

## APPENDIX C.4

### Tetra Tech 2019 Report

## 2019 Inspection of the Milne Inlet Tote Road and Associated Borrow Sources



PRESENTED TO  
**Baffinland Iron Mines Inc.**

OCTOBER 30, 2019  
ISSUED FOR REVIEW  
FILE: ENG.EARC03171-01

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION ..... 1

1.1 Project Description..... 1

1.2 QIA, NIRB, and CIRNAC Concerns..... 2

1.3 2019 Reconnaissance ..... 3

2.0 SITE CONDITIONS ..... 3

2.1 Permafrost ..... 3

2.2 Borrow Site Summary and Grouping..... 4

3.0 BORROW PIT RECLAMATION METHODS ..... 5

3.1 Restoring Surface Stability ..... 5

3.2 Drainage Improvements and Erosion Protection..... 6

3.3 Surface Grading..... 7

4.0 TOTE ROAD SAFETY HAZARDS ..... 7

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AT BRIDGES ..... 9

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AT OTHER LOCATIONS ..... 10

6.1 Erosion and Instability near the Tote Road ..... 10

6.2 Natural Instability Locations..... 11

6.3 Slope Instability and Erosion along the Haul Road from the Open Pit..... 11

7.0 CONCLUSIONS..... 12

8.0 CLOSURE..... 13

REFERENCES ..... 14

APPENDIX SECTIONS

TABLES

Table 1     Summary of Pit Observations and Closure Reclamation

FIGURES

Figure 1     Plan Photo Locations

Figure 2     Plan Photo Locations

Figure 3     Plan Photo Locations

Figure 4     Plan Photo Locations

Figure 5     Plan Photo Locations

- Figure 6 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 7 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 8 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 9 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 10 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 11 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 12 Plan Photo Locations
- Figure 13 Plan Photo Locations

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- Photo 1 Priority C Pit at KM 6.6 (Figure 1) Lies on Gravel Terrace with Well-established Ice Wedge Polygons
- Photo 2 Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 2), Linear Sinkholes from Ice Wedge Melt Out
- Photo 3 Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), Threatening Stability of the Road Embankment
- Photo 4 Pit at KM 71.6 (Figure 10), Typical Settlement from Thaw of Segregated Ice
- Photo 5 Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8), Taken in 2009 (Comparison)
- Photo 5A (2593) Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8), Taken in 2014, Extensive Settlement in Southern Portion
- Photo 6 Pit at KM 32.4 (Figures 4 and 5), Typical Priority C Pit in Thaw Stable Soils
- Photo 7 Extreme Settlement of the Runway at the Inuvik, NT Airport
- Photo 8 (2531) Pit at KM 72.3 with Water on Both Side of the New Road Alignment and Extensive Thaw of Massive and Wedge Ice
- Photo 9 (2578) Pit at KM 7.2, Extensive Thaw Ponds on the West Side of the Road
- Photo 10 (2536) Pit at KM 7.9 Showing Extensive Settlement and Ponding
- Photo 11 (2540) Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 4), Pit is Deepening due to Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Ground
- Photo 12 (2571) Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 3), Ponded Water Resulting from Thaw of Ice-rich Material and Over-steepened Side Slopes where Water is Ponding
- Photo 13 (2544) Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), Continued Melt Out of Wedge Ice since 2009
- Photo 14 (2571) Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3)
- Photo 15 (2693) Pit at KM 21.9 (Figure 3), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 16 (2693) Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 17 (2695) Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 18 (2670) Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), Berms Along this Side of the New Road Effectively Push Water Away from the Embankment
- Photo 19 (2693) Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), the Left Side of the New Road has Steeper Side Slopes
- Photo 20 (2592) Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), Drainage at this Location is Clearly Shown
- Photo 21 (2558) Pits at KM 63 to 63.8 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 22 (2657) Pit at KM 63.8 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 23 (2662) Pits at KM 63 to 64 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
- Photo 24 2014 Photo of Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Extensive Thaw Settlement of Very Ice-rich Soils
- Photo 25 (2555) Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Thaw Settlement is Ongoing (Comparison)
- Photo 26 (2555) Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Right Side of Borrow Pit with Very Deep Ponding Due to Thaw

Photo 27 (2597)	Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), Borrow Pit on the Right Side with Very Deep Ponding due to Thaw
Photo 28 (2656)	Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), Right Side of Borrow Pit with Very Deep Ponding Due to Thaw
Photo 29 (2678)	KM 17 Bridge, West Abutment
Photo 30 (2683)	KM 17 Bridge, East Abutment
Photo 31 (2683)	KM 63 Bridge, North Abutment
Photo 32 (2708)	KM 64 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 33 (2712)	KM 64 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 34 (2715)	KM 80 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 35 (2718)	KM 80 Bridge, Road Surfacing Gravel that has Fallen Through the Centreline Joint in the Bridge Deck
Photo 36 (2719)	KM 97 Bridge, North Abutment
Photo 37 (2523)	KM 2.5 Slope Instability and Mud Slide Adjacent to the Tote Road
Photo 38 (2524)	KM 2.5 Slope Instability and Mud Slide Adjacent to the Tote Road
Photo 39 (2526)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 40 (2528)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location Immediately Below the Culvert on the North Side of the Terrace
Photo 41 (2526)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 42 (2527)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 43 (2728)	Natural Instability/Erosion Feature South of the Tote Road Near KM 71
Photo 44 (2721)	Natural Instability Feature (Active Layer Detachment) on the Headwaters of the Mary River 16 km East-northeast of the Mine
Photo 45 (2722)	Another Natural Instability Feature (Active Layer Detachment) on the Headwaters of the Mary River 16 km East-northeast of the Mine
Photo 46 (2724)	More Natural Instability Features (Active Layer Detachment Sides) Uphill from Photo 45
Photo 47	2014 Photo of Natural Collapse Feature in Undisturbed Terrain
Photo 48 (2638)	2019 Aerial Photo of the Natural Collapse from Photo 47
Photo 49 (2650)	Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit
Photo 50 (2652)	Close up of Some of the Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit
Photo 51 (2643)	Additional Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A Tetra Tech's Limitations on Use of this Document

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tetra Tech Canada Inc. (Tetra Tech) is pleased to submit this report to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (BIM) regarding the assessment of permafrost conditions along the Milne Inlet “Tote Road” and associated borrow sources. This work is a follow up to a site visit in 2009 and report by EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. (EBA 2009) and a second site visit and report in 2014 (Tetra Tech EBA 2015).

The Tote Road was redesigned for heavy hauling in 2013 and has been upgraded in many locations since the 2014 inspection.

This inspection/assessment involved visual assessment of the “Tote Road” and borrow sources to observe any changes since 2014.

### 1.1 Project Description

An access road was constructed to connect the Mary River Mine/Camp to tidewater at Milne Inlet on Baffin Island from August 2007 to October 2008. The original purpose of the road was to provide a route for trucks to haul a bulk sample of iron ore from the Mary River deposit to a port site at Milne Inlet, a distance of about 100 km. This road was only expected to have a limited life (perhaps less than two or three years). Initial construction plans were to use three permitted quarries and borrow sites, but the haul distances were considered impractical and construction materials were supplemented by numerous sources within the 30 m road alignment right-of-way (ROW). This resulted in over 90 borrow sources along the length of the road, of which 81 were documented and evaluated in 2009 (EBA 2009) and revisited again in 2014 (Tetra Tech EBA 2015).

The Tote Road roughly follows an overland cat-train access route established in the 1960s. The road design and construction are described in a comprehensive as-built report by Knight Piésold Consulting, entitled “Milne Inlet Tote Road Construction Summary,” dated February 5, 2009.

For the most part, the initial Tote Road embankment was constructed during the winter from natural granular materials that were scraped from within the active layer (seasonal freeze/thaw layer) in each of the borrow sources. The materials from below the active layer were typically too ice bonded to be able to be excavated during the winter.

BIM has continued upgrading some portions of the Tote Road since the 2014 site visit; this includes some realignment, grade improvements, cuts, widening, and repairs.

The first production loads of iron ore were being transported to the Milne Port at the time of the 2014 site inspection and ore is now being hauled at quantities of more than 5 million tonnes per year. The crushed ore is hauled in purpose-built B-train trucks, each capable of hauling a total of 150 tonnes of ore.

In September 2019, Tetra Tech undertook follow up work based on the 2009 and 2014 inspections, targeting and identifying changes from the previous inspection and the ongoing upgrading of the road. This included:

1. Inspection of the majority of borrow areas, noting changes from the 2009 and 2014 inspections;
2. Commenting on the applicability of previously developed reclamation objectives and criteria;
3. Development of a conceptual work plan for each borrow/quarry site as required;
4. Inspection of the Tote Road to evaluate areas of instability or potential instability; and

5. Preparation of a report (this report) that documents the above.

This report follows the precedent established by the 2009 work and continued in the 2014 report, grouping the borrow sources into priority areas. Corrective actions are recommended for the various borrow sources.

Figures 1 to 13 show the Tote Road alignment, the various borrow pits, and generally our best approximation of the locations where the road has been realigned based on this year's reconnaissance photos and the 2018 satellite imagery that was provided. To be consistent with the 2009 and 2014 reports, the centre line chainage remains the same on these figures (may not always agree with KM post markers).

## 1.2 QIA, NIRB, and CIRNAC Concerns

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BIM provided Tetra Tech with a list of areas along the Tote Road that had been identified by the Qikiqitani Inuit Association (QIA), Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) as being of concern to them in 2019. Several of these locations had also been identified by Tetra Tech as areas of concern in both 2009 and 2014. Examination of these identified areas of concern were therefore also a focus of the site inspection in 2019. The areas of concern identified by the above groups were as follows:

### QIA Concerns

- Tote Road KM 89.8, 49.9, 49, 29.4, 21.9, and 7.2 – Water accumulation in historic borrow areas along the road are possibly impacting the long-term stability of the road.
- Tote Road KM 7.2 – Borrow source has fill placed. The grade of the road appears to be near the original ground with water ponding encroaching on the road, possibly due to degradation of permafrost.
- Tote Road KM 52.2 – It appears that the road was raised at this location but the reason for raising the road was not able to be confirmed with the maintenance department.
- Tote Road KM 92 – Stranded turbid water observed upstream of the road.
- Tote Road KM 73 – Observed cracking on both sides of the road possibly, due to permafrost degradation.
- Tote Road KM 72.3 – Borrow sources on both sides of the road. On the uphill side, the borrow source appears to be the source of sediment transport through the culvert to the downhill side of the road.
- Tote Road KM 33 – Sinkhole developed, likely due to culvert failure.

### NIRB Concerns

- Tote Road KM 29 to 32 – Noticed areas with slope stability issues.

### CIRNAC Concerns

- Tote Road Bridges – Sediment noticed below the bridges. The abutments of the bridges at KM 80 and 97 appear to have shifted.

These areas were inspected while on site in 2019 and are discussed in Sections 2.0 and 4.0 and in Table 1 and observations at the bridges are discussed in Section 5.0. The QIA concerns are highlighted in green on Table 1 and the NIRB concerns in light blue.

## 1.3 2019 Reconnaissance

The field assessment of the Tote Road and borrow sources was carried out by Kevin Jones, P.Eng., from September 5 to 9, 2019. Kevin worked under the direction of Connor Devereaux, Environmental Superintendent for BIM. Kevin was accompanied/escorted by Trevor Murphy of BIM during the field inspection. The field work involved both truck based, and helicopter supported reconnaissance of the road and borrow pits.

Borrow site reclamation requires sources of suitable construction material. The proposed railway between the mine and the port is often close to the Tote Road. Due to grade restrictions on the rail, there are many locations where cuts must/will be made. BIM would like to consider using some of the cut material for borrow site reclamation. Therefore, while on site, Kevin also visually assessed terrain and overburden soil conditions along the railway alignment. Coupling the visual assessment with information from the geotechnical investigations previously carried out, together with examination of the available satellite imagery allows the suitability of excavated materials to be assessed. A separate report provides the results of this assessment.

Although not related to the Tote Road or associated borrow sites, Kevin also undertook a visual assessment of the existing Mary River airstrip to assist in confirming the suitability of the surface paving design prepared by Tetra Tech in 2018/19. Photos of the runway are included with this report and have been provided to the Tetra Tech airports group for their review.

## 2.0 SITE CONDITIONS

### 2.1 Permafrost

The Mary River Mine is located in North Central Baffin Island. The closest community is Pond Inlet, on the coast about 150 km north of the mine. The normal mean annual air temperature reported for Pond Inlet is  $-14.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  (1981–2010 Canadian Climate Normals). The cold climate sustains continuous permafrost throughout Northern Baffin Island with ground temperatures anticipated to be  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  along the route. For the most part, the Tote Road routing follows glacial valleys that have been infilled with granular material that varies in texture from silty sand to sandy gravel with cobbles and some boulders. Most of the deposits are either post-glacial river terraces or proglacial lacustrine basins. The lake basin segments are table-top flat with finer grained silt and fine sand prevalent. The terrace-like features are poorly sorted (dirty) gravels. The active layer is expected to be thin in the lake sediments (less than 0.5 m) whereas the higher, well-drained terraces probably support an active layer of 1.5 m or more.

Ground ice occurs throughout the region in the upper permafrost soils as predominantly:

- Wedge ice (vertical crevasses of ice);
- Segregated ice (horizontal lenses); or
- Massive ice (tabular bodies).

The wedge ice is the most striking feature in the region of naturally well-drained granular uplands. These show up in aerial oblique photos, such as Photo 1 as polygonal patterned ground comprising a series of orthogonal cracks that are the surface expression of ice wedges that occur to depths up to 3 m or more into the permafrost.

Wedge ice that is exposed at the surface within the borrow pits after the ice-poor active layer soils were removed begins to thaw from the top down, resulting in a linear depression such as shown in Photo 2. The thaw-depression

will typically trap water that sometimes becomes mobile, running along the top of the ice. These features often extend under the road embankment. The thaw initiating within the adjacent pit can feed water into the ice wedge under the side slope of the road embankment resulting in thermal erosion that frequently leaves a transverse void below the side slope. When this happens in a road that is in service, the expanding void can precipitate a failure of the slope of the embankment and occasionally a failure under the travelling surface as well. This is a safety concern for operations over the road in these types of areas. This mechanism of wedge ice thaw, feeding water into cavities that extend under the road is the cause of a large number of significant settlements on side slopes, shoulders, and under the travelling surface of the road observed during the route reconnaissance such as the site shown in Photo 3.

Segregated ice occurs as thin lenses in all the finer grained silty soils. It is most prominent in soils of glaciolacustrine origin. The ground ice distribution is erratic, but it is commonly found with greater concentrations in naturally wet basins. When these soils are exposed within the pit bottom, the consequences are sinkhole depressions that soon become water-filled, interrupting any natural surface drainage. An example of a pit floor affected by melt out of segregated ice is shown in Photo 4.

In 2009, massive ice was identified at only one location (KM 62.7). Massive ice is generally large tabular bodies of ground ice. They have been attributed to either regions of groundwater discharge or buried ancient glacial ice. Observations of the deposit at KM 61.7 in 2014 indicated that there was also probably lots of massive ice in this deposit. Extensive settlement has occurred in this deposit due to thaw resulting from removal of the material in the active layer in this deposit since 2009 as shown in Photos 5 and 5A from 2009 and 2019, respectively.

Examination of the thaw settlements throughout the route in 2014 and 2019 indicate that in addition to ice wedge melt out, there is ongoing settlement resulting from thaw of massive ice bodies in many of the other borrow sources as well.

## 2.2 Borrow Site Summary and Grouping

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The 2009 work was carried out to guide possible progressive reclamation activities for the numerous borrow pits. Minor reclamation has been conducted to date, but many remain untouched. Ongoing road upgrades include: minor changes to the alignment, minimizing grades, and increasing embankment widths to improve safety and compliance with applicable Mine Safety Regulations. Cut and fill construction methodologies have been used to source and obtain materials adjacent to the road alignments to support this work. In most locations, the current condition of some of the pits can be directly compared to the conditions observed in 2009 and 2014. A summary of the 2009 and 2014 conditions noted at each of the sites examined is included in Table 1 as are the observations from the 2019 inspection. The sites have been grouped into four broad categories that reflect the reclamation criteria and stability of the road embankment as follows:

- Priority A+ and A++++ pits (12%) – The 2014 and 2019 evaluation added another level of Priority (A+) to the ranking system used in 2009 to break out areas where there is the potential for failure of the road embankment posing risk to vehicle and operator safety, given the increased level of road utilization. Areas with this type of potential failure were a particular focus of the 2019 evaluation where thaw settlement initiated by pit excavation is actively affecting the road integrity, and there is a higher risk of failure.
- Priority A pits (5%) – Areas are those where active ground ice thaw is affecting both the borrow source and the adjacent road. These constitute a potential safety hazard for continued use of the road.
- Priority B pits (22%) – Where active thaw settlement and water accumulation is ongoing in unstable terrain within an abandoned pit, those where active thaw and sinkhole formation is ongoing. These are not currently affecting the road but are trapping surface runoff which exacerbates thaw; and leads to settlement.

- Priority C pits (64%) – Are those where the terrain has been judged to be relatively stable. They will require some site grading and surface dressing to improve site aesthetics and ensure long-term stability, but the timing is not as significant.

There are quite a few sites that are not on the list. They are generally small, shallow depressions where limited material was removed. They can be considered as Priority C

The locations where QIA or NIRB concerns were raised are also indicated and discussed in Table 1.

In comparison with the 2009 evaluation it can be noted that there has been an increase in the percentage of Priority A and A+ sites since 2009 from 9% to 17% by 2019. Priority A+ sites have increased from 5% to 12% between 2014 and 2019. There has been some reclamation in some of the pits and further material removed from others. In a few locations the priority has been downgraded because the pits seem to have self-stabilized or realignment has moved the road away from areas previously identified as being a safety concern.

A detailed photographic record from the Tote Road reconnaissance was prepared and is provided with this report. The photo locations are shown by photo number on the route maps in the Figures Section.

## 3.0 BORROW PIT RECLAMATION METHODS

Table 1 includes a brief comment for each site on where the borrow pit reclamation focus should be and is followed by more detailed comments on suggested processes to follow. The table repeats the comments and suggested improvements presented in 2009 and 2014 and adds information and recommendations from the 2019 inspection. In some cases, realignment and widening of the road has removed some of the areas with stability concerns. In many of the locations, recommendations provided in 2014 are still appropriate. As noted in the 2009 and 2014 reports, the reclamation process should be structured around the basic principles of:

- Restoring stability to actively thawing ground ice by replacing some of the cover material removed during excavation;
- Developing drainage that will limit standing water that can exacerbate thaw within the pit;
- Caring for natural runoff from the pits in a manner that will reduce the risk of erosion and sedimentation over undisturbed tundra; and
- Improving site topography to encourage natural revegetation and enhance site aesthetics.

The sites identified as Priority C are the least sensitive and could generally be reclaimed by site grading and dressing of the slopes. A typical Priority C site is shown in Photo 6. The Priority A and B sites are judged as not currently stable and therefore will require attention directed to the ongoing thaw of permafrost and surface water management. The following discussion provides guidance for planning reclamation that will address these objectives. The Priority A++++ sites warrant immediate attention because there is a potential for failure of the road surface which is particularly worrisome given the significant increase in haul traffic that is now using the road.

### 3.1 Restoring Surface Stability

The Priority A+ and A pits are experiencing ground ice melt out that is affecting the adjacent road embankment. Past experience in other locations has shown that the consequences can be a serious safety hazard. It is recommended that the road embankment be upgraded at these sites on a first priority basis, with the A+ and A++++ sites being the highest priority. The upgrading will require strategic placement of granular cover over the thawing

soil with the ultimate purpose of drawing the permafrost back up into the fill. The steps for reclamation should include the following:

- Construction of side berms a minimum of 3 m wide on the road shoulders where active cracking and settlement is observed. The berms should be a minimum of 1.5 m thick and also to an elevation above that where there is the possibility of being overtopped by ponded water in the future. It is also preferable for them to be at an elevation of 1 m to 1.5 m below the final top of road fill at the location.
- Add material to raise the embankment height. Suggested final fill height increases at the various sites is included in Table 1. The height increase should be to achieve a minimum embankment height of 1 m, and in some cases, 1.5 m to 2 m is suggested.
- Improve drainage such that water does not pond at the toe of the embankment. In some cases, this may require filling sinkholes and ice wedge melt out features with imported gravel.

An alternative to berm construction for sites where the thaw has not yet progressed under the road embankment but is affecting the side slopes is to widen the grade and flatten the side slopes. The current road shoulder should be widened 0.5 m to 1 m and the slope flattened to 3H:1V. Table 1 provides guidance on those sites where slope flattening is an option. They include many of the Priority B sites. Where slope flattening is applied, consideration should be given to the extent that water can continue to pond at the toe of the slope. One of the primary benefits to be gained from slope flattening is to push any ponded water further from the embankment slope.

Some Priority A and B sites have developed substantial sinkholes within their pit bottoms. Where these have been observed, regrading the surface to fill the sinkholes has been recommended. In some cases, this may require importing fill from another nearby site that is still active and can confidently produce material without exposing new wedge ice. Those sites are identified in Table 1. As an alternative, there may be the potential to source suitable materials from cut sections along the proposed railway as noted in Section 1.3.

Further discussion of road instability locations that present a significant safety hazard (A++++) are presented in Section 4.0.

## 3.2 Drainage Improvements and Erosion Protection

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Ponded water within the borrow pits retards winter freeze-back of the active layer and will result in retrogressive thickening of the active layer. Once this process starts, it is difficult to reverse. Shallow ponding (less than 0.5 m deep) that is short-lived following freshet is not a concern. Those ponds that are retained throughout the summer and continue to deepen with time will be counter-productive to the reclamation efforts.

Table 1 identifies several options for improving site drainage at specific pits. In most cases, there is an obvious routing for trapped surface water from the pit to a nearby stream or onto the tundra. Some pits are identified in the table where additional field work will be required to determine the drainage improvement options for those sites. This will probably involve site surveys to establish the natural topographic grades or if there are options that involve minor ditching.

Substantial ditch excavation into undisturbed active layer soils should be avoided wherever practical. Where new ditching is the only practical option, care should be taken to determine the nature of soils and ground ice that will remain exposed following excavation.

In cases where surface water will be directed to undisturbed tundra, it must be dissipated rather than channelled to avoid local erosion. Dissipation can be achieved by strategic use of cobbles and boulders to dissipate energy just before the water exits the pit area.

### 3.3 Surface Grading

All the pits will require surface grading that will range from filling sinkholes in the Priority A and B pits to simply dressing the current surface in most Priority C pits. Obvious ridges that can impede surface drainage should be removed and final surface contour developed to ensure drainage. The surface should not be left completely smooth. It is common practice at the end of surface grading to track the surface with tractor grouser bar ruts. These will trap fines and dissipate energy from runoff. The shallow grooves left in this manner will also improve the possibility for long-term natural revegetation by providing seed traps.

The backslopes in most pits are remarkably stable. Those steep slopes greater than 2 m in height should be graded to a final slope of 3H:1V. It is preferable to flatten the slopes by mounding new fill at the toe rather than cutting further into undisturbed tundra. The steeper pit slopes observed were generally of a height less than 2 m and were not visibly active. These shallow cut slopes that are currently stable are better left to seek their own long-term condition rather than risk further disturbance to the underlying permafrost.

## 4.0 TOTE ROAD SAFETY HAZARDS

As noted in Section 2.2, some of the borrow pits are adversely affecting the stability of the road due to thaw of ice-rich materials immediately at the edge of the road or toe of the road embankment. In many cases the road surface is unstable, and settlements are extending under the road, indicating thaw of ice-rich soils. In other locations, thaw in the adjacent borrow pit has led to embankment side slopes at the natural angle of repose with deep holes of up to 5 m or 6 m immediately at the edge of the embankment. Cracking and slumping of the side slopes is occurring in many of these locations.

Roads in other Arctic locations have sometimes displayed sudden collapse of the road surface when vehicles pass over an area where the road structure has bridged over a void resulting from thaw of an ice body. This type of failure has led to vehicle crashes and in some instances operator fatality. In other locations, loss of support for the toe of the embankment has led to near instantaneous collapse of the road slope sometimes significantly reducing the width of the travelling surface. As an example, Photo 7 shows a failure that occurred overnight on the runway at the Inuvik (NT) airport. The airport had operated for several decades without significant issue, investigation of the cause of failure determined that a large ice wedge had thawed below the runway embankment, but the embankment material bridged the created void and then collapsed very rapidly. It was determined that the ice wedge had first started to thaw due to water ponded at the toe of embankment. This type of failure is similar to the concerns being raised for the Tote Road embankment that have thawing ice in the borrow pits immediately adjacent to the road.

The areas where more significant safety hazards are felt to exist on the Tote Road are identified in Table 1 as Priority A++++. Specific locations are discussed in the following:

1. KM 7.2 (pit 83A) – See Photos 8 and 9. Considerable water is trapped in the ponds created due to thaw of massive and wedge ice. Embankment is unstable, and water appears to be quite deep on the right side. Water should be removed as much as possible and pit backfilled with material to retard thaw and provide stability to the road.
2. KM 7.9 (pit 83) – See Photo 10. Ponded water is causing thaw and cracking of the embankment side slopes. Ponded water could lead to thaw under the embankment. Water should be removed, and pit backfilled to enhance permafrost aggradation that will provide stability to the road. Care will be needed to provide protection against erosion.

3. KM 19.8 (pit 72) – See Photos 11 and 12. Thaw of very ice-rich ground continues in this pit. Side slopes are too steep, and the shoulder and side slopes show signs of instability. To guard against catastrophic failure, this pit should be backfilled or at a minimum a 2.0 m or so high berm should be placed along the toe of the steep slopes to provide stability and push ponded water away from the toe of the slope.
4. KM 20.7 (pit 71) – See Photos 13 and 14. Continued thaw of wedge ice is increasing settlement depth and there continues to be evidence that the ice wedge ground that the road is constructed on is thawing. This pit should be backfilled, and the surface regraded to cause the permafrost to aggrade and thereby stabilize the embankment side slopes and hopefully arrest thaw of the wedges below the embankment.
5. KM 21.9 (pit 68) – See Photo 15. Thaw of ice-rich ground leading to deep ponding, an over-steepened side slope, and embankment instability. Pit should be backfilled and drainage away from the road re-established to enhance stability and retard further thaw.
6. KM 29.1 (pit 61B) – See Photos 16 and 17. Thaw continues in this pit leading to steep side slopes and instability. The central portion of the pit had been backfilled since 2014 and this has significantly improved stability. The north and south ends of the pit should be similarly backfilled to improve stability and retard further thaw along the pit.
7. KM 56.7 to 56.9 (pits 32 and 33) – See Photos 18, 19, and 20. The new road alignment runs through the old pit which had experienced extensive melt out of ice-rich permafrost. The old embankment is now failing quite significantly. Water is ponding on both sides of the new road bringing concern of instability as further thaw is expected. Drainage from the pond on the left of the embankment passes through the new embankment through a culvert into the area between the new and the old road, from there it flows towards the lake (see Photo 20). With no maintenance on the old road there is concern for the continued performance of the culvert on the old road. If it was to fail or become blocked, water levels beside the new road would rise significantly perhaps leading to more thaw along the new road. Two remedial measures are therefore suggested. Provide wider berms along the full length of both sides of the new road (like those shown in Photo 18) or backfill the old pit in its entirety. Also, remove the culvert on the old road and breach the road so continued reliance on the old culvert is not required.
8. KM 63.0 to 63.8 (pits 28 and 29) – See Photos 21, 22, and 23. Thaw settlement continues in all the pits along this portion of the realigned Tote Road. There is evidence of instability of the embankment where there is settlement on the pits due to thaw of very ice-rich (probably massive ice) in the pits. To improve stability the side slopes should be flattened to at least 3H:1V or flatter if possible, to improve stability and reduce the potential for thaw under the shoulder of the road.
9. KM 72.4 (pit 22) – See Photos 24 (2014 photo), 25, and 26 (2555, 2653). Discussion with one of BIM's road maintenance superintendents while inspecting this site indicated that there had been a significant rapid failure on the east side of the road with approximately half of the road settling into the ponded water in the old borrow pit. These pits should be remediated as soon as possible. This should involve backfill placement to above the original ground level following removal of as much of the water from the ponds as possible. The potential drainage locations from the pits should be graded appropriately to reduce water velocities, and water not channelized as much as possible (may need to armour the slope below the pits and incorporate check dams as required).
10. KM 89.8 (pit 14) – See Photos 27 and 28. This is a very deep pond resulting from thaw of a massive ice body initiated because the protective active layer material was removed. Thaw is continuing and appears to be occurring under the side slopes of the road which are very steep and unstable. This pit should have the water removed and then it should be backfilled at least up to the elevation of the original ground. If sufficient material

is not available to do this, 5 m wide berms should immediately be constructed along the along the toe of the slope to an elevation 1 m below the top of the embankment. This will hopefully start to arrest the thaw and provide additional stability to the road embankment.

With the now much higher traffic volumes and much heavier loaded vehicles on this road, it is strongly recommended that the identified areas of observed significant instability on the Tote Road be addressed as soon as possible to remove safety hazards.

Some additional safety hazards identified at other locations along the road include:

- There is a lack of safety berms in some locations. A specific note of this was made for the road near the KM 52 marker post where there is high steep slope off the lakeside edge of the road. The Mine Safety Act requires safety berms with a height at least equal to 3/4 of the tire height on the typical haul truck when the embankment height or drop from the road edge is over 3 m. Safety berms have been constructed in many but perhaps not all the required locations as of yet.
- The road often narrows at culvert locations because it has been significantly widened since initial construction, but in many locations the culverts have not been extended. Therefore, the travelling surface is quite narrow for the traffic and perhaps is not in accordance with Mine Safety Act requirements for Haul Roads at some of the culvert locations. In addition, the side slopes at the culvert locations are often over steepened and embankment stability is therefore compromised.
- The side slopes of the embankments are often close to the angle of repose of the material. Embankments would be more stable and the underlying permafrost soils supporting the side slope better protected against thaw if they were no steeper than 2.5H:1V.

## 5.0 OBSERVATIONS AT BRIDGES

CIRNAC had raised some concerns about two of the bridges on the Tote Road as noted in Section 1.2. Tetra Tech had also noted some deformation, primarily tilting of the bridge abutment bin walls during the 2014 inspection.

Although not a structural engineer, Kevin was asked to undertake a visual inspection of the bridge bin-wall abutment foundations while on site. The observations are summarized in the following:

- KM 17 Bridge – Photos 29 and 30 show the west and east bin wall foundations, respectively. The upper bins have tilted on both abutments.
- KM 63 Bridge – Photos 31 and 32 show the north and south bin wall foundations. Photo 33 shows the opposite side of the south abutment. The upper bins have tilted on both abutments.
- KM 80 Bridge – Photos 34 shows the south bin wall foundation. The upper bins have tilted on both abutments. Photo 35 shows significant amounts of road surfacing gravel that has fallen into the water though the centreline joint of the bridge deck. This was a concern raised by CIRNAC.
- KM 97 Bridge – Photo 36 shows the west bin wall foundation. The upper bin wall is not as tall as the other bridges and there is less tilting; however, the bottom chord of the bridge truss appears to be in contact with the lower bin wall. This perhaps indicates that there has been some settling of the precast concrete footing supporting the bridge truss. There was evidence of road surfacing gravel in the water below the centreline of this bridge as well.

As can be seen in the photos, the upper bin in all foundations have rotated inwards towards the end of the bridge trusses. This is postulated to be because the lateral load from the retained backfill and road embankment on the

upper bin is larger than can be resisted by the bin wall side plate which supports the upper bin's corner post. This leads to buckling in the upper side plate in the lower bin as is clearly shown in Photo 33. Tetra Tech is surprised with the design of the bin walls and would have expected a stiffener in the upper bin wall side plate. This would have stiffened the side plate enough to be able to resist the lateral load being transferred downward by the corner post of the upper bin wall onto the side plate of the lower bin wall. Alternatively, a corner post on the upper bin wall that extended down into the bottom bin wall would have eliminated the issue.

Unfortunately, Tetra Tech cannot suggest a retrofit that would not require excavating the material from within the upper bin wall which of course would require temporary road closure. Tetra Tech would suggest seeking input from the bin wall supplier to see if they can suggest a structurally suitable remediation for these abutments.

It might be possible to lessen the amount of surfacing gravel falling through the centreline joint of the bridge decks by removing the surface gravel and then placing some sort of plate/timber over the joint, followed by replacement of the surface gravel. If considered, this should be discussed with the bridge supplier as it could impact bridge performance.

## 6.0 OBSERVATIONS AT OTHER LOCATIONS

While on site, Tetra Tech was asked to visually assess a few other locations not associated with the Tote Road or its associated borrow pits. These are discussed in the following sections.

### 6.1 Erosion and Instability near the Tote Road

Kevin met with Dominic Ritgen of BIM to examine some areas of concern located along the Tote Road near the Milne Inlet port. Two of the areas examined are discussed in the following:

- **KM 2.5** – Photo 37 shows that active layer soils are sliding downslope and have reached the edge of the road. Upslope on a small plateau is the source of the soils that have moved downslope towards the road. A small instability is visible above the plateau as seen on Photo 38. Further upslope is the large borrow pit (87). The north end of the pit is a very deep and it is clear that it has at times contained water levels near the original ground level. It is postulated that when the water levels were very high in pit 87 water may have been released through the active layer. The water would have flowed down onto the slope below perhaps initiating the small instability on the slope above the plateau and leading to thaw on the plateau and slope above the road. This caused the mud flow that has reached the edge of the road. To minimize the chance of continued mud flow it is recommended that the water level always be low in pit 87. To accomplish this, it is recommended that overburden from the quarries around the port be used to infill the north end of pit 87. BIM might also consider placing a blanket of coarse run of quarry material on the upper terrace to lessen the mobilization of the material from this area. If this does not solve the problem a stabilization approach similar to what was done much further south around KM 91, might have to be employed on the lower portion of the slope adjacent to the road at KM 2.5.
- **KM 4.0** – Photos 39 and 40 show erosion below the culvert under the road to the north of the terrace. Photo 41 shows where water is now primarily discharged through a new culvert onto the top of the plateau where it is ponding and leading to some thaw. Photo 42 shows where the water flowing to the south has caused some thermal degradation and erosion on the southern edge of the plateau. Directing some of the water to the south is a good idea but it is recommended that the top of the plateau where the water is ponding should be blanketed with a 30 cm to 50 cm thick layer of coarse granular material. The erosion area to the south should be reshaped/filled and then also blanketed with a similar thickness of coarse granular material. Key is placement of the material in a way that will not channelize flow, rather it should be a wide blanket that encourages sheet flow rather than channelized flow. The very large erosion area on the north side of the plateau will be difficult to remediate due to the steep slope. As a start, it is recommended that a large blanket of rip rap should be installed

below the culvert as far down the slope as possible. Again, the idea is to encourage sheet flow rather than having the channelized flow that now exists below the culvert. If possible, the erosion channel further downslope should be rip rapped and additional large check dams constructed to slow water velocity.

## 6.2 Natural Instability Locations

Natural failures often occur in permafrost terrain and with the levels of climate change occurring in much of the arctic recently the frequency of failures is increasing. Natural failures are often a result of either erosion caused by surface water flow or a deepening of the active layer due to higher than normal temperatures.

- Photo 43 is of a natural failure just east of KM 71 on the Tote Road. This failure appears to be simply the result of thermal erosion in a small draw leading to thaw and erosion of the active layer and underlying permafrost soils.
- Photos 44, 45, and 46 are from a location roughly 16 km east northeast of the mine near the headwaters of the Mary River. Apparently earlier this summer a large sediment load was seen in the Mary River near the mine. The source of the sediments was determined to be the natural failures located at 71° 22' 40.12"N, 78° 53' 49.65"W. These are a relatively common type of natural failure that occur in permafrost terrain known as active layer detachment slides. Discussion with environment personnel indicated that 2019 had been the warmest summer on record since the mine was opened. Active layer detachment slides often happen when warmer than normal summer temperatures occur. This causes thaw to progress deeper than typical, leading to thaw into previously what were permafrost soils (a deepening of the active layer). If the permafrost at the bottom of the active layer is ice-rich it will lose strength and the thawed soils within the active layer will slide on the underlying frozen material, even on very flat slopes. This is the case at these natural failures. After failing, the thawed active layer moved downslope until reaching the creek and then sediments washed down the Mary River.
- Photo 47 is from 2014 and Photo 48 is from the same location in 2019, east of the railway along the deviation to the south of the Tote Road. The location of this natural failure is 71°23'57.07"N, 80°11'57.75"W. This failure has occurred in a deposit of glacial fluvial sand and gravel overlying a large body of massive ice (see Photo 48). The initial trigger for the failure is postulated to be due to surface water erosion at the toe of the plateau that exposed the massive ice body leading to thaw and collapse. From 2014 to 2019 the thaw and collapse has expanded significantly. This type of terrain and the surface expression is a great indicator of the presence of massive ice in this area.

## 6.3 Slope Instability and Erosion along the Haul Road from the Open Pit

Photos 49, 50, and 51 show several large erosion channels that have formed downslope of the main haul road from the open pit. The erosion has been the source of considerable amounts of sediment into the creek below the road that flows directly into the Mary River. The flowing water and erosion has caused permafrost thaw which reduces the soils strength making them considerably more prone to erosion. Most of the channels start immediately below the outlets of culverts on the road. Prior to construction of the road the flow on this slope would have been mostly sheet flow with most of the water flowing through the active layer soils and therefore the slope was not prone to erosion. Concentrated flow from the culverts now channelizes the flow causing both thermal and mechanical erosion.

Remediation of these erosion channels is a considerable challenge because:

- The slope is very steep;
- The drop from the edge of the road is significant;

- The natural permafrost soils are ice-rich;
- The very thin vegetation mat overlying the soil is easily disturbed; and
- Access to the slope is limited.

As a start it is suggested that, if possible, a blanket of rip rap be installed below the culvert outlets. The blanket should be designed to encourage sheet flow rather than the concentrated flow now occurring. It might be possible to direct more of the flow along the upslope side of the haul road, but this has a high probability of impacting road foundation stability because it may degrade the underlying permafrost.

To be able to develop appropriate remediation methods it will be necessary to carefully investigate permafrost conditions on the slope and along the haul road and to have an accurate topographic survey carried out for the slope. Further recommendations for remediation are beyond the scope of this project.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The focus of this project has been to compare the state of the previously existing borrow pits used in the construction of the Tote Road with the conditions observed today, roughly five years later. The 2009 evaluation identified general guidelines for developing a practical and acceptable plan for reclamation of the borrow pits. The 2009, 2014, and 2019 site observations have established that there are clear links between some borrow pit locations adjacent to the road and thaw settlement observed on the road embankment as well as leading to risk of collapse of the road itself in several locations.

Although not a problem at all locations examined, sourcing material from areas by means of roadside borrows immediately next to the road embankment can be problematic. Consideration should be given where practical to leave an untouched “buffer” zone between the edge of the road and borrow pits. This would eliminate the potential for thaw induced settlements impacting the stability of the road surface. Also, visual examination of permafrost terrain features evident on the surface of a borrow prospect can identify in advance, those deposits that may be potentially prone to thaw settlements and instability if disturbed.

The photo library and documentation in this report and the 2009 and 2014 reports have provided a basis for monitoring changes and adapting the reclamation process in a step-wise manner. The Priority A+ and A pits should be addressed first with attention to the Priority A++++ pits, immediately. Where new gravel cover is necessary for protection of the permafrost, care must be taken to ensure it is harvested at a location that does not contribute to further degradation of the permafrost.

## 8.0 CLOSURE

We trust this report meets your present requirements. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tetra Tech Canada Inc.

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## TABLES

Table 1      Summary of Pit Observations and Closure Reclamation

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PIT OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Site WP No.	Km Post	General Location Comments	Pit Water 2009	Erosion Potential	Ground Ice Features	Active Layer Stability	2009 DWH			2009 Comments	Priority	2014 KWJ			2019 KWJ	2019 Comments	
							Reclamation Focus	Priority				2014 Comments	Priority	Ground Photos			Aerial Oblique Photos
8	98.3	Off ROW permitted	Minor ponding	Low	Abundant wedge ice	Fair	Drainage improvements		C	This pit is within off ROW permitted and should be regraded and closed with future material taken from Area 11.	C	No change	C		2547	No change	
9	97.9	Off ROW permitted	Minor ponding	Low	Extensive wedge ice	Fair	Regrading surface and slope		B	This pit within permit area should be reclaimed. Pit and flatten south slope of road to limit further thaw of wedges and erosion. Improve drainage without further impact on natural tundra wedge ice lying to the south of disturbed area.	B	Some regrading has been carried out which has improved drainage and pit remains stable	B			No Change	
10	97.5	Off ROW permitted	Major ponding	Low	Massive ice	Unstable, extensive thaw occurring	Pump out ponds, berm road side slope on south side such that no water can pond at toe. Regrade pit bottom		B	Pit is still within quarry permit area but should be reclaimed soon. Extensive thaw settlement is occurring. Future materials should be taken from source 11.	B	Thaw settlement is continuing and pit should be reclaimed as noted in 2009.	B			Thaw settlement is continuing and pit should be reclaimed as noted in 2009 and 2014.	
11	97.3	Off ROW permitted	Major ponding	Low	Wedge ice	Moderately stable	Improve natural drainage and develop a plan for an ongoing pit at this location		C	This is currently the best source of gravel in the vicinity of Mary River Camp. It is permitted for development off the ROW, and the material is relatively well-graded alluvial gravel. This pit has ongoing value for the development. A pit development plan should be prepared that will allow efficient stockpiling of the material in a manner that deals with surface water and thaw generated water. The plan should include site reclamation.	B	Separate memo issued by Tetra Tech to comment on the Hatch 2013 reclamation plan for this pit. In general there has been a considerable amount of thaw and associated settlement since 2009. Plan calls for regrading, filling low areas and making provision for draining collected pit water.	B	2729 to 2744	2598, 2599, 2600	The north end of the borrow pit was being backfilled and graded while on site. The regrading activities are being carried out appropriately. The majority of the pit is unchanged since the 2014 inspection. The outflow location into the lake to the south (photos 2735 & 2536) indicate that there has been no outflow in this direction since the 2014 inspection. Water is now directed to the south from the south end of the pit and simply flows out onto flat marshy tundra thereby reducing the potential for erosion.	
KM 97 BRIDGE																	
11A	96.5										C	Active borrow pit on left side, some evidence of thaw subsidence, will require regrading.	C		2719	2548	No change
11AA	96.4												C				Stable pit
11B	93.8										C	Reclaimed borrow area that has recently been used as a source of material, pit/quarry is in very stable condition, no further work required.	C				No Change
12	93.2		Runoff impounded	Severe	Unknown	Unknown	Culvert needed		A	The road crosses a natural valley at this site, and water is trapped against the upstream road embankment. The pond must be drained by culvert installation to prevent thaw and collapse of the embankment and risk of significant downstream erosion. The disturbance from scavenging active layer material on ROW is minor at this site.	B	Water continues to pond at this location but is now released through a culvert. Water is quite turbid in the pond. The road has been regraded and widened at this location and now appears to be stable	B				Water continues to be turbid but road is stable
13	92.7		Runoff impounded	Moderate	Unknown	Unknown	Culvert replacement/repairs needed		A	This site has a drainage interruption issue that needs attention. Not a soil borrow site.	C	The drainage issue has been addressed at this location with the installation of a culvert that is operable.	C				No Change
	92.0																2654
13A	91.0										C	Realignement to improve grade. It appears that material has been obtained from roadside pits both north and south of this location. So far these pits appear to be stable.	C				26A "Turbid water was noted in several small ponds along the left side of the road. Discussion with the environment department indicated that they had inspected the small drainages that lead down to the road and did not see any erosion at all. The reason for the turbid water has not been able to be determined. It suggests analysis of the water to see if the colour is a result of a chemical/mineral (natural iron?) impact or is the turbidity a result of sediment in the water. If sediment is determined to be the cause of the water colour it would be most feasible to connect the several small ponds together with a ditch and then discharge it through a culvert to the downhill side of the road into a settling basin before it flows into the nearby lake.
14	89.8		Substantial	Moderate	Unknown	Unstable	Pit directly adjacent to south toe of road embankment. Ponding threatens to undermine road		B	The active layer was pushed up to form the embankment at this site. Substantial ponding is present in disturbed area. Site needs to be regraded and drainage established to the south where a new culvert can be installed that will lead to a natural drainage course.	A	Thaw settlement and ponding is continuing to worsen and pit reclamation should be considered very soon to avoid potential road embankment instability.	A++	2655, 2656	2597		26A "Noted road stability issues. Instability is very evident, water is very deep and the embankment side slope on the right side of the road is very steep and shows cracking on the shoulder and side slope. Stabilization should be undertaken as soon as possible (see Section 4.0)
	89.3										A	Realignement of road with a cut on the west side of road exposed massive ground ice in the ditch, extensive thaw settlement is expected unless this exposed ice is covered by 1.5 m or more of fill to re-establish an active layer.	A				
	89.0										B	Realignement of road is in a cut section, cut has exposed frozen soils in the west side ditch, with the removal of the active layer it is expected that thaw settlement will occur perhaps leading to loss of support for the toe of the embankment.	B				
15	87.8		Moderate	Moderate	Substantial segregated ice throughout silty material	Unstable	Improve drainage along the south embankment side slope convey ponded water to the existing culverts		B	Material exposed at this site is predominantly silt. Thaw-subside will continue. The strategy for reclamation must be to improve drainage using existing culverts and continue to grade the surface until the active layer stabilizes. Keep ponded water from accumulating against the toe of the embankment. The exposed silt at this site is very mobile, thus, erosion protection measures may be required when improving site grading.	B	Thaw subsidence has continued, road has been recent regraded and raised but water is still ponding at the toes of the very steep side slopes of the embankment at this location. There is concern for embankment stability and the side slopes should be flattened to enhance stability	B				
	87.0										C	Not a borrow pit but water is being impounded on the upslope side of the embankment and appears to be leading to some thaw settlement. A culvert should be installed at this location to remove the ponding issue.	C				Drainage has been improved
15A	86.5										C	Material was actively being removed from this location, it is a silty sandy gravel material and there is potential for sediments to be released from this pit which is simply cut into the hillside beside the road. Pit should be monitored to evaluate thaw and sediment generation.	C				Ponding is now noted, no change in recommendations from 2014
16	86.2		Moderate	Severe	Minor	Stable	Long-term drainage improvements		B	This is a deep pit pond that has established on the south side of the road. Silt in this area are controlled by a weak carbonate sandstone that readily decomposes into fine uniform sand. The pond is currently functioning as an effective sedimentation pond. Water is clear and the pond seems to be stable in a region of minor thaw-subside. It is recommended that the pond remain and that a new and higher culvert be placed through the road to allow the surface water to drain into the creek and subsequently the lake. The road embankment should be raised a minimum of 1.5 m at this location to protect the permafrost and provide cover for the new culvert.	B	Recommendations for raising the road embankment should be followed but in general the area displays little change since 2009.	B				
16A	84.8											Photo of stable road	C				2550
	84.3											New pit on right, appears very stable	C				2550
16B	82.3											New pit on left appears very stable	C				
	80.1											Photo of stable road	C				
16C	80.0											Assumed new pit near south abutment of new bridge. Materials assumed to have been used for bridge approach fill construction, pit appears stable, requiring no reclamation effort.	C				No change from 2014
KM 80 BRIDGE																	
	78.3											New bridge			2715, 2716, 2717, 2719		Surfacing gravel in the river below centreline of the bridge
	77.6											Stable road embankment and multi culvert installation					
	77.2											Photo of stable road					2552
17	75.0		Not practical	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Surface dressing and erosion protection		C	This is a long section where the active layer soils have been pushed up from both sides to form the embankment. North (left) side is dry and stable – surface dressing only required. The south (right) side has a deep pond (Photo 681). The surrounding terrain is flat thus little opportunity for natural drainage. The ponds are not affecting the embankment, and ground ice seems minimal. The ponds can be left following site grading with some armour placed on the adjacent side slope to prevent erosion and dusting.	C	Pond on south side of the road looks the same as it did in 2009. Overall there is very little change in the borrow pit.	C				No change from 2014

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PIT OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Site WP No. 2009	Km Post	General Location Comments	Pit Water 2009	Erosion Potential	Ground Ice Features	Active Layer Stability	2009 DWH			2009 Comments	Priority	2014 KWJ			2019 KWJ		
							Reclamation Focus	Priority				2014 Comments	Priority	Ground Photos	Aerial Oblique Photos	2019 Comments	
18	74.7			High	Not apparent	Stable	Protect outlet at north end from erosion			Sandy active layer soils have been removed on ROW for embankment construction. Minor thaw subsidence or ponding within pit floor. Outlet for water at north end flows downhill into a creek. Substantial risk of erosion on that sandy slope during freshet. Recommend armouring the outlet with coarse materials and cross berm for erosion protection. Dress pit floor.	B	C				No change from 2014	
19	75.8		Uncertain	Moderate	Substantial wedge ice	Unstable	Protection of road side slope			Top of hill, small quarry in rock. Could be a source of materials for road repair and dressing or filling sink holes in nearby pits. Can be easily reclaimed by surface grading.	B	C				No change from 2014	
20	73.4		No	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress pit floor	C		Small active layer pit. Dry and stable. Dress the surface.	C	C	No change	C			
21	73.1		No	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Potential future use	C		Top of hill, small quarry in rock. Could be a source of materials for road repair and dressing or filling sink holes in nearby pits. Can be easily reclaimed by surface grading.	C	C	No change	C			
22	72.4		Drain and fill all ponds within 3 m of the toe of embankment	Moderate	Wedge ice possibly massive ice	Active sinkhole formation	Road embankment safety		A	The pit on the north (left) side has become a large sink hole that is actively undermining the side slope and crest of the embankment. Wedge ice appears to extend under the road, and there is a potential for water to flow through any wedge cavities. Active cracking is occurring well into the driving lane. This is a priority site for repairs. Substantial risk of a road surface collapse exists. The sinkhole pond should be either drained or pumped and the road grade raised. A berm 3 m wide should be constructed in areas of active embankment sloughing. The site should be frequently observed when the road is used for haul traffic.	A	A++++		A++++	2653	2555	QIA noted issues at KM 72.3 and the uphill (left) borrow pit appears to be a source of sediment. Continued settlement and slope instability, and road maintenance noted that the left side of the road collapsed into the pond on left side earlier this year. Further work is needed as soon as possible to curtail further thawing and potential road collapse (see Section 4.0 for suggested repair). Filling in the pits will lessen the potential for sediment release if some check dams and armouring (rip rap) is also applied to the left of the road below the borrow pit.
23	71.8		Regrade and fill	Low	Severe, distributed	Sinkholes active in pit floor	Regrade and fill		B	This site has active sinkholes below surrounding terrain. Some water trapped. May require imported fill from other sources to regrade the pit floor.	B	C	No change	B			No change from 2014
24	69.8 68.5	Communication Tower		Low	Not apparent	Stable	Flatten embankment slope by filling out into pond displacing water	C		Small water-filled potholes left following material excavation. No obvious natural drainage potential. Complete reclamation would require infilling. Nearby material sources are not obvious.	C	C	No change	C		2656	No change from 2014
24A	66.4		Clean ditch along toe of slope	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade surface	C		Coloured soils scavenged from hillside above road for embankment. Site is stable.	C	C	No change	C			No change
25	66.0		Active Pit	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade surface	C		The pit remains active with night excavation within ROW will probably initiate ponding. Should material continue to be removed, a pit development and reclamation plan should be prepared.	C	C	No change	C			No change from 2014
26	65.2		Poorly drained	Low	Not apparent	Moderate	Fill and regrade	C		This is a small pothole filled with water. Site should be regraded and fill added to improve drainage.	C	C	No change	C			No change from 2014
27	64.7		Active Pit	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surface	C		Both sides of road. Naturally well-drained sandy gravel. No sinkholes. Grade surface at closure.	C	C	No change	C			No change from 2014
28	63.9			Severe	Massive ground once observed in pit. Wedge ice under road.	Unstable, extensive thaw	Rebuild road grade		A	Thaw depression on south side of road. Ice wedges are actively melting under road side slope. Cracks and depressions extend to the shoulder. To reduce risk of road collapse, the grade should be raised at least 1 m through this area and berms a minimum 3 m wide constructed on the south side slope. Final reclamation of this site will require further assessment of the best method for ensuring drainage from the sink hole without risking siltation of the creek valley immediately to the south.	A	A++++		A++++	2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664	2558, 2559, 2560, 2595, 2598	Extremely severe cracks have gotten worse. Recommendations from 2014 remain appropriate. See Section 4.0 in the report for additional details.
30	63.1		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade		C	River terrace. Active layer gravel removed over a large area. Site is dry and naturally well drained. Regrade surface for reclamation.	C	B		B			No change from 2014
30A	62.7 62.3									New alignment visible. Considerable material was recently removed from the active layer on the east side of the old alignment over a very large area. Ice wedge melt out was already being noted in this area. There is potential for some slope instability and sediment transport towards from this area. This should be monitored to see if some form of sediment capture system might be required downslope from the pit development area.	B	B		B			No change from 2014
KM 63 BRIDGE										New bridge, note some apparent movement in the on wall foundations for the new bridge.					2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712		
31	61.7	Midway Pit, Off ROW permitted	Minor ponding	Low	Wedge ice on south-facing slope	Stable	Regrade		C	The active layer has been stripped over a substantial surface area. Gravel is well graded and free draining. The site can potentially produce more gravel by progressive stripping as it thaws or by drill and blast. A pit development plan including reclamation planning should be developed if borrow material harvesting is continued at this location.	C	B		B		2593, 2594	Road has been realigned to the west to improve grade. It does not appear that the pit has been used since 2014 other than as a laydown area. Continued thaw of massive ice on the south side of the pit has increased settlement. With road realignment there is no longer concern of stability on the road.
32	56.9F		Moderate	High	Substantial wedge ice	Unstable	Improve site drainage		B	Pit excavated in ice-rich sandy gravel. Active thermokarst and ponding. Regrading to fill ponds required. Develop drainage to the east along north side of road. Construct a coarse boulder apron at outfall onto tundra.	B	A		A		2661	There has been significant road realignment at this location. Water is ponding along portions of the new road and cracking is noted on the shoulders and side slopes of the new road. The old road is now very unstable and side slopes are failing in many locations. Water must be pushed back from the edge by placing additional fill on the side slopes of the new road embankment to enhance stability. Of significant concern is the fact that the water currently ponding along the new road is only drained away by a culvert in the old road near the sharp corner. With no maintenance on the old road, it has concerns that the culvert will become inoperable/blocked and water levels in the pond will rise significantly leading to more thaw and further threaten stability on the new road. Suggest removal of the culvert and breaching the old road embankment to lower water levels. See Section 4.0 for further discussion.
33	56.7L		Severe	Moderate	Not visible	Unknown	Drainage enhancement		B	Pit water is intended to drain to a small culvert under road at west end of pit. Continued settlement has left invert of culvert too high. Consider draining along north (left) toe of road grade to natural draw about 100 m south and placing a new culvert through road at that location. Consult Photo 648.	B	A		A++++	2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674	2562, 2592	

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PIT OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Site WP No. 2009	Km Post	General Location Comments	2009 DWH						2014 KWJ				2019 KWJ			
			Pit Water 2009	Erosion Potential	Ground Ice Features	Active Layer Stability	Reclamation Focus	Priority	2009 Comments	Priority	2014 Comments	Priority	Ground Photos	Aerial Oblique Photos	2019 Comments	
34	55.8		Minor	Low	Not apparent	Unknown	Grading	C	Regrade and improve drainage.	C	No change	C			No change	
35	55.4	Risk of road collapse	None	Low	Wedge ice	Unstable	Protecting road embankment	A	A small excavation on the upslope side of the embankment has allowed water to penetrate into Wedge ice initiating thermal erosion. The road grade was actively collapsing into thaw depressions at the time of the visit. There is a high safety risk of total collapse. The road must be bermed on both sides for a distance of 3 to 4 m and the embankment raised to accommodate settlements that have occurred. The side slopes should be dressed along with disturbed areas. The site should be monitored during periods of high road use until stability of the permafrost is assured.	B	Stability has improved with some berming of the embankment and the embankment does not seem to be at risk of failure now but should be monitored once the road sees increased traffic.	B			No change	
36	53.1		Minor	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Protecting road embankment	C	Small pot hole pit beside road. Material stockpile. The shoulders of the road should be dressed and slopes flattened.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
37	52.2	Road collapse	Dry	Low	Wedge	Unstable	Protecting road embankment	A	Active sinkhole on immediate north side of embankment has extended under the road resulting in grade collapse about 1/2 m. Selective excavation of the road fill and underlying ice at this site is recommended followed by rebuilding grade with compacted material. Raise the final grade 1 m or more above current elevation and flatten side slopes.	A+++	Settlement continues and the road embankment is now very steep on the north side, recent extraction of material has removed more of the active layer and thaw is ongoing. The embankment side slope is very unstable and this is a safety issue as there is a risk of catastrophic failure. The large sinkhole should be backfilled as soon as possible.	A	2563, 2591		QIA noted that the road appeared to have been raised at this location. Actually the road was significantly realigned to improve grades and is now located at a lower elevation and borrow pit 37 is now well away from the new road. Therefore the stability of the old road is not of significant concern. The thaw degradation that was noted to be ongoing is still happening in the pit and there is the potential for sediment laden water to be released from the old pit. The priority has been downgraded to reflect the lessened safety issue but is still rated A because of the potential sediment issue. Regrade pit surface, assess potential water release locations and armour outflow and install check dams as required to control sediment release.	
38	51.9		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Grading	C	Dress the slopes and bottom.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
39	51.7			Low	Wedge ice extending under road	Unstable	Stabilize road surface, dress side slopes and fill sinkholes	B	Sinkhole under road at north end, cracking onto road surface. Build road grade up, dress disturbed area, and flatten embankment side slopes.	B	Continued settlement away from the road, some recent regrading has improved the stability of the road but this area should be closely monitored to see if the sinkhole redevelops.	B			No change since 2014	
40	51.2	Hole in Road		Low	Wedge ice extending under road	Unstable	Ensure safety of road	A	Wedge ice that extends under the road has thawed resulting in collapse. Road grade dropped about 1 m. Sinkholes in pit allow standing water adjacent to side slope. Raise the road grade about 1 m at this location, and construct side berms to protect permafrost and push any free water 3 m minimum away from toe of slope. Regrade the abandoned pit and upgrade the site drainage.	A	Pit and road in similar state although ponded water seems to have decreased. Recent road grading may have obscured any recent settlements	A+	2701, 2702		Thaw is ongoing and pit is deepening, steepening the side slope. Drainage out of the pit flows to the south towards the lake (Photo 2702). There is some thermal degradation happening in the natural drainage probably due to increased water flow in the spring. Ideally this pit would benefit from being backfilled as this would arrest thaw, improve embankment stability and reduce spring flows.	
41	50.6L		Minor	Low	Localized wedge ice	Moderately stable	Regrading	C	Regrade and improve drainage from sinkholes.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
42	49.7L		Mostly dry	Low	Ice wedges, south end	Sinkholes	Regrading	C	Regrade to fill and cover sinkholes at south end.	C	No change	C		2564	QIA - noted water accumulation and potential for instability at KM 49.9. Do not see evidence of ponding in the pits at this location and road seems to be stable.	
43	49.6R		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surface	C	Long pit where active layer soils have been pushed up to make embankment.	C	No change	C			QIA - noted ponding and road instability. There is a cut that was made to improve grade and a communications tower is situated on the top of the terrace on the west side of the road. There is ponding on the west side of the road. An ice wedge can be seen to be degrading on the terrace and is very evident on three cut slopes on the west side of the road (Photos 2698 and 2699). Material should be placed over the degrading ice wedge both on the terrace and on the cut slope. The ditch (Photo 2703) to the south of the wedge is unstable as is the side of the road, suggest some regrading and slope flattening to help improve stability. Close monitoring of the road should be undertaken and if any dips are noted at the ice wedge locations further remediation may be required.	
43A	47.2										Photo of stable road	C			No change since 2014	
44	46.9										Photo of stable road	C		2590	No change since 2014	
45	46.1		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress slopes	C	Pothole pit, some water. Dress slopes and improve drainage.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
46	44.0		Dry	Low	Not visible	Moderately stable	Repair grade	A	This is a confined but deep pit, currently dry. The back slopes are steep and may require minor cleanup and dressing.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
47	42.2R		Partial	Low	Not visible	Moderate	Regrade	C	The road cut exposed ground ice that is actively thawing. The road grade should be built up at this location about 1/2 m.	B	Road stability has improved at this location but should be monitored closely with increased traffic.	B			Minor realigning has improved the stability of the road but should be monitored closely with increased traffic.	
48	38.0R		Dry	Low	Not visible	Stable	Regrade	C	Small pit with one large sinkhole. Regrade and fill sinkhole — not affecting road.	C	Sinkhole has increased in size but has not yet affected the road, should regrade and fill in hole.	C			May have been some material removed since 2014 but pit is stable.	
48A	37.2	new pit	Dry	Low	Not visible	Stable	Regrade	C	Dry pit on ridge. Regrade to dress surfaces.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
49	37.5R		Dry	Low	Not visible	Stable	Dress surface	C	New pit? Active layer has been scraped off, some limited settlement near the road but no water ponding was observed.	C	No change	C		2598	No change since 2014	
50	37.2R		Dry	Low	Not visible	Stable	Dress surface	C	Linear pit from pushup. Well drained. Dress the surface.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
51	36.5 L&R		Ponding on left	Low	Wedge ice	Moderate	Improve drainage and regrade	B	Similar to 49.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014	
															Pits look similar, ice wedge melt out is evident in the pits and upon close inspection the wedges can be traced under the road, appearing slightly darker. When driving slight dips are evident in the roads where the ice wedges are under the road. This indicates that some thaw is continuing. This calls for close monitoring to warn of potential collapse. It is very important to keep the pits dry.	
52	35.7R		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade	C	Active layer removed along road on both sides. Well developed ice wedge cracks evident across pits and continuing under embankment. Beginning to affect road at north end. Stockpiles remain in left pit. Further removal of surface soils at this location not recommended without a pit development plan. Reclamation should grade pit surface, infill ice wedge cracks and flatten embankment side slopes in regions showing distress. Improve drainage.	C	Drainage seems to have improved and this may have lead to improved road stability, still do not recommend additional material removal without a pit plan. Reclamation recommendations remain the same.	B	2567, 2569		Pits look similar, ice wedge melt out is evident in the pits and upon close inspection the wedges can be traced under the road, appearing slightly darker. When driving slight dips are evident in the roads where the ice wedges are under the road. This indicates that some thaw is continuing. This calls for close monitoring to warn of potential collapse. It is very important to keep the pits dry.	
															Pit stable no issues	
52A	35.5							C	A relatively large pit but dry and stable bottom. Dress slopes and bottom.	C	No change	C		2567, 2569	This look similar, ice wedge melt out is evident in the pits and upon close inspection the wedges can be traced under the road, appearing slightly darker. When driving slight dips are evident in the roads where the ice wedges are under the road. This indicates that some thaw is continuing. This calls for close monitoring to warn of potential collapse. It is very important to keep the pits dry.	
53	34.9		Dry	Low	Not visible	Moderately stable	Regrade and fill sinkholes	C	Long, linear pit with a few sinkholes. Regrade and fill sinkholes. Material removed recently.	C	No change	C			Pit stable no issues	
54	34.7		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade	C	Linear pit with a few sinkholes. Regrade and fill sinkholes.	C	No change	C			Pit stable no issues	
55	33.2		Minor ponding	Low	Not visible	Stable	Regrade	C	Dress all surfaces.	C	No change	C			No change	
56	33.4L		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade	C	Regrade to fill wedge cracks and dress surface.	C	No change	C			No change	
															No change	
57	33.0L		Partial	Low	Not apparent	Moderate	Partial infill and regrade	C	Small square pit. Dress all surfaces.	C	No change	C			QIA noted that a sinkhole was evident on the road and suggested that it was a result of a culvert failure. At the time of the 2019 inspection there was no evidence remaining and therefore it was assumed that the problem had been repaired.	
															No change	
58	32.4L		Partial	Low	Not apparent	Moderate	Regrade	C	Three small pits, two dry and one with water. Regrade or import fill to flatten or berm embankment side slope beside water-filled pit. Grade surface.	C	No change	C			No change	
59	30.6R		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surface	C	Pushup pit. Rough bottom. Grade surface, improve drainage. Defined pit on left about 300 m further south dry and needs no work.	C	No change	C		2568	No change	
60	30.1R		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surface	C	High, well-drained side borrow site. Dress bottom and slopes.	C	No change	C		2568	No change	
															No change	

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PIT OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

2009 DWH										2014 KWJ				2019 KWJ			
Site WP No. 2009	Km Post	General Location Comments	Pit Water 2009	Erosion Potential	Ground Ice Features	Active Layer Stability	Reclamation Focus	Priority	2009 Comments	Priority	2014 Comments	Priority	Ground Photos	Aerial Oblique Photos	2019 Comments		
61	30.1L		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Similar to Sites 59 and 60.	C	No change	C		2568	No change		
61B	29.1									A++++	Site not reported on in 2009. Recent construction has removed considerable material from this location, extensive settlement is occurring (5 to 6 m) and is undermining the road embankment on the east side. Settlement and ice wedge melt out is also occurring on the west side. There is a significant risk of catastrophic failure of the embankment at this location. Material should be imported to fill in all of the settlement areas and improve the potential to arrest these extensive thaw settlements. No change, currently stable.	A++++	2693, 2694, 2695, 2696		QIA noted water accumulation and stability issues at KM 29.4 but the pit with issues is located at 29.1 on the Figure (assumed to be the area of concern). As noted in 2014 this entire pit should be backfilled with imported material after removing as much water as possible. See Section 4.0 for further information.		
62	28.7		Minor ponding	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade	C	Near vertical slope on sidehill pit. Slope pit back at 3H:1V and add some shoulder to road. Improve drainage.	C	No change	C			No change		
62A	27.8									B	Not reported on in 2009, appears that more material has been recently removed, thaw of ice wedges and ground ice is leading to ponding but it is away from the toe of the slope, road embankment seems stable for now. Pit could be regraded to reduce ponding and resulting thaw settlements.	B			Extensive ponding remains in the pit, recommendations from 2014 still apply.		
63	27.0R		Minor ponding	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade vertical slope	C	Pit has a near vertical slope 2 to 3 m high. Slope back to 3H:1V and dress pit bottom to improve drainage away from road embankment.	C	No change	C			No change		
64	26.7L&R		Major ponding	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade backslope, develop drainage plan	B	Deep pits on both road shoulders, both flooded. Slope sides to 3H:1V and develop a drainage plan. It may be practical to ditch to the creek about 100 m to the north.	B	Water continues to pond on the east side of the road but road embankment continues to appear stable at this time.	B		2569	Ponding remains similar to 2014, embankment remains stable		
65	25.6L&R		Minor	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Pushup pits on both sides. Well drained. Dress slopes and ensure future drainage.	B	Water continues to pond on the east side of the road but road embankment continues to appear stable at this time.	B			Ponding remains similar to 2014, embankment remains stable		
66	23.6L&R		Minor	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Pushup pits on both sides. Currently self-draining to tundra. Not obvious erosion or sinkholes. Grade side slope into pond lying to the left side.	C	More water is now ponding in the NW corner of the pit and due to settlement is no longer free draining to the tundra.	C		2570	Conditions similar to 2014		
67	23.3L		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Well drained pit on top of natural rise. Dress bottom and slopes.	C	No change	C			Limited ponding in the north end of the pit		
68	21.9R		Minor ponding	Low	Massive ice	Unstable	Fill and Cover Sinkholes	B	Melt out of massive ice actively developing sinkholes at toe of embankment side slope. A berm should be built on side slope and sinkholes infilled at 2 locations. Regrade to improve drainage to the northwest.	A	Thaw continues and is threatening embankment stability on the west side of the road. This pit should be regraded and backfilled with material to improve embankment stability.	A++++	2691, 2692		QIA noted water accumulation and road instability at this location. Pits should be backfilled and graded as noted in 2014 to cause the permafrost to aggrade and enhance the stability of the embankment side slopes. See Section 4.0 for more information.		
69	21.4L	Out of sequence — returned to inspect this site	Minor ponding	Moderate	Segregated ice	Unstable	Control drainage and limit sediment transport	C	Pit cut into side of knob. Thaw of icy soils is producing meltwater and sediment. Selective use of a boulder rip-rap blanket is recommended. Use rip-rap to control and filter drainage that is being dispersed onto tundra.	C	Drainage seems to have ceased and pit seems stable, may not need to consider the rip-rap blanket now.	C			No change since 2014		
70	21.2L		Water-filled pothole pit beside road	Low	Unknown	Unstable	Water-filled pit	C	Pothole immediately beside embankment side slope. Drain and install culvert under road. May require widening shoulder and partial infilling to maintain long-term drainage.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014		
71	20.7R		Water-filled wedge cracks	Moderate	Substantial wedge ice	Unstable	Prevent further ice wedge thaw	B	Active layer removed from top of hill, exposing substantial wedge ice. Substantial melt out and continued activity. Water collecting in wedge cracks. Develop drainage and fill expanding wedge cracks. Berm the side slope to prevent further thaw under road embankment.	A++++	Wedge ice has substantially degraded since 2009 thaw settlement is now undermining the road and road settlement is obvious. There is potential for catastrophic collapse of the road surface at this location. Reclamation should occur as soon as possible. This must involve complete filling of all the settlement areas to eliminate ponded water and arrest continuing thaw settlements.	A++++	2543, 2544, 2545	2571	Pit remains similar to 2014 and settlement and instability of the road side slope is evident. Filling of the pit as soon as possible is still recommended to improve safety. See Section 4.0 for further detail.		
72	18.6L		Water-filled pit	Moderate	Unknown	Unstable	Develop pit drainage	B	2 m deep pit with water. No obvious opportunities to develop drainage. Survey and determine options to drain while minimizing further cuts. May require berming along road to prevent thaw from undercutting embankment side slopes.	A++++	Water in pit is much less than in 2009 and it appears that some additional material may have been recently removed.	A++++	2540, 2541, 2542	2572, 2587	Photos 2581 and 2582 show instability on the side slopes and observed conditions and suggested stabilization measures remain as indicated in 2014. See Section 4.0 for further information.		
73	18.3L&R		Large water-filled pit	Moderate	Not apparent	Moderate	Develop pit drainage	B	Large pit pond immediately adjacent to road. Appears to be deep water. Currently no drainage. Can be drained by installing a culvert under the road. Flatten side slopes into pit to push water further from road shoulder.	B	No change	B			More water is ponding in the left side (east) pit than noticed in 2014 but road appears stable.		
KM 17 BRIDGE											New bridge, note some tilting and movement of bin wall foundations at both ends of the bridge. This may be imparting additional compression loads on the bridge.		2678, 2679, 2681, 2684, 2685, 2686				
74	16.9L&R		Linear pits both sides with water	Moderate	Not apparent	Moderate	Develop pit drainage	B	Long, linear pits both sides. Left side has larger pond. No thaw features apparent. Assess drainage options. Flatten embankment side slopes where water is at the toe of slope.	B	Little change, although there is more now ponding on right side. Should flatten embankment slopes as noted in 2009. Limited settlement of road surface above ice wedges can be seen and may be indicative of the state of the ice wedges.	A			More water is ponding in the pits than noticed in 2014 and there is concern that rate of thaw will increase potentially leading to embankment instability but road currently appears stable. Determine if it is feasible to dam water from pit to reduce potential for increased thaw. Otherwise monitor closely to evaluate road stability.		
75	15.0R		Some water	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Long pit, some water, no active subsidence, dress surfaces.	C	No change	A		2574, 2586	More ponded water and there is a short section at the south end of the pit where there is a very steep side slope and considerable drop from the edge of the road down into the water. Pond should be drained and the area where water is ponding should be backfilled.		
76	14.2L		Dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Dress surfaces	C	Dry, well-drained pit floor. Stockpile of sandy gravel present. Dress surfaces.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014		
77	13.4L		Pond	Low	Not apparent	Moderate	Pothole pit	C	Some settling may be required in pothole pit beside road.	C	No change	C			No change since 2014		
78	13.2L		One pond to north	Low	Not apparent	Moderate	Large area to dress	C	Shallow pit on top of rise. Pond in north end that can be drained to the north.	C	Pond size is increasing and water is getting deeper, may start to impact road stability.	C		2585	No change since 2014		
79	12.8L&R		Wet bottom	Low	Segregated ice	Unstable	Large surface area	B	Pit in silty sand, abundant ground ice. Active thaw in pit floor. Surface will need to be regraded to cover exposed icy sediments. Several visits may be necessary to stabilize the new active layer.	B	No change	B		2575	No change since 2014		
80	9.7L		Water-filled wedge cracks	Low	Wedge ice	Unstable	Active sinkholes in wedge cracks	B	Extensive melt out of ice wedges resulting in water-filled troughs. Need to drain and fill sinkholes. Material should be imported as the entire pit is underlain by wedge ice and further removal of active layer material will exacerbate reclamation.	A	Water continues to pond and thaw settlement continues, need to undertake reclamation as suggested in 2009	A	2539	2576	See 2014 recommendations for stabilization. Also consider adding a toe berm to the left side of the road or at a minimum flatten the side slope near the natural pond to stabilize embankment on that side (east side).		
81	9.4L		Extensive pond	Moderate	Wedge ice	Unstable	Wedge cracks flooded in pit	B	Flat bottom pit with no drainage. Develop drainage and fill wedge cracks evident below water level. Dress road surface.	B	No change	B			No change		
82	9.4L		Dry	Low	Segregated ice	Unstable	Sinkholes	C	Shallow cut into bank beside road. Backfill and regrade with rip-rap quality material. Allow future drainage from cover.	C	No change	C			No change		
82A	8.8									C	New borrow pit, relatively stable and well drained, some limited settlement but currently is well away from the road.	C			No change since 2014		
83	7.7L&R		Left pit flooded right pit wet	Moderate	Wedge ice	Unstable	Develop drainage	B	Realignement with pits on both sides of the embankment, extensive thaw settlement and potential road instability. The pits on both sides of the road should be immediately regraded and material added at the toe on both sides to lessen thaw settlement and improve embankment stability.	A	Reclamation should commence as soon as possible to reduce the chance of catastrophic failure of the road.	A++++		2578, 2584	The priority has therefore been increased to A++++ and therefore reclamation as per the 2009 recommendation should commence as soon as possible. See Section 4.0 for further details.		
83A	7.2									A++++	QIA notes that the road was surrounded by water at nearly the elevation of the road and noted that there appeared to be degradation of permafrost. Indeed, ongoing permafrost degradation is ongoing in the pit. The road appears much less stable in 2019 and the water levels have risen in the pits, leading to road instability due to thaw. This pit needs to be filled on both sides of the road after removing as much water as possible. Filling the pits is a regressing will hopefully lead to aggradation of permafrost and enhance the stability of the road much worse. See Section 4.0 for further discussion.	A++++	2531, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538	2578, 2584			

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PIT OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

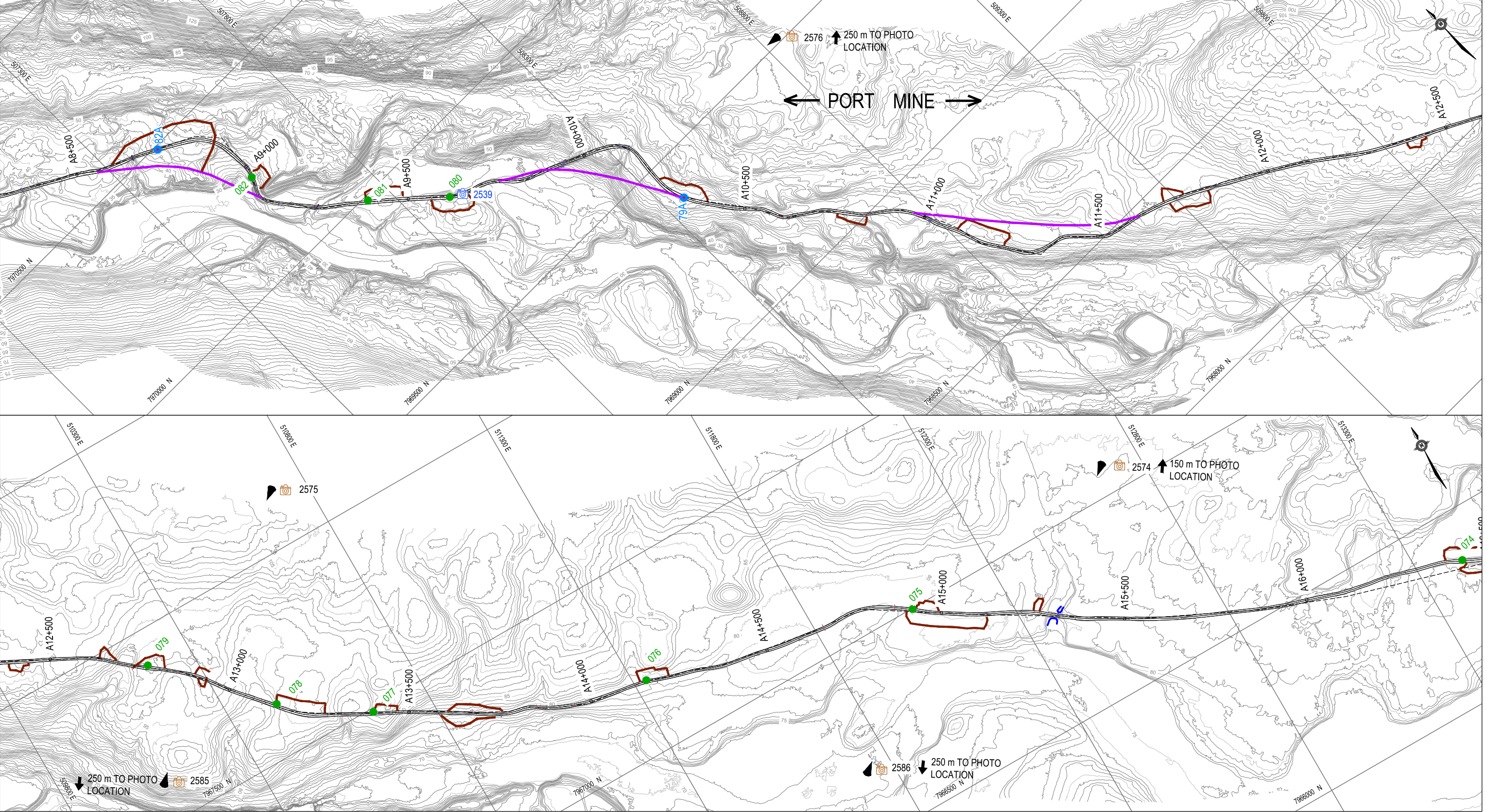
2009 DWH															
Site WP No. 2009	Km Post	General Location Comments	Pit Water 2009	Erosion Potential	Ground Ice Features	Active Layer Stability	Reclamation Focus	Priority	2009 Comments	Priority	2014 Comments	Priority	Ground Photos	Aerial Oblique Photos	2019 Comments
84	6.9R		Flooded	Moderate	Wedge ice	Moderate	Develop drainage	C	Broad flooded pit. Develop drainage. Grade and dress pond edges and road side slopes.	C	No change	C		2583	No change since 2014
85	3.5R	Mine Inlet permitted pit	Dry	Low	Minor wedge ice	Stable	Silty sand susceptible to dusting	B	This is the main permitted pit for development at Mine Inlet. The site is a dry and naturally well-drained river terrace. The material is fine grained (silty) and may be susceptible to generating dust. Small dune-like features evident on surface. If the site is retained for future use, a pit plan should be prepared. In order to control dust, it may be necessary to provide ridges of coarse material at closure that will trap wind-blown sand.	B	With the creation of the Mine Inlet quarry there is likely to need to consider further material withdrawal from this pit and it could be reclaimed in the manner suggested in 2009	B		2580, 2582	Pit is being reclaimed using overburden from the main quarry (pit 97) at the port. A granular fill berm was constructed downslope to act as a filter for any thaw water released from the frozen overburden. Thaw and settlement was still ongoing below (to the north) of the already stabilized area and it is recommended that this area should also be covered with suitable overburden material retained by a downhill berm if additional material is available. This was discussed with Dominic Ragen and he noted that was the plan.
86	3.1R&L	Mine Inlet permitted pit	Minor pond on left, right is dry	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade to protect from dusting	B	Small pits, silty sand poor construction material. Grade and work cover to provide a better base	B	No change	B			No change
87	2.9R	Written permit	Localized ponding	Low	Not apparent	Stable	Regrade to protect from dusting	B	Large exposed pit; silty sand may need a coarser cover to protect from dusting.	B	No change	B			No change

## FIGURES

Figure 1	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 2	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 3	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 4	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 5	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 6	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 7	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 8	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 9	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 10	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 11	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 12	Plan Photo Locations
Figure 13	Plan Photo Locations



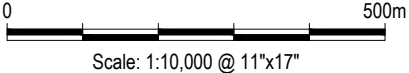
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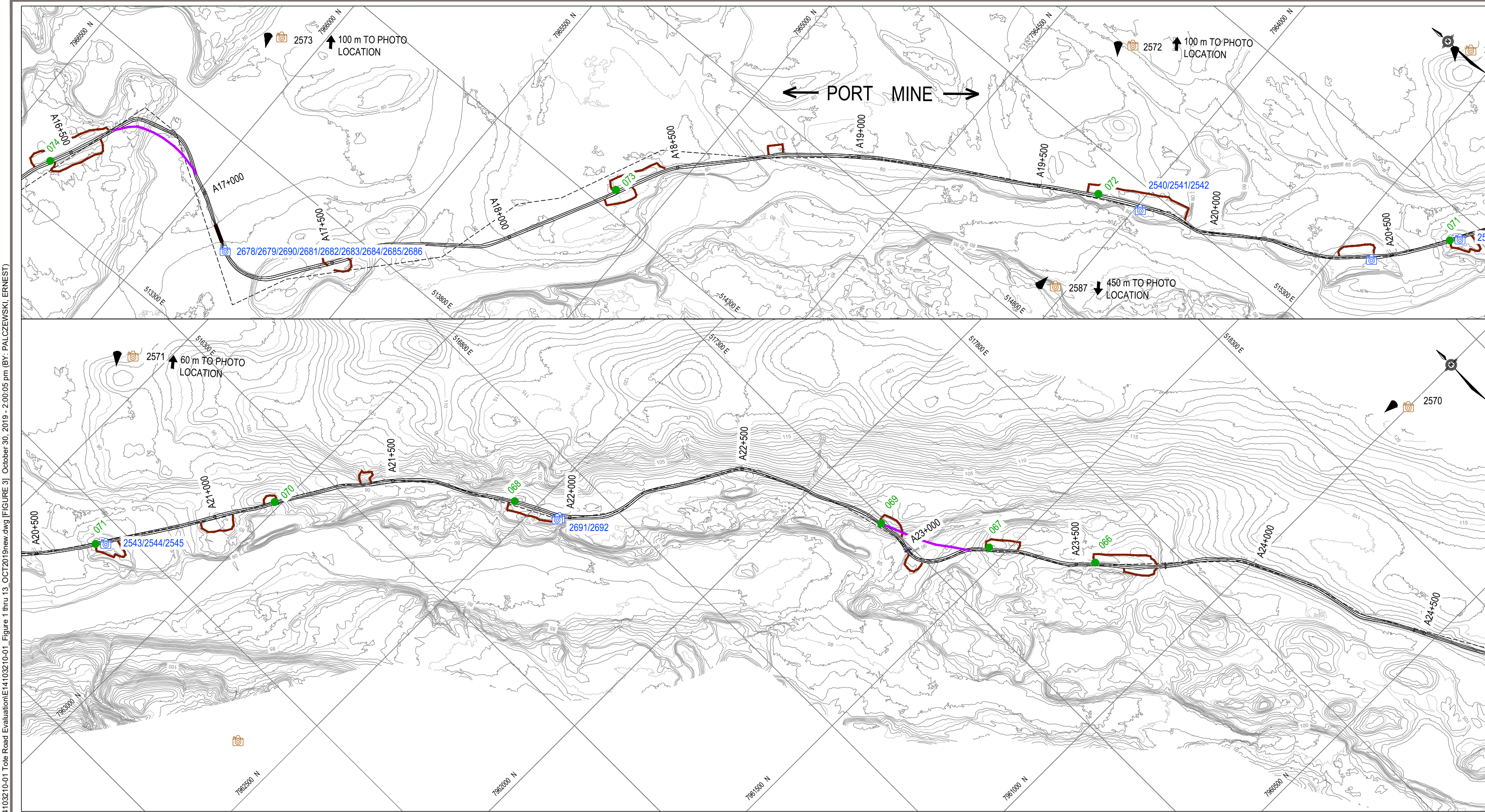
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Mary River Tote Road Quarry Reclamation  
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PLAN PHOTO LOCATIONS  
SHEET 2 OF 13

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Figure 2



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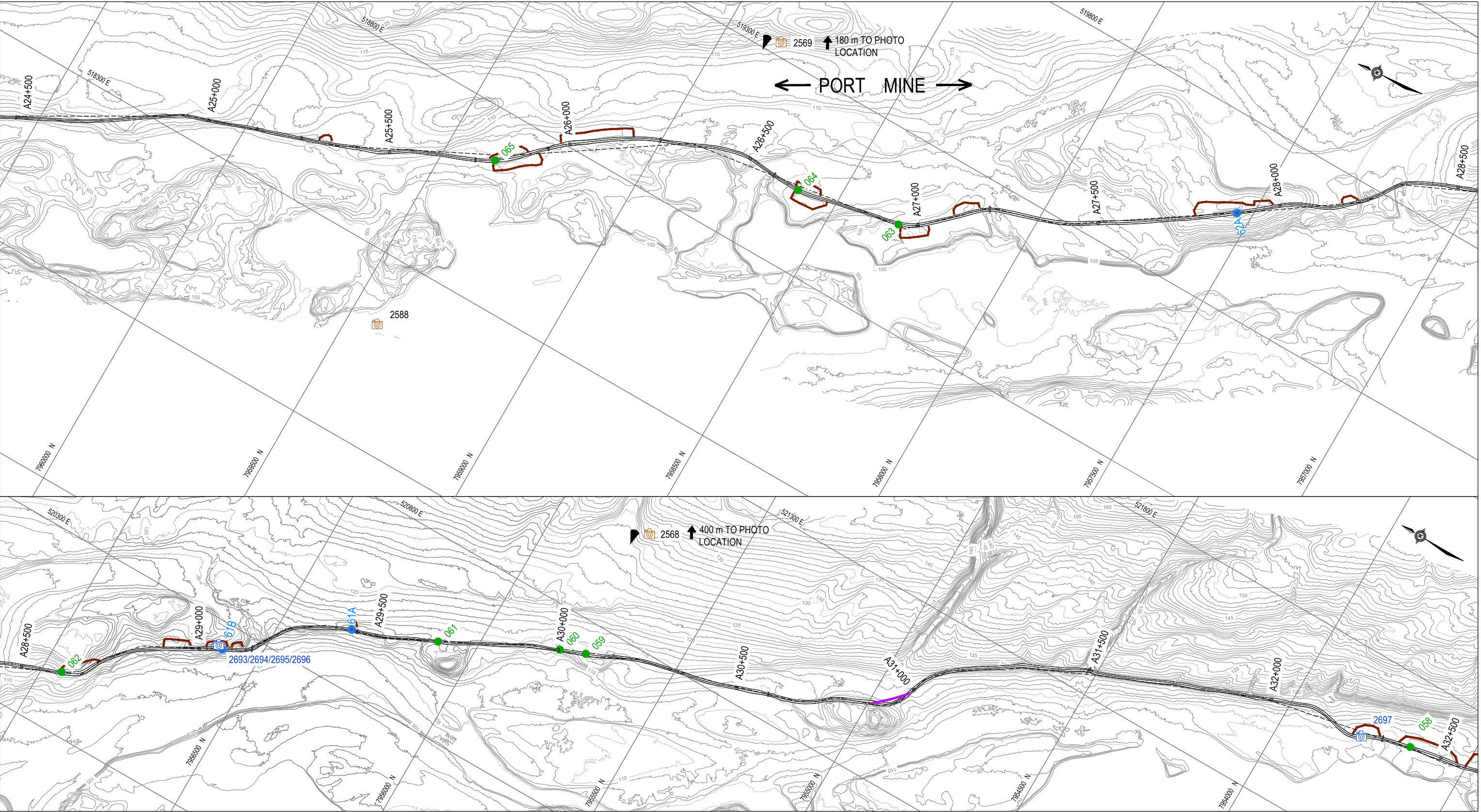
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PLAN PHOTO LOCATIONS  
SHEET 3 OF 13

PROJECT NO. ENG.EARC03171-01	DWN BR/EP	CKD KJ	REV 0
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Figure 3

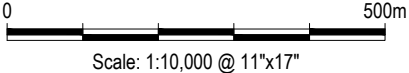
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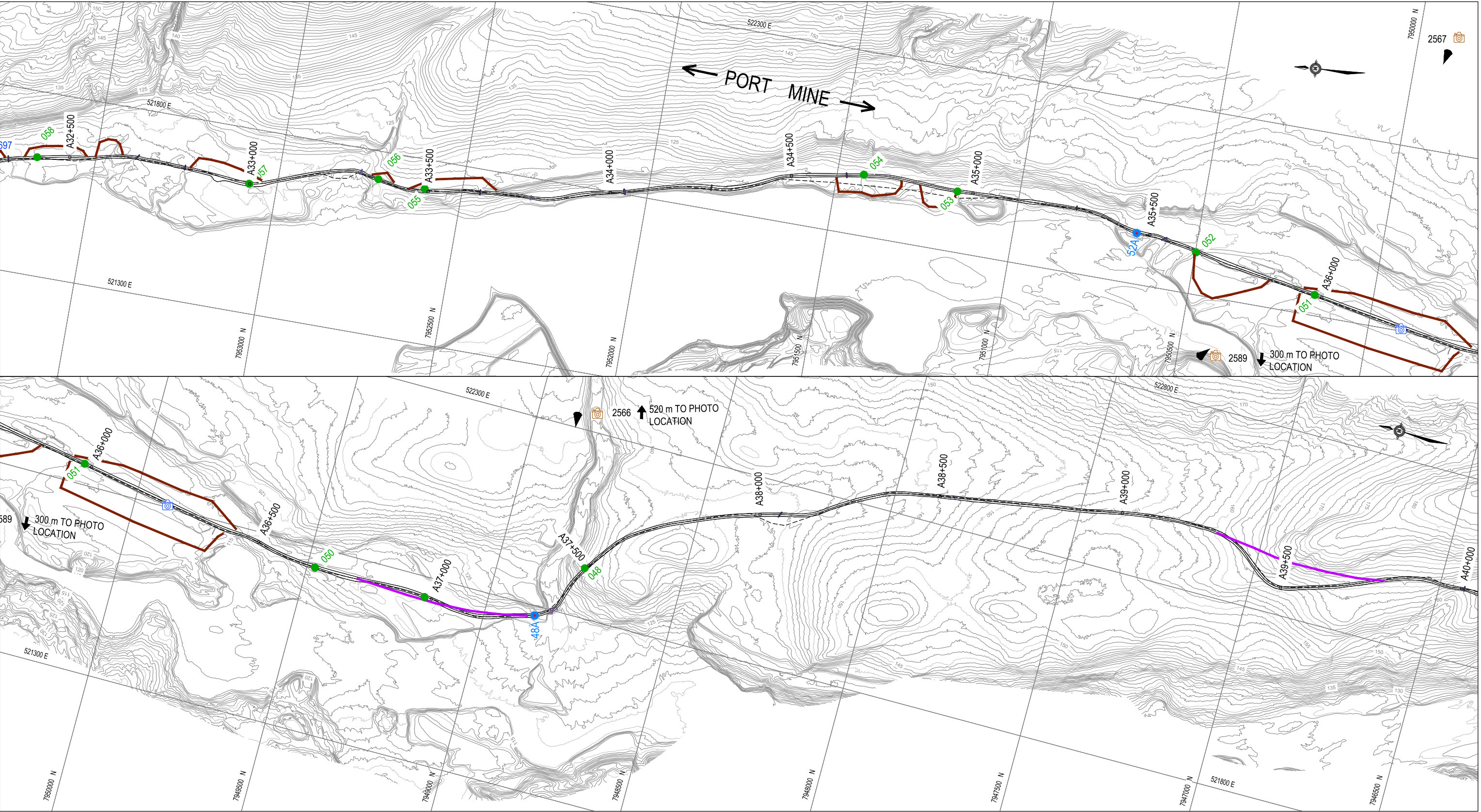
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**PLAN PHOTO LOCATIONS  
SHEET 4 OF 13**

PROJECT NO. ENG.EARC03171-01	DWN BR/EP	CKD KJ	REV 0
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**Figure 4**

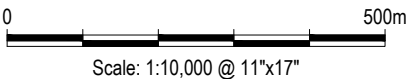
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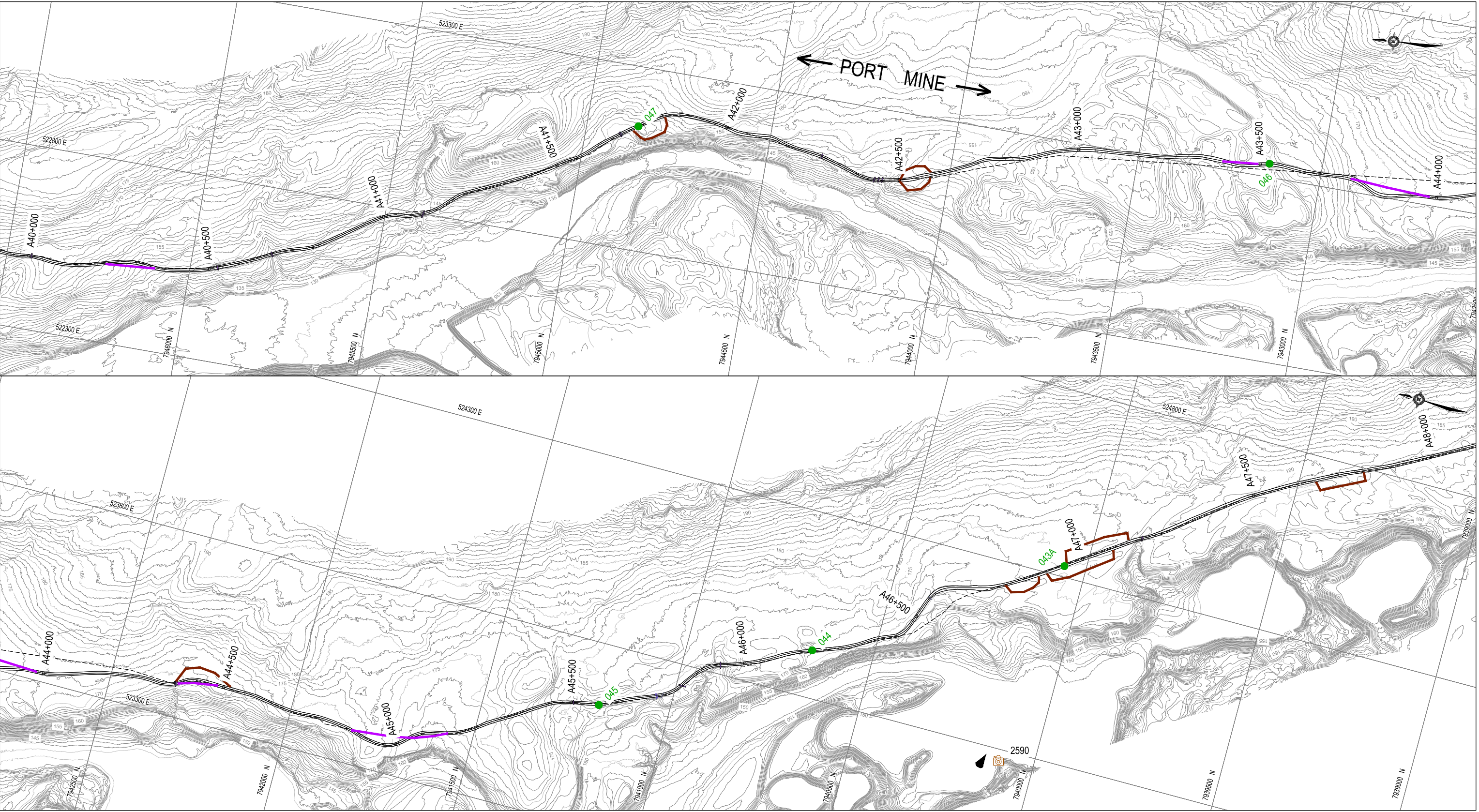
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SHEET 5 OF 13**

PROJECT NO. ENG.EARC03171-01	DWN BR/EP	CKD KJ	REV 0
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**Figure 5**

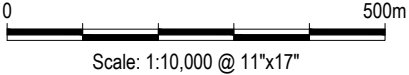
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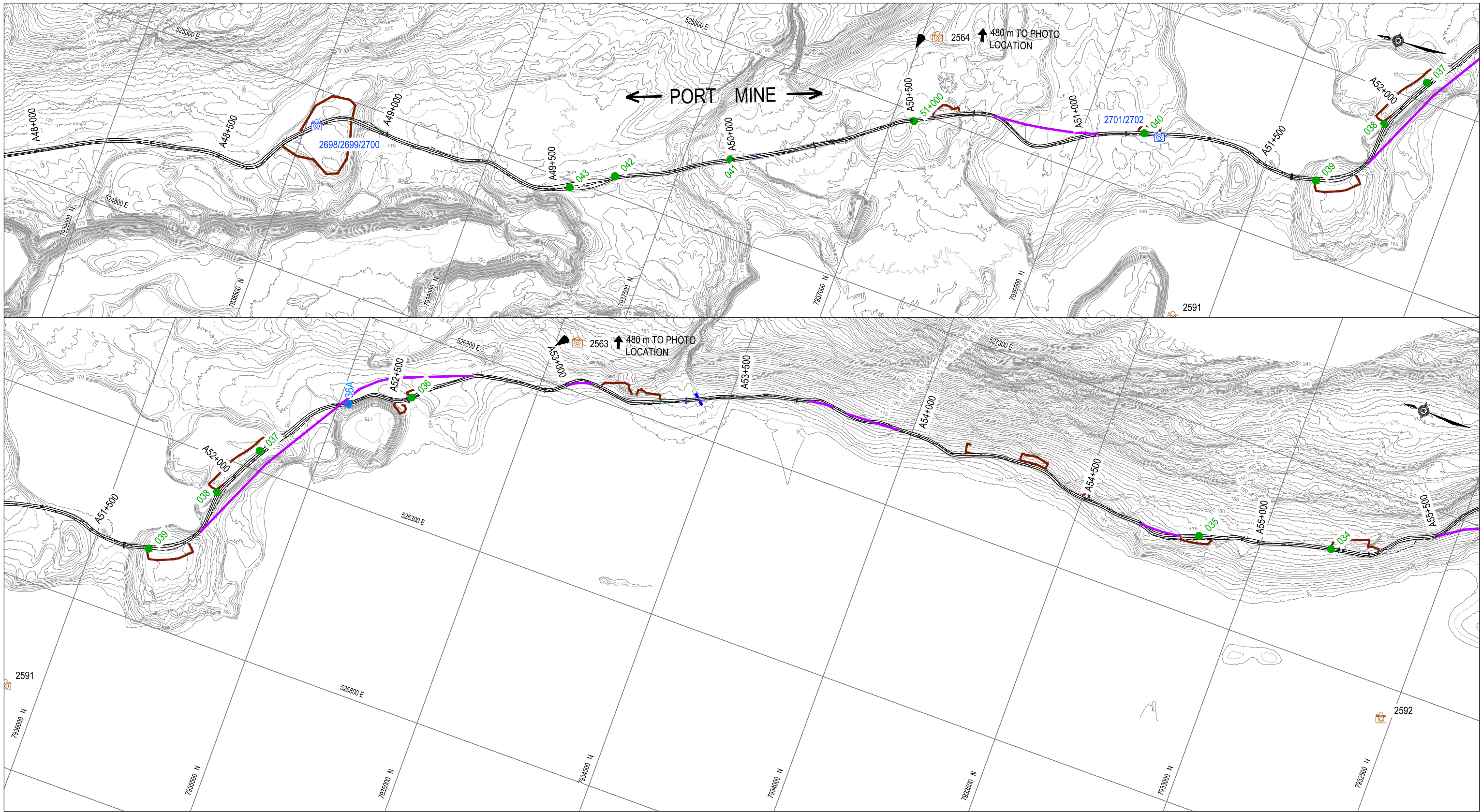
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SHEET 6 OF 13

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Figure 6

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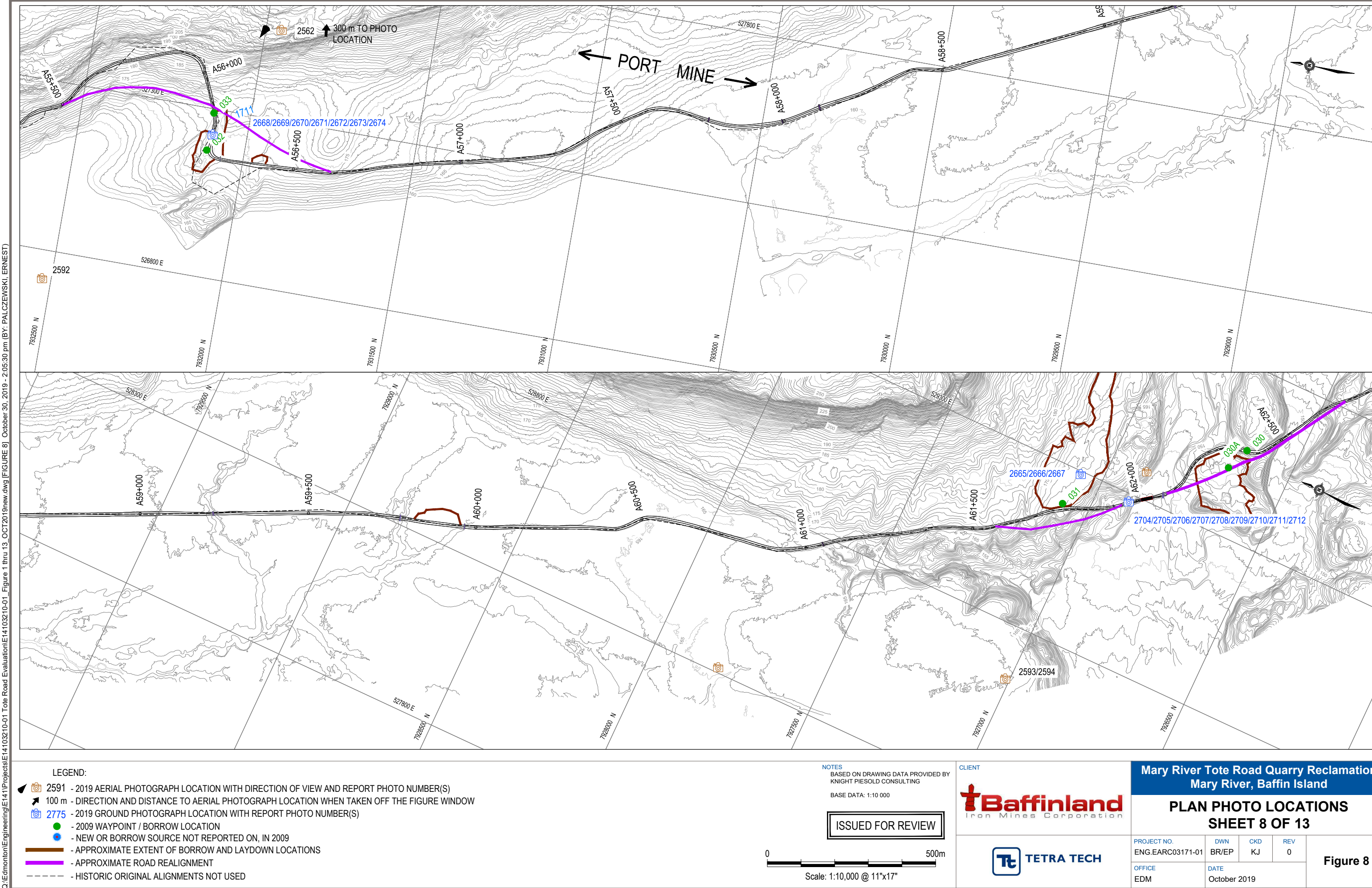
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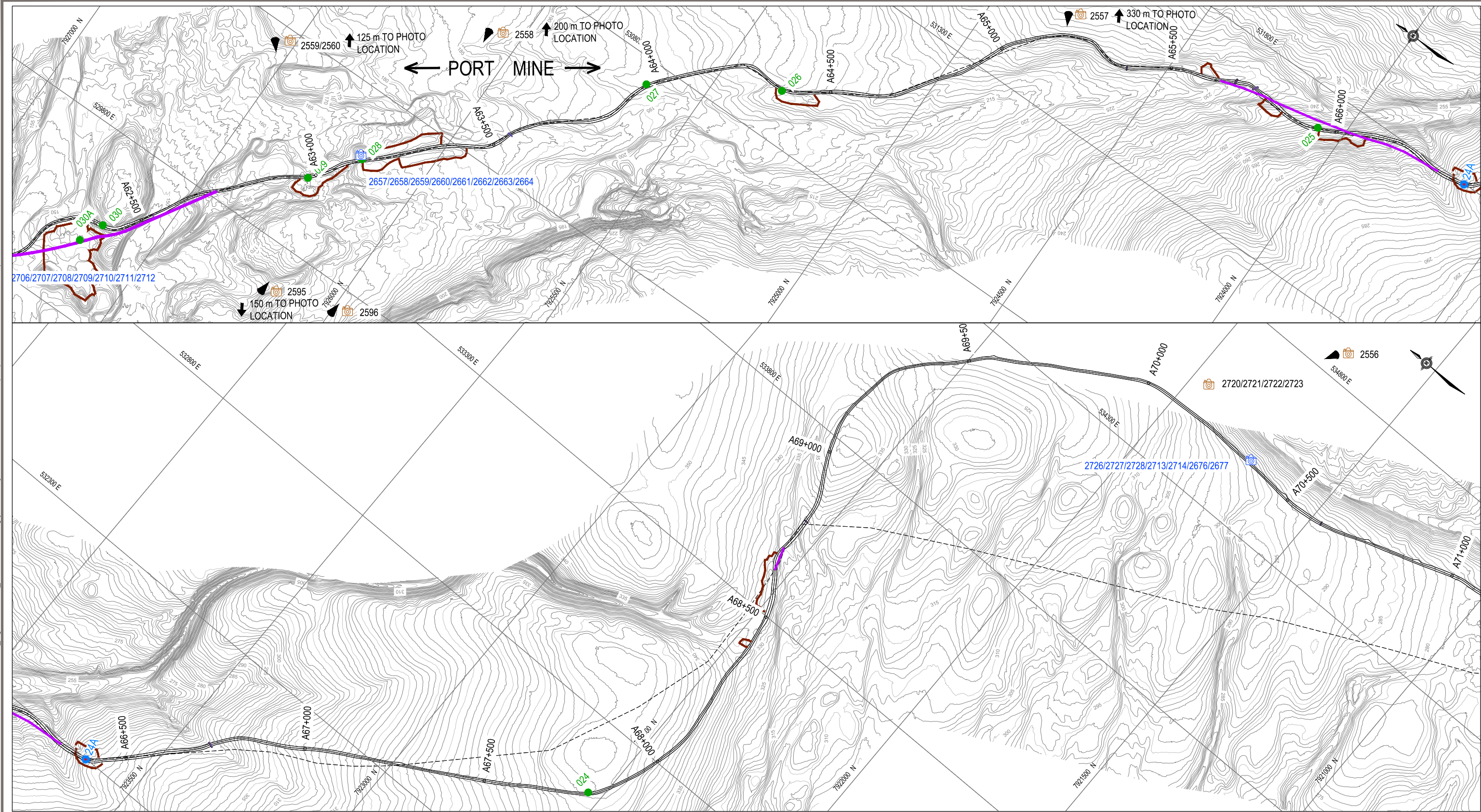
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Figure 7



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SHEET 9 OF 13

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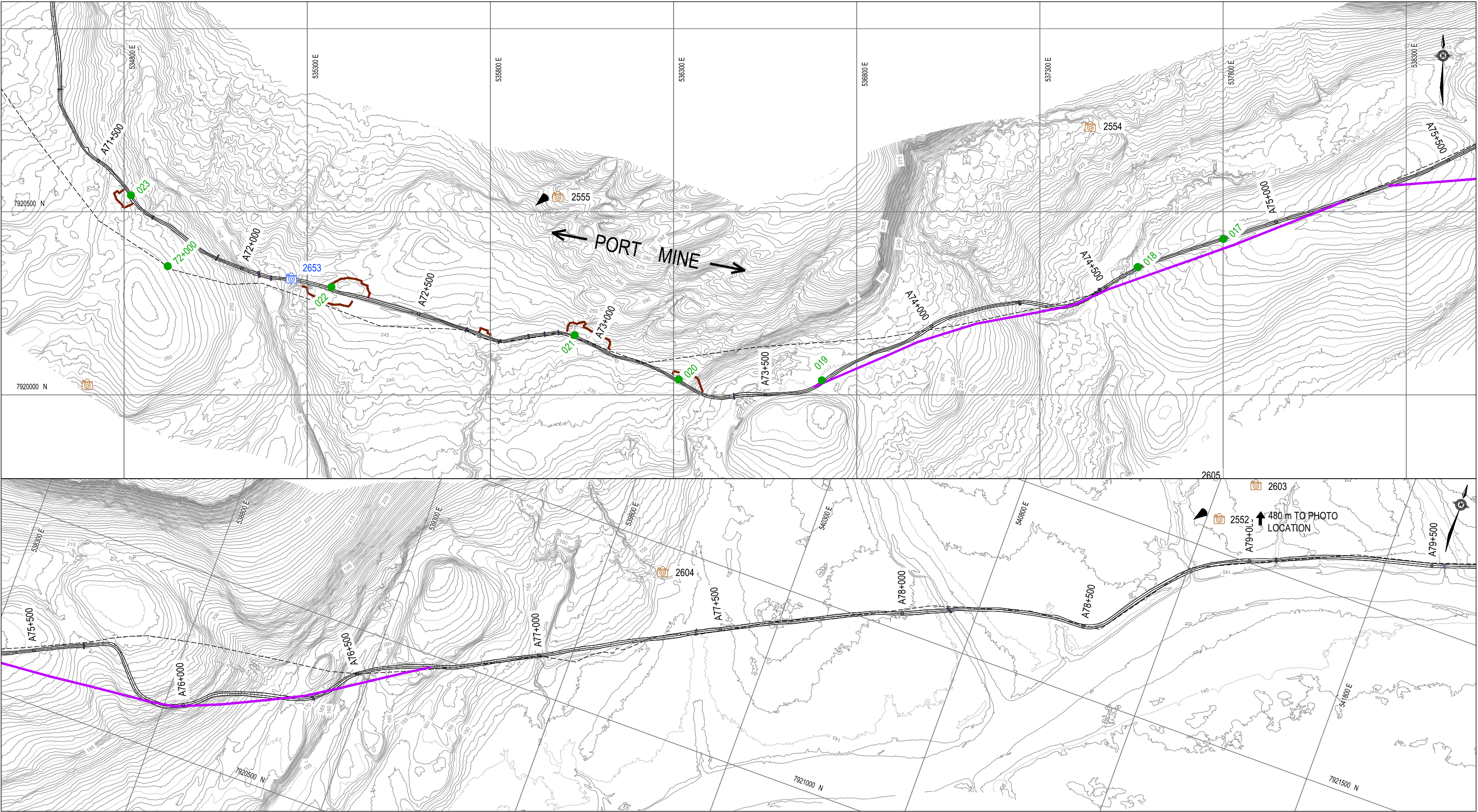
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Figure 9

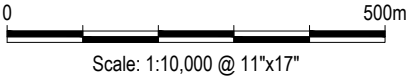
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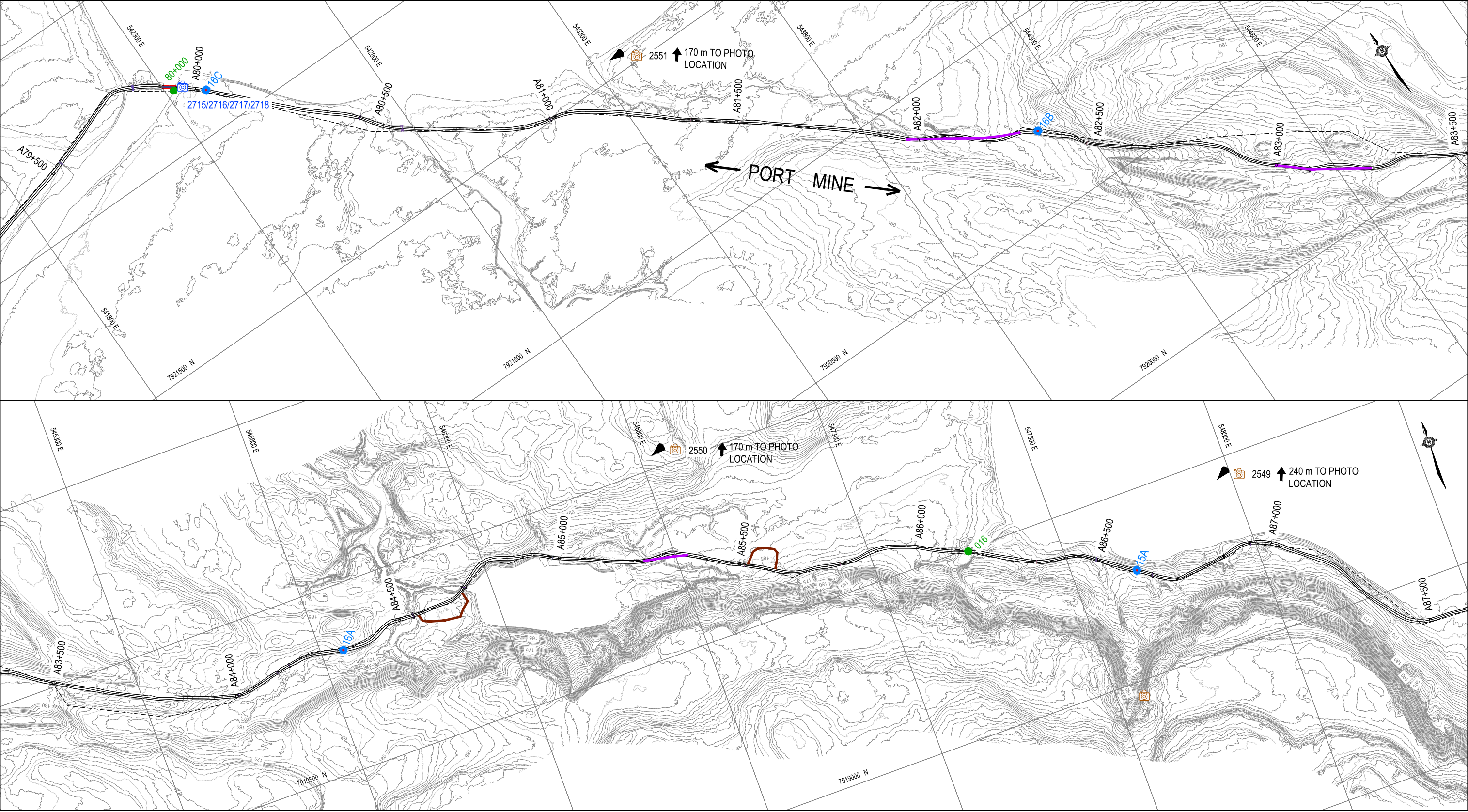
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SHEET 10 OF 13

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Figure 10

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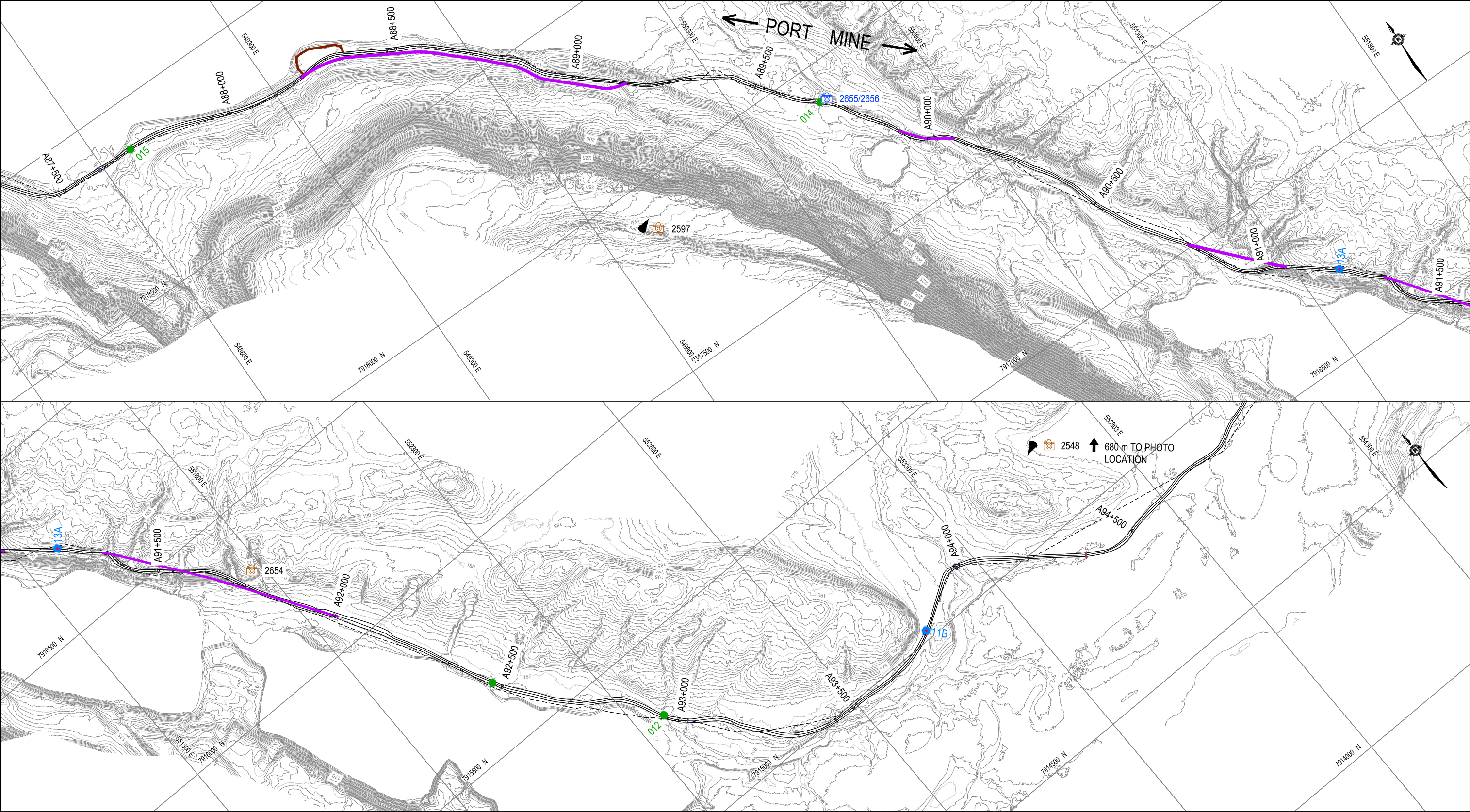
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SHEET 11 OF 13

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Figure 11

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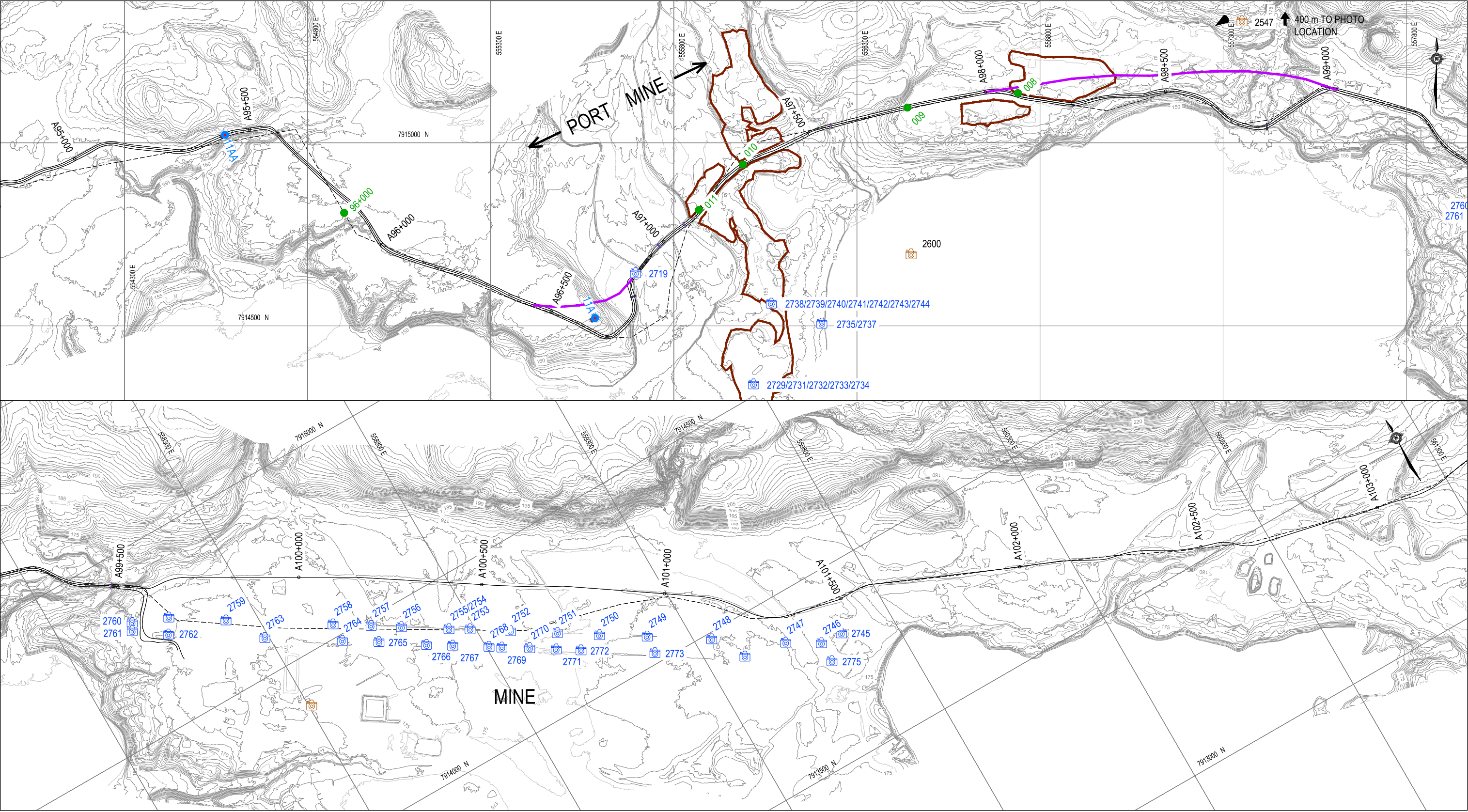
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Figure 12

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SHEET 13 OF 13

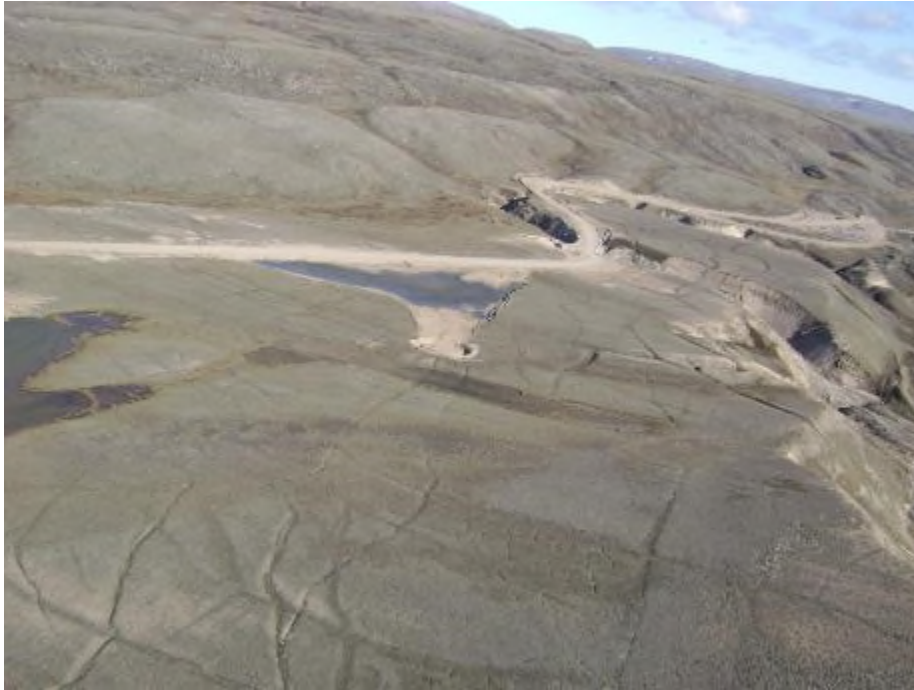
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OFFICE EDM	DATE October 2019		

Figure 13

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 (2014 Photo 1612)	Priority C Pit at KM 6.6 (Figure 1) Lies on Gravel Terrace with Well-established Ice Wedge Polygons
Photo 2 (2014 Photo 1585)	Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 2), Linear Sinkholes from Ice Wedge Melt Out
Photo 3 (2014 Photo 1697)	Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), Threatening Stability of the Road Embankment
Photo 4 (2014 Photo 1645)	Pit at KM 71.6 (Figure 10), Typical Settlement from Thaw of Segregated Ice
Photo 5 (DWH 2009 Photo 593)	Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8), Taken in 2009 (Comparison)
Photo 5A (2593)	Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8), Taken in 2014, Extensive Settlement in Southern Portion
Photo 6 (2014 Photo 1576)	Pit at KM 32.4 (Figures 4 and 5), Typical Priority C Pit in Thaw Stable Soils
Photo 7	Extreme Settlement of the Runway at the Inuvik, NT Airport
Photo 8 (2531)	Pit at KM 72.3 with Water on Both Side of the New Road Alignment and Extensive Thaw of Massive and Wedge Ice
Photo 9 (2578)	Pit at KM 7.2, Extensive Thaw Ponds on the West Side of the Road
Photo 10 (2536)	Pit at KM 7.9 Showing Extensive Settlement and Ponding
Photo 11 (2540)	Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 4), Pit is Deepening due to Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Ground
Photo 12 (2571)	Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 3), Ponded Water Resulting from Thaw of Ice-rich Material and Over-steepened Side Slopes where Water is Ponding
Photo 13 (2544)	Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), Continued Melt Out of Wedge Ice since 2009
Photo 14 (2571)	Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3)
Photo 15 (2693)	Pit at KM 21.9 (Figure 3), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 16 (2693)	Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 17 (2695)	Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 18 (2670)	Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), Berms Along this Side of the New Road Effectively Push Water Away from the Embankment
Photo 19 (2693)	Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), the Left Side of the New Road has Steeper Side Slopes
Photo 20 (2592)	Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), Drainage at this Location is Clearly Shown
Photo 21 (2558)	Pits at KM 63 to 63.8 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 22 (2657)	Pit at KM 63.8 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 23 (2662)	Pits at KM 63 to 64 (Figure 9), Continued Thaw of Ice-rich Material
Photo 24 (2014 Photo)	Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Extensive Thaw Settlement of Very Ice-rich Soils
Photo 25 (2555)	Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Thaw Settlement is Ongoing (Comparison)
Photo 26 (2555)	Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), Right Side of Borrow Pit with Very Deep Ponding Due to Thaw
Photo 27 (2597)	Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), Borrow Pit on the Right Side with Very Deep Ponding due to Thaw

Photo 28 (2656)	Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), Right Side of Borrow Pit with Very Deep Ponding Due to Thaw
Photo 29 (2678)	KM 17 Bridge, West Abutment
Photo 30 (2683)	KM 17 Bridge, East Abutment
Photo 31 (2683)	KM 63 Bridge, North Abutment
Photo 32 (2708)	KM 64 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 33 (2712)	KM 64 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 34 (2715)	KM 80 Bridge, South Abutment
Photo 35 (2718)	KM 80 Bridge, Road Surfacing Gravel that has Fallen Through the Centreline Joint in the Bridge Deck
Photo 36 (2719)	KM 97 Bridge, North Abutment
Photo 37 (2523)	KM 2.5 Slope Instability and Mud Slide Adjacent to the Tote Road
Photo 38 (2524)	KM 2.5 Slope Instability and Mud Slide Adjacent to the Tote Road
Photo 39 (2526)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 40 (2528)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location Immediately Below the Culvert on the North Side of the Terrace
Photo 41 (2526)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 42 (2527)	KM 4.0 Erosion Location
Photo 43 (2728)	Natural Instability/Erosion Feature South of the Tote Road Near KM 71
Photo 44 (2721)	Natural Instability Feature (Active Layer Detachment) on the Headwaters of the Mary River 16 km East-northeast of the Mine
Photo 45 (2722)	Another Natural Instability Feature (Active Layer Detachment) on the Headwaters of the Mary River 16 km East-northeast of the Mine
Photo 46 (2724)	More Natural Instability Features (Active Layer Detachment Sides) Uphill from Photo 45
Photo 47 (2014 Photo)	Natural Collapse Feature in Undisturbed Terrain (Comparison)
Photo 48 (2638)	2019 Aerial Photo of the Natural Collapse from Photo 47
Photo 49 (2650)	Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit
Photo 50 (2652)	Close up of Some of the Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit
Photo 51 (2643)	Additional Erosion Channels Downslope of the Main Mine Haul Road from the Open Pit



**Photo 1 (2014 Photo 1612):**

Priority C pit at KM 6.6 (Figure 1) lies on a gravel terrace with well-established ice wedge polygons. Removal of material from the active layer in the pit has initiated thaw and ponding but it has not changed since 2009 and remarkably is not currently impacting the embankment.



**Photo 2 (2014 Photo 1585):**

Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 2), linear sinkholes from ice wedge melt out, see also Photo 3.



**Photo 3 (2014 Photo 1697):**

Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3) is threatening the stability of the road embankment as thermal erosion from water is occurring through the ice wedges exposed in the adjacent pit.



**Photo 4 (2014 Photo 1645):**

Pit at KM 71.6 (Figure 10), typical settlement from thaw of segregated ice common in finer-grained lacustrine soils.



**Photo 5 (DWH 2009 Photo 593):**  
Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8) in 2009, compare to Photo 5A.



**Photo 5A (2593):**  
Pit at KM 61.7 (Figure 8), in 2014, note extensive settlement in southern portion (right side) of the developed pit indicative of the presence of massive ice in portions of this deposit. Note road realignment to improve grade.



**Photo 6 (2014 Photo 1576):**

Pit at KM 32.4 (Figures 4 and 5), typical Priority C pit in thaw stable soils that only requires regrading.



**Photo 7:**

Extreme settlement of the runway at the Inuvik, NT airport. Settlement appeared overnight. Investigation revealed that the settlement occurred due to thaw of an ice wedge below the embankment. The embankment had bridged the void left by the thaw for a considerable length of time (likely several years).



**Photo 8 (2531):**

Pit at KM 7.2 with water on both sides of the new road alignment and extensive thaw of massive and wedge ice.



**Photo 9 (2578):**

Pit at KM 7.2 – Note extensive thaw ponds on the west (right) side of the road. The road has been significantly realigned since 2014 and thaw has progressed dramatically since then. Road is likely founded on permafrost that contains massive ice thereby raising concern that thaw due to the ponded water could lead to failure.



**Photo 10 (2536):**

Pit at KM 7.9 showing extensive settlement and ponding that is leading to embankment instability.



**Photo 11 (2540):**

Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 4), pit is deepening due to continued thaw of ice-rich ground. Side slopes are very steep and there is considerable cracking on the shoulder and side slopes indicating that thaw is progressing under the road embankment. See Photo 12 for an aerial view of this pit.



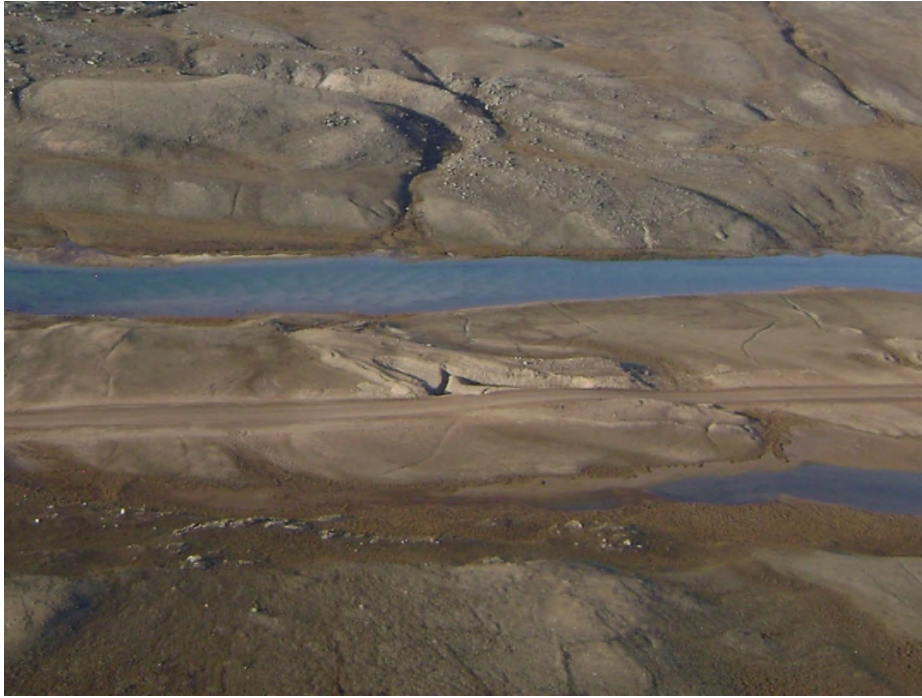
**Photo 12 (2571):**

Pit at KM 19.8 (Figure 3), note ponded water resulting from thaw of ice-rich material and over-steepened side slopes where water is ponding.



**Photo 13 (2544):**

Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), continued melt out of wedge ice since 2009, embankment side slope is at angle of repose and there is substantial cracking on the side slope. There is evidence that the wedge ice that extends under the road is thawing because there are dips on the road surface. See also Photo 3 for comparison to 2014 condition.



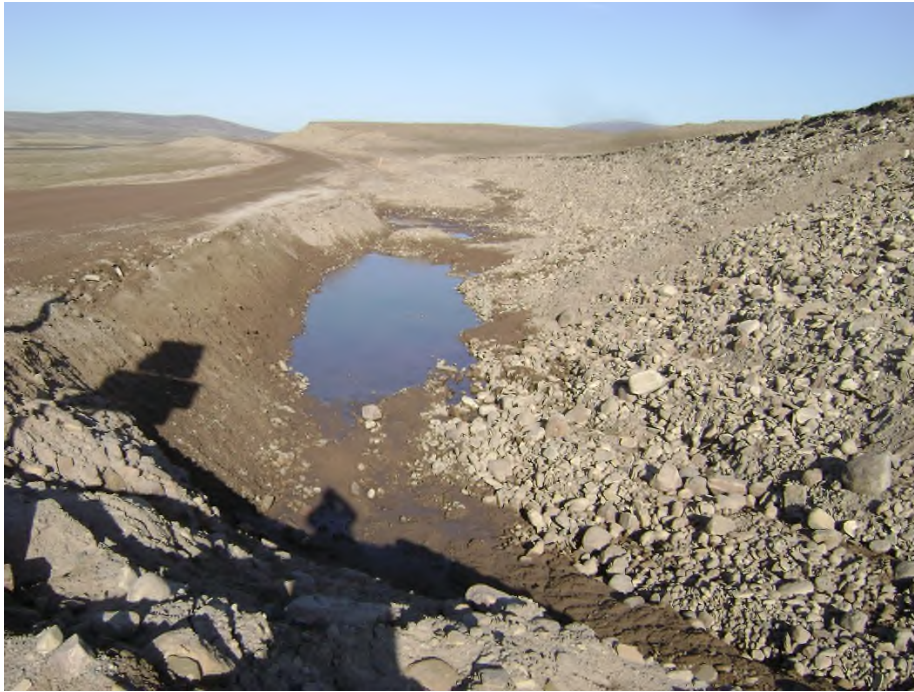
**Photo 14 (2571):**

Pit at KM 20.7 (Figure 3), see Photo 13 for closeup of this pit.



**Photo 15 (2693):**

Pit at KM 21.9 (Figure 3), continued thaw of ice-rich material exacerbated by the ponding leading to steep side slope and instability of the embankment.



**Photo 16 (2693):**

Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), continued thaw of ice-rich material exacerbated by the ponding leading to steep side slope and instability of the embankment. See also Photo 17. The central portion of this pit had been backfilled since 2014 dramatically improving embankment stability.



**Photo 17 (2695):**

Pit at KM 29.1 (Figure 4), continued thaw of ice-rich material exacerbated by the ponding leading to steep side slope and instability of the embankment. The central portion of this pit had been backfilled (bottom of the photo) since 2014 dramatically improving embankment stability.



**Photo 18 (2670):**

Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), berms along this (right) side of the new road effectively push water away from the embankment providing thermal protection to the embankment foundation soils and enhancing stability.



**Photo 19 (2693):**

Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), the left side of the new road has steeper side slopes particularly where it narrows at the culvert inlet (close to the KM marker). This increases the potential for instability. The water needs to be pushed back from the toe of the slope by constructing berms on this side of the road (see Photo 18).



**Photo 20 (2592):**

Pit at KM 56.8 (Figure 8), drainage at this location is clearly shown in this photo. The culvert under the old road (near the hairpin corner) is currently being relied upon to keep water levels low around the new road.



**Photo 21 (2558):**

Pits at KM 63 to 63.8 (Figure 9), continued thaw of ice-rich material threatens road stability at this location.



**Photo 22 (2657):**

Pit at KM 63.8 (Figure 9), continued thaw of ice-rich material beside the realigned road leading to steep side slope and instability of the embankment. Side slopes need to be significantly flattened to provide better thermal protection and stability.



**Photo 23 (2662):**

Pits at KM 63 to 63.4 (Figure 9), continued thaw of ice-rich material beside the realigned road leading to steep side slope and instability of the embankment. Side slopes need to be significantly flattened to provide better thermal protection and stability.



**Photo 24 (2014 Photo):**

Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), extensive thaw settlement of very ice-rich soils in the borrow pits on both sides.



**Photo 25 (2555):**

Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), compare to Photo 24. Thaw settlement is ongoing. Road was rebuilt after a failure occurred at the location of the pond on the left side of the road. Erosion channel from the left side is now more visible. When the water rises in the thaw settlement areas on the right side of the road it flows out and down to the creek and may be a source of sediment.



**Photo 26 (2555):**

Pit at KM 72.4 (Figure 10), photo shows right side borrow pit with very deep ponding due to thaw. Embankment shows signs of instability due to very steep slopes. Outlet for ponded water can be seen and is probably the source of sediments noted by the QIA.



**Photo 27 (2597):**

Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), photo shows borrow pit on the right side with very deep ponding due to thaw (centre of photo). Larger pond on the right is a natural thermokarst pond that existed before the road was constructed and is typical of the ponds that form due to thaw of massive ice bodies. This was likely also the case at the borrow pit location where the removal of the active layer initiated thaw of massive ice.



**Photo 28 (2656):**

Pit at KM 89.8 (Figure 12), photo shows right side borrow pit with very deep ponding due to thaw. Embankment shows signs of instability due to very steep slopes and ongoing thaw.



**Photo 29 (2678):**

KM 17 Bridge, west abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall.



**Photo 30 (2683):**  
KM 17 Bridge, east abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall.



**Photo 31 (2683):**  
KM 63 Bridge, north abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall.



**Photo 32 (2708):**  
KM 64 Bridge, south abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall.



**Photo 33 (2712):**  
KM 64 Bridge, south abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall, buckling of back bin wall corner post (yellow) and bending of upper plate in the lower bin wall (blue).



**Photo 34 (2715):**  
KM 80 Bridge, south abutment. Note tilting of upper bin wall.



**Photo 35 (2718):**  
KM 80 Bridge, road surfacing gravel that has fallen through the centerline joint in the bridge deck and is visible in the river.



**Photo 36 (2719):**

KM 97 Bridge, north abutment. Shorter upper bin wall has not tilted as much as other bridges. Lower chord of the bridge truss appears to be in contact with the lower bin wall.



**Photo 37 (2523):**

KM 2.5 slope instability and mud slide adjacent to the Tote Road.



**Photo 38 (2524):**

KM 2.5 slope instability and mud slide adjacent to the Tote Road. Photo on terrace above the road, note evidence of a small instability near the top of the slope and thawed surficial materials on the terrace.



**Photo 39 (2526):**

KM 4.0 erosion location. Erosion is seen on the north (left in the photo) side of terrace (see also photo 40) with a large sedimentation fan near the creek, a wet area on the terrace below the road (see Photo 41) and secondary erosion feature (see Photo 42 on the south (right in the photo) side of the terrace.



**Photo 40 (2528):**  
KM 4.0 erosion location immediately below the culvert on the north side of the terrace.



**Photo 41 (2526):**  
KM 4.0 erosion location. Photo shows wet area below the road on the top of the terrace.



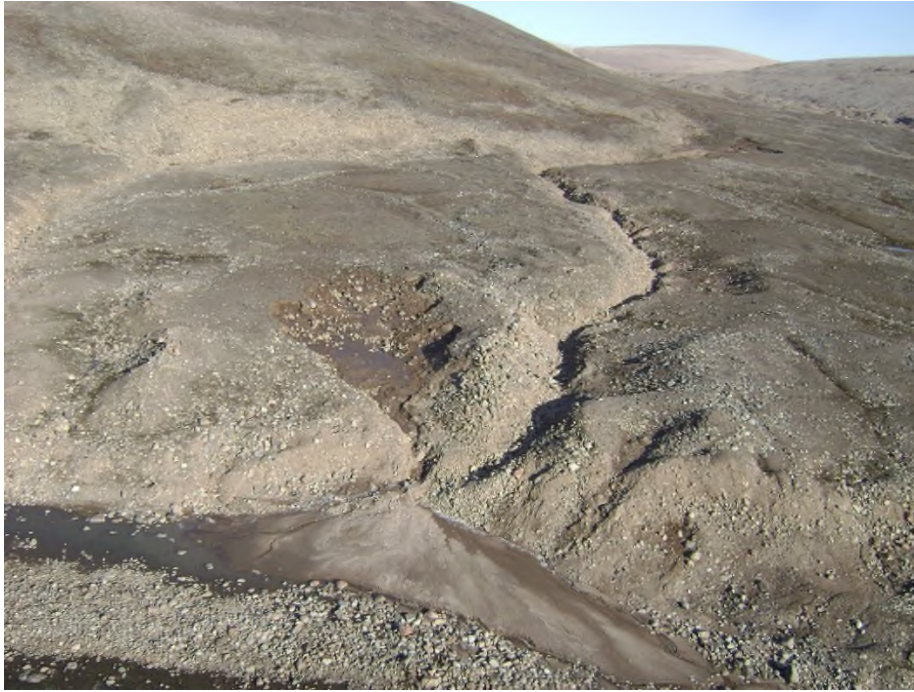
**Photo 42 (2527):**

KM 4.0 erosion location. Photo shows erosion at the edge of the south side of the terrace.



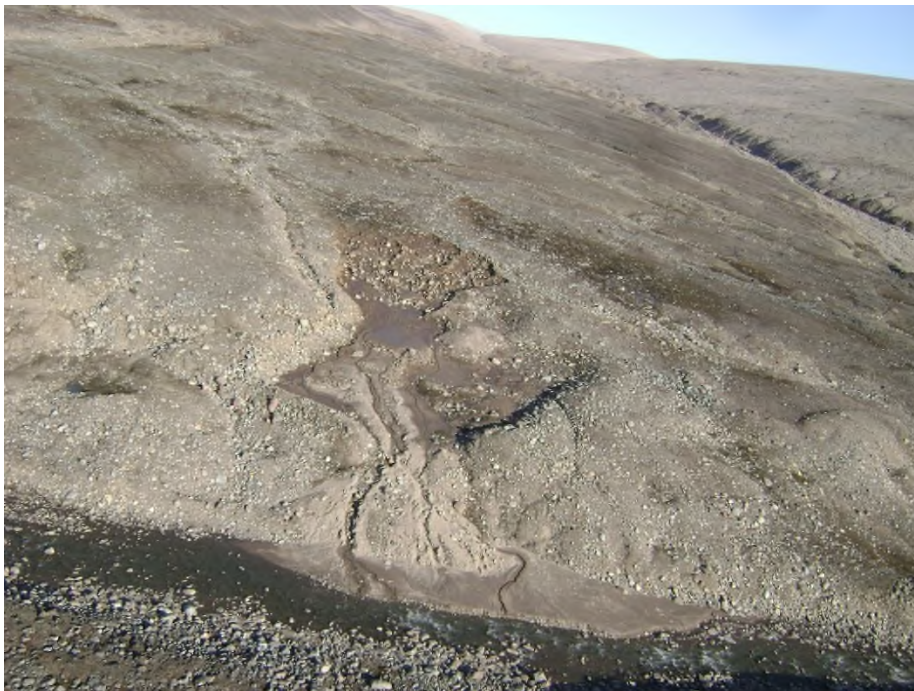
**Photo 43 (2728):**

Natural instability/erosion feature south of the Tote Road near KM 71. Surface water erosion leading to thaw and sediment release.



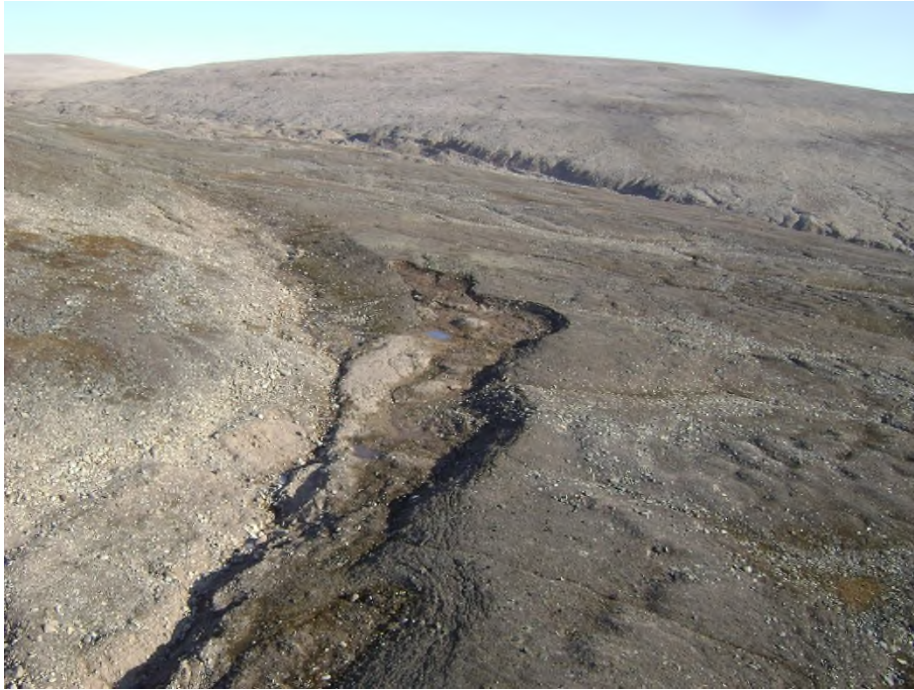
**Photo 44 (2721):**

Natural instability feature (active layer detachment side) on the headwaters of the Mary River 16 km east-northeast of the mine.



**Photo 45 (2722):**

Another natural instability feature (active layer detachment side) on the headwaters of the Mary River 16 km east-northeast of the mine. Note sedimentation into the river that lead to turbidity being observed in the river near the mine



**Photo 46 (2724):**

More natural instability features (active layer detachment sides) uphill from the location shown in Photo 45 on the headwaters of the Mary River 16 km east-northeast of the mine.



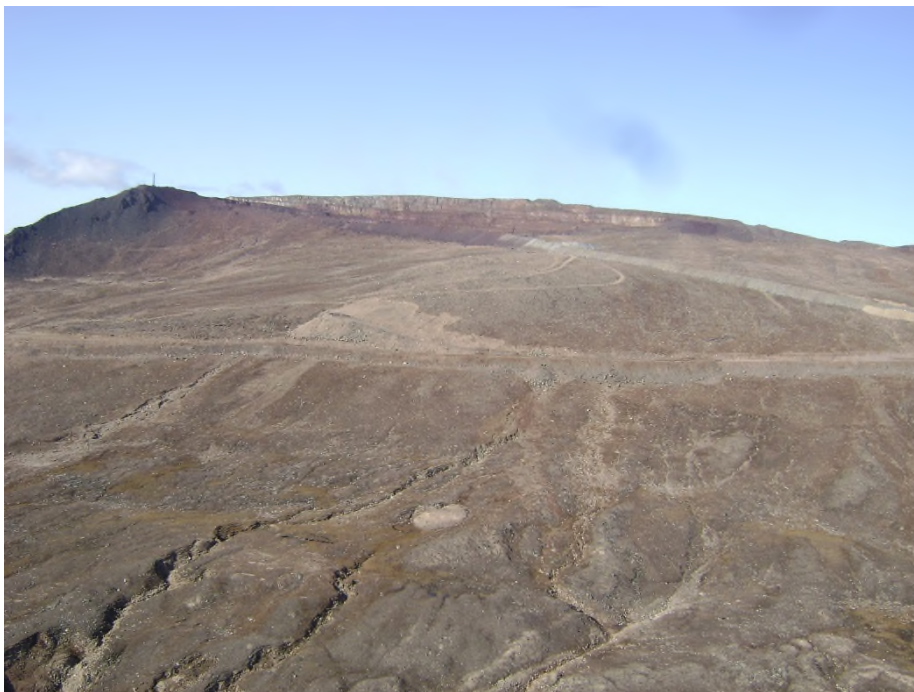
**Photo 47 (2014 photo):**

Photo of a natural collapse feature in undisturbed terrain. The photo clearly shows the active layer (light colour silty granular material), overlying frozen (darker material), overlying a massive ice body. Natural material over the ice is approximately 3.0 m thick. See Photo 48 taken in 2019 at the same location.



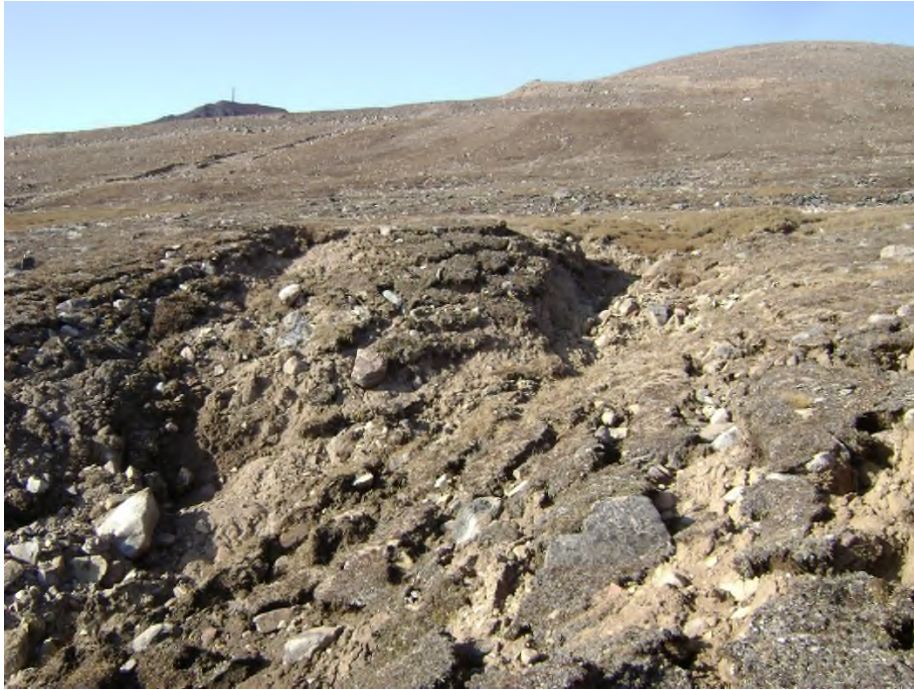
**Photo 48 (2638):**

2019 Aerial photo of the natural collapse feature shown in Photo 47. The size of the collapse feature has increased dramatically with extensive meltout of the massive ice. What can be learned from the photo is that terrain with this type of surface expression (“gummie worm”) is likely indicative of deposits of massive ice. This type of terrain is particularly prevalent in the area where the railway deviates to the south of the Tote Road.



**Photo 49 (2650):**

Erosion channels downslope of the main mine haul road from the open pit.



**Photo 50 (2652):**

Close-up of some of the erosion channels downslope of the main mine haul road from the open pit.



**Photo 51 (2643):**

Additional erosion channels downslope of the main mine haul road from the open pit.

## APPENDIX A

### TETRA TECH'S LIMITATIONS ON USE OF THIS DOCUMENT

# **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

## **GEOTECHNICAL**

### **1.1 USE OF DOCUMENT AND OWNERSHIP**

This document pertains to a specific site, a specific development, and a specific scope of work. The document may include plans, drawings, profiles and other supporting documents that collectively constitute the document (the "Professional Document").

The Professional Document is intended for the sole use of TETRA TECH's Client (the "Client") as specifically identified in the TETRA TECH Services Agreement or other Contractual Agreement entered into with the Client (either of which is termed the "Contract" herein). TETRA TECH does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of any of the data, analyses, recommendations or other contents of the Professional Document when it is used or relied upon by any party other than the Client, unless authorized in writing by TETRA TECH.

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Where TETRA TECH has expressly authorized the use of the Professional Document by a third party (an "Authorized Party"), consideration for such authorization is the Authorized Party's acceptance of these Limitations on Use of this Document as well as any limitations on liability contained in the Contract with the Client (all of which is collectively termed the "Limitations on Liability"). The Authorized Party should carefully review both these Limitations on Use of this Document and the Contract prior to making any use of the Professional Document. Any use made of the Professional Document by an Authorized Party constitutes the Authorized Party's express acceptance of, and agreement to, the Limitations on Liability.

The Professional Document and any other form or type of data or documents generated by TETRA TECH during the performance of the work are TETRA TECH's professional work product and shall remain the copyright property of TETRA TECH.

The Professional Document is subject to copyright and shall not be reproduced either wholly or in part without the prior, written permission of TETRA TECH. Additional copies of the Document, if required, may be obtained upon request.

### **1.2 ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENT FORMAT**

Where TETRA TECH submits electronic file and/or hard copy versions of the Professional Document or any drawings or other project-related documents and deliverables (collectively termed TETRA TECH's "Instruments of Professional Service"), only the signed and/or sealed versions shall be considered final. The original signed and/or sealed electronic file and/or hard copy version archived by TETRA TECH shall be deemed to be the original. TETRA TECH will archive a protected digital copy of the original signed and/or sealed version for a period of 10 years.

Both electronic file and/or hard copy versions of TETRA TECH's Instruments of Professional Service shall not, under any circumstances, be altered by any party except TETRA TECH. TETRA TECH's Instruments of Professional Service will be used only and exactly as submitted by TETRA TECH.

Electronic files submitted by TETRA TECH have been prepared and submitted using specific software and hardware systems. TETRA TECH makes no representation about the compatibility of these files with the Client's current or future software and hardware systems.

### **1.3 STANDARD OF CARE**

Services performed by TETRA TECH for the Professional Document have been conducted in accordance with the Contract, in a manner consistent with the level of skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing under similar conditions in the jurisdiction in which the services are provided. Professional judgment has been applied in developing the conclusions and/or recommendations provided in this Professional Document. No warranty or guarantee, express or implied, is made concerning the test results, comments, recommendations, or any other portion of the Professional Document.

If any error or omission is detected by the Client or an Authorized Party, the error or omission must be immediately brought to the attention of TETRA TECH.

### **1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY CLIENT**

The Client acknowledges that it has fully cooperated with TETRA TECH with respect to the provision of all available information on the past, present, and proposed conditions on the site, including historical information respecting the use of the site. The Client further acknowledges that in order for TETRA TECH to properly provide the services contracted for in the Contract, TETRA TECH has relied upon the Client with respect to both the full disclosure and accuracy of any such information.

### **1.5 INFORMATION PROVIDED TO TETRA TECH BY OTHERS**

During the performance of the work and the preparation of this Professional Document, TETRA TECH may have relied on information provided by persons other than the Client.

While TETRA TECH endeavours to verify the accuracy of such information, TETRA TECH accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or the reliability of such information even where inaccurate or unreliable information impacts any recommendations, design or other deliverables and causes the Client or an Authorized Party loss or damage.

### **1.6 GENERAL LIMITATIONS OF DOCUMENT**

This Professional Document is based solely on the conditions presented and the data available to TETRA TECH at the time the data were collected in the field or gathered from available databases.

The Client, and any Authorized Party, acknowledges that the Professional Document is based on limited data and that the conclusions, opinions, and recommendations contained in the Professional Document are the result of the application of professional judgment to such limited data.

The Professional Document is not applicable to any other sites, nor should it be relied upon for types of development other than those to which it refers. Any variation from the site conditions present, or variation in assumed conditions which might form the basis of design or recommendations as outlined in this report, at or on the development proposed as of the date of the Professional Document requires a supplementary investigation and assessment.

TETRA TECH is neither qualified to, nor is it making, any recommendations with respect to the purchase, sale, investment or development of the property, the decisions on which are the sole responsibility of the Client.

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## 1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES

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Unless stipulated in the report, TETRA TECH has not been retained to investigate, address or consider and has not investigated, addressed or considered any environmental or regulatory issues associated with development on the subject site.

## 1.8 NATURE AND EXACTNESS OF SOIL AND ROCK DESCRIPTIONS

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Classification and identification of soils and rocks are based upon commonly accepted systems and methods employed in professional geotechnical practice. This report contains descriptions of the systems and methods used. Where deviations from the system or method prevail, they are specifically mentioned.

Classification and identification of geological units are judgmental in nature as to both type and condition. TETRA TECH does not warrant conditions represented herein as exact, but infers accuracy only to the extent that is common in practice.

Where subsurface conditions encountered during development are different from those described in this report, qualified geotechnical personnel should revisit the site and review recommendations in light of the actual conditions encountered.

## 1.9 LOGS OF TESTHOLES

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The testhole logs are a compilation of conditions and classification of soils and rocks as obtained from field observations and laboratory testing of selected samples. Soil and rock zones have been interpreted. Change from one geological zone to the other, indicated on the logs as a distinct line, can be, in fact, transitional. The extent of transition is interpretive. Any circumstance which requires precise definition of soil or rock zone transition elevations may require further investigation and review.

## 1.10 STRATIGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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The stratigraphic and geological information indicated on drawings contained in this report are inferred from logs of test holes and/or soil/rock exposures. Stratigraphy is known only at the locations of the test hole or exposure. Actual geology and stratigraphy between test holes and/or exposures may vary from that shown on these drawings. Natural variations in geological conditions are inherent and are a function of the historic environment. TETRA TECH does not represent the conditions illustrated as exact but recognizes that variations will exist. Where knowledge of more precise locations of geological units is necessary, additional investigation and review may be necessary.

## 1.11 PROTECTION OF EXPOSED GROUND

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Excavation and construction operations expose geological materials to climatic elements (freeze/thaw, wet/dry) and/or mechanical disturbance which can cause severe deterioration. Unless otherwise specifically indicated in this report, the walls and floors of excavations must be protected from the elements, particularly moisture, desiccation, frost action and construction traffic.

## 1.12 SUPPORT OF ADJACENT GROUND AND STRUCTURES

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Unless otherwise specifically advised, support of ground and structures adjacent to the anticipated construction and preservation of adjacent ground and structures from the adverse impact of construction activity is required.

## 1.13 INFLUENCE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

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There is a direct correlation between construction activity and structural performance of adjacent buildings and other installations. The influence of all anticipated construction activities should be considered by the contractor, owner, architect and prime engineer in consultation with a geotechnical engineer when the final design and construction techniques are known.

## 1.14 OBSERVATIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

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Because of the nature of geological deposits, the judgmental nature of geotechnical engineering, as well as the potential of adverse circumstances arising from construction activity, observations during site preparation, excavation and construction should be carried out by a geotechnical engineer. These observations may then serve as the basis for confirmation and/or alteration of geotechnical recommendations or design guidelines presented herein.

## 1.15 DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

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Where temporary or permanent drainage systems are installed within or around a structure, the systems which will be installed must protect the structure from loss of ground due to internal erosion and must be designed so as to assure continued performance of the drains. Specific design detail of such systems should be developed or reviewed by the geotechnical engineer. Unless otherwise specified, it is a condition of this report that effective temporary and permanent drainage systems are required and that they must be considered in relation to project purpose and function.

## 1.16 BEARING CAPACITY

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Design bearing capacities, loads and allowable stresses quoted in this report relate to a specific soil or rock type and condition. Construction activity and environmental circumstances can materially change the condition of soil or rock. The elevation at which a soil or rock type occurs is variable. It is a requirement of this report that structural elements be founded in and/or upon geological materials of the type and in the condition assumed. Sufficient observations should be made by qualified geotechnical personnel during construction to assure that the soil and/or rock conditions assumed in this report in fact exist at the site.

## 1.17 SAMPLES

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TETRA TECH will retain all soil and rock samples for 30 days after this report is issued. Further storage or transfer of samples can be made at the Client's expense upon written request, otherwise samples will be discarded.