perennially frozen ground, thus base flow and winter flow to rivers is low or non-existent.
Bankfull Stage/ Discharge	The stage or discharge of a watercourse in which the stream completely fills its channel and the elevation of the water surface coincides with the bank margins.
E	Estimated. Part of a system that assigns different grades to the data collected. In order of decreasing quality, the following grades are used: A, B, C, E (estimated), and U (unknown).
EC	Environment Canada
ESR	Environmental and Social Responsibility Department. Hope Bay Mining Limited.
FFA	Flood frequency analysis. Analytical technique that involves using observed annual peak flow discharge data to calculate statistical information such as mean values, standard deviations, skewness, and recurrence intervals. These statistical data are then used to construct frequency distributions, which indicate the likelihood of various discharges as a function of recurrence interval or exceedance probability.
Flood Frequency	The frequency that a flood of a specified magnitude occurs, inversely related to flood return period (see Return Period).
Freshet	In channels, the relatively high annual peak water discharge period resulting from spring/summer meltwater runoff of the snowpack accumulated over the winter.
HBML	Hope Bay Mining Limited
HSLP	HBML Health, Safety, and Loss Prevention Department
Hydrograph	A graphical plot of water discharge versus time.
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MAD	Mean annual discharge
n/a	Not applicable

NAD	North American Datum. A datum is a reference system for computing or correlating the results of a survey. All Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates mentioned in this report are referenced to the NAD83 datum. This datum is based on the GRs80 spheroid.
Negative degree-day	The sum of average daily temperatures that are consecutively below a defined base temperature.
Permafrost	Rock or soil that remains below 0°C for at least two years.
QA/QC	Quality assurance and quality control
Q_n (Q₂, Q₂₀, Q₁₀₀, Q₂₀₀)	The water discharge that is equalled or exceeded on average once every <i>n</i> years.
Rescan	Rescan Environmental Services Ltd.
Return Period	The average interval at which an event occurs, calculated from the probability of its occurrence in a given year.
Stage	The depth of water in a water course or channel
Stage Discharge Curve	A curve derived from concurrently measured stage and discharge data that is used to estimate the discharge for any given observed stage. Often referred to as a rating curve for a hydrometric station.
WSC	Water Survey of Canada
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator. A mathematical transformation (map projection) of the earth's surface to create a flat map sheet.

HOPE BAY BELT PROJECT
2011 Hydrology Baseline Report

1. Introduction

1. Introduction

The Hope Bay Belt Property is located approximately 125 km southwest of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, on the south shore of Melville Sound (Figure 1-1). The nearest communities are Omingmakto (75 km to the southwest of the property), Cambridge Bay, and Kingaok (Bathurst Inlet; 160 km to the southwest of the property).

The property consists of a greenstone belt running in a north/south direction, approximately 80 km long, with three main gold deposit areas. The Doris and Madrid deposits are located in the northern portion of the belt, and the Boston deposit is located in the southern end. The northern portion of the property consists of several watershed systems that drain into Roberts Bay, and a large river (Koignuk River) that drains into Hope Bay. Watersheds in the southern portion of the belt ultimately drain into the upper Koignuk, which drains into Hope Bay.

Hope Bay Mining Limited (HBML) is proceeding with the development of the Doris North Project. Required licences and permits are in place for the development of the Doris North Gold Mine, and construction of the project commenced in 2010.

HBML plans to develop additional deposits in the belt, and planning for this Phase 2 Project development has commenced. Baseline studies to support the permitting of the Phase 2 Project were carried out in 2009 and 2010, and were continued in 2011. The environmental baseline program conducted in 2011 was intended to fill in information gaps in order to support the permitting process for the Phase 2 Project. The site layout options considered for the 2011 Phase 2 environmental baseline program are shown in Figure 1-2.

Results from the 2011 Phase 2 Project environmental baseline program are being reported in a series of reports, as follows:

- 2011 Meteorology Baseline Report
- 2011 Hydrology Baseline Report
- 2011 Marine Wildlife Baseline Report
- 2011 Country Foods Baseline Report
- 2011 Socio-Economic and Land Use Baseline Report

In addition, numerous reports are being produced as part of the Doris North Project compliance requirements, and many of these reports cover the geographical areas of the proposed Phase 2 Project. Examples of Doris North Project compliance reports generated in 2011 that are relevant to the proposed Phase 2 Project include:

- 2011 Meteorology Compliance Report, Doris North Project
- 2011 Hydrology Compliance Report, Doris North Project
- 2011 Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Report, Doris North Project
- 2011 Wildlife DNA Study, Doris North Project

