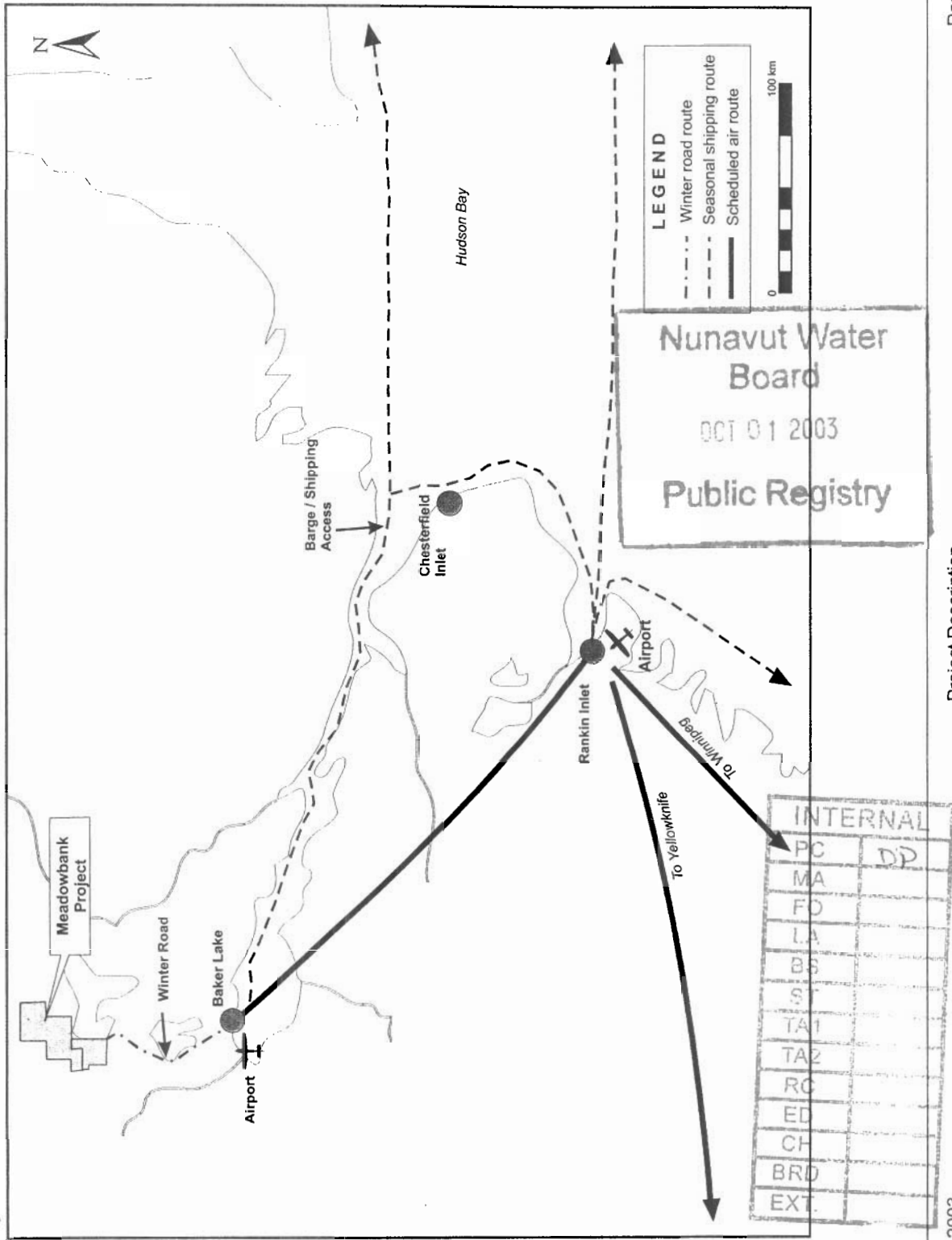


Figure 2.3: Site Access & Transportation Options



Pre-stripping – Concurrent with construction, pre-stripping activities will begin by removing overburden, exposing primary ore and associated waste. The overburden and other acceptable mine rock will be stockpiled for use in constructing the roads, airstrips, dykes, and pads. The primary ore will be stockpiled for plant start-up.

Processing & Mining – The process plant will be commissioned in late 2006, and will enter full production in early 2007. The Portage open pit will provide the primary ore supply for the process plant throughout the life of mine, with lesser amounts being supplied by the Goose Island and Vault open pits and underground mines. The Goose Island underground resource will be mined early in the schedule, as it contains the highest ore grade. Access to the underground resources of the Vault deposit will be provided from the bottom of the Vault open pit. The final mining sequence will be reassessed during the feasibility study phase.

Decommissioning & Closure – The Meadowbank project will be designed and built to minimize the area of surface disturbance, stabilize disturbed land surfaces against erosion, and return the land to a post-mining use for traditional pursuits and wildlife habitat.

Cumberland's objective is to ensure the environment is not unduly influenced after mining operations cease, and that any materials that could potentially cause degradation to the land and/or waters of the project area are stabilized, removed, and/or mitigated. The proposed site after closure is shown in Figure 2.6.

A mine decommissioning plan will be developed and outlined in the EIS. This plan will guide all aspects of closure and ensure conformance with all regulations concerning the environment. As

necessary, this plan will be updated to reflect any changes to the design and/or operation of the facility. Specifically, the plan will describe the approach to, and/or decommissioning of, the following:

Figure 2.6: Site After Closure

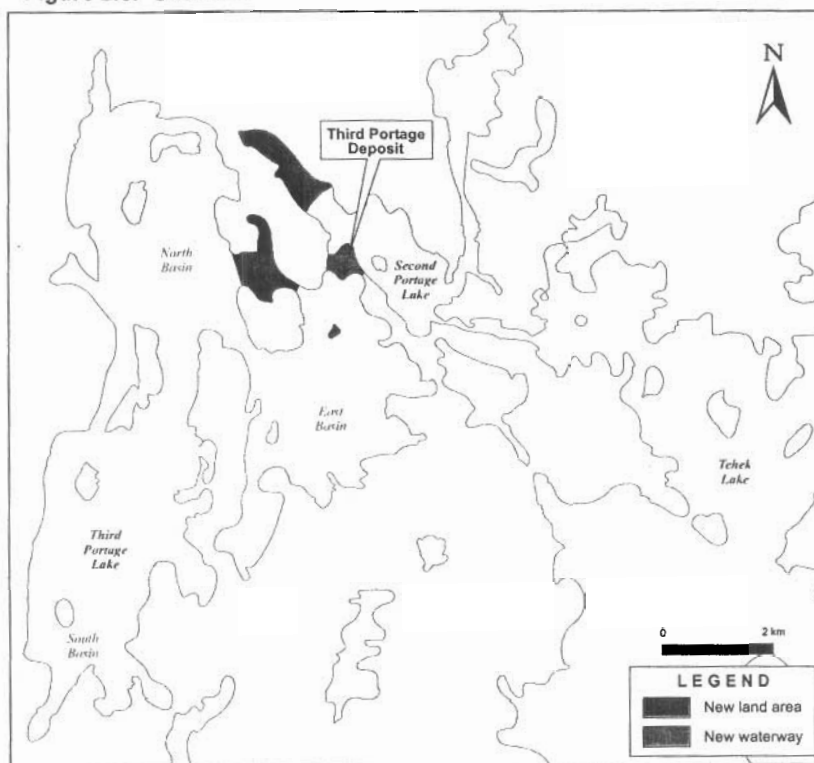


Figure 2.7: Proposed Site Layout

