AGNICO EAGLE

Whale Tail Mine (Piquganiq)*: Waste Rock Storage Facility Modification Water Balance and Water Quality Model Technical Report*

Prepared for:
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meadowbank Division
Suite 540, Baker Lake, NU
X0C 0A0

Prepared by:
Lorax Environmental Services
305-1770 W7th Avenue.
Vancouver, B.C.,
V6J 4Y6

Project No. A830-1

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
CCME	Canadian Environmental Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life
DOC	Dissolved organic carbon
ELOM	Extended Life of Mine
EOM	End of mining/end of Operations
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
Lorax	Lorax Environmental Services Ltd.
masl	Metres above sea level
MAP	Mean annual precipitation
MDMER	Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations
ML	Metal leaching
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NML	Non-metal leaching
NPAG	Non-potentially acid generating
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
O-WTP	Operations Water Treatment Plant
PAG	Potentially acid generating
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway Scenario
GSP	Groundwater Storage Pond
SSWQO	Site-specific water quality objective

STP	Sewage treatment plant
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TSS	Total suspended solids
WBM	Site-wide water balance model
WBWQM	Site-side water balance and water quality model
WQM	Site-wide water quality model
WRSF	Waste rock storage facility
WSC	Water Survey of Canada

1. Introduction

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1. Introduction

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle) operates the Whale Tail Mine (the Mine) on the 408 km^2 Amaruq property, situated on Inuit-owned surface lands. The Amaruq property is located within the Kivalliq region of Nunavut approximately 150 km North of the Hamlet of Baker Lake (Figure 1-1) and 50 km north of the Meadowbank Mine. The Mine is subject to the terms and conditions of both the Project Certificate No. 008, issued in accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 12.5.12 on December 30, 2006, and the Nunavut Water Board Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830 issued in May 2020.

The Whale Tail Mine (Piquganiq) began commercial ore production in September 2019, and is a satellite operation of the Meadowbank Mine, which began operations in 2010. All ore mined at the Whale Tail Mine is transported by truck to the Meadowbank mill for processing, with tailings deposited in the existing Meadowbank storage facilities.

In 2018, Agnico Eagle submitted a proposal to increase gold production from the original Whale Tail Pit Mine through expansion of the Whale Tail pit, development of a new open pit (IVR) and development of an underground beneath the Whale Tail and IVR pits (2018 FEIS). This proposal constituted the Whale Tail Mine Expansion and received approval from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in October 2019. The mine received an amendment to Water License No. 2AM-WTP1830 in May 2020 from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). In 2021, approvals were provided for pushbacks on the IVR and Whale Tail pits (Pushback Project). In 2023, approvals were received to reflect the continuation of the Whale Tail Pushback, continuation of the IVR Pushback, and temporary storage of groundwater in the IVR Pit (referred to as the 2023 Modification).

In support of Whale Tail WRSF modification application, Lorax Environmental Services Ltd. (Lorax) was retained by Agnico Eagle to update the site-wide water balance and water quality model (WBWQM). The modelling effort described in this report builds on previous models completed for the Whale Tail Mine (Golder 2018a; Golder 2018b; Golder 2019a; Golder 2019b; Golder 2019e; Golder 2021; SNC 2023; Lorax 2023; Lorax 2024; Lorax 2025 and Lorax 2026a) and is referred to as the 2026 Modification WBWQM.



LEGEND

- Project Location
- Municipality

DATE SAVED:	Aug 18, 2026
DRAWN BY:	DM
REVIEWED:	SJ
VERSION:	1

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Metres

1:50,000

0 500 1,000 Metres

CLIENT: AGNICO EAGLE

LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT: **Whale Tail Mine**

TITLE: Project Location Map

PROJECT #: A830-1

FIGURE: 1-1

P:\@202506\Whale Tail\Drafting Figures\APRX\Whale Tail Project Location\Whale Tail Project Location.aprx Figure 1-1 Whale Tail Mine Location Printed by: DesMacDonald

1.1 Model Objectives, Structure and Key Inputs

The site-wide water balance and water quality model (WBWQM) for the Whale Tail Mine is built in the GoldSim v15 software platform and is set-up to run on a daily time-step, with all outputs provided on a monthly time-step. The primary modelling objective is to predict water volume and solute load transfers within the mine site, as well as the receiving environment, during all phases of the Whale Tail Mine.

Water volumes and loads are tracked on a daily time-step throughout the model, with all ponds, sumps and open pits (and flooded pits) represented by 'pool' elements in GoldSim. The pool element allows the model to track multiple inflows and outflows simultaneously. All mixing is assumed to occur instantly, and all mass is conserved throughout the model (*i.e.*, no attenuation is applied to the parameters tracked within the model, with the exception of phosphorus and nitrogen, as described in Section 3.3).

The model as presented in the 2025 Annual Report (Lorax 2026a) was updated to reflect the proposed changes to the mine plan, and the current state of the underground contact water management plan. This includes updates of the Whale Tail WRSF footprint, deposited waste rock volumes, and associated sub-catchment areas (Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2). All other components of the WBWQM remain unchanged from Lorax (2026), and the reader is referred to that report for information specific to model setup, assumptions, inputs, calibration and validation.

1.2 Report Structure

Following this introduction, the report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 describes the updated model inputs, specifically the mine plan, and underground mine water management system;
- Section 3 describes the water quality model, including key assumptions, background water quality, geochemical source terms, and model validation;
- Section 4 summarizes the forward model projections for the water balance model;
- Section 5 summarizes the forward model projections for the water quality model; and,
- Section 6 provides a summary of key findings.

2. Model Updates

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2. Model Updates

2.1 Whale Tail Mine Plan

The Operations phase at the Whale Tail Mine will continue until March 27, 2030, with all ore mined at the Whale Tail site milled at the Meadowbank site. The Active Closure phase is initiated in April 2030, spanning a 17-year period ending with the flooding of the Whale Tail North Basin to the final target elevation of 153.5 m. Once this threshold is achieved, the Post-Closure phase begins (nominally in February 2046). The end of model horizon extends to the year 2069 to capture long-term trends in water quality during and after Post-Closure.

Forecast model results are presented for the following time periods based on the LOM mine plan:

- Remaining Operations: January 2026 to March 2030
- Active Closure: April 2030 to January 2046
- Post-Closure: February 2046 onwards (modelled out to December 2069)

The mine phases are unchanged from the currently approved mine plan, which includes four development phases: 1 year of construction (complete), 9 years of mine operations, 17 years of closure, and the post closure period. However, the closure and post-closure periods could ultimately be modified based on water management strategies and water quality results. The current layout as of July 2026 is shown in Figure 2-1, and the end-of-mine layout (2030), including all delineated sub-catchments is presented in Figure 2-2.

2.2 Underground Mine Water Management

The underground mine water management is encoded in the updated model as follows:

- GSP-1 is currently full to the maximum operating water level (MOWL; 154 masl) as of June 2026;
- Water is recirculated from GSP-1 to the underground mine to provide brine for drilling;
- Excess underground water is pumped from GSP-1 to GSP-2 beginning in June 2026;
- Once GSP-2 is full to the MOWL (151 masl), excess water will be pumped to GSP-3;

- The IVR Pit will be mined out and available as a storage reservoir for underground contact water in July 2028, at which time excess water from GSP-3 will be pumped to IVR Pit; and
- All underground water stored at surface in GSP-1, GSP-2, GSP-3 and the IVR Pit will be pumped to the underground void at the beginning of the active closure phase in April 2030.

The storage of underground mine water in the IVR Pit East Lobe was listed as an alternative action in the Adaptive Management Plan (Agnico Eagle, 2021). All other water management remains the same as was presented in Lorax (2026; Figure 2-3).

2.3 Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility Expansion

The modified Whale Tail WRSF footprint reduces the storage volume in the Whale Tail WRSF Pond but given the relatively low volumes of water that report to this pond, the overall ability of the pond to manage WRSF contact water is not adversely impacted. The Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond continues to be pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and/or the IVR Attenuation Pond at a maximum rate of 230 m^3/hour, consistent with the assumptions presented in Lorax (2026).

602000 604000 606000 608000 610000

7256000

7254000

N

A76 A12 A15 A43 A44

NEMO LAKE

KANGISLULIK LAKE

WHALE TAIL LAKE (UIGUQLIQ)

WATER INTAKE IN NEMO LAKE and FRESHWATER PUMP STATION

GSP-2

IVR DIVERSION

IVR CONTACT WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

IVR1 SALINE WATER STORAGE

IVR PIT

GSP-3

IVR WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY

WHALE TAIL LANDFILL

WHALE TAIL CONTACT WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

WHALE TAIL WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY

IVR PUSHBACK

WT PUSHBACK

PAD M

GSP-1

IVR D-2

COMMUNICATION TOWER

LANDFARM

ORE STOCKPILE (No.3)

PAD K

WASTE ROCK EXPLORATION PAD

UNDERGROUND ORE STOCKPILE

IVR ATTENUATION POND

ORE STOCKPILE (No.4)

ORE STOCKPILE (No.1)

ORE STOCKPILE (No.2)

IVR D-1

WRSF POND

WHALE TAIL WRSF DIKE

WHALE TAIL PIT

FUEL 1X50000L

62.5KM

LANDFARM

WHALE TAIL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY

WT ATTENUATION POND

KANGISLULIK DIKE

OVERBURDEN STORAGE PAD

WHALE TAIL CAMP

SANA CRUSHER PAD

TEMPORARY NPAG WRSF (No. 2 & 3)

WHALE TAIL DIKE

KANGISLULIK DIFFUSERS

WATER INTAKE EMULSION PLANT

FUEL 1X50000L

EMULSION PLANT

WHALE TAIL DIKE SEEPAGE DIFFUSER

WHALE TAIL SOUTH BASIN DIFFUSER

ELEVATION ZONE EL. 156m

SOUTH WHALE TAIL DIVERSION CHANNEL

602000 604000 606000 608000 610000

LEGEND

- MAJOR AND MINOR CONTOURS FOR PITS
- EXISTING GROUND
- HAUL ROAD
- ROAD, SALT PROTECTION
- SERVICE ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- PIPE LINE
- DIVERSION CHANNEL
- CONTACT WATER POND
- SALINE POND
- WATERBODY (NATURAL)
- BACKFILL
- STOCKPILE
- DIKE
- OPEN PIT
- WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY

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Original Drawing:
Drawing Number 2024Q4. *Amaruq Mine Site General Arrangement.*
Produced May 2, 2019 by Agnico Eagle.

CLIENT: AGNICO EAGLE

LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT: **Whale Tail ELOM WB/WQM**

TITLE: Whale Tail ELOM Water Balance Layout - 2026

PROJECT #: A830-1

FIGURE: 2-1

P:\@202506\Whale Tail\Drafting Figures\Autocad\Autocad Figures\ELOM 2026 July Update\ELOM_2026_EOY.dwg

602000 604000 606000 608000 610000

7256000

7254000

N

A76
A12
A15
A43
A44

NEMO LAKE
KANGISLULIK LAKE
WHALE TAIL LAKE (UIGUQLIQ)

WATER INTAKE IN NEMO LAKE and FRESHWATER PUMP STATION
GSP-2
IVR DIVERSION
IVR CONTACT WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM
IVR1 SALINE WATER STORAGE
IVR PIT
GSP-3
IVR WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY
WHALE TAIL CONTACT WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM
WHALE TAIL LANDFILL
WHALE TAIL WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY
IVR PUSHBACK
WT PUSHBACK
PAD M
GSP-1
IVR D-2
COMMUNICATION TOWER
LANDFARM
ORE STOCKPILE (No.3)
PAD K
UNDERGROUND ORE STOCKPILE
WASTE ROCK EXPLORATION PAD
IVR ATTENUATION POND
PREVIOUS WHALE TAIL WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY FOOTPRINT
WRSF POND
WHALE TAIL WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY - MODIFICATION
WHALE TAIL WRSF DIKE
ORE STOCKPILE (No.4)
WHALE TAIL PIT
ORE STOCKPILE (No.1)
ORE STOCKPILE (No.2)
IVR D-1
TAHIQ ROAD 62.5KM
LANDFARM
WHALE TAIL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY
WT ATTENUATION POND
KANGISLULIK DIKE
OVERBURDEN STORAGE PAD
WHALE TAIL CAMP
KANGISLULIK DIFFUSERS
SANA CRUSHER PAD
TEMPORARY NPAG WRSF (No. 2 & 3)
WHALE TAIL DIKE
WATER INTAKE EMULSION PLANT
FUEL 1X50000L
EMULSION PLANT
WHALE TAIL DIKE SEEPAGE DIFFUSER
WHALE TAIL SOUTH BASIN DIFFUSER
ELEVATION ZONE EL. 156m
SOUTH WHALE TAIL DIVERSION CHANNEL

LEGEND

- MAJOR AND MINOR CONTOURS FOR PITS
- EXISTING GROUND
- HAUL ROAD
- ROAD, SALT PROTECTION
- SERVICE ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- PIPE LINE
- DIVERSION CHANNEL
- CONTACT WATER POND
- SALINE POND
- WATERBODY (NATURAL)
- BACKFILL
- STOCKPILE
- DIKE
- OPEN PIT
- WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY
- WASTE ROCK STORAGE FACILITY - EXTENSION

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Produced May 2, 2019 by Agnico Eagle.

CLIENT: AGNICO EAGLE

LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT: **Whale Tail ELOM WB/WQM**

TITLE: Whale Tail ELOM Water Balance Layout - 2030

PROJECT #: A830-1

FIGURE: 1

P:\@202506\Whale Tail\Drafting Figures\Autocad\Autocad Figures\ELOM 2026 July Update\ELOM_2030_EOY.dwg

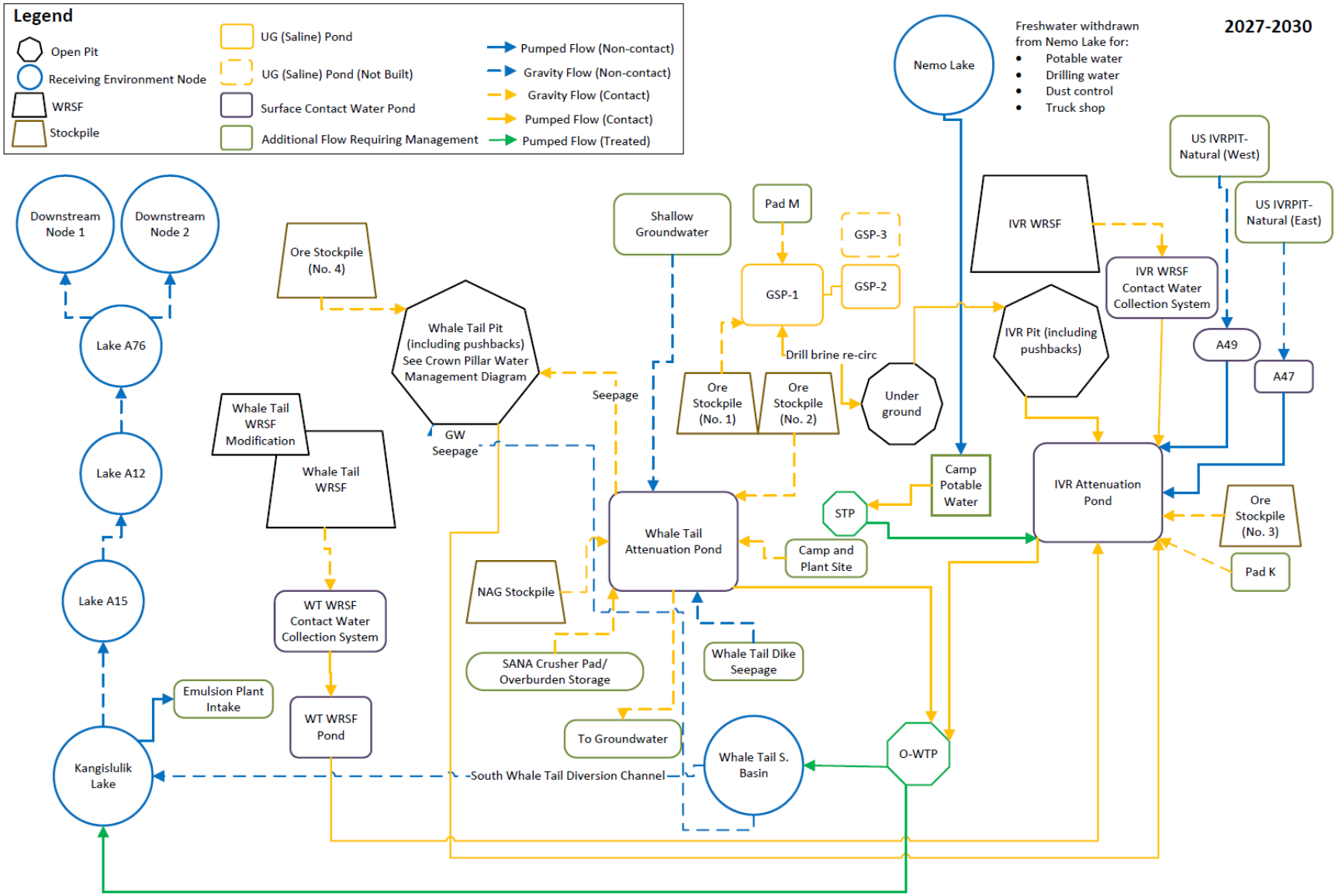


Figure 2-3: Conceptual End-of-Mine Site Water Management Flow Diagram.

2.4 Active Closure and Post-Closure Assumptions

The Active Closure phase begins in April 2030 following the cessation of mining operations. The Active Closure phase is defined by the period of time required to fill the Whale Tail North Basin to its final Post-Closure target water level of 153.5 m (Figure 2-6), which is predicted to take approximately 16 years.

The Post-Closure phase begins in February 2046 and represents the long-term equilibrium condition once the A18 Lake complex, Whale Tail South Basin and Whale Tail North Basin have reached their target water levels.

Specific activities associated with the Active Closure phase include:

- Groundwater collected in GSP-1, GSP-2, GSP-3 and the IVR Pit is pumped into underground mine void, at a maximum rate of 2,000 m^3/hour. The A47 and A49 Sumps are assumed to report passively to the IVR Pit;
- Active water treatment continues in June to September each year at a maximum rate of 1,300 m^3/hour for an additional five years (2030-2034; Figure 2-5);
    - Contact water is pumped from the IVR Attenuation Pond, treated and discharged into the IVR Pit;
    - 65% of pit wall runoff from the IVR Pit (once groundwater is pumped underground) and Whale Tail Pit, plus 65% of the groundwater inflows to Whale Tail Pit, are assumed to be captured by collection ditches along the pit benches, and pumped to the IVR Attenuation Pond;
    - Overflows from the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond are assumed to bypass these pit wall collection ditches and are routed to the bottom of Whale Tail Pit.
- Construction of a sill (A18 Sill) between Lake A18 and Whale Tail South Basin to raise the water level to 155.3 m as part of the approved fish habitat offset plan (ERM, 2020; Agnico Eagle, 2020). This is completed in 2030, once the water level in Whale Tail South Basin drops below 154 m due to active pumping to the mine voids.
    - Discharge through the A18 Sill is governed by the spill notch invert configuration, as described in Lorax (2026).
- Completion of reclamation activities for all disturbed areas (including completion of the NPAG/NML WRSF covers, and backfill of the IVR Pit Pushbacks, GSP-1, GSP-2, GSP-3 and IVR Attenuation Pond) by the end of the third year of Active Closure (2033).

  - Backfilled voids are assumed to have a porosity of 30%.
- Active pumping from Whale Tail South Basin and Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond to fill the mine voids, according to the following priority sequence:
  - Underground mine;
  - IVR Pit;
  - Whale Tail Pit and Whale Tail Pit pushback; and,
  - Whale Tail North Basin.

Water from the Whale Tail South Basin is pumped into the remaining mine voids, at a maximum rate of 2,800 m^3/hour in the second half of 2030, and 1,600 m^3/hour over the remaining 15 years. This pit flooding program will be active during the open water season only, assumed to span June 1 to September 30 of each year. Per the 2025 Water Management Plan, an additional 161,000 m^3 (55 m^3/hour) is pumped from Whale Tail South Basin during the same annual pumping window to the mine voids to meet the target of restoring the Whale Tail North Basin water level to 153.5 m by February 2046. This results in a total pumping volume of 3.5 to 3.7 Mm^3/year for the remainder of the Active Closure phase (2031 to 2046), remaining within the withdrawal limits from the Whale Tail South Basin as prescribed in the water license.

To promote pit flooding, all contact water from the mine site is directed, either actively (*e.g.,* pumping from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond) or passively, to the open pit voids. The underground mine, Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit are not hydraulically connected below their respective spill point elevations and are assumed to form separate reservoirs within the model. Once the Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit are full to the sill elevation, they conjoin into the Whale Tail /IVR Complex.

The west lobe of the IVR Pit spills into the east lobe at 102 m, while the IVR Pit as a whole spills into the Whale Tail Pushback at 123 m, which in turn spills into the Whale Tail Pit at 117 m. The two lobes of the IVR Pushback will not join with the larger IVR Pit once full but will spill into the IVR Pit at 161.5 m (Figure 2-4).

Seepage through the Whale Tail Dike is expected to continue during the Active Closure phase, according to the gradient between water levels in Whale Tail South Basin and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (presented in Figure 2-7). Once full, the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond overflows to the Whale Tail Pit.

Once the Whale Tail North and South Basins have stabilized at their target elevations, and water quality within these reservoirs meets SSWQOs, the Whale Tail Dike will be breached to elevation 153.5 m and the Whale Tail WRSF Pond Dike will be breached to allow flows

from the covered Whale Tail WRSF to report passively to Kangislulik Lake. The site is assumed to have achieved the Closure and Reclamation objectives at this point (by approximately 2046). Further detail on reclamation activities and closure phase water management is provided in Agnico Eagle (2020b; 2022), respectively.

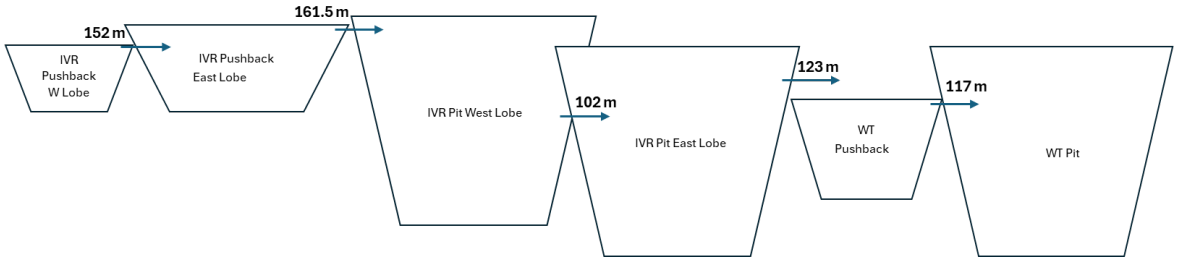


Figure 2-4: Open Pit Spill Point Elevations

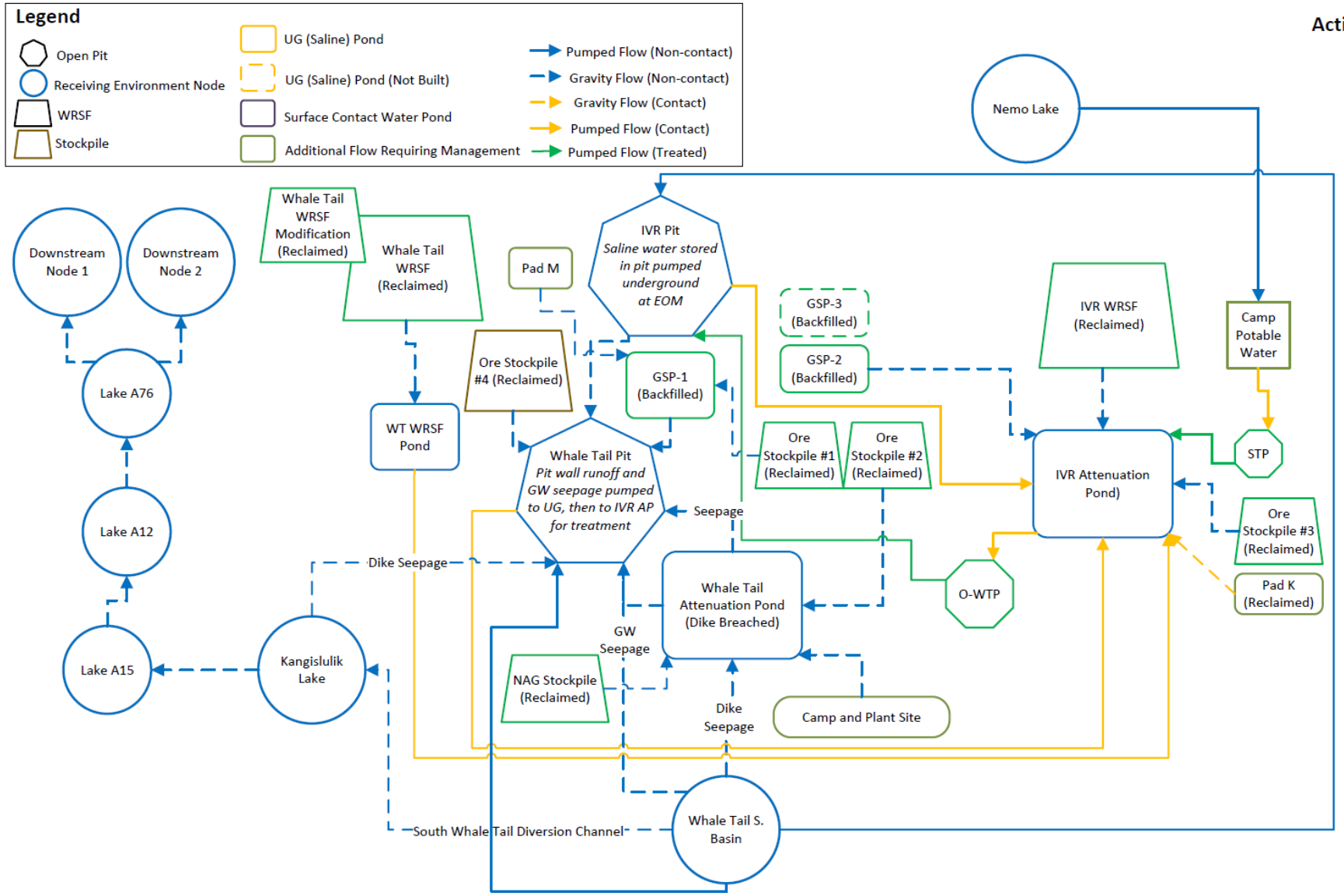


Figure 2-5: Active Closure Flow Diagram

602000 604000 606000 608000 610000

7256000

7254000

7252000

N

A76

A12

A15

A43

A44

A63
155.3m

A18
155.3m

A20
155.3m

A19
155.3m

A21
155.3m

NEMO
LAKE

GSP-2
BACKFILLED

GSP-3
(BACKFILLED)

GSP-1
(BACKFILLED)

IVR WASTE
ROCK STORAGE
FACILITY

IVR
ATTENUATION
POND
(BACKFILLED)

IVR D-1 (BREACHED

HAUL ROAD
92.5KM

WHALE
TAIL
LANDFILL
(BACKFILLED)

WHALE TAIL WASTE
ROCK STORAGE
FACILITY

PREVIOUS WHALE TAIL WASTE
ROCK STORAGE FACILITY FOOTPRINT

WHALE TAIL
WRSF DIKE
(BREACHED)

MAMMOTH DIKE
(BREACHED)

MAMMOTH SILL
(AT CLOSURE)

KANGISLULIK LAKE
152.5m

WHALE TAIL
LAKE (UIGUQLIQ)
NORTH BASIN
153.5m

WHALE
TAIL
DIKE
(BREACHED)

WHALE TAIL
LAKE (UIGUQLIQ)
SOUTH BASIN
153.5m

ELEVATION ZONE
EL. 156m

SOUTH WHALE TAIL
DIVERSION
CHANNEL
(DECOMMISSIONED)

A18
SILL

602000 604000 606000 608000 610000

LEGEND

- MAJOR AND MINOR CONTOURS FOR PITS
- EXISTING GROUND
- HAUL ROAD
- ROAD, SALT PROTECTION SERVICE ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- PIPE LINE
- DIVERSION CHANNEL
- BACKFILLED POND (NPAG)
- DIKE
- RECLAIMED MINE INFRASTRUCTURE
- WATERBODY (NATURAL)

DATE SAVED:	Jul 28, 2026
DRAWN BY:	DM
REVIEWED:	SJ
VERSION:	1

Notes:
1.Original Drawing:
Drawing Number 2042 POST CLOSURE. *Amaruq MineSite General Arrangement.*
Produced May 2, 2019 by Agnico Eagle.
2. Whale Tail WRSF modification design provided by Okane Consultants
3. Pit Extension provided by BBA - Whale Tail Phase 3 Underground End of Period Surfaces

CLIENT: AGNICO EAGLE

LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT: **Whale Tail ELOM WB/WQM**

TITLE: Whale Tail ELOM
Water Balance Layout - Post-Closure

PROJECT #: A830-1

FIGURE: 2-6

P:\@202506\Whale Tail\Drafting Figures\Autocad\Autocad Figures\ELOM 2026 July Update\ELOM_Post-Closure.dwg

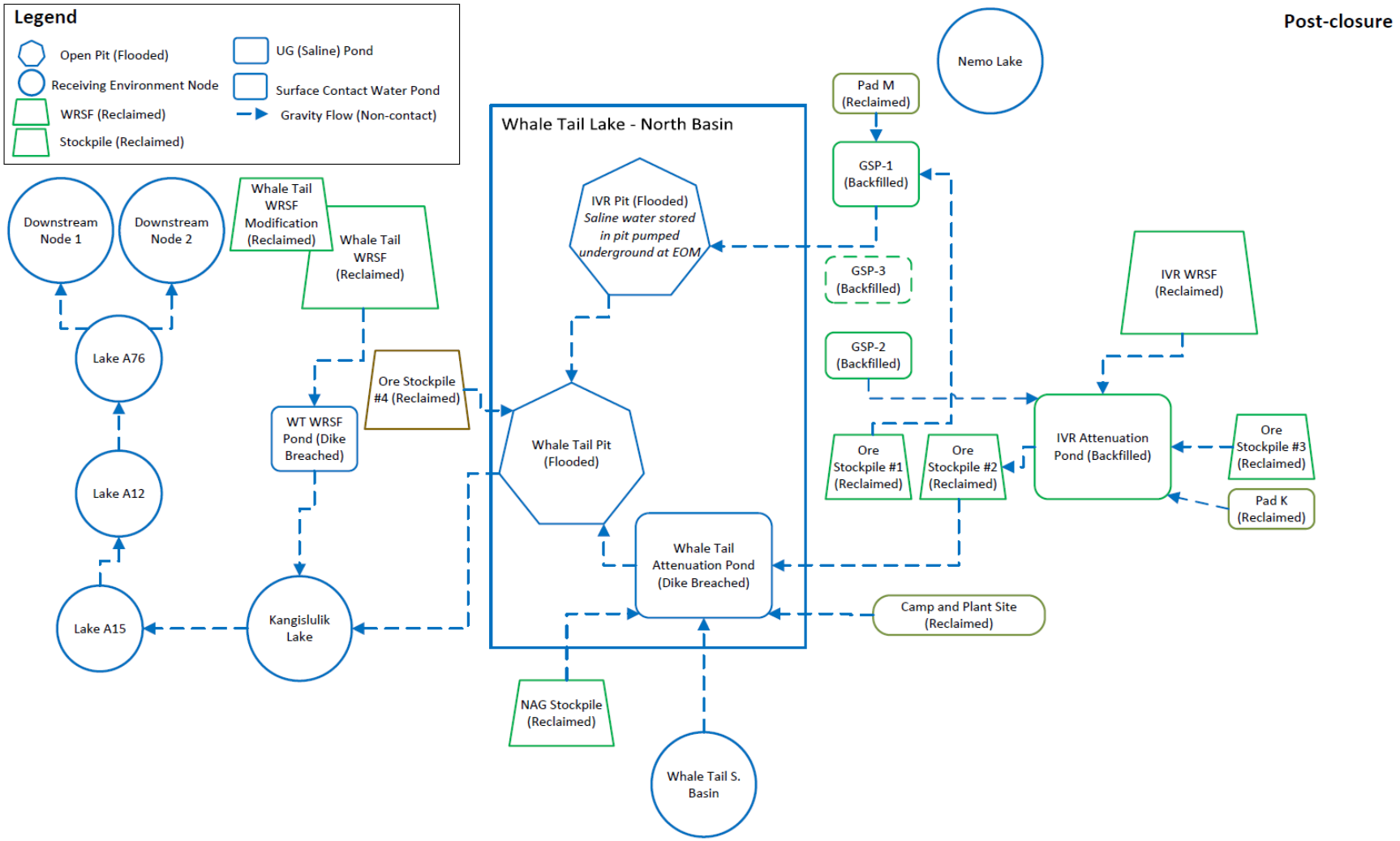


Figure 2-7: Post-Closure Flow Diagram

3. Water Quality Model Methods

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3. Water Quality Model Methods

3.1 Water Quality Parameters

Water quality parameters tracked in the current modelling are those listed in the Water License or presented in previous Annual Report water quality models. These parameters are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1:
Water Quality Parameters Tracked in Annual Report Model

Parameter	
Aluminum	Nickel
Arsenic	Selenium
Cadmium	Zinc
Copper	NH_3-N
Chromium	NO_3-N
Iron	Phosphorous
Lead	Chloride
Manganese	Sulphate
Mercury	Fluoride

3.2 Baseline Water Quality Inputs

Water quality inputs for non-impacted catchment areas were developed using historic baseline water quality monitoring data. The baseline monitoring periods and locations for each lake are summarized in Table 3-2. Baseline periods for each lake were selected to represent conditions prior to the earliest reasonable onset of mining influence. Monitoring began between 2014 and 2016 and continued until mine activity effects were considered likely based on site history.

Table 3-2:
Lake Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Summary

Monitoring Location	Monitoring Station ID	Baseline Monitoring Period
Whale Tail Lake	WTS	2016-2017
Kangislulik Lake	MAM	2015-2017
Nemo Lake	NEM	2014-2019
A76	A76	2016-2018

Median baseline concentrations for key parameters were calculated for lakes A76, Whale Tail South, Kangislulik Lake and Nemo Lake. The median baseline water quality for lake A76 was also applied for lakes DS1, DS2, A18, A20 and A43, and is also applied as the natural runoff source term. Lake A76 was selected to represent non-contact water runoff because it is a relatively small lake located downstream of the mining area and was monitored semi-monthly over the duration of the baseline monitoring period.

The lakes which directly receive mine effluent (Kangislulik Lake and Whale Tail South) were initialized within the model using observed monitoring data. That is, the average concentrations observed in January to February 2020 were applied to the lakes at the beginning of the modelling period (*i.e.*, January 2020).

3.3 Geochemical Source Terms

The derivation of geochemical source terms followed a similar approach to previous model versions (Golder 2019b, 2021; Lorax, 2023; Lorax, 2024). The current model relies on the same approach to source term derivation as that described in Appendix C of Lorax (2024). A summary of source term development is provided below.

Underground Mine Water

- The underground mine water source terms represent the cumulative geochemical load of wall rock and rockfill contact water, and groundwater that is collected in sumps and eventually dewatered to the mine surface.
- Annual loads from underground wall rock and waste backfill were calculated using an upscaled kinetic test loading rates. Loading rates were scaled considering waste and ore production volumes, backfill schedule, and the composition of the underground waste rock and ore.
- The chemical load from groundwater infiltrating the underground was calculated based on predicted inflows to the underground and monitoring data from underground drillhole AMQ-WH-380.
- Salinity of groundwater infiltrating into the underground mine workings was predicted based on the TDS profile developed by Golder (2022), and the maximum depths that mine workings will penetrate below ground surface annually (Figure 3-1). The maximum depth extents are approximate and based off the 3D block model (Table 3-3).
- Nitrogen source terms for the underground mine are based on nitrogen losses observed in the 2020-2021 monitoring data from the Tiriganiaq Underground at the Meliadine mine.

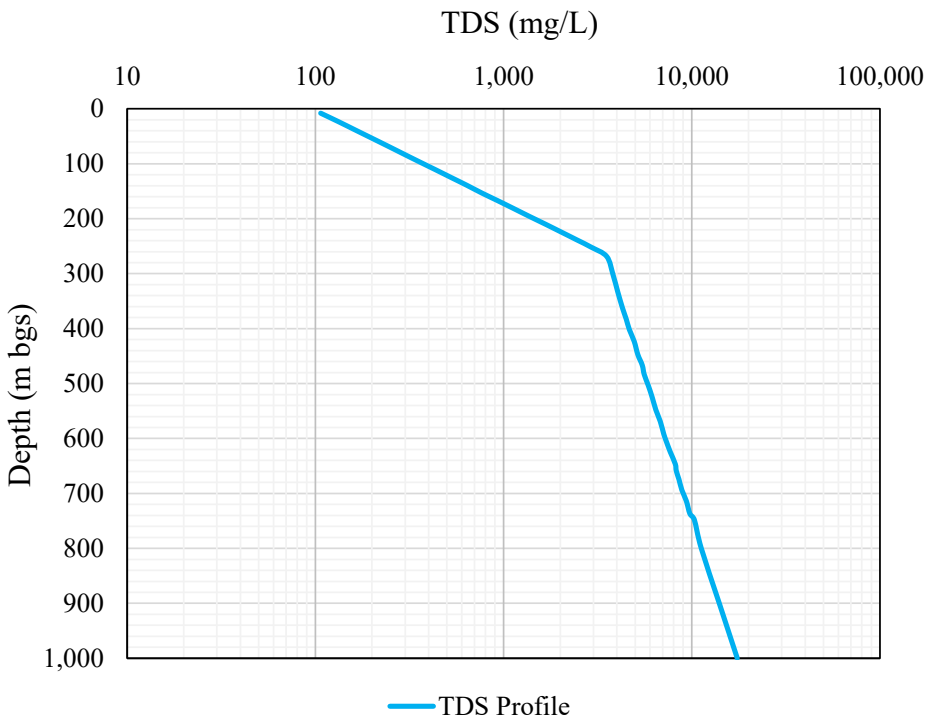


Figure 3-1: Underground Subsurface Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Depth Profile Modified from Golder (2022)

Table 3-3:
Underground Maximum Depths Applied in Total Dissolved Solids Calculation

Year	Whale Tail Underground (m bgs)	Kangislulik Underground (m bgs)	IVR Underground (m bgs)
2025	430	480	120
2026	530	150	570
2027	660	150	490
2028	740	150	530
2029	860	150	540
2030	930	150	640

Waste Rock Storage Facilities

- Geochemical loading rates were based on upscaled kinetic tests following the same approach described in Golder (2019b). An additional scaling factor was introduced based on water quality monitoring data and pumping records. This 'calibration factor' was introduced to ensure model results validated against monitoring data from the early Operations period (2020-2024). Calibration factors were calculated on an annual basis, and the average value was applied in forward modeling.

- The WRSF facilities will be progressively reclaimed using an NPAG/NML waste rock cover through Operations to mitigate potential acid-generation and metal leaching of PAG/ML waste rock. Loadings from the waste rock cover were based on the NPAG/NML waste rock loading rates and the progressive remediation schedule (Table 3-4).
- Nitrogen source terms for waste rock runoff were based on 2020-2022 monitoring data from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond and corrected for runoff from the surrounding catchment area.

Table 3-4:
Assumed Whale Tail WRSF and IVR WRSF Cover Remediation Schedule

Year	Whale Tail WRSF	IVR WRSF
	% Covered	% Covered
2017	0%	0%
2018	0%	0%
2019	0%	0%
2020	0%	50%
2021	18%	50%
2022	29%	25%
2023	29%	25%
2024	33%	25%
2025	37%	25%
2026	40%	25%
2027	40%	25%
2028	40%	25%
2029	40%	25%
2030	40% until April, then 100%	25% until April, then 100%
2031	100%	100%

Note: progressive cover remediation schedule is modified from O'Kane (2019). The WT WRSF and IVR WRSF is assumed to be 100% reclaimed in April 2030.

Open Mine Pits

- Geochemical loading rates for exposed pit walls were calculated by upscaling kinetic test loading rates, following the same approach as described in Golder (2019b). In addition, calibrated scaling factors were introduced, similar to WRSF source terms described above, to ensure model results validated against monitoring data from 2020-2022.

- Nitrogen source terms for pit wall runoff were calculated using average ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite concentrations from the IVR Pit sump monitoring data, corrected for runoff from the surrounding catchment area.
- The diffusive flux source term for arsenic was updated using saturated column kinetic test data. Diffusive flux source terms were developed to predict the initial release and gradual diffusive transport of arsenic from stagnant pore water in the blast damaged walls and floors into the pit lake water column post-flooding.

Exposed Lake Beds

- The source terms for runoff over exposed dewatered Whale Tail Lake sediments were calculated from lake sediment kinetic tests.

NPAG/NML Stockpiles and Mine Facilities Area

- Geochemical loading rates for the NPAG/NML stockpile were calculated using the same assumptions and inputs as the WRSF source terms.
- The mine facilities runoff source term was calculated using the same approach as the NPAG/NML stockpile source term, with a shallower applied interaction depth of 2 m.
- Calibration factors developed for the Whale Tail WRSF source term were applied to the NPAG/NML stockpile and mine facilities areas source terms.

Solubility Controls

- Concentration limits for aluminum, iron and phosphorous were developed using the United States Geological Survey numerical modelling program PHREEQC (Parkhurst and Appello, 1999).
- Constant solubility caps were applied for aluminum (0.44 mg/L) and iron (0.072 mg/L) based on the mineral solubility of ferrihydrite [$Fe(OH)_3$] and aluminum hydroxide [$Al(OH)_3$].
- A variable solubility cap was developed for phosphorus based on hydroxyapatite [$Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH$] solubility at various calcium concentrations. The variable solubility cap was calculated based on predicted source term calcium concentrations and only applied when conservative upscaling concentrations exceeded the predicted phosphorous solubility limit.

Phosphorous Decay

- During Operations, the sewage treatment plant (STP) represents the primary source of phosphorus. Treated effluent from the STP is discharged to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (2020–2021) and IVR Attenuation Pond (2022–end of Operations).
- Phosphorous in the attenuation ponds is considerably lower than concentrations predicted by a conservative mixing model. The inferred mechanism for phosphorous loss in the attenuation ponds is algal uptake as well as the adsorption of phosphorus onto TSS. Therefore, a phosphorous removal rate of 90% is applied year-round for STP discharged to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and IVR Attenuation Pond.
- O-WTP sludge will be disposed of within the Whale Tail WRSF, where it freezes back with the waste rock; mitigating any potential remobilization during the closure phases, as per the Whale Tail Mine Water Management Plan. Therefore, no consideration of P remobilization from this material is considered in the WBWQM.

Nitrogen Decay

- Nitrogen species are subject to microbially-mediated transformation in aquatic systems, such as nitrification. Nitrification is a process in which ammonia (NH_3) is oxidized to nitrite (NO_2) and nitrate (NO_3) sequentially by nitrifying bacteria (Bernhard, 2010).
- Nitrification of NH_3 to NO_2 and ultimately to NO_3 is applied to the Whale Tail South Basin, Kangislulik Lake, Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and IVR Attenuation Pond over the growing season (June-September) when water temperatures are warm and favorable for microbial growth.
- A nitrification rate of 0.001 mg/L/day is applied until NH_3 is reduced to the minimum concentration of 0.001 mg/L.

3.4 Whale Tail Pit and Dike Seepage

Shallow groundwater seepage through dike structures and into the Whale Tail Pit will occur throughout Operations and Active Closure. The shallow groundwater system is dominated by seepage originating from surrounding lakes (Whale Tail Lake South Basin and Kangislulik Lake West Basin) into dewatered areas of the mine site (e.g., Whale Tail North Basin and Whale Tail Pit). This is in contrast to the deep groundwater system beneath the permafrost which contains elevated TDS and interacts with the underground mine workings.

Shallow groundwater seepage through the existing Whale Tail Dike and into the Whale Tail Pit has been monitored since 2019. Source terms were calculated based on average observed concentrations at the groundwater seep monitoring location (ST-GW-ST-1) and Whale Tail Dike monitoring location (ST-GW-WT-17) from January 2019 to March 2023.

3.5 Water Quality Model Validation

Model predictions are compared with observed water quality data from the attenuation ponds, mine pits, and receiving lakes to evaluate model performance. Validation of the 2025 Annual Report model is presented in Lorax (2026). Because the current model produces virtually identical water quality results over the historical operations period, the conclusions of the previous validation remain applicable and are not repeated here.

4. Water Quality Model Results

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4. Water Balance Model Results

The water balance model predictions for key nodes and all mine phases are presented in this section. Results are provided for collection ponds, open mine pits, water treatment plant discharge volumes, and Active Closure pit lake flooding and water management.

4.1 Operations Phase

4.1.1 Collection Ponds

This section summarizes the water balance model results for the surface contact water collection ponds (Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond, Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, IVR Attenuation Pond), and the underground mine contact water ponds (GSP-1 and IVR Pit).

4.1.1.1 Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility Collection Pond

The Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond is predicted to remain below the maximum operating level (154 m) for the duration of Operations and Active Closure (Figure 4-1). The effective water level fluctuates around elevation 153.5 masl once the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond Dike is breached and the pond is reconnected to Kangislulik Lake via gravity drainage.

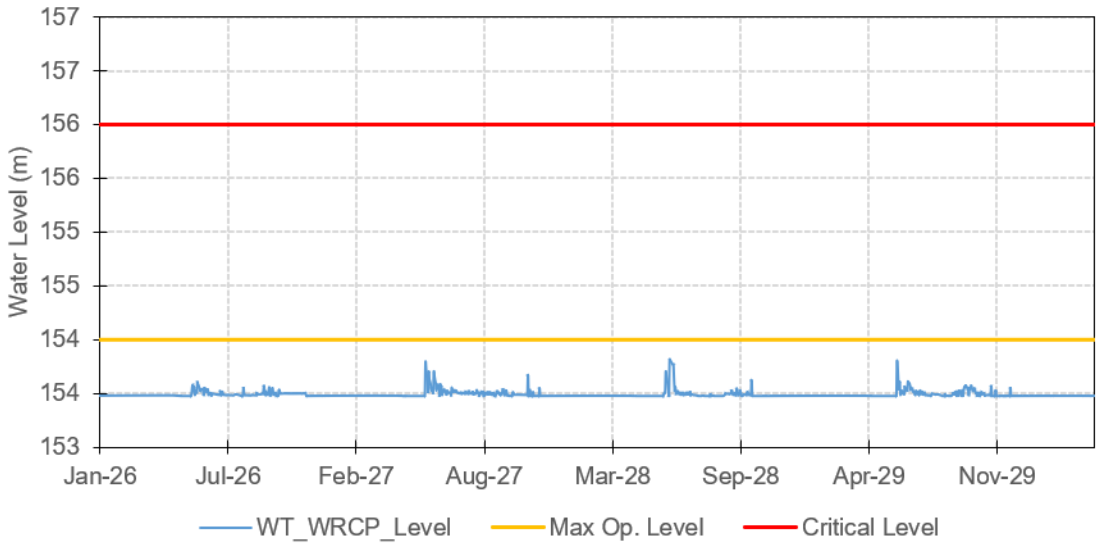


Figure 4-1: Predicted water levels as compared to target operating levels in the Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility Collection Pond for the Operations phase. Maximum operating level shown by orange line, and critical level shown by red line.

Early in mine Operations (2020), contact water from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond was pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond. A limited volume of the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond was also pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond in 2021, with the majority routed to the IVR Attenuation Pond. From 2022 onwards, all Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond contact water is routed to the IVR Attenuation Pond.

4.1.1.2 Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

The Whale Tail Attenuation Pond began operation in freshet of 2019 and operated as the primary Attenuation Pond until 2021. Due to this pond's location downgradient of the Whale Tail Dike and upgradient of Whale Tail Pit, it receives significant seepage volumes from the Whale Tail South Basin and is a source of groundwater seepage into Whale Tail Pit (see Lorax 2026b for details). As such, to limit the overall volumes of diluted contact water that must be managed, the majority of site contact water that is actively managed (*i.e.*, pumped) was routed to the IVR Attenuation Pond in 2021, with all contact water sources except WT Pit pumped to the IVR Attenuation Pond thereafter. Additionally, the IVR Pit sump was used as a transfer sump, with 446,500 m^3 pumped to IVR Pit in 2023 and 561,600 m^3 pumped from October 2024 to May 2025. Thus, the water balance inputs to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond from 2023 onwards consist of incident meteoric precipitation, WT Pit sump water, gravity drainage from the surrounding catchments, sewage treatment plant discharges, minimal pumped volumes from the WT WRSF Pond and ongoing seepage through the Whale Tail Dike.

Over the remainder of the Operations phase, seepage through the Whale Tail Dike is predicted to account for approximately 51% of the total input to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, while 41% is sourced from the WT Pit sump (Table 4-1 and Figure 4-3).

The water levels in the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond are predicted to remain within the operational criteria for the duration of Operations (Figure 4-2) and begin to rise in April 2030 once Operational water management activities have ceased.

Table 4-1:
Annual Inflows to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond During the Operations Phase

Pumped From:	Whale Tail Waste Rock Control Pond	Whale Tail Pit	IVR Pit	Meteoric Inputs[1]	Gravity Drainage[2]	Whale Tail Dike Seepage	Minor Sumps[3]
Year	**m³**						
2026	0	1,106,191	0	68,788	114,800	1,303,847	0
2027	0	1,033,740	0	74,506	142,865	1,304,614	0
2028	0	1,033,408	0	74,044	135,909	1,308,656	0
2029	0	1,031,482	0	74,979	136,494	1,305,294	0
2030	0	213,293	0	47,997	106,757	878,121	0
Average[4]	**0**	**1,051,205**	**0**	**73,079**	**132,517**	**1,305,602**	**0**

Notes:
[1] Meteoric inputs include rainfall and snowmelt on the pond surface, and surrounding bank runoff based on the RCP-6.0 climate scenario
[2] Gravity drainage from surrounding catchments, including Camp, Warehouse Pad, Ore Stockpile #1 and #2, NPAG Stockpile and SANA Crusher Pad
[3] Minor sumps are A47, A49, A53, Road 7, Mammoth DS, and Quarry 1
[4] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

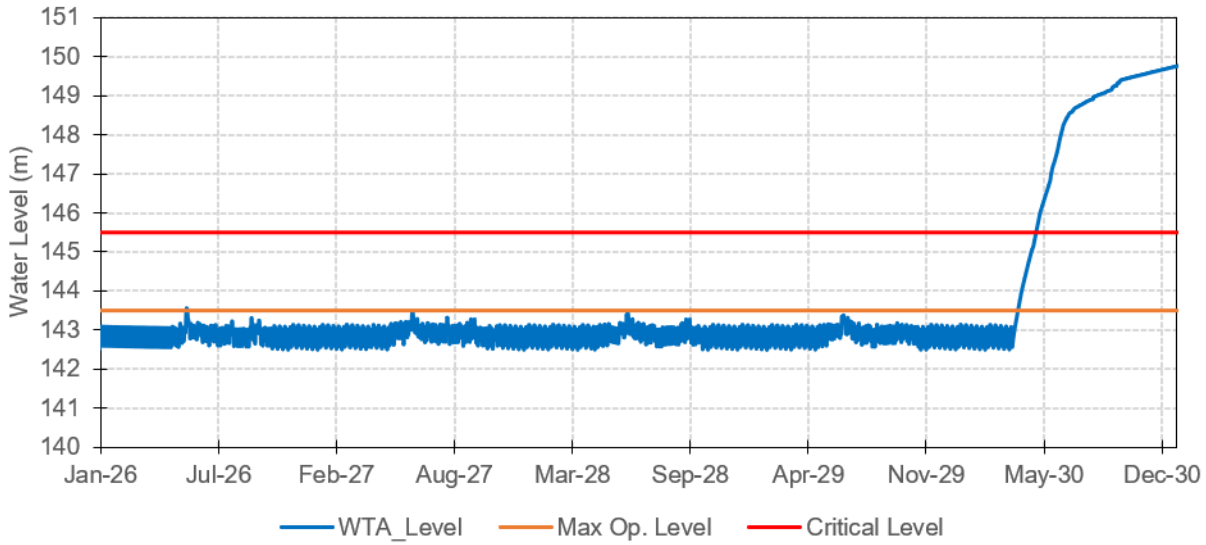


Figure 4-2: Predicted water levels as compared to target operating levels in the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond for the Operations phase. Maximum operating level shown by orange line, and critical level shown by red line.

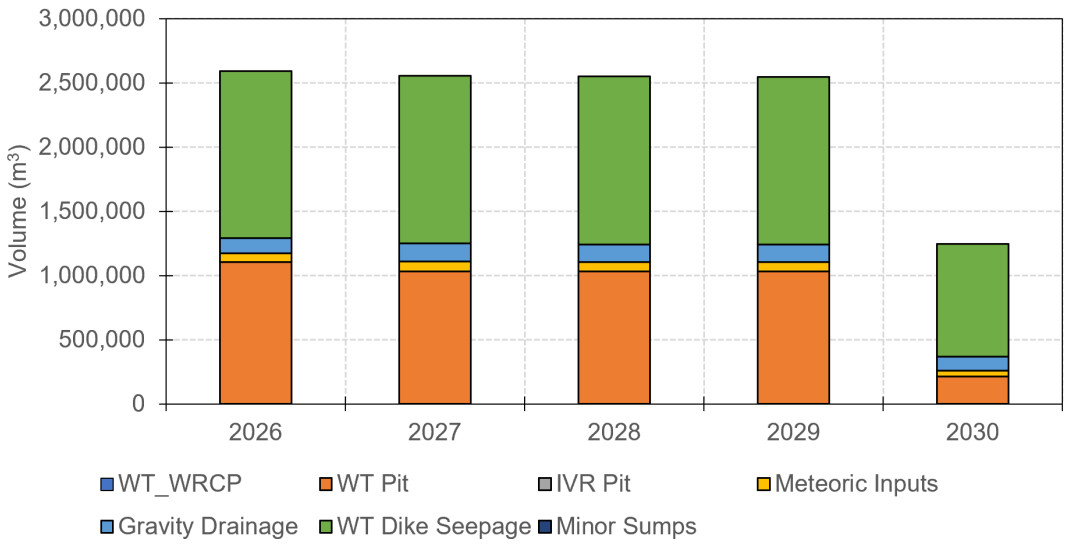


Figure 4-3: Annual Inflow Volumes to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond During the Operations Phase for the Average Year Precipitation Scenario

4.1.1.3 IVR Attenuation Pond

The IVR Attenuation Pond began operating for the freshet of 2021 and is currently the primary contact water Attenuation Pond at the Whale Tail Mine. It receives gravity drainage from the IVR WRSF, as well as pumped flows from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond, Whale Tail Pit, IVR Pit, minor sumps, sewage treatment plant effluent and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond. Water levels in the IVR Attenuation Pond are predicted to remain below the maximum operating water level in all remaining years of Operations (Figure 4-4).

For the remaining years of Operations, the various mine contact water management sumps and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond are the primary inputs to the IVR Attenuation Pond, comprising 18% and 61% of the total inflows, respectively (Table 4-2 and Figure 4-5).

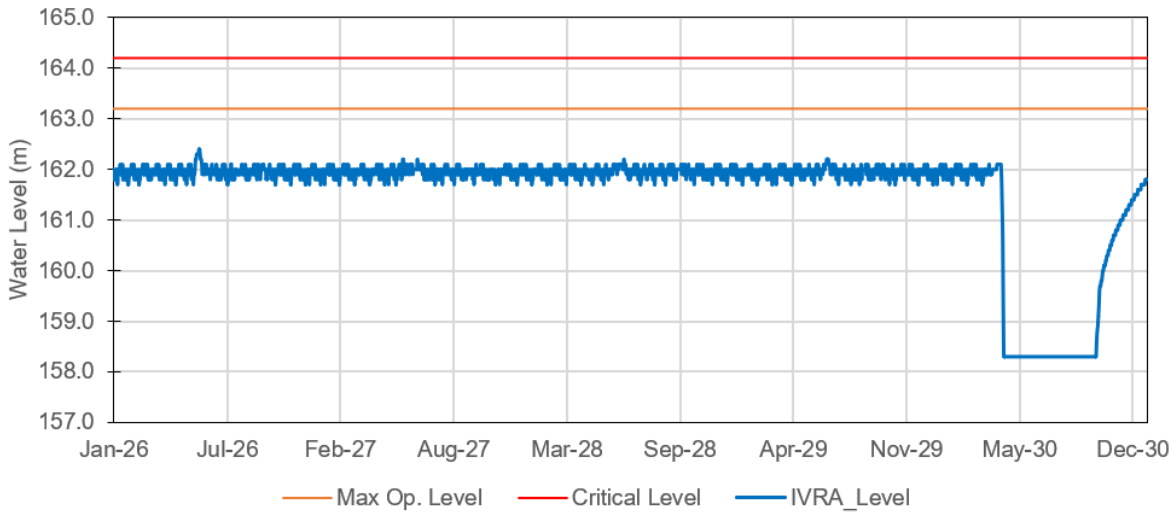


Figure 4-4: Predicted water levels as compared to target operating levels in the IVR Attenuation Pond for the Operations phase. Maximum operating level shown by orange line, and critical level shown by red line.

Table 4-2:
Annual Inflows to the IVR Attenuation Pond During the Operations Phase

Pumped From:	Whale Tail Waste Rock Control Pond	IVR Waste Rock Storage Facility	Whale Tail Attenuation Pond	Whale Tail Pit	IVR Pit[5]	Sewage Treatment Plan	Meteoric Inputs[1]	Gravity Drainage[2]	Minor Sumps[3]
Year	**m³**								
2026	253,920	13,518	2,009,088	13,867	67,436	47,450	134,493	35,905	577,536
2027	552,000	48,474	2,138,112	16,170	76,751	47,450	148,128	35,657	577,536
2028	237,360	29,749	1,990,656	16,176	46,394	47,580	148,293	36,187	579,119
2029	391,920	29,232	1,824,768	16,170	0	47,450	149,340	35,742	577,536
2030	0	25,005	350,208	0	0	13,388	133,455	35,283	142,406
Average[4]	**358,800**	**30,243**	**1,990,656**	**15,596**	**47,645**	**47,483**	**145,064**	**35,873**	**577,932**

Notes:
[1] Meteoric inputs include rainfall and snowmelt on the pond surface, and surrounding bank runoff based on the RCP-6.0 climate scenario
[2] Gravity drainage from surrounding catchments, including Ore Stockpile #3 and Pad K extension
[3] Minor sumps are A47, A49, Road 7, and Mammoth DS
[4] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.
[5] Underground mine water is stored in IVR Pit beginning in mid-2028, at which point transfers from IVR Pit to the IVR Attenuation Pond are ceased.

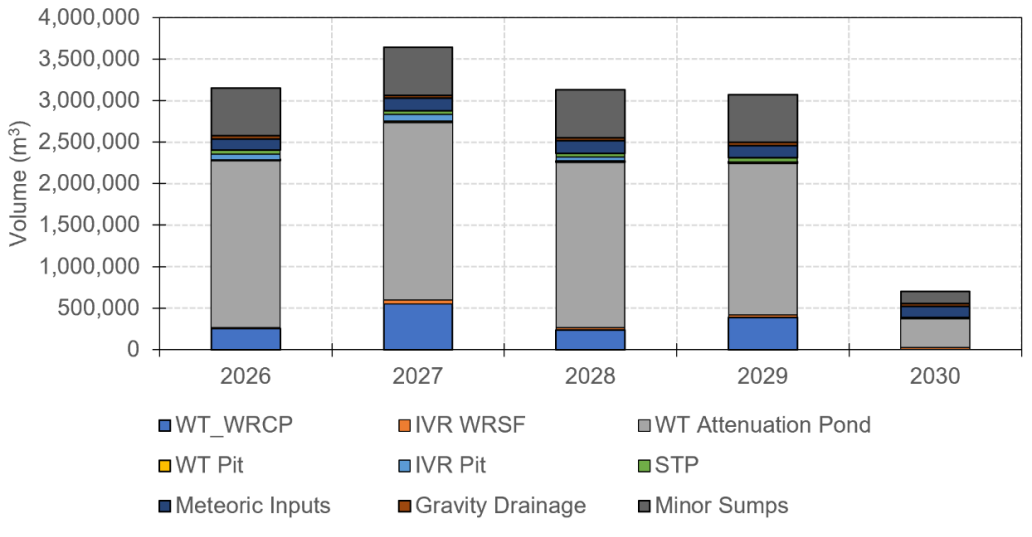


Figure 4-5: Annual Inflow Volumes to the IVR Attenuation Pond During the Operations Phase

4.1.1.4 Underground Water Management Ponds

GSP-1 and GSP-2 are currently the primary groundwater storage ponds at the Whale Tail Mine. GSP-1 is currently full to its MOWL, and GSP-2 began receiving underground contact water in June 2026. These ponds currently operate as a closed loop system with excess water from GSP-1 routed to GSP-2, and water from GSP-1 is directed back underground for use as drilling brine. Once GSP-1 and GSP-2 are full, GSP-3 will begin to receive underground water, until the IVR Pit is mined out and available for use in 2028. (Table 4-3 through Table 4-5, Figure 4-6).

Table 4-3:
Annual Inflows and Outflows for GSP-1 During the Operations Phase.
All values in m^3.

Year	Inputs			Outputs		
	Passive Runoff	Underground	Crown Pillar	Evaporation	Brine Reclaim	To: GSP-2
2026	30,182	148,917	163,305	10,296	22,203	146,023
2027	38,571	268,069	257,302	11,508	13,216	292,000
2028	38,365	269,430	257,352	11,520	11,971	292,000
2029	38,810	269,632	256,583	11,518	10,935	324,000
2030	36,721	56,634	53,943	5,375	2,340	52,000
Average[1]	**36,482**	**239,012**	**233,636**	**11,211**	**14,581**	**263,506**

Notes:
[1] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

Table 4-4:
Annual Inflows and Outflows for GSP-2 During the Operations Phase.
All values in m^3.

Year	Inputs		Outputs	
Source	**Passive Runoff**	**GSP-1**	**Evaporation**	**To: GSP-3**
2026	16,103	146,023	1,942	0
2027	19,490	292,000	6,138	192,000
2028	19,411	292,000	6,180	298,000
2029	19,614	324,000	6,176	292,000
2030	17,985	52,000	1,991	56,000
Average	**18,654**	**263,506**	**5,109**	**195,500**

Notes:
[1] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

Table 4-5:
Annual Inflows to the IVR Pit During the Operations Phase

Year	Pit Wall Runoff	Gravity Drainage[1]	Precipitation	GSP-3 to IVR Pit
	m^3			
2026	59,322	12,837	2,724	0
2027	68,635	10,906	3,413	0
2028	68,087	10,831	4,771	164,700
2029	64,758	10,992	11,292	328,500
2030	22,397	0	34,152	77,400
Average[2]	**65,201**	**11,391**	**5,550**	**123,300**

Notes:
[1] Gravity drainage from all surrounding disturbed and non-contact catchments.
[2] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

At the end of the Operations phase in March 2030, 139,000 m^3 of underground mine water is stored in GSP-1, 39,000 m^3 in GSP-2, 308,000 m^3 in GSP-3, and 663,700 m^3 in the IVR Pit (Figure 4-6). Due to additional runoff and meteoric water reporting to these reservoirs during and evaporative losses, a total of 1.393 Mm^3 of stored underground contact water is pumped back underground for permanent storage in 2030.

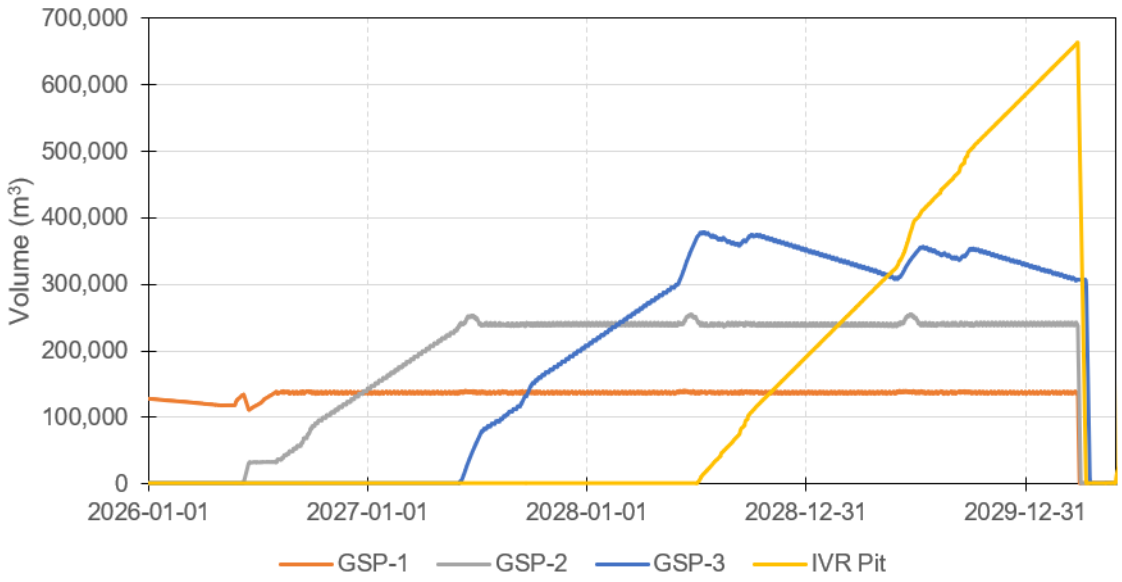


Figure 4-6: Predicted underground water storage volumes for the GSP-1, GSP-2, GSP-3 and IVR Pit

4.1.2 Whale Tail Pit Water Balance

The Whale Tail Pit annual water balance for the Operations phase is presented in Table 4-6. During Operations, groundwater seepage inflows through the south wall from the Whale Tail South Basin (and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, to a lesser degree; Lorax 2026b) dominate the total pit inflows, representing approximately 74% of the total inflows, dropping to approximately 73% of total inflows in 2027 through 2030 (Table 4-6). Passive surface runoff from the surrounding catchments and incident precipitation/snowmelt on the pit walls and floor contribute the remainder of the inflows (Table 4-6).

Table 4-6:
Annual Inflows to the Whale Tail Pit During the Operations Phase

Year	Pit Wall[1]	Gravity Drainage[2]	Precipitation on Pit Lake	Groundwater Inflow	Whale Tail Pit to Crown Pillar	Groundwater Inflow
	m^3					% of Total Flows
2026	97,076	52,200	861	1,133,362	165,317	78%
2027	112,477	55,522	1,044	1,131,500	258,435	73%
2028	112,522	55,140	1,044	1,134,600	258,352	73%
2029	112,477	55,959	1,044	1,131,500	257,870	73%
2030	36,178	43,659	4,123	266,600	53,323	66%
Average[3]	**108,638**	**54,705**	**998**	**1,132,740**	**234,994**	74%

Notes:
[1] Pit wall runoff and pit lake meteoric inputs reflect a combination of pit wall runoff and inputs for both the main lobe and Pushback
[2] Gravity drainage represents all catchments surrounding the pit that drain by gravity to the pit
[3] Operations phase averages do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

4.1.3 Water Treatment and Effluent Discharge Volumes

This section summarizes the relative proportion of O-WTP influent derived from the two Attenuation Ponds, and the predicted treated effluent discharges to Kangislulik Lake and Whale Tail South Basin during the remainder of the Operations period, for the three precipitation scenarios considered.

The IVR Attenuation Pond is the source of 96% of total influent to the O-WTP for the remainder of the Operations phase. More limited inputs from the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond are expected as the IVR Attenuation Pond will be the primary repository for pumped contact water flows, except for the WT Pit sump, which continues to be pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (Table 4-7).

The relative proportion of total annual treated effluent discharge is weighted towards the open water season discharges to Kangislulik Lake (52% of the total discharges), with the remaining 48% of treated effluent discharged to the Whale Tail South Basin (Table 4-7).

Table 4-7:
Annual Effluent Discharge Volumes and Proportions of Total Discharge for the Operations Phase

Year	O-WTP Influent Source (m^3)		Water Treatment Plant Discharge To: (m^3)	
	WT AP to WTP	IVR AP to WTP	To WT S. Basin	To Kangislulik Lake
2026	128,520	2,776,800	1,438,920	1,466,400
2027	120,960	2,620,800	1,337,760	1,404,000
2028	120,960	2,839,200	1,368,960	1,591,200
2029	120,960	2,808,000	1,368,960	1,560,000
2030	47,880	499,200	547,080	0
Total[1]	**491,400**	**11,044,800**	**5,514,600**	**6,021,600**
% Total	**4%**	**96%**	**48%**	**52%**

Notes:
[1] Operations phase totals do not include the Jan-Mar period in 2030, due to the limited runoff predicted during the winter months.

4.2 Active Closure Phase

During the first five years of Active Closure while the O-WTP is still active, the IVR Attenuation Pond remains in use as a collection pond for water routed to the O-WTP. During this period, the primary contact water inputs to this pond are collected pit wall runoff from the Whale Tail and IVR Pits (see Section 2.4), water from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond, treated effluent from the STP, and runoff/interflow from the IVR WRSF.

The underground mine voids (1.75 Mm^3) are actively filled in April 2030 by pumping water from GSP-1, GSP-2, GSP-3, IVR Pit, and Whale Tail South Basin(Table 4-8). The open pits are filled from April 2030 to January 2046 first by passive runoff and then by pumping from the Whale Tail South Basin, Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond, and the O-WTP effluent in the first five years of Active Closure.

Table 4-8:
Total Volumes Pumped Underground at EOM (April 2030)

Reservoir	Volume Pumped Underground (m^3)
GSP-1	144,000
GSP-2	240,000
GSP-3	336,798
IVR Pit	672,000
Total	1,392,798

The sequence of mine void flooding is as follows, and as summarized in Table 4-10 and Figure 4-8 for the average year precipitation scenario:

- Underground mine active flooding occurs during April 2030.
    - The primary source of water is groundwater stored in the three GSP ponds (720,800 m^3) and IVR Pit (672,000 m^3) and water from the Whale Tail S. Basin (68,500 m^3).
- IVR Pit active flooding begins in April 2030 and is filled to the spill point elevation of 123 masl by June 2032 (Figure 4-8).
    - Water pumped from the Whale Tail South Basin is the primary source (11.7 Mm^3), followed by treated effluent discharge from the O-WTP (1.6 Mm^3), and lastly by water pumped from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond (530,000 m^3). Note that after 2034, the O-WTP discharge directed to the IVR Pit is combined with the other overflow from IVR Pit into the WT Pit. Surrounding catchment runoff (536,000 m^3) and pit wall runoff (171,000 m^3) contribute to the remainder of pit inflows over this period.
- Whale Tail Pit active flooding begins in June 2032, and is filled to the spill point elevation of 123 masl by June 2040;
    - Water pumped from the Whale Tail South Basin is the primary source (29.0 Mm^3), followed by water pumped from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond (4.8 Mm^3), and lastly, groundwater inflows to the pit (3.5 Mm^3). These groundwater inflows during Active Closure are based on Lorax (2026) and

assume that permafrost develops on the South Wall late in Operations, preventing groundwater ingress from this zone. This permafrost is predicted to melt as the pit fills, leading to increasing groundwater inflows until the Whale Tail pit fills to the spill elevation (Figure 4-7). The remainder of the pit inflows is contributed from the surrounding catchment runoff (2.8 Mm^3), uncaptured pit wall runoff (349,000 m^3), overflow from the IVR Pit Lake (2.8 Mm^3) and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (3.9 Mm^3).

- Once the Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit lakes join above the 123 m sill elevation, the Whale Tail /IVR Complex is formed. This occurs in June 2040;
    - Water pumped from the Whale Tail South Basin is the primary source (17.6 Mm^3), followed by groundwater inflows (4 Mm^3), and lastly, water pumped from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond (2.9 Mm^3). Surrounding catchment runoff (1.6 Mm^3), overflow from the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (290,000 m^3), and uncaptured pit wall runoff (175,000 m^3), contribute to the remainder of pit inflows.
- Active flooding of the Whale Tail North Basin continues until February 2046 when the final water level of 153.5 masl is reached (Figure 4-8).
    - Water pumped from the Whale Tail South Basin is the primary source (3.3 Mm^3), followed by water pumped from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond (409,000 m^3). Surrounding catchment runoff (416,000 m^3) and uncaptured pit wall runoff (11,000 m^3), contribute the remainder of pit inflows.

The water level will drop in Whale Tail South Basin as a result of pumping during Active Closure (Figure 4-8). This will result in the Lake A18 complex becoming disconnected from Whale Tail South basin in August 2030 when water levels are predicted to drop below 154 masl. This will allow the Lake A18 Sill to be built in early 2031 and commissioned for freshet 2031. The fully flooded Post-Closure mine pits are depicted in Figure 2-6.

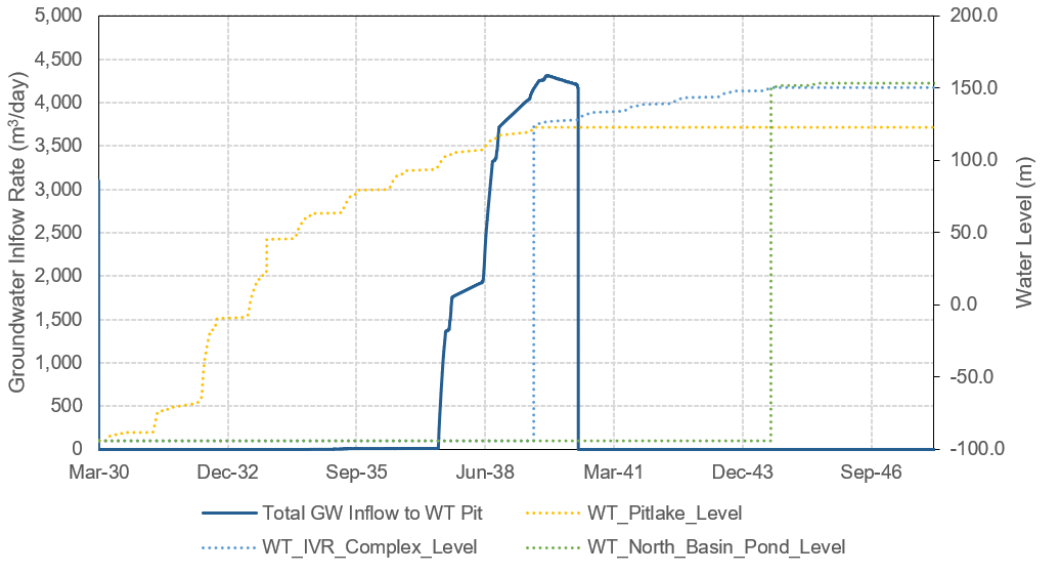


Figure 4-7: Total groundwater inflows to Whale Tail Pit (blue line; seepage from Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and Whale Tail South Basin), as a function of Whale Tail Pit water level.

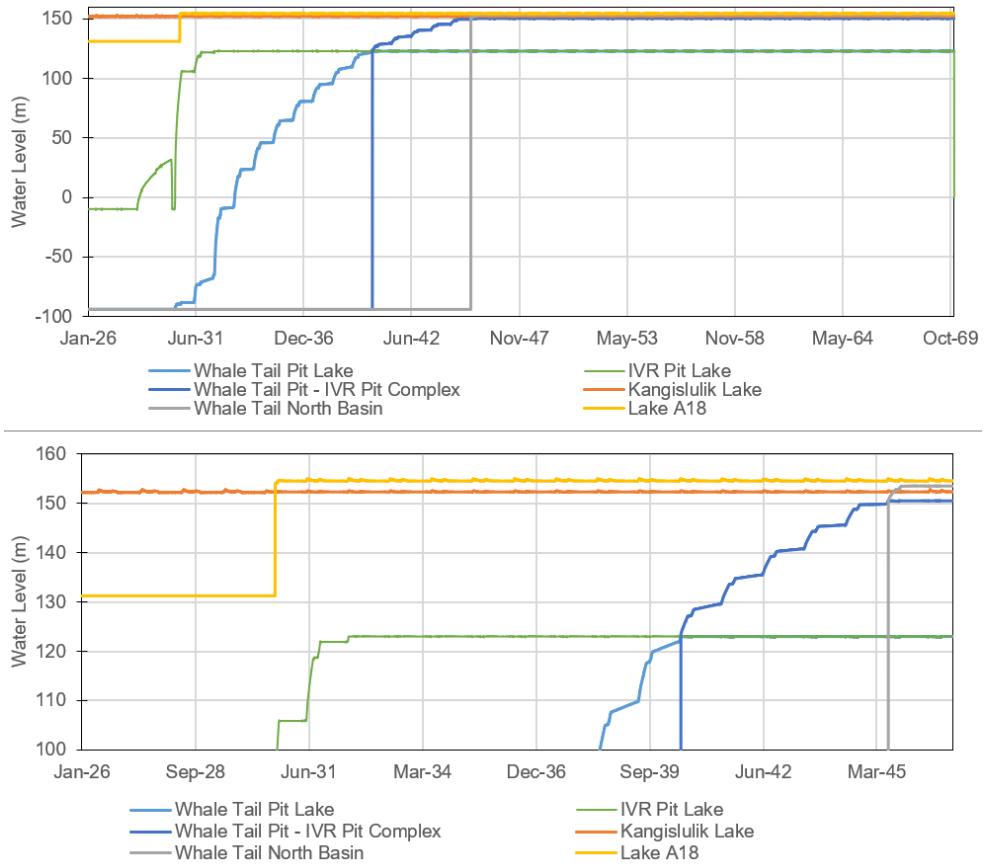


Figure 4-8: Closure lake water levels for the full range during the flooding period (top panel) and focused on the final lake elevations (bottom panel).

A total of 1.73 Mm^3 of water will require treatment over a 5-year period (2030-2034) – discharged to IVR Pit and Whale Tail Pit. Captured runoff from the WT Pit and IVR Pit walls comprises 28% of the total volume treated during the early Active Closure phase (Table 4-9).

Table 4-9:
Sources of Water Routed to Active Treatment During Active Closure Phase

Year	Total Catchment Runoff	IVR Waste Rock Storage Facility	Captured Whale Tail Pit Wall	Captured IVR Pit Wall	Sewage Treatment Plan	IVR Attenuation Pond to Water Treatment Plant
2030	169,197	25,005	67,187	31,255	13,388	435,908
2031	167,512	8,688	66,029	17,772	2,208	422,122
2032	166,501	17,886	61,256	15,013	2,208	279,211
2033	168,190	58,291	53,180	14,992	2,208	314,305
2034	167,063	26,746	47,281	14,987	2,208	276,370
Total	**838,463**	**136,616**	**294,933**	**94,019**	**22,220**	**1,727,915**

The total volume pumped over the 16-year closure period is comprised of 61.6 Mm^3 from the Whale Tail South Basin, 8.6 Mm^3 from the Whale Tail WRSF Collection Pond, and 1.7 Mm^3 from the O-WTP (discharged to the IVR Pit; Table 4-11). A total of 13.1 Mm^3 is required to fill the IVR Pit to the sill elevation with the WT Pit (123 masl), including the additional surface runoff from surrounding catchments and meteoric inputs to the pit shell (Table 4-11).

The Whale Tail Pit requires a total of 41.6 Mm^3 to fill to the sill elevation with the IVR Pit (123 masl), which includes surface runoff from surrounding catchments, groundwater inflows, and pit wall runoff (Table 4-6). The Whale Tail North Basin requires an additional 31.3 Mm^3 to fill from the 123 m sill elevation to the final closure elevation of 153.5 m. The fully flooded Post-Closure mine pits are depicted in Figure 2-6.

In addition to the actively pumped volumes, water also reports to the open pits via surrounding catchment runoff, pit wall runoff, meteoric (rainfall and snowmelt) inputs to the flooded pit surfaces, and overflow from adjacent flooded reservoirs (*e.g.*, Whale Tail Attenuation Pond; Table 4-10).

In total, during Active Closure, 72 Mm^3 is pumped into the open pits, 7.6 Mm^3 flows into the open pits via passive drainage and meteoric inputs, and 3.3 Mm^3 enters Whale Tail pit via groundwater inflows (Table 4-11). Therefore, the total volume required to fill the WT and IVR Pit complexes, including the Whale Tail North Basin to the closure elevation (153.5m), is 83 Mm^3.

Table 4-10:
Active Closure Mine Void Flooding Sequence and Pumped Water Sources

Pumped To:	**Underground**			**IVR Pit**			**WT Pit**		**WT/IVR Pit Complex**		**WT N. Basin**	
Pumped From:	**GSP-1,2,3**	**IVR Pit[1]**	**WT S. Basin**	**WT WRCP**	**O-WTP[2]**	**WT S. Basin**	**WT WRCP**	**WT S. Basin**	**WT WRCP**	**WT S. Basin**	**WT WRCP**	**WT S. Basin**
Year	**m^3**											
2030	720,798	672,000	68,520	209,760	428,133	8,290,920	0	0	0	0	0	0
2031	0	0	0	281,520	392,032	3,147,872	0	0	0	0	0	0
2032	0	0	0	38,640	248,087	238,320	270,480	3,352,703	0	0	0	0
2033	0	0	0	0	275,339	0	684,480	3,669,081	0	0	0	0
2034	0	0	0	0	240,741	0	590,640	3,588,945	0	0	0	0
2035	0	0	0	0	0	0	579,600	3,630,937	0	0	0	0
2036	0	0	0	0	0	0	651,360	3,667,547	0	0	0	0
2037	0	0	0	0	0	0	756,240	3,660,326	0	0	0	0
2038	0	0	0	0	0	0	634,800	3,584,628	0	0	0	0
2039	0	0	0	0	0	0	529,920	3,470,647	0	0	0	0
2040	0	0	0	0	0	0	82,800	357,480	419,520	3,103,059	0	0
2041	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	579,600	3,538,405	0	0
2042	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	662,400	3,499,282	0	0
2043	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	618,240	3,515,583	0	0
2044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	552,000	3,566,162	0	0
2045	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49,680	357,480	408,480	3,268,972
2046	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**720,798**	**672,000**	**68,520**	**529,920**	**1,584,332**	**11,677,112**	**4,780,320**	**28,982,294**	**2,881,440**	**17,579,972**	**408,480**	**3,268,972**

Table 4-11:
Active Closure Mine Void Inflows from Pit Wall and Natural Catchment Runoff, and Adjacent Reservoir Inflows

Year	IVR Pit		WT Pit				
	Catchment Runoff	Uncaptured Pit Wall Runoff	Catchment Runoff	GW Inflow	Uncaptured Pit Wall Runoff	IVR Pit Overflow	WT Attenuation Pond Overflow
2030	269,147	16,829	47,782	0	36,178	0	0
2031	306,650	9,570	50,667	0	35,554	0	347,954
2032	313,727	8,084	67,460	0	32,984	455,921	473,822
2033	316,274	8,073	110,386	0	28,635	527,124	575,657
2034	314,634	8,070	128,278	113	25,459	483,933	575,928
2035	318,313	23,060	142,858	2,255	65,850	249,648	773,691
2036	314,596	23,060	154,189	3,897	59,665	268,517	752,320
2037	317,616	23,060	169,038	279,770	52,849	267,858	626,824
2038	316,054	23,069	181,677	993,441	46,152	270,345	168,794
2039	311,343	23,060	197,952	1,504,963	37,360	268,541	0
2040	317,513	21,561	230,390	682,326	32,872	265,824	0
2041	329,472	16,505	255,608	0	24,896	260,733	0
2042	333,521	13,425	263,086	0	20,945	254,059	0
2043	340,782	10,800	269,878	0	18,000	248,958	0
2044	341,664	8,331	276,901	0	13,543	251,451	0
2045	349,424	4,776	287,034	0	8,721	254,392	0
2046	354,540	1,860	296,330	0	3,862	247,465	0
Total	**5,110,728**	**241,331**	**2,833,184**	**3,466,764**	**539,664**	**4,327,304**	**4,294,989**

5. Water Quality Model Results

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5. Water Quality Model Results

Water quality model results for mine site water, treated effluent from the O-WTP, and receiving lakes during Operations, Active Closure, and Post-Closure are presented in this section. Model predictions shown in figures and tables represent monthly mean values. All constituents are presented as dissolved concentrations, similar to the 2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) model (Golder, 2018b and 2019e).

Effluent predictions for the end of pipe of the O-WTP are screened against the NWB Water License/MDMER effluent limits during Operations. Water quality predictions in the receiving environment and downstream lakes are compared against the following criteria throughout all mine phases:

- Long-term water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME); and,
- Site-specific water quality objective (SSWQO) of 0.025 mg/L for arsenic.

The full water quality model results screened against relevant guidelines are provided in Appendix B. Overall, the results show that all parameters are predicted to remain below their respective guidelines in receiving lakes. The Modification model time series predictions for arsenic are presented in the following sections and compared to the 2025 Annual Report modelling results.

5.1 Operations

During Operations, all surface contact water generated from mine facilities is collected and routed through a series of sumps and attenuation ponds and treated by the O-WTP prior to discharge to the receiving environment. Arsenic predictions for the open pit sumps (Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit), attenuation ponds (Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and IVR Attenuation Pond), O-WTP treated effluent, and receiving lakes are presented in the following subsections.

5.1.1 Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit

The IVR Pit receives pit wall runoff and natural runoff from the surrounding catchment. Beginning in 2028, the IVR Pit will start receiving underground mine water and will no longer be dewatered to attenuation ponds or discharged to the receiving environment. This change in water management is expected to increase the arsenic concentrations in the IVR Pit in the final years of Operation prior to active flooding, after which concentrations decrease substantially due to dilution from lake inflows (see Section 5.2.1).

Figure 5-1 compares results from the 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Modification models. The IVR Pit was represented as separate east and west lobes in the 2025 Annual Report model, whereas it is represented as a single reservoir in the 2026 Modification model. The 2025 Annual Report model assumed that underground mine water would be pumped to IVR East Lobe starting in 2026.

Predicted arsenic concentrations in the Whale Tail Pit vary seasonally due to groundwater seepage through the south wall (Figure 5-1). This provides a source of dilution in winter months generating the strong seasonal signature observed in sump water, and variability in summer months as meteoric events dictated by the climate time series control the timing that pit wall runoff enters mine sumps. Compared to the Whale Tail Pit, the IVR Pit shows little seasonal variability due to the lack of groundwater inflows or an appreciable catchment beyond the pit rim.

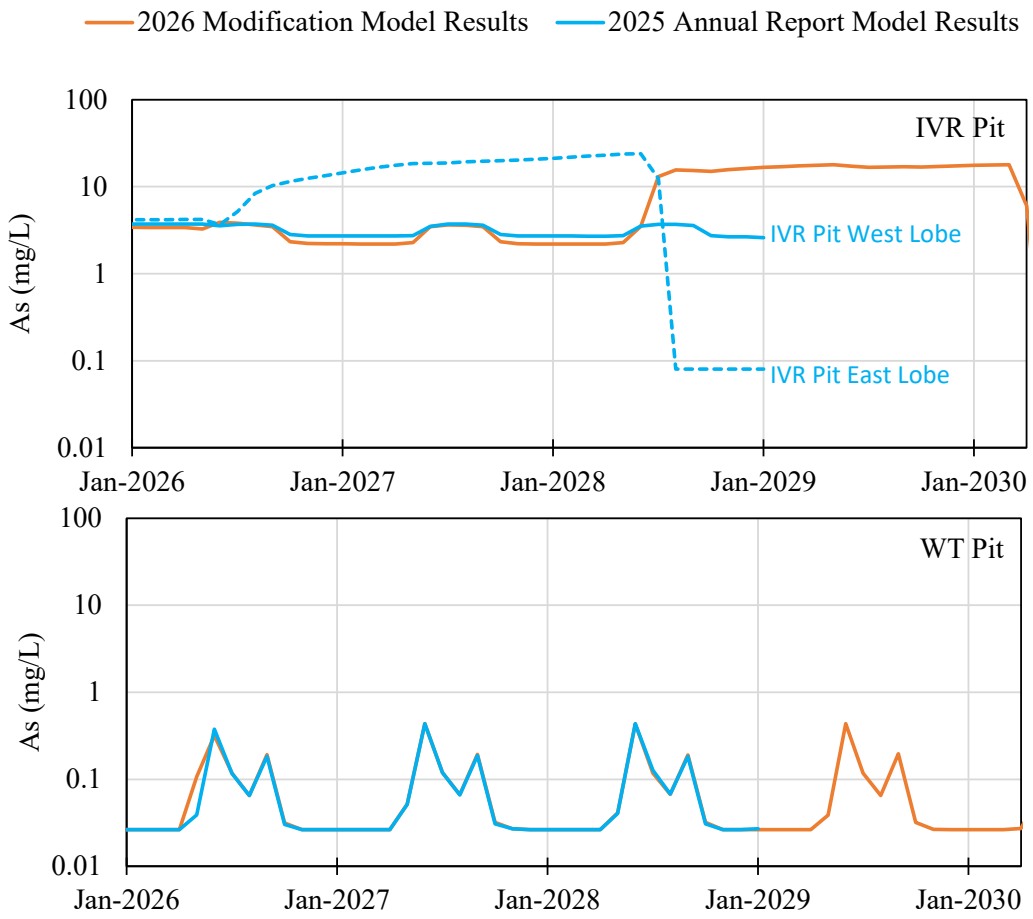


Figure 5-1: Arsenic concentrations for the IVR Pit West Lobe (top) and Whale Tail Pit (bottom) predicted in the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report Model and the for the remainder of operations.

5.1.2 Attenuation Ponds and O-WTP Effluent Discharge

Surface contact water generated from mine facilities during Operations is collected in the Whale Tail and IVR attenuation ponds and routed to the O-WTP for treatment. Pumped flows from the IVR Pit and Whale Tail Pit are the main source of arsenic in the attenuation ponds.

The WT Attenuation Pond receives contact water from Whale Tail Dike Seepage and Whale Tail Pit. Predicted arsenic concentrations show a strong seasonal signature similar to the Whale Tail Pit. The IVR Attenuation Pond receives contact water from the IVR Pit, Whale Tail Pushback, Whale Tail WRSF, and IVR WRSF as well as some flows from the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, which results in higher predicted concentrations in the IVR Attenuation Pond relative to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (Figure 5-2).

Water from the attenuation ponds will be treated at the O-WTP before being discharged to Whale Tail South Basin or Kangislulik Lake. Effluent discharged from the O-WTP is predicted to meet the NWB Water License/MDMER effluent limits for all parameters (Table 5-1).

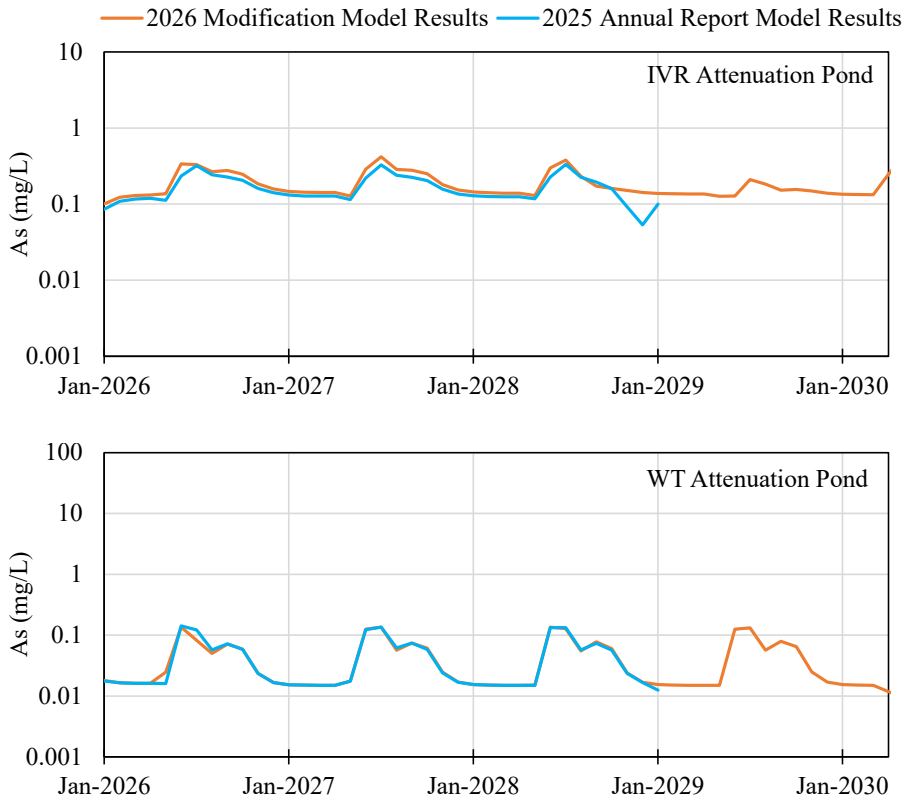


Figure 5-2: Arsenic concentrations for IVR Attenuation Pond (top) and Whale Tail Attenuation pond (bottom) predicted in the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report Model for the remainder of operations.

Table 5-1:
Maximum End-Of-Pipe Predictions from the Operation Water Treatment Plant During the Remainder of Operations (Jan. 2026–March. 2030)

Constituents	Units	End of Pipe Discharge to Whale Tail South Basin	End of Pipe Discharge to Kangislulik Lake	*NWB Water License/MDMER(End-of-Pipe)*
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	165	303	1400
Ammonia	mg-N/L	1.0	2.4	16
Aluminum	mg/L	0.014	0.034	0.5
Arsenic	mg/L	0.020	0.064	0.1
Cadmium	mg/L	0.000021	0.000044	0.002
Chromium	mg/L	0.00040	0.0004	0.02
Copper	mg/L	0.0018	0.0034	0.1
Iron	mg/L	0.25	0.18	1
Mercury	mg/L	0.0000089	0.000013	0.004
Nickel	mg/L	0.025	0.076	0.25
Phosphorus	mg/L	0.012	0.0099	0.3
Lead	mg/L	0.00017	0.00017	0.05
Zinc	mg/L	0.0039	0.0040	0.1
Radium-226	Bq/L	0.026	0.018	0.37

Note:
NWB = Nunavut Water Board
MDMER = Metal and Diamond Mine Effluent Regulations

5.1.3 Downstream Lakes

Treated effluent is pumped from the O-WTP to the Whale Tail South Basin during winter months (typically October to June) and to Kangislulik Lake during summer months (typically May to September), with some overlap during the seasonal transition.

Arsenic concentrations are predicted to be elevated in Kangislulik Lake relative to Whale Tail South Basin, since it receives O-WTP treated effluent during the open water season (Figure 5-3) when attenuation pond arsenic concentrations are relatively high due to pit wall runoff, in addition to being downstream of the Whale Tail South Basin. Predicted As concentrations in Kangislulik Lake are higher than those reported in the 2025 Annual Report model version, primarily as a result of increased pumping from the IVR Pit between 2026 and 2028, and to a lesser extent due to expansion of the WT WRSF footprint.

Maximum concentrations predicted for Kangislulik Lake and the Whale Tail South Basin for the remainder of operations are screened against SSWQO/CCME guidelines in Table 5-2. Model results indicate that all parameters will remain below receiving environment guidelines.

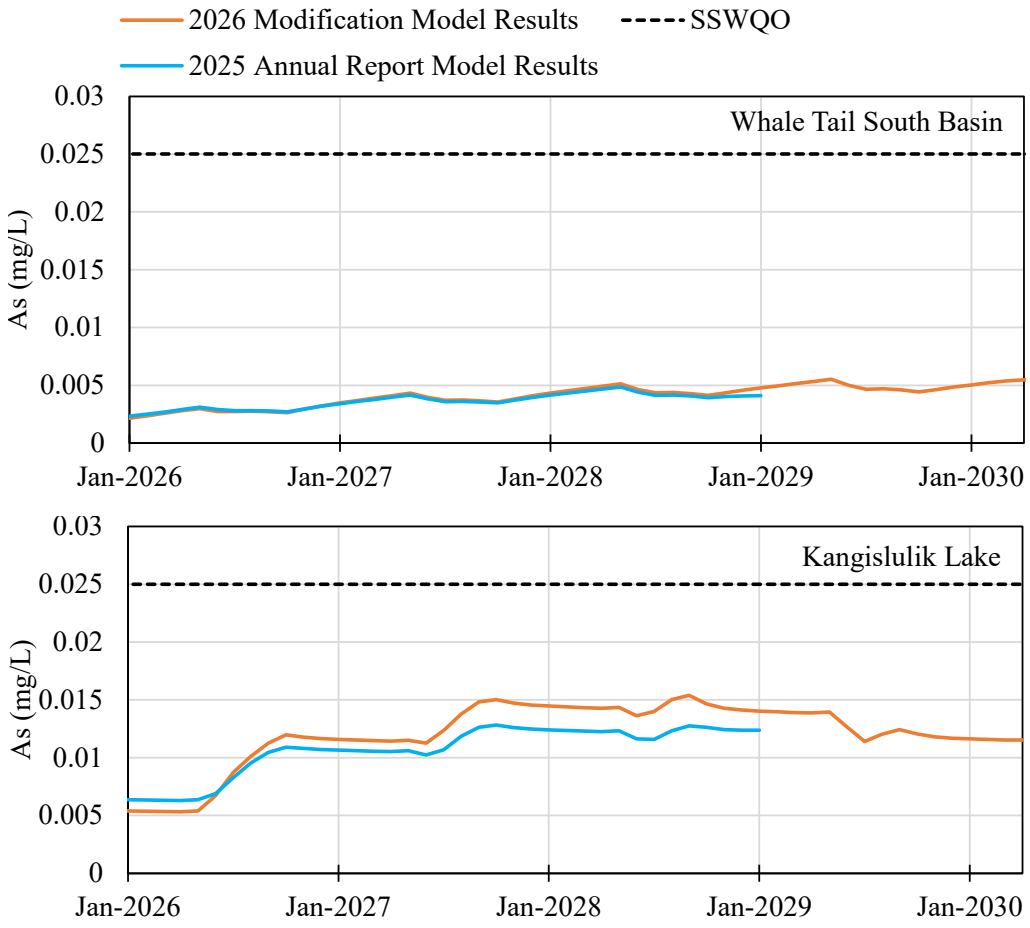


Figure 5-3: Operations arsenic concentrations for the Whale Tail South Basin (top) and Kangislulik Lake (bottom) predicted in the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report Model.

Table 5-2:
Maximum Monthly Predictions in the Receiving Environment and Downstream Lakes During Remainder of Operations (Jan. 2026–March. 2030)

Constituents	Units	Whale Tail South Basin	Kangislulik Lake	*CCME/ SSWQ*
Total Ammonia[1]	mg-N/L	0.070	0.39	*0.58*
Nitrate	mg-N/L	0.69	1.7	*2.93*
Nitrite	mg-N/L	0.0066	0.0050	*0.06*
Chloride	mg/L	25	36	*120*
Fluoride	mg/L	0.076	0.10	*0.12*
Sulphate	mg/L	20	46	*variable*
Silver	mg/L	0.0000087	0.000012	*0.00025*
Aluminum	mg/L	0.010	0.014	*0.1*
Arsenic	mg/L	0.0055	0.015	*0.025*
Boron	mg/L	0.015	0.025	*1.5*
Cadmium	mg/L	0.0000062	0.000013	*variable*
Chromium[2]	mg/L	0.00046	0.00066	*0.001-0.0089*
Copper	mg/L	0.00094	0.0014	*variable*
Iron	mg/L	0.11	0.11	*0.3*
Mercury	mg/L	0.0000046	0.0000065	*0.000026*
Manganese	mg/L	0.097	0.16	*variable*
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.0021	0.0034	*0.073*
Nickel	mg/L	0.0059	0.018	*variable*
Phosphorus	mg/L	0.0080	0.0078	*0.01*
Lead	mg/L	0.000071	0.00011	*variable*
Selenium	mg/L	0.00017	0.00033	*0.001*
Thallium	mg/L	0.000011	0.000015	*0.0008*
Uranium	mg/L	0.00043	0.00073	*0.015*
Zinc	mg/L	0.0028	0.0040	*variable*

Note:
CCME = Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
SSWQO = Site Specific Water Quality Objective
Variable guidelines are dependent on predicted hardness, pH, temperature, and DOC
1. The CCME guideline for total ammonia conservatively assumes pH of 8 and temperature of 15°C.
2. The CCME guidelines for Cr include both Cr(VI) 0.001 mg/L and Cr(III) 0.0089 mg/L. Given that Cr is expected to be present primarily as Cr (III) in mine water, model predictions are compared against the CCME Cr(III) guideline for initial screening.

5.2 Active Closure and Post-Closure

Active Closure begins in 2030 with seasonal flooding of mine voids and continued operations of the O-WTP. The Active Closure period ends in January 2046 when the pits are fully flooded to an elevation of 153.5 masl. Post Closure begins in February 2046 when pit water begins to passively drain into Kangislulik Lake. The water quality trends forecasted for the Active Closure and Post-Closure periods are described in this section.

5.2.1 Pit Lakes

Active flooding of mine pits begins with the IVR Pit in 2030, leading to a rapid improvement in water quality (Figure 5-5 and Figure 5-6). After IVR Pit flooding is completed in 2032, arsenic concentrations begin to increase again due to runoff from the remaining IVR Pit high wall exposures. The Whale Tail Pit flooding begins in 2032, resulting in a rapid improvement of water quality, similar to what was initially observed in the IVR Pit. The reduction in arsenic concentrations during the first 6 years of Active Closure is further enhanced by continued operation of the O-WTP, which treats 65% of pit wall runoff, with treated water discharged to the IVR Pit.

In 2040, water levels in both pits will reach the 123 m sill elevation separating the IVR Pit and Whale Tail Pit leading to the formation of the Whale Tail-IVR Complex. This will allow the remaining high wall in IVR Pit to be flooded, further reducing arsenic loadings to the pit lake system. The Whale Tail-IVR Complex begins to overflow to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond in June 2045, forming the Whale Tail North Basin. The Whale Tail North Basin continues flooding until February 2046 when the Kangislulik Dike is breached; note that breaching will only take place once water quality within the Whale Tail North Basin meets CCME water quality guidelines, baseline concentrations, or SSWQOs.

Arsenic concentrations are expected to decline throughout this flooding period, with concentrations declining below SSWQO guidelines by the end of Active Closure. Concentrations are expected to continue to decline during Post-Closure (modelled out to 2069). Maximum concentrations for the mine pit complex (Whale Tail North Basin) are screened against SSWQO and CCME guidelines in Table 5-4. All parameters are predicted to meet receiving environment water quality criteria.

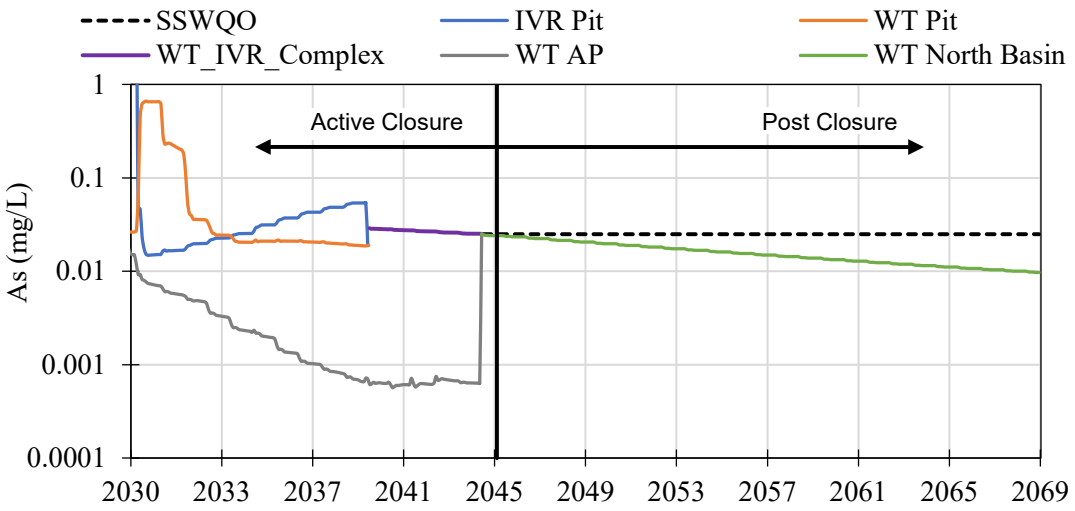


Figure 5-4: Active Closure and Post Closure arsenic predictions for the IVR Pit, Whale Tail Pit, WT-IVR Complex, and Whale Tail North Basin for the 2026 Modification Model.

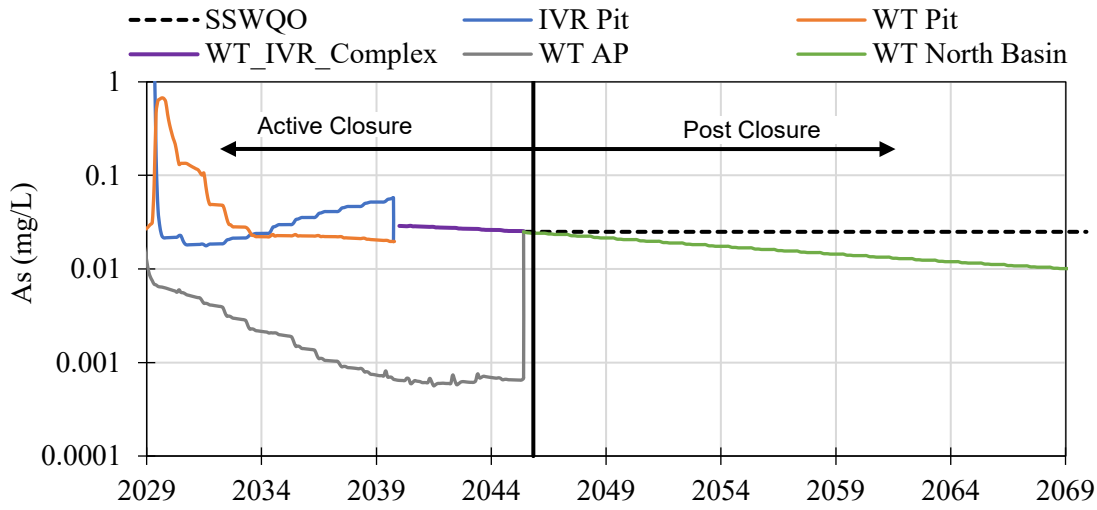


Figure 5-5: Active Closure and Post Closure arsenic predictions for the IVR Pit, Whale Tail Pit, WT-IVR Complex, and Whale Tail North Basin for the 2025 Annual Report Model.

5.2.2 Receiving Environment and Downstream Lakes

At the end of operations, water quality in receiving lakes is expected to initially improve due to the cessation of mine effluent discharge (Figure 5-8). This improving trend will continue throughout Active Closure, until the Kangislulik Dike is breached in October 2045 (breaching will only take place once water quality within Whale Tail North Basin meets CCME water quality guidelines, baseline conditions or SSWQOs). At this point,

Whale Tail North Basin water will begin to flow into Kangislulik Lake, resulting in a temporary increase in arsenic concentrations. After the Lakes are reconnected, arsenic concentrations are expected to decrease as non-contact flows from surrounding catchments report to the lakes.

Maximum concentrations for the Kangislulik Lake and Whale Tail South Basin are screened against SSWQO and CCME guidelines in Table 5-4. All parameters are predicted to meet receiving environment water quality criteria.

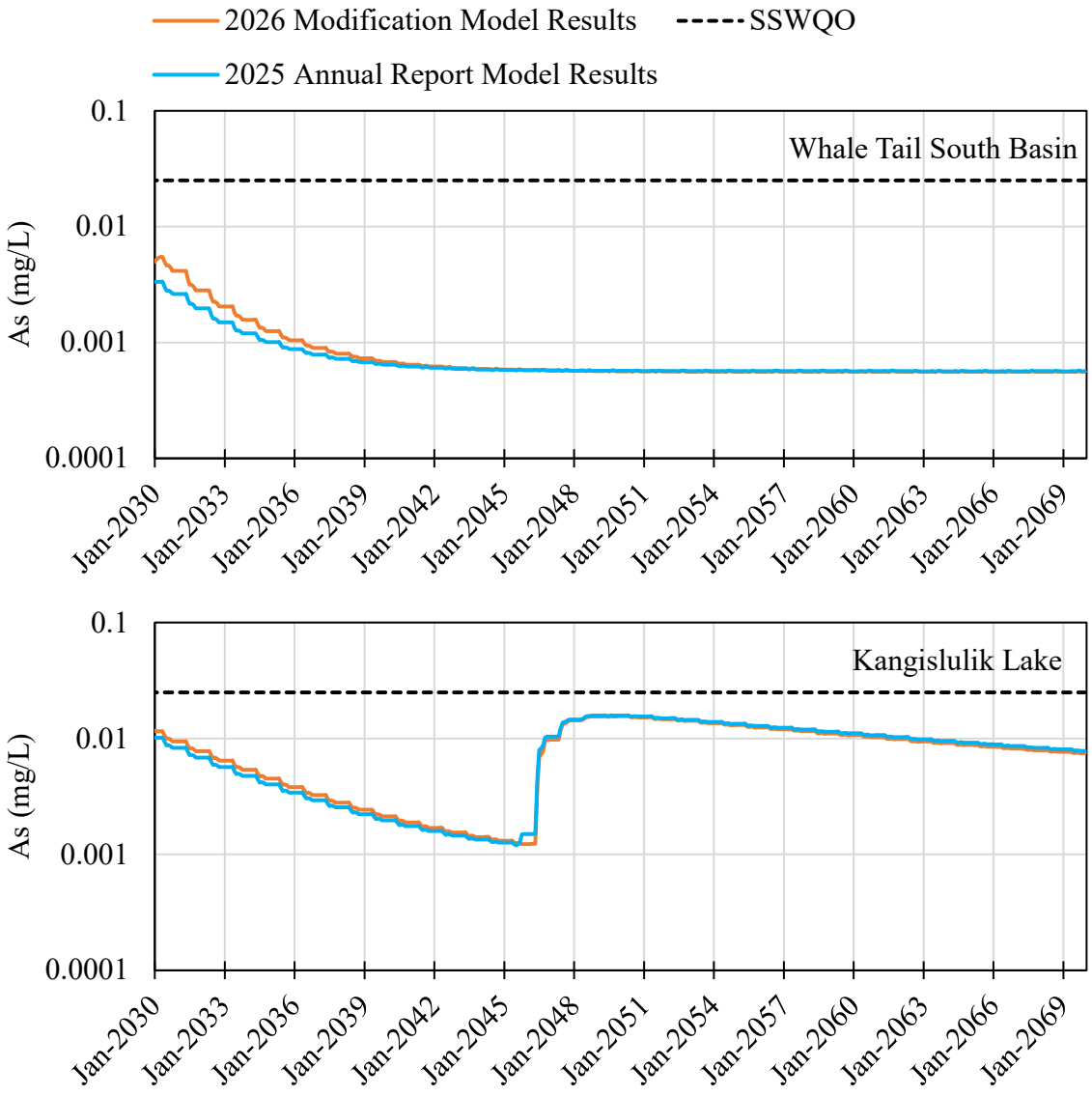


Figure 5-6: Closure arsenic predictions for the Whale Tail South Basin (top) and Kangislulik Lake (bottom) predicted in the 2026 Modification model and 2025 Annual Report model.

Table 5-3:
Maximum Monthly Predictions in the Receiving Environment and Downstream Lakes During Post Closure (February 2026 Onwards)

Parameter	Units	Maximum Monthly Concentration during Post-Closure Feb.2046-Dec.2069			CCME or SSWQO
		WTS Lake	Kangislulik Lake	WTN Basin	
Total Ammonia[1]	mg-N/L	0.0034	0.0021	0.0010	*0.58*
Nitrate	mg-N/L	0.099	0.58	0.23	*2.93*
Nitrite	mg-N/L	0.00052	0.0011	0.00059	*0.06*
Chloride	mg/L	12	30	14	*120*
Fluoride	mg/L	0.042	0.070	0.064	*0.12*
Sulphate	mg/L	4.5	18	21	*variable*
Silver	mg/L	0.0000052	0.0000065	0.0000067	*0.00025*
Aluminum	mg/L	0.0071	0.016	0.014	*0.1*
Arsenic	mg/L	0.00058	0.016	0.023	*0.025*
Boron	mg/L	0.0052	0.0064	0.0067	*1.5*
Cadmium	mg/L	0.0000027	0.0000062	0.0000073	*variable*
Chromium[2]	mg/L	0.00021	0.00020	0.00023	*0.001*
Copper	mg/L	0.00051	0.0011	0.0010	*variable*
Iron	mg/L	0.048	0.050	0.055	*0.3*
Mercury	mg/L	0.0000026	0.0000049	0.0000045	*0.000026*
Manganese	mg/L	0.026	0.051	0.043	*variable*
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.00029	0.0014	0.0015	*0.073*
Nickel	mg/L	0.0014	0.0071	0.0096	*variable*
Phosphorus	mg/L	0.0048	0.0050	0.0051	*0.01*
Lead	mg/L	0.000038	0.000044	0.000045	*variable*
Selenium	mg/L	0.000027	0.00015	0.00012	*0.001*
Thallium	mg/L	0.0000052	0.0000068	0.0000066	*0.0008*
Uranium	mg/L	0.000079	0.00029	0.00025	*0.015*
Zinc	mg/L	0.0016	0.0020	0.0019	*variable*

Note:
WTN = Whale Tail North
WTS = Whale Tail South
CCME = Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
SSWQO = Site Specific Water Quality Objective
Variable guidelines are dependent on predicted hardness, pH, temperature, and DOC
1. CCME guideline for total ammonia conservatively assumes pH of 8 and temperature of 15°C.
2. CCME guidelines for Cr include both Cr(VI) 0.001 mg/L and Cr(III) 0.0089 mg/L. Given that Cr is expected to be present primarily as Cr (III) in mine water, model predictions are compared against the CCME Cr(III) guideline for initial screening.

5.3 Comparison of Model Forecasts

The current model predictions are nearly identical to the 2025 Annual Report model prior to mid-2028, when the mine plans begin to diverge with respect to the timing of Active Closure. Beginning in 2028, some differences in predicted arsenic trends in the IVR Pit are observed between the two models due to the model configuration and timing of pumping saline water from the IVR Pit to the underground. In the 2025 Annual Report model, the IVR Pit was represented as separate east and west lobes, with underground water collected in the east lobe prior to being pumped to the underground void at the start of Active Closure in 2028. In the current model, the IVR Pit is represented as a single reservoir, with underground water collected in the entire pit prior to being pumped to the underground void in 2030. The expanded footprint of the WRSF has a relatively minor influence on water quality results compared to other model updates related to the IVR Pit and underground water management. Aside from differences associated with the timing of Active Closure, arsenic concentration trends during the various phases of mining are comparable between the two models.

6. Summary

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6. Summary

A water balance and water quality model was constructed to predict the movement of water and water quality for the Whale Tail mine plan during Operations, Active Closure and Post Closure to account for the 2026 Whale Tail WRSF modification. These model results are nearly identical to the previous model results presented in the 2025 Annual report.

The model operates on a daily time-step and is driven by a climate forcing series, consisting of a repeating average year climate, for a 50-year period from 2020 to 2069, with predictions presented for 2026 onwards. The mine plan is replicated on an annual basis, with sub-catchment areas and mine facility footprints reflective of the Whale Tail mine schedule and mine site layout.

All mine site components, including open pits, underground operations, WRSFs, ore pads and underground WRSFs are assigned runoff and interflow signatures, as well as geochemical source terms. All water management infrastructure is incorporated into the model, along with the lake water and load balances for the Whale Tail South Basin and Kangislulik Lake.

Mine site flows and source loadings were parameterized via a calibration exercise that utilized measured data from mine operations in 2020 to 2022. These calibrated parameter sets were then carried forward for use in the predictive model, which was validated using monitoring data from 2023-2025, as presented in Lorax (2026). Key water balance predictions include:

- Water levels in the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond and IVR Attenuation Pond are predicted to remain within the operational criteria for the duration of Operations.
    - Over the remainder of the Operations phase, seepage through the Whale Tail Dike is predicted to account for approximately 51% of the total input to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, while 41% is sourced from the WT Pit sump.
    - The primary Operations phase inputs are sourced from various mine contact water management sumps and the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, comprising 18% and 61% of the total inflows, respectively.
- Under the LOM mine plan, the existing mine water management infrastructure can handle the additional contact water generated by the pit pushbacks. The primary Operations phase inputs

As of June 2026, GSP-1 is full to the maximum operating water level elevation, and GSP-2 is currently receiving underground water. At EOM, 139,000 m^3 stored in GSP-1,

39,000 m^3 in GSP-2, 308,000 m^3 in GSP-3, and 663,700 m^3 in the IVR Pit are pumped underground, in April 2030.

The IVR Attenuation Pond is the source of 96% of total influent to the O-WTP for the remainder of the Operations phase. The relative proportion of total annual treated effluent discharge is weighted towards the open water season discharges to Kangislulik Lake (52% of the total discharges), with the remaining 48% of treated effluent discharged to the Whale Tail South Basin.

During Active Closure, mine void flooding proceeds as follows:

- Underground mine active flooding occurs during April 2030;
- IVR Pit active flooding begins in April 2030 and is filled to the spill point elevation of 123 masl by June 2032;
- Whale Tail Pit active flooding begins in June 2032, and is filled to the spill point elevation of 123 masl by June 2040, forming the Whale Tail/IVR Complex; and
- Active flooding of the Whale Tail North Basin continues until February 2046 when the final water level of 153.5 masl is reached.

During the operational years of 2026 through 2030, treated effluent discharged from the O-WTP is predicted to meet NWB water license limits for all parameters. The O-WTP will be operated for the first six years of Active Closure and will treat mine contact water including 65% of pit wall runoff, with treated effluent discharged to the IVR Pit. Once effluent discharge ceases in Active Closure, parameter concentrations are expected to decrease and remain below guidelines in the receiving environment and downstream lakes. All parameters are expected to meet their respective guidelines throughout closure.

7. Closure

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7. Closure

We trust that this report meets your requirements at this time. Please contact us should you have any questions or concerns or require additional information in support of this work.

Yours sincerely,

LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.

Prepared by:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTIST S.I. JACKSON LICENSEE NT/NU

2026-08-21

Scott Jackson, M.Sc., P.Geo. (BC, NT/NU)
Senior Hydrologist

Okan Aygün, Ph.D., E.I.T. (BC)
Numerical Modeller

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTIST J.W. DOCKREY LICENSEE NT/NU

2026-21-08

John Dockrey, M.Sc., P.Geo (BC, NT/NU, ON)
Senior Geochemist

Nicole Marsh, M.Sc., P.Geo (BC)
Environmental Geochemist

PERMIT TO PRACTICE
LORAX ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.
Signature
Date August 21, 2026
PERMIT NUMBER: P 1487
NT/NU Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists

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Appendix A: Whale Tail Mine Annual Catchment Areas

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Appendix A: Whale Tail Mine ELOM Mine Area Annual Catchment Areas

Catchment	Area (ha)								
	2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027-2030**	**Post-Closure**
A18-Natural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	422.61
A18-Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.14
EXP-WRPAD	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03
Fuel-Facilities	2.79	2.79	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42
GSP-1	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.99	3.33	3.33	3.33
GSP-2	-	-	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59
GSP-3	-	-	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16
Haultruck-Park	-	-	-	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80
IVR-Attenpond	14.90	14.89	20.98	20.98	20.98	20.98	20.98	20.98	20.98
IVR-Dike-Natural	71.91	71.91	72.03	46.98	46.98	46.98	46.98	46.98	46.98
IVR-Diversion-Natural	137.49	72.90	67.53	71.70	71.70	71.70	71.70	71.70	71.70
IVR-Pit	1.71	26.53	37.17	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	5.15
IVR-Pit_East	-	-	-	16.8929	16.8929	15.4885	15.4885	15.4885	1.93
IVR-Pit-Pushback	-	-	4.37	4.68	4.68	4.68	4.68	4.68	4.68
IVR-Pit_West				24.86	24.86	26.26	26.26	26.26	3.22
IVR-Saline Water Storage	-	-	-	-	-	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80
IVR-WRSF-DIKE	-	44.55	44.55	67.67	67.67	67.67	67.67	67.67	67.67
IVR-WRSF-IVRPit	-	8.72	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75
Kangislulik-DIKE-Natural	43.29	35.76	28.87	26.87	26.87	26.87	26.87	26.87	20.93
Kangislulik-DSDIKE-Natural	387.80	387.80	348.87	347.32	347.32	347.32	347.32	347.32	753.76
Kangislulik-DSDIKE-Water	133.48	133.48	133.48	133.48	133.48	133.48	133.48	133.48	148.68
Nemo Lake - Natural	218.92	218.92	218.77	218.77	218.68	218.68	218.68	218.68	218.68
Nemo Lake - Water	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60	118.60
OSP-1	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07
OSP-2	5.46	5.46	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83
OSP-4	14.17	14.17	14.12	13.28	13.28	13.28	13.28	13.28	11.90
Pad K	-	-	-	-	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81
Pad K-EXT	-	-	-	11.67	11.67	11.67	11.67	11.67	11.67
Pad M	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.83	2.83	2.83
OVB-STORAGE	-	-	1.84	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.73
Sana-Crusher-Pad	-	-	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	2.73
TEMP-NPAG-WRSF	15.34	23.33	19.94	19.94	19.94	19.94	19.94	19.94	19.94
US-IVRPit-Natural	115.69	82.42	48.77	59.711	59.711	59.711	59.711	59.711	59.629
US-IVRPit-Natural West	-	-	-	36.39	36.39	36.39	36.39	36.39	36.31
US-IVRPit-Natural East	-	-	-	23.32	23.32	23.32	23.32	23.32	23.32
US-IVRWRSF-Natural		20.04	20.04	4.07	4.07	4.07	4.07	4.07	4.07
US-SWTDC	-	-	46.21	46.21	46.21	46.21	46.21	46.21	-
US-WTPit-Natural	30.83	30.83	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.08
Warehouse-Pad	-	-	-	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73
WT-AttenPond	2.86	2.86	2.86	2.84	2.84	2.84	2.84	2.84	2.84
WT-Camp	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88
WT-DIKE-Lakebed	31.82	31.82	31.19	29.84	29.84	29.84	29.84	29.84	29.84
WT-DIKE-Natural	41.13	41.13	41.78	35.80	35.80	35.80	32.75	32.75	40.02
WT-Pit	60.93	60.66	62.39	64.16	64.16	64.16	65.40	65.40	4.08
WT-Pit_Flooded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61.39
WT-NorthBasin(WT Dike to WT Pit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.75
WT-NorthBasin and Pit-Flooded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147.34
WT-Pit-Pushback	-	-	2.59	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.11	4.11	0.89
WT-Pit-Pushback_Flooded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.56
WT-USDIKE-Natural	1,463	1,463	1,462	1,463	1,454	1,454	1,454	1,454	877
WT-USDIKE-SOUTHBASIN-NATURAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245.87
WT-USDIKE-SOUTHBASIN-WATER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84.31
WT-USDIKE-Water	407.83	407.83	407.83	407.83	407.83	407.83	407.83	407.83	98.74
WT-WRSF-DIKE	81.02	81.02	85.98	85.98	85.98	85.98	85.98	98.30	98.30
WT-WRSF-IVRPIT	-	-	10.77	10.35	10.35	10.35	10.35	10.35	10.35
WT-WRSF-IVRPUSHBACK	-	-	0.98	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44
WT-WRSF-Pond	-	-	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	1.93	1.93
WT-WRSF-Pond-Natural	25.66	25.66	20.71	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	11.37	11.37
WT-WRSF-WTPIT	-	-	21.67	21.62	21.62	21.62	21.62	21.62	21.62
Total	**3,463**	**3,463**	**3,472**	**3,586**	**3,585**	**3,587**	**3,586**	**3,589**	**4,072**

Appendix B: Water Quality Model Results

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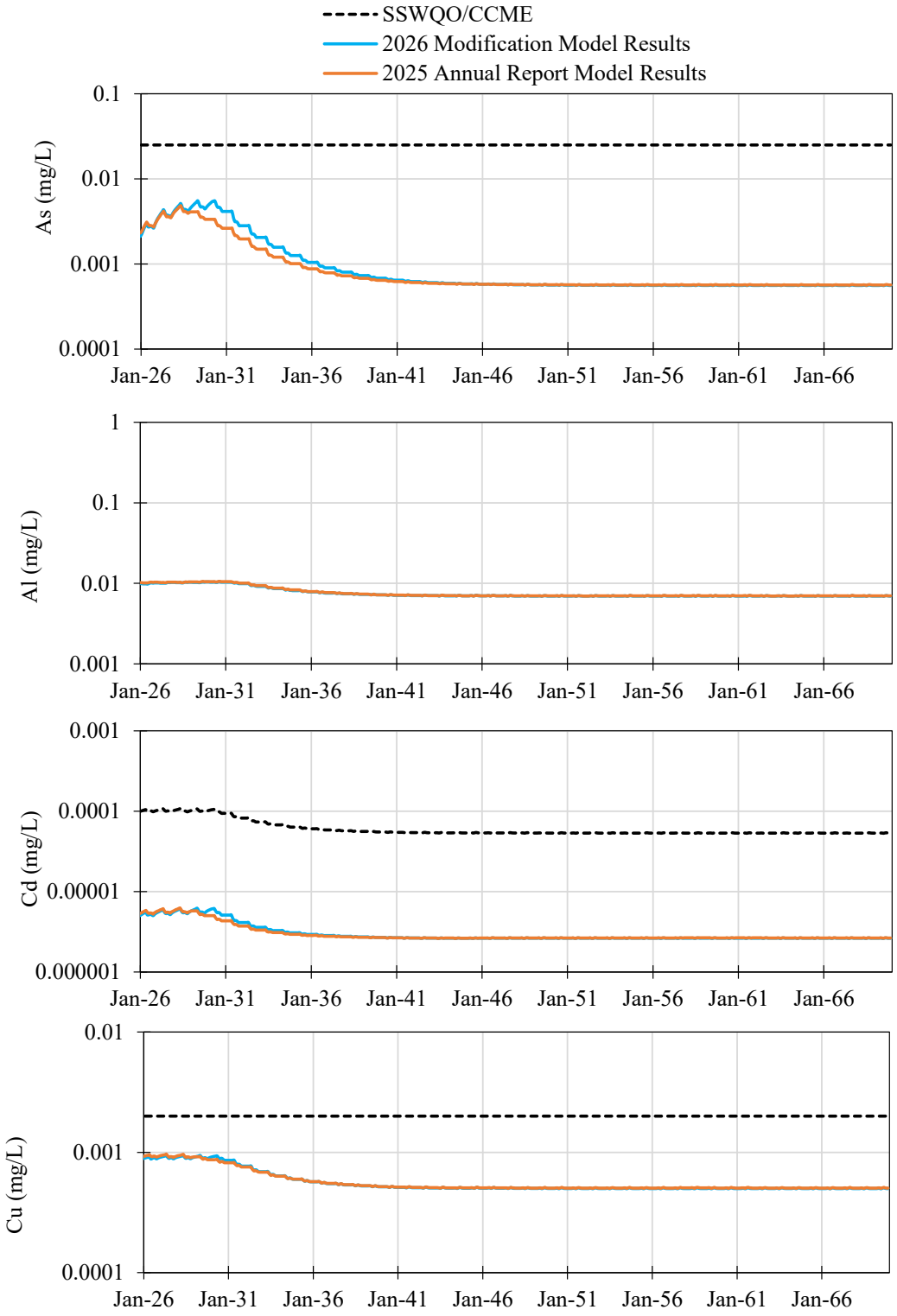


Figure B.1-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Whale Tail South compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

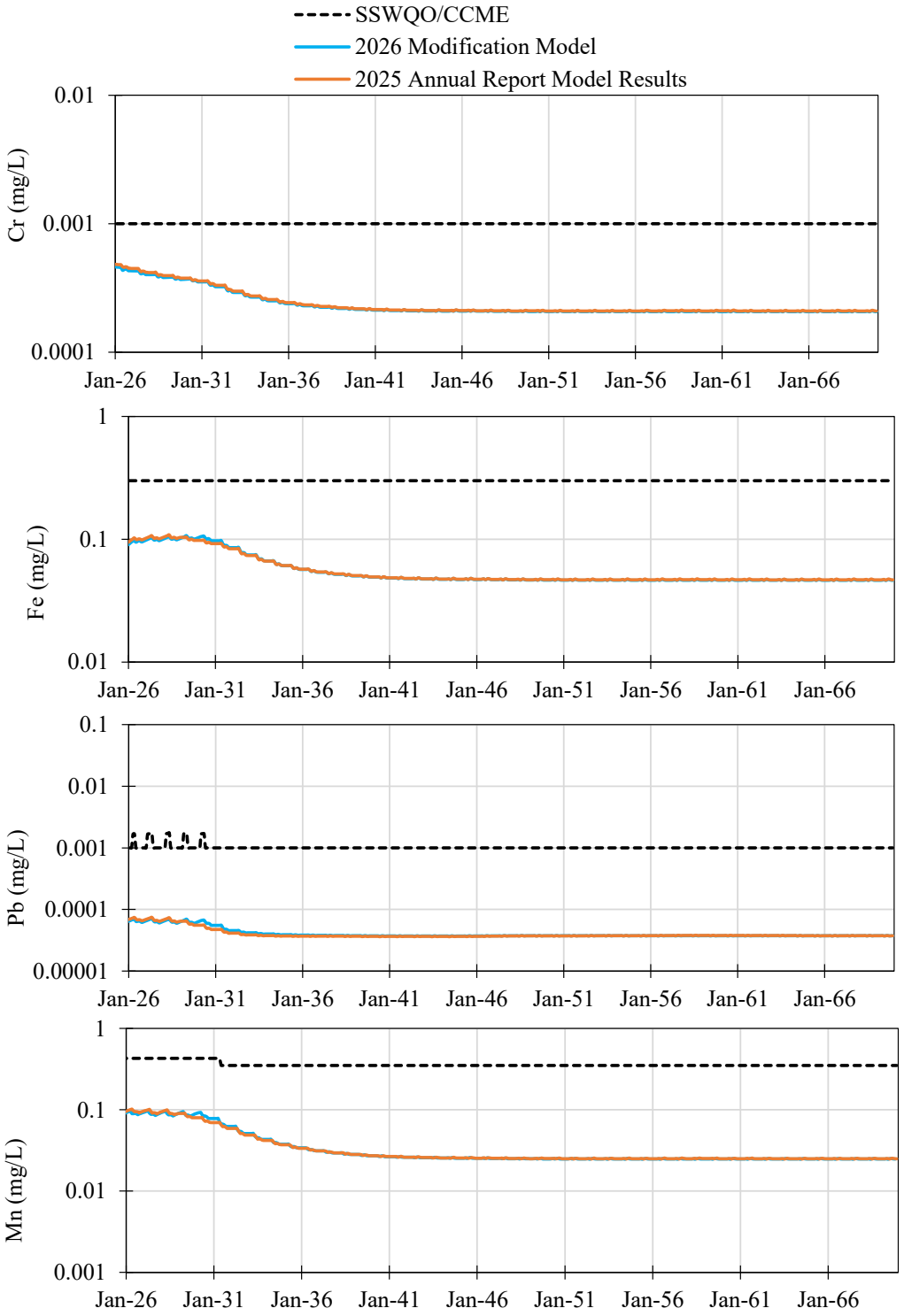


Figure B.1-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Whale Tail South compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

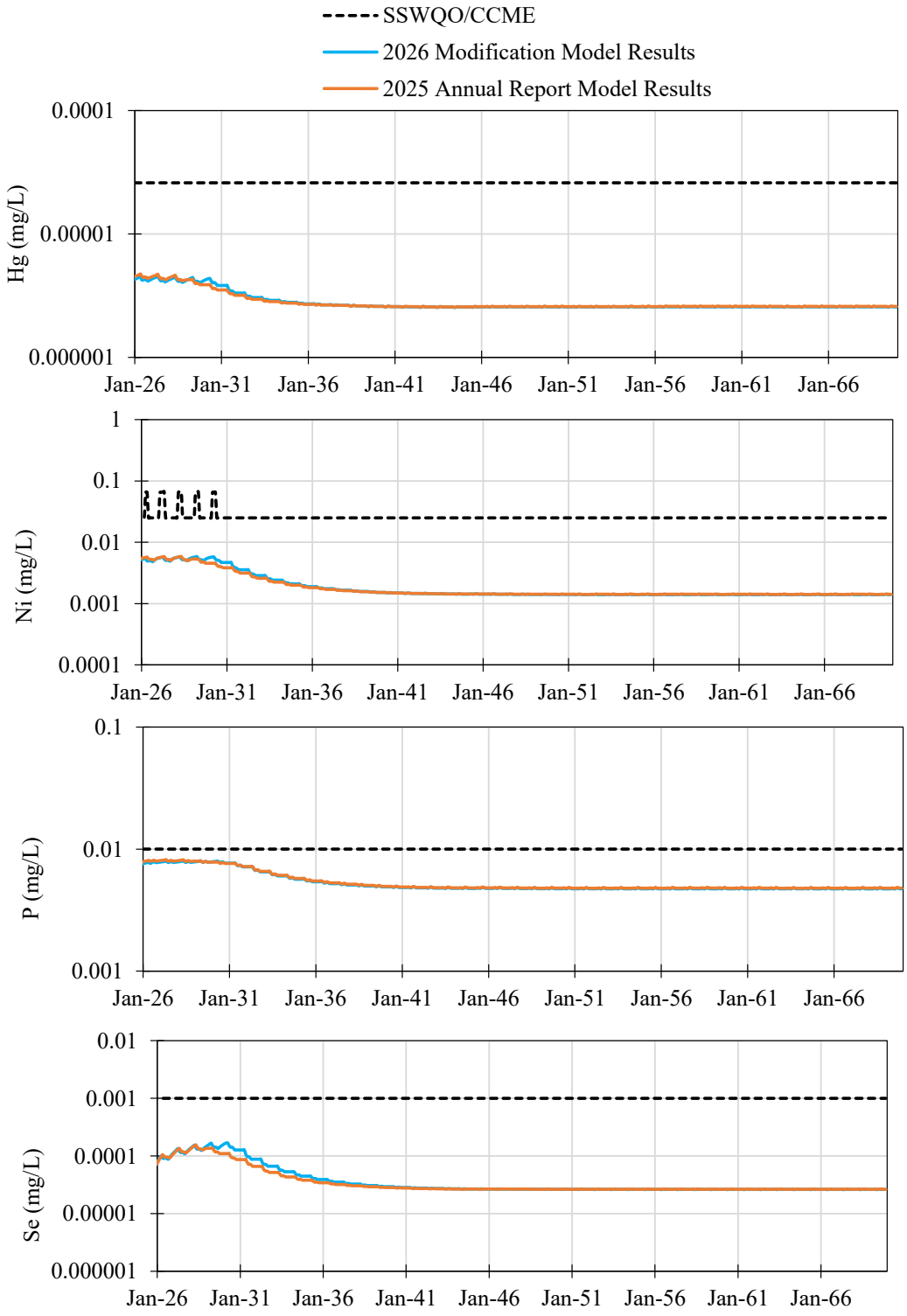


Figure B.1-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Whale Tail South compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

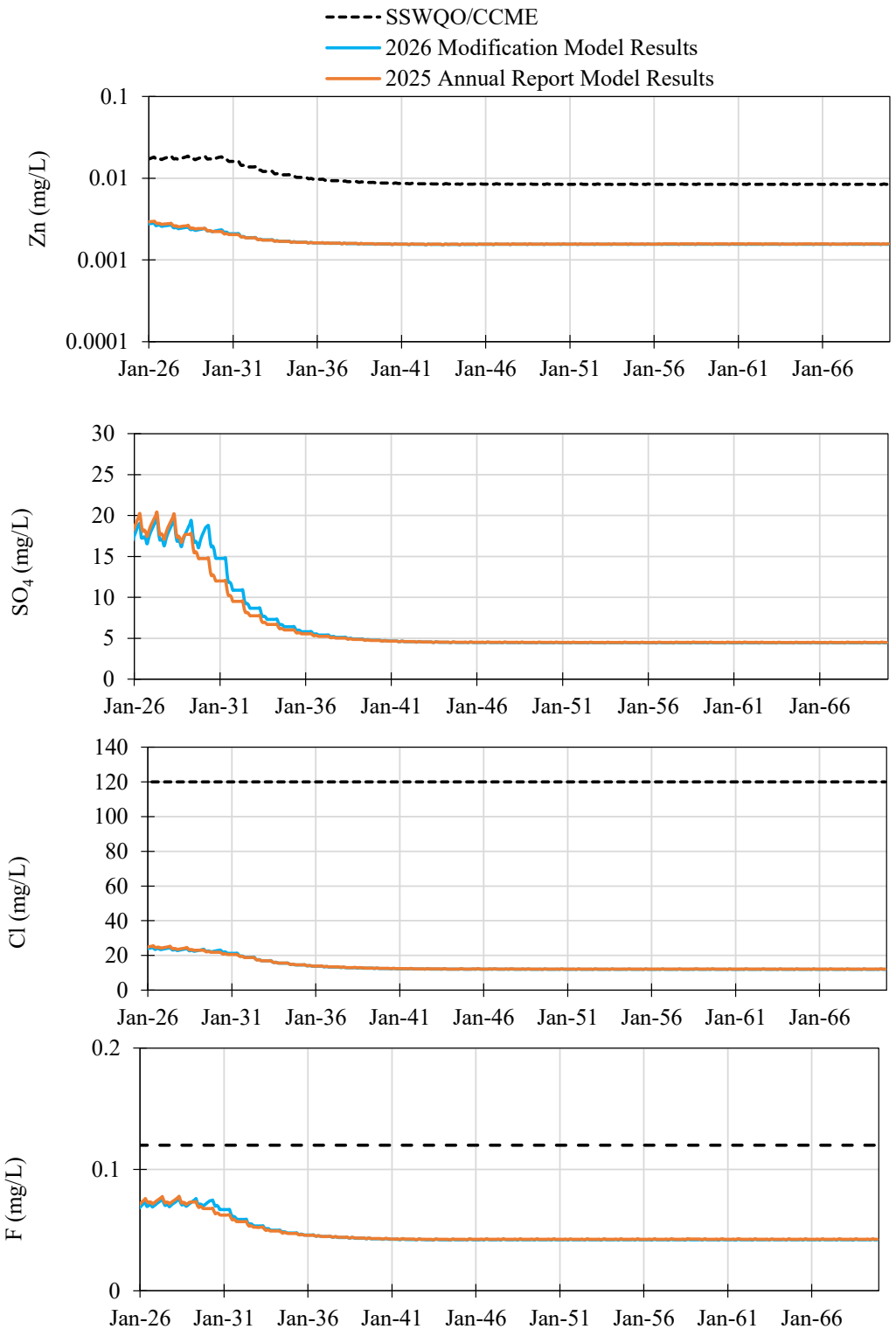


Figure B.1-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Whale Tail South compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

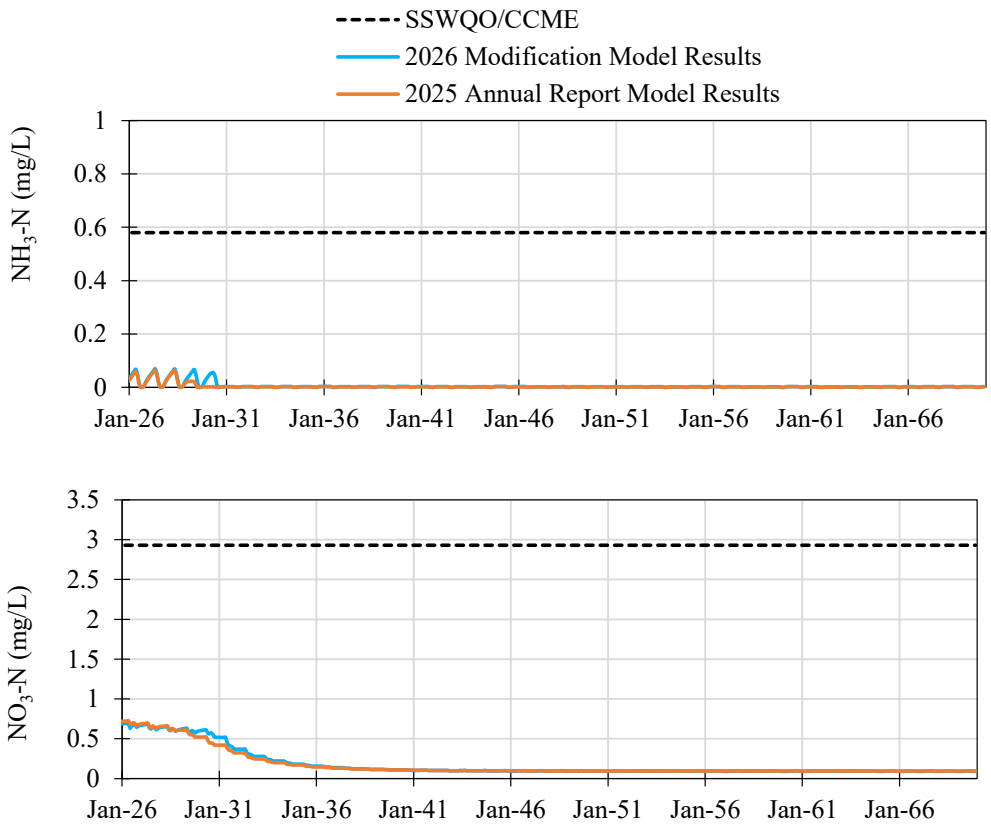


Figure B.1-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Whale Tail South compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

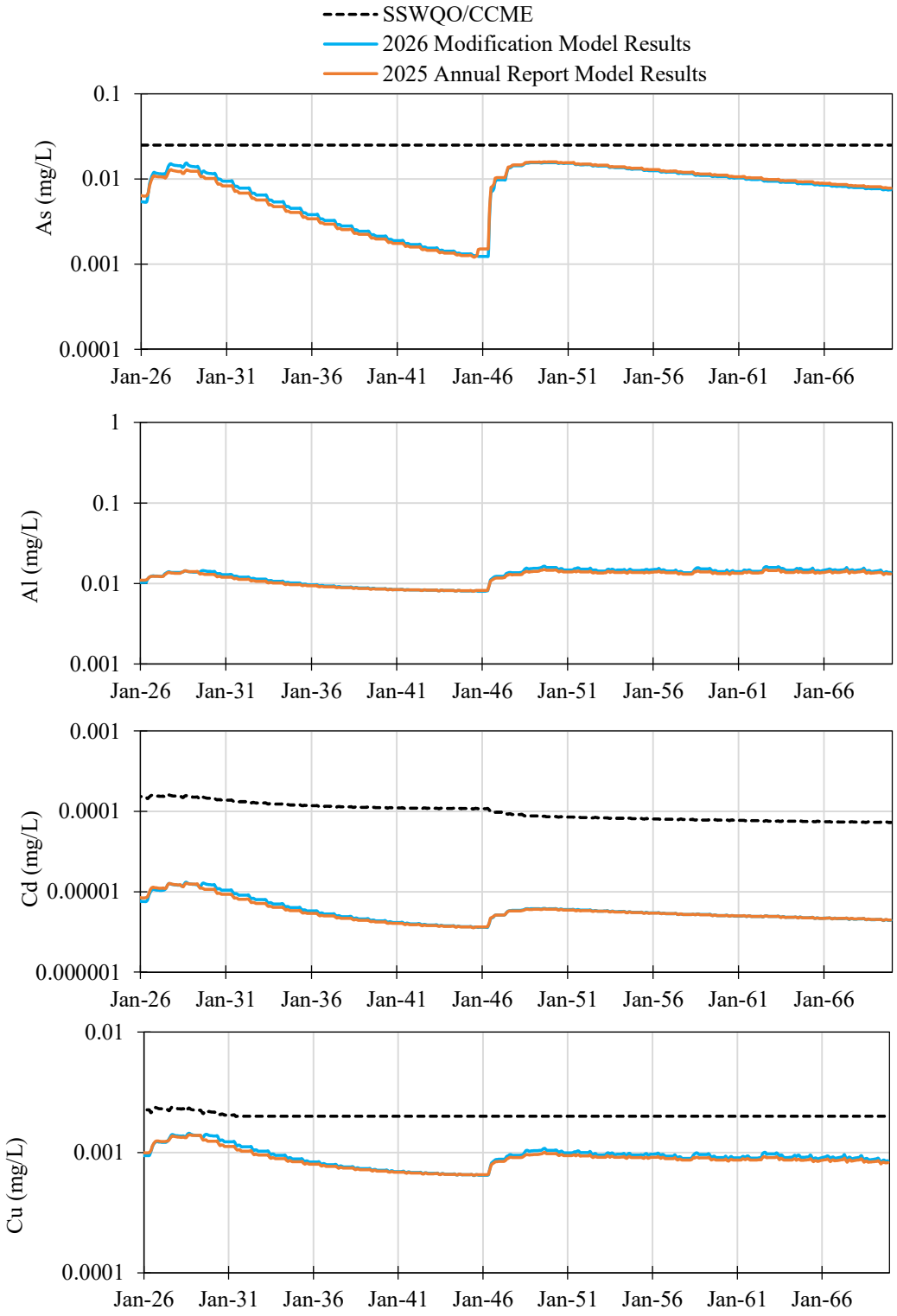


Figure B.2-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Kangislulik Lake compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

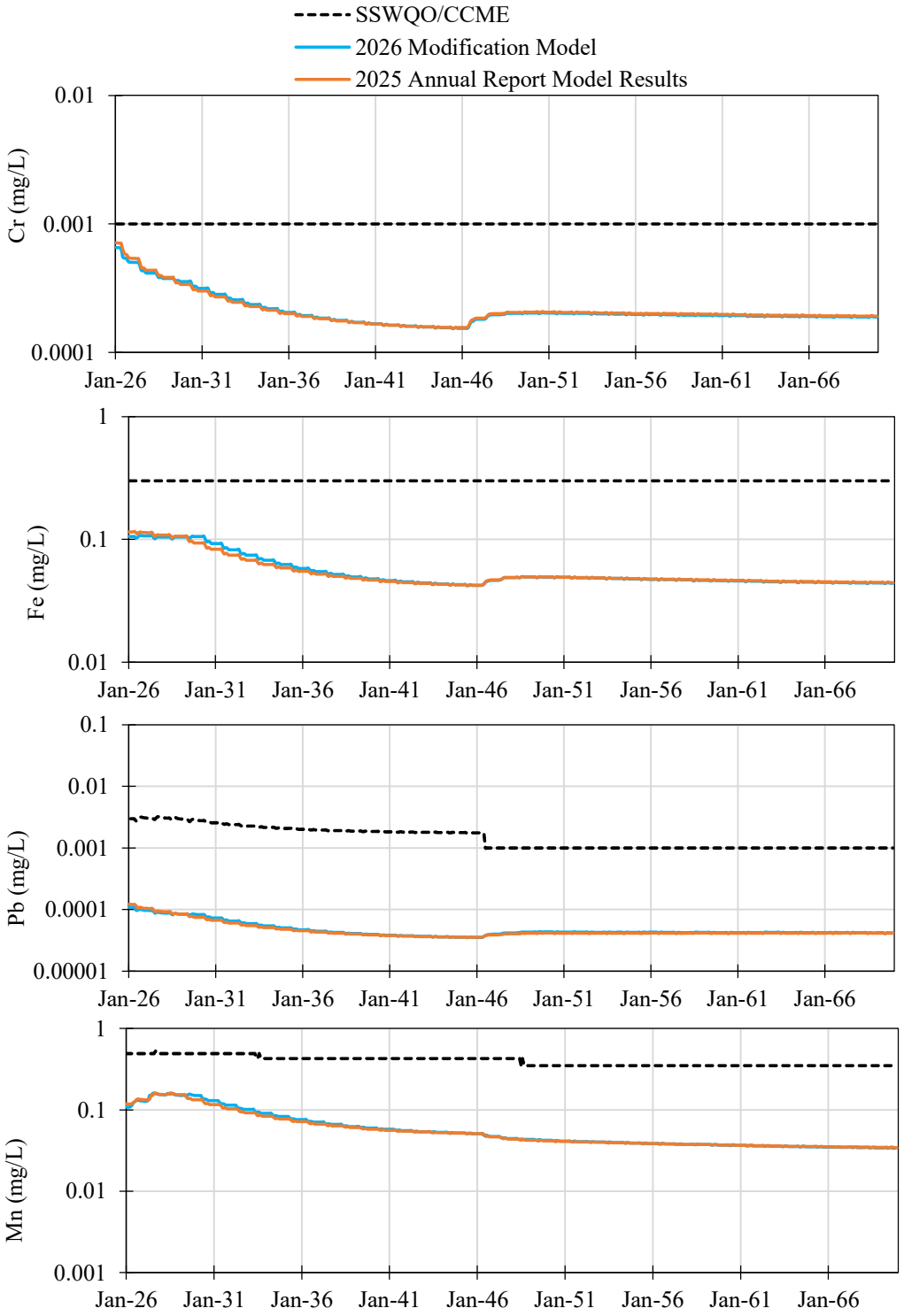


Figure B.2-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Kangislulik Lake compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

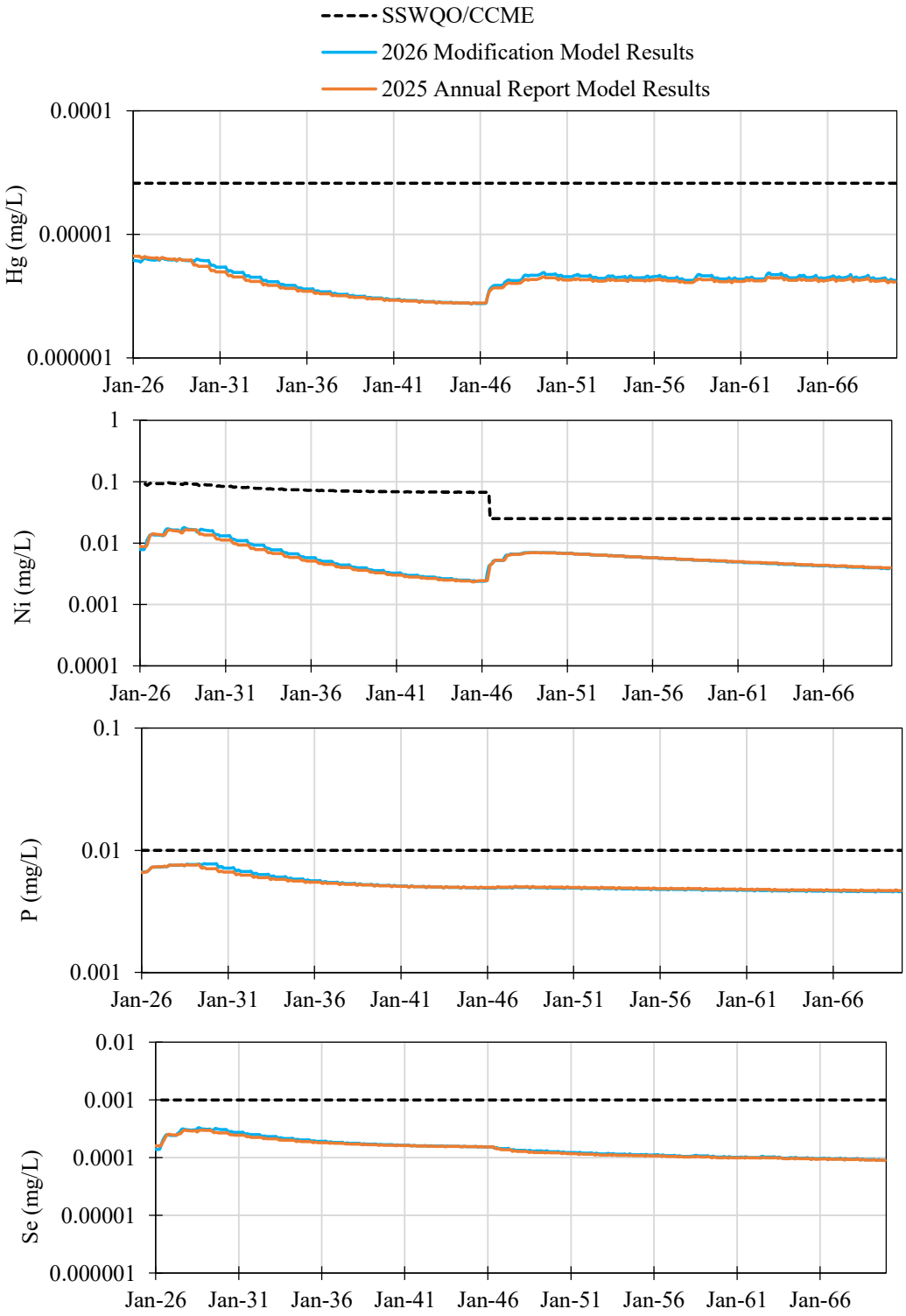


Figure B.2-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Kangislulik Lake compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

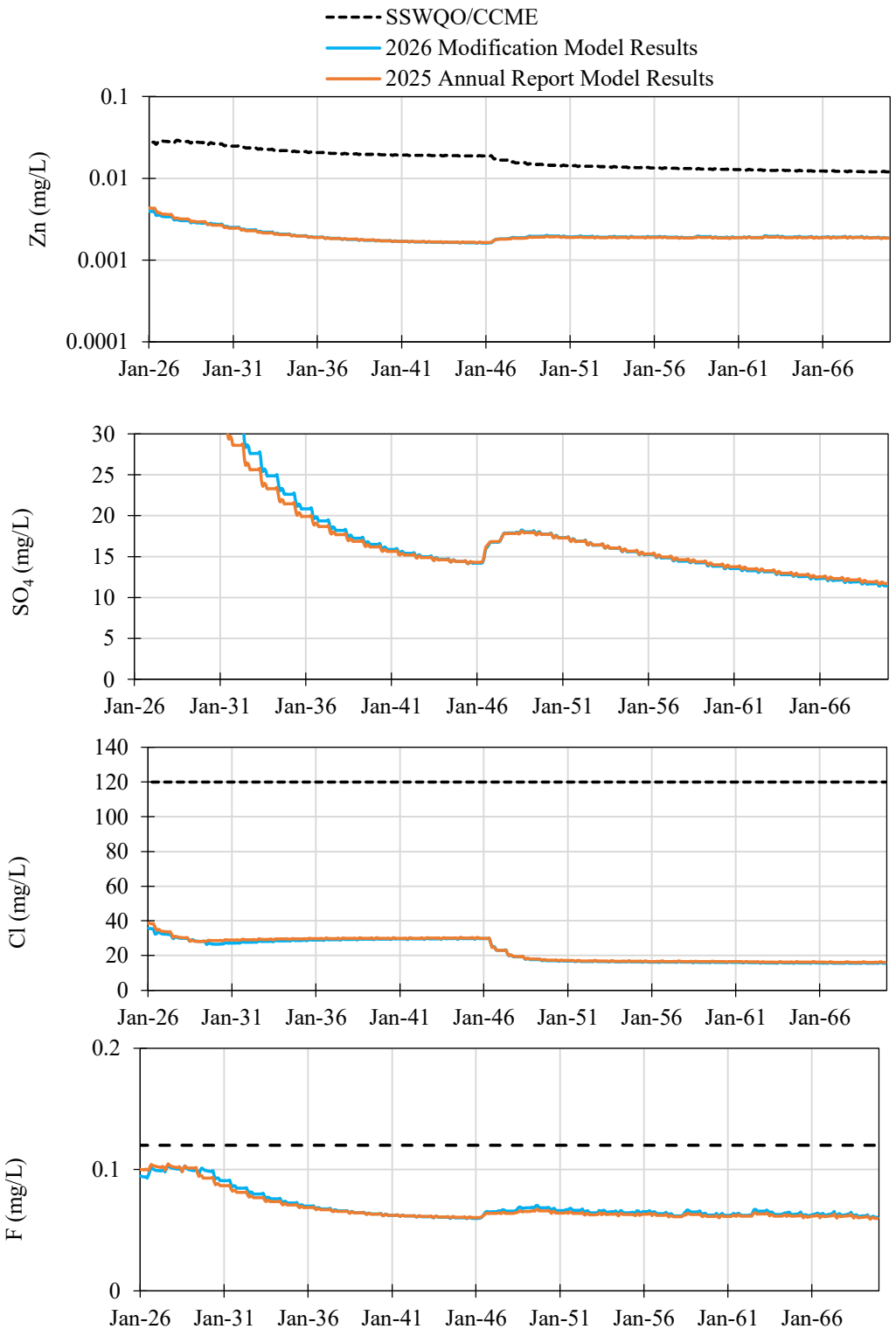


Figure B.2-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Kangislulik Lake compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

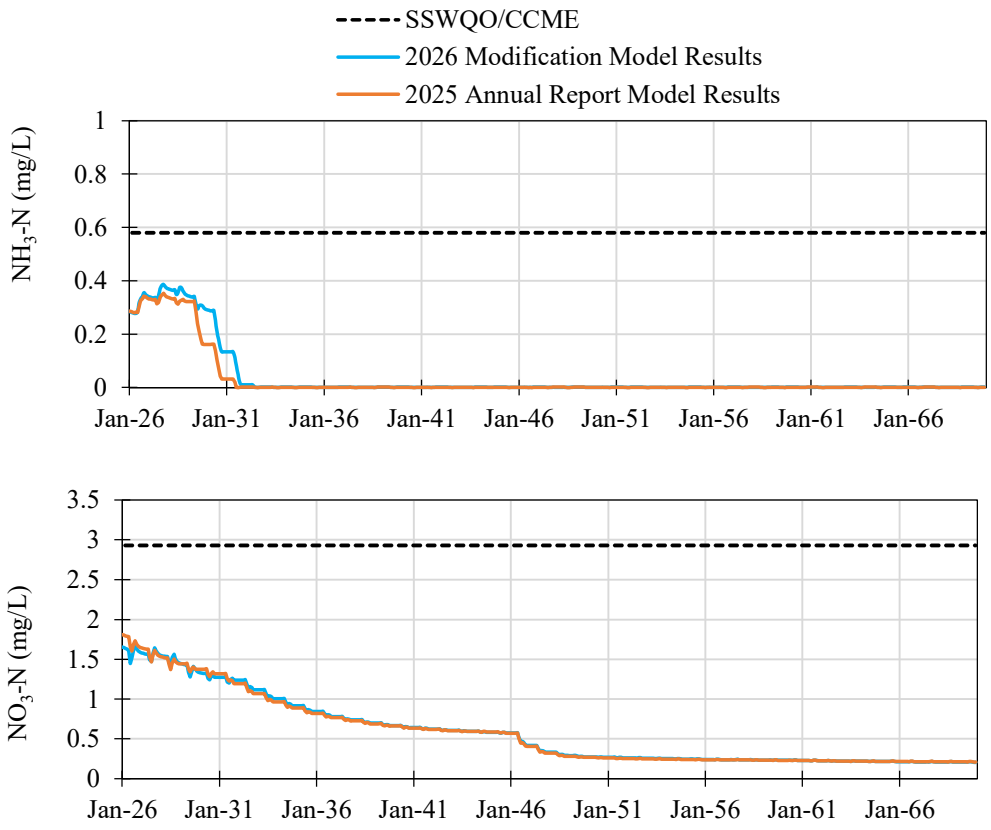


Figure B.2-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for Kangislulik Lake compared against receiving environment water quality criteria (CCME/SSWQO).

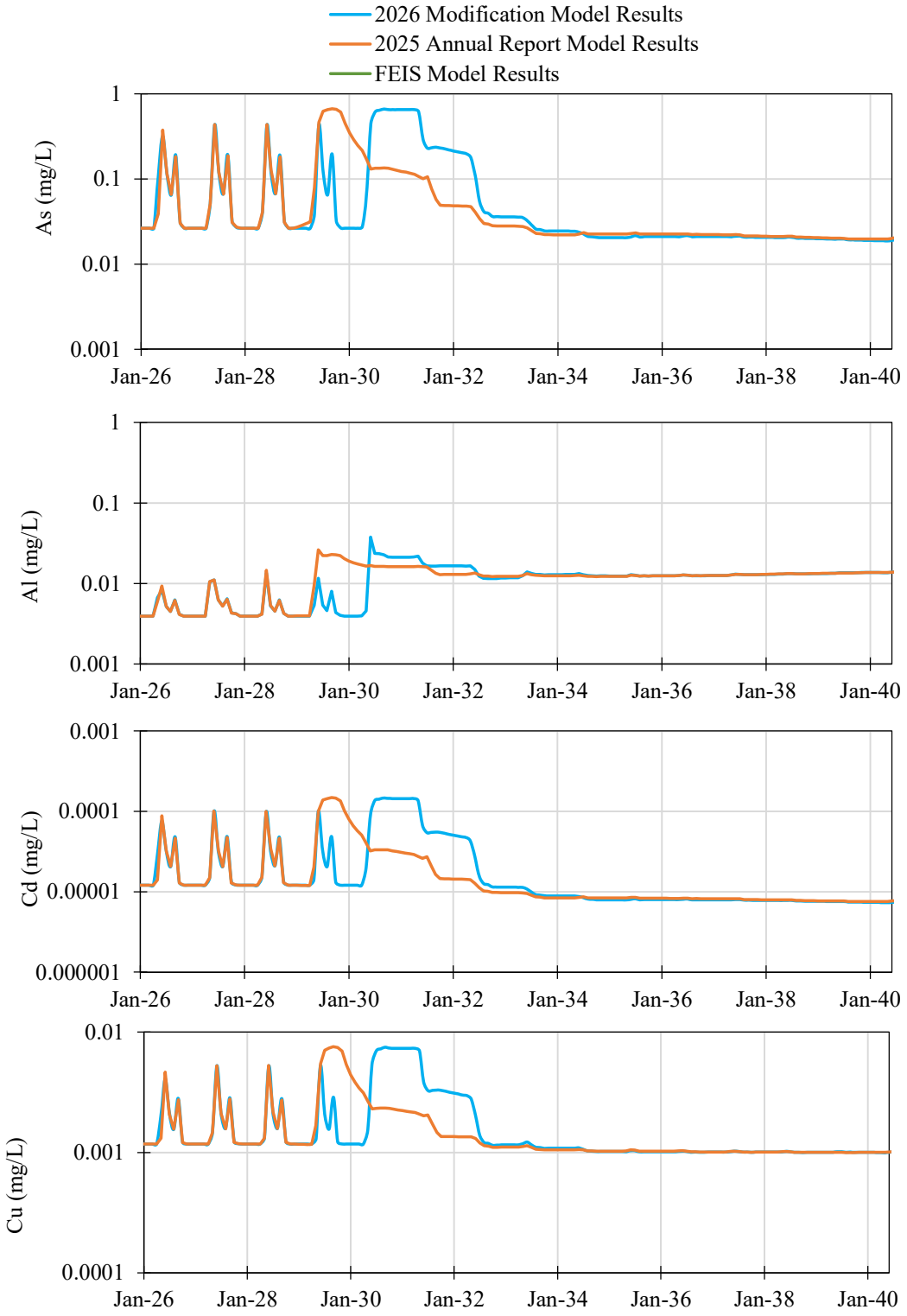


Figure B.3-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Pit

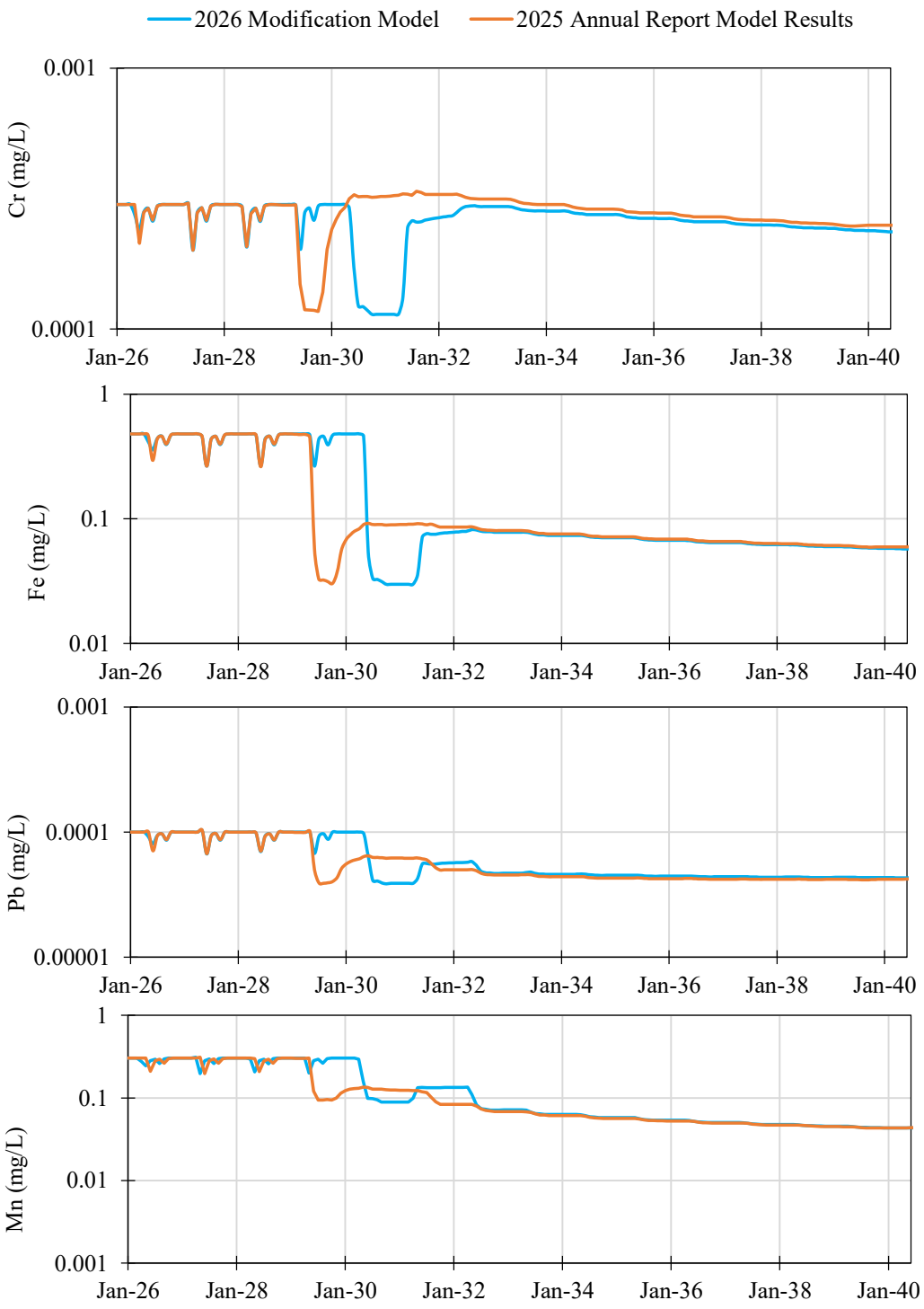


Figure B.3-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Pit

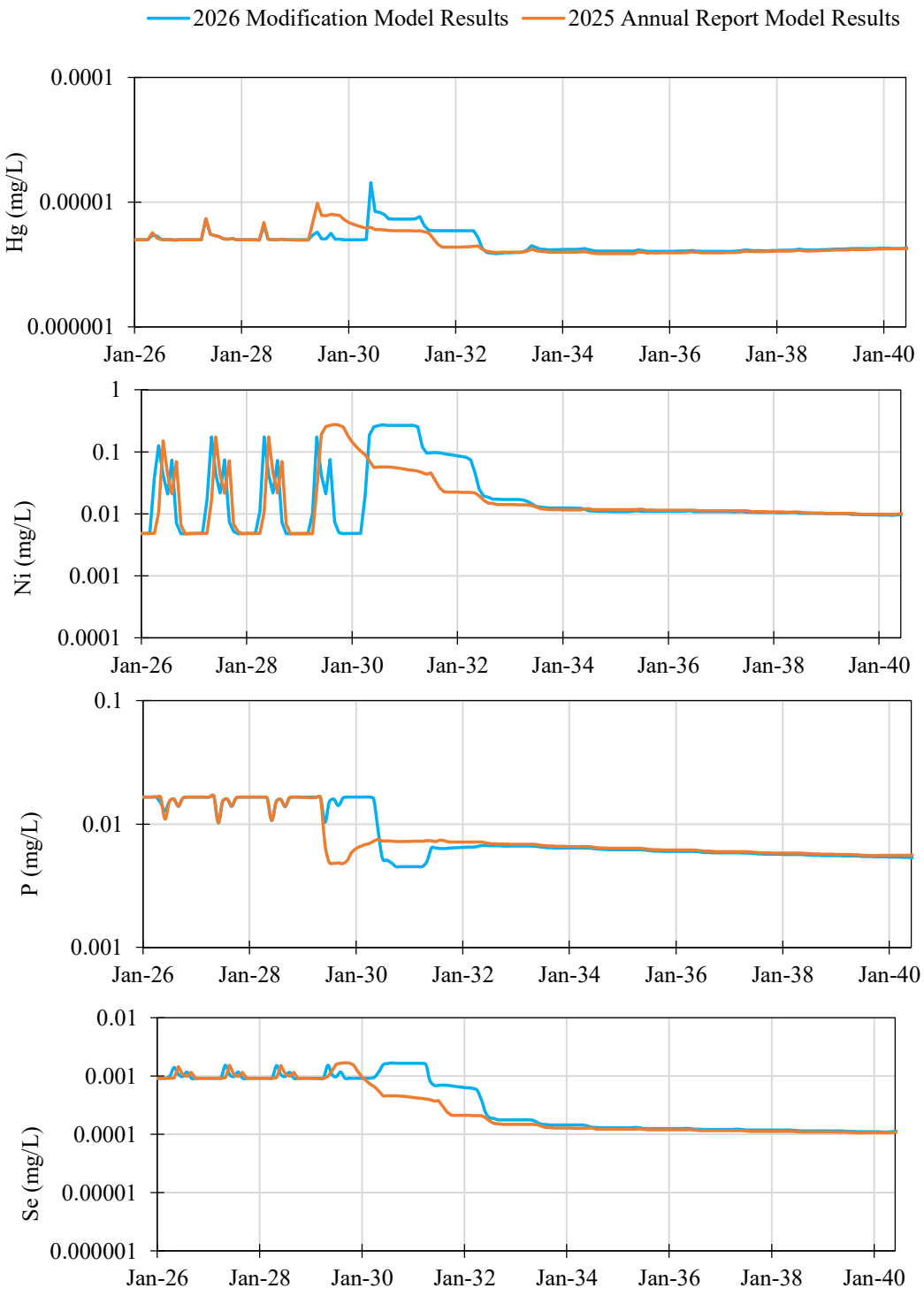


Figure B.3-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Pit

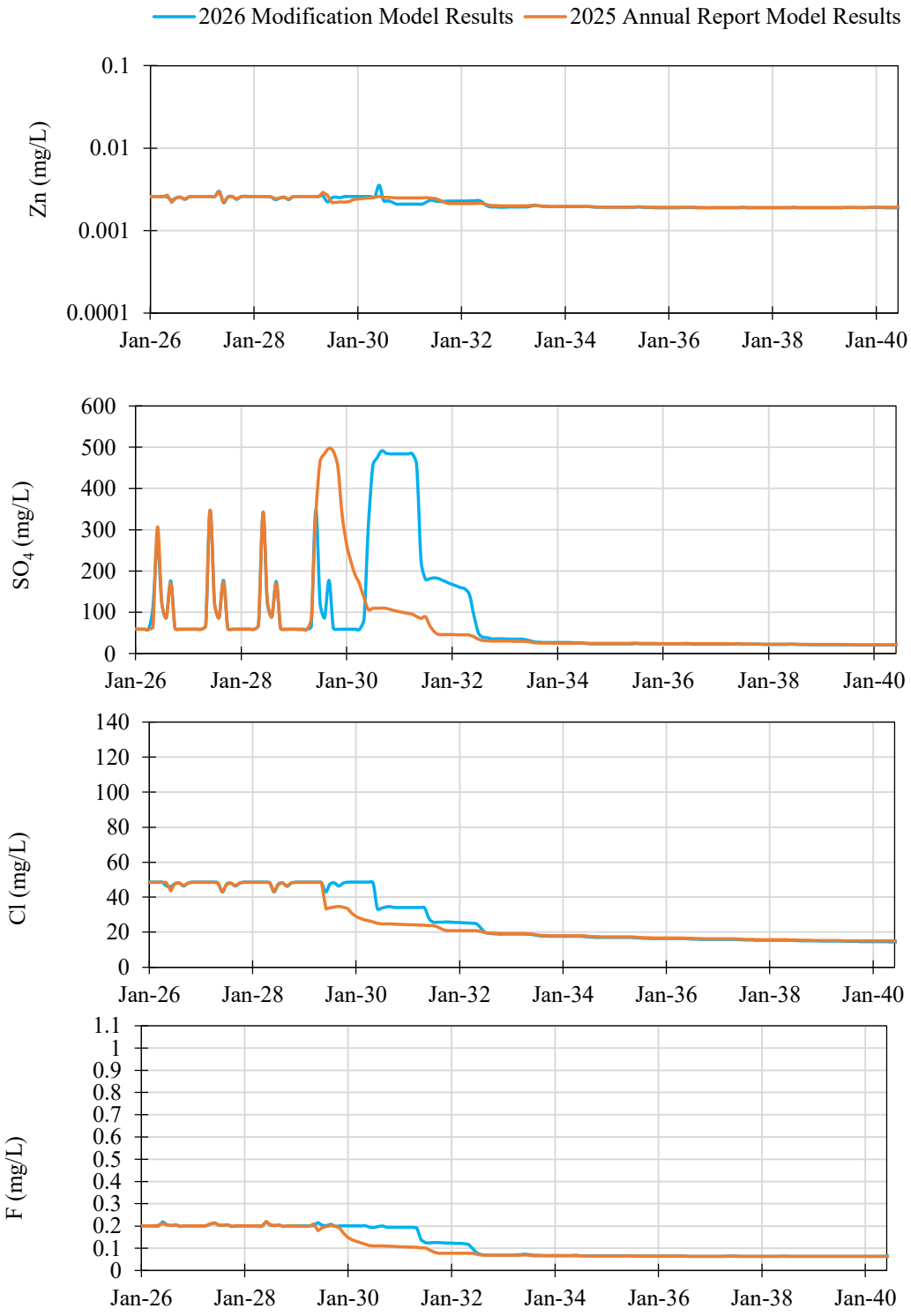


Figure B.3-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Pit

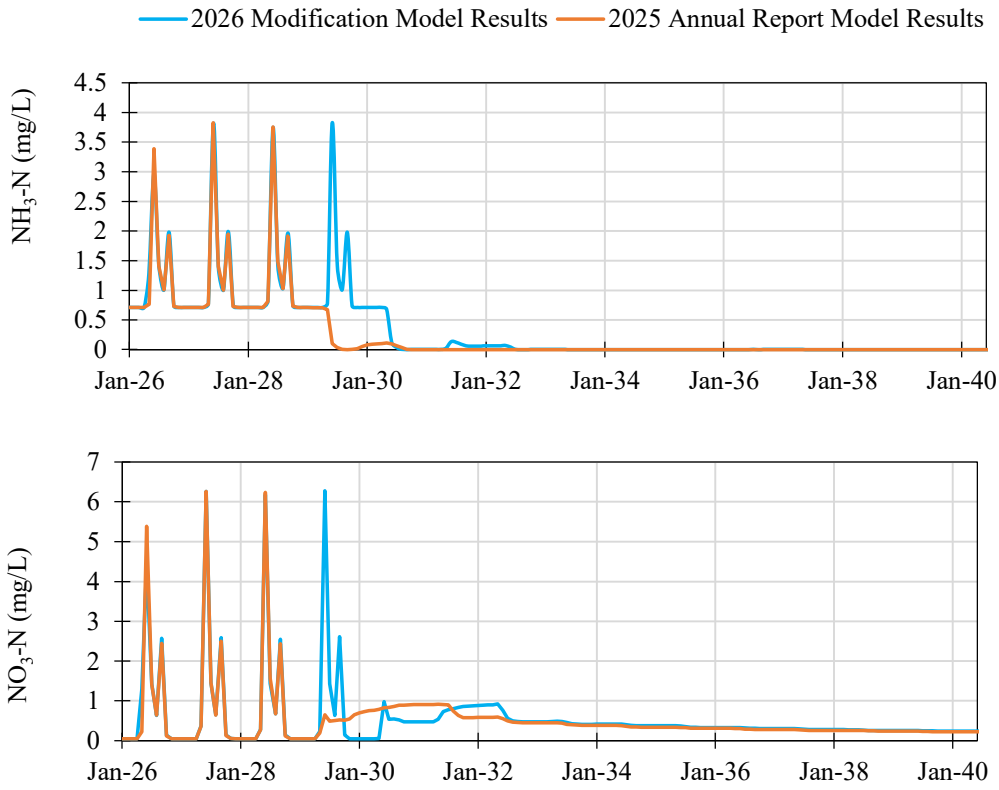


Figure B.3-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Pit

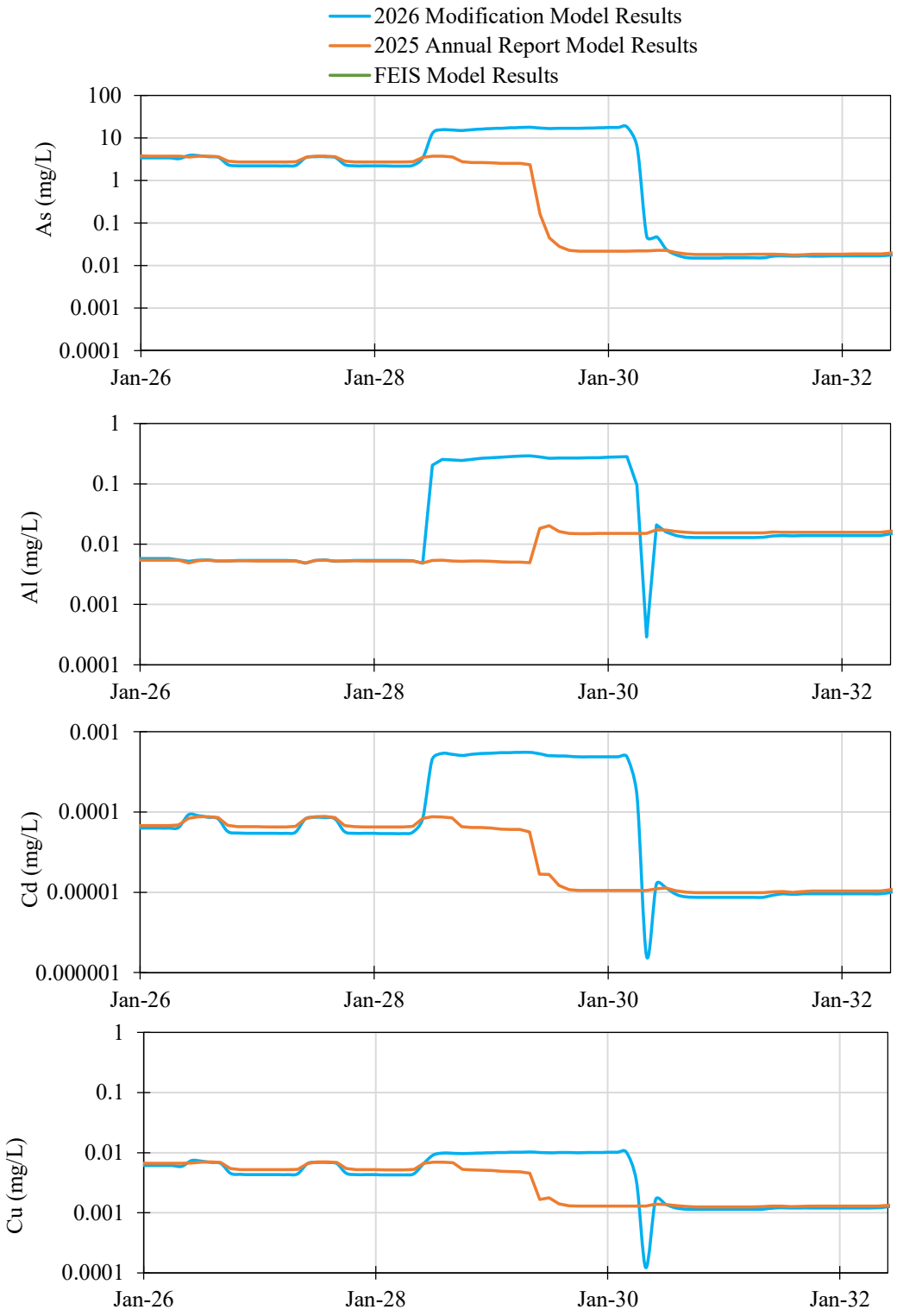


Figure B.4-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Pit

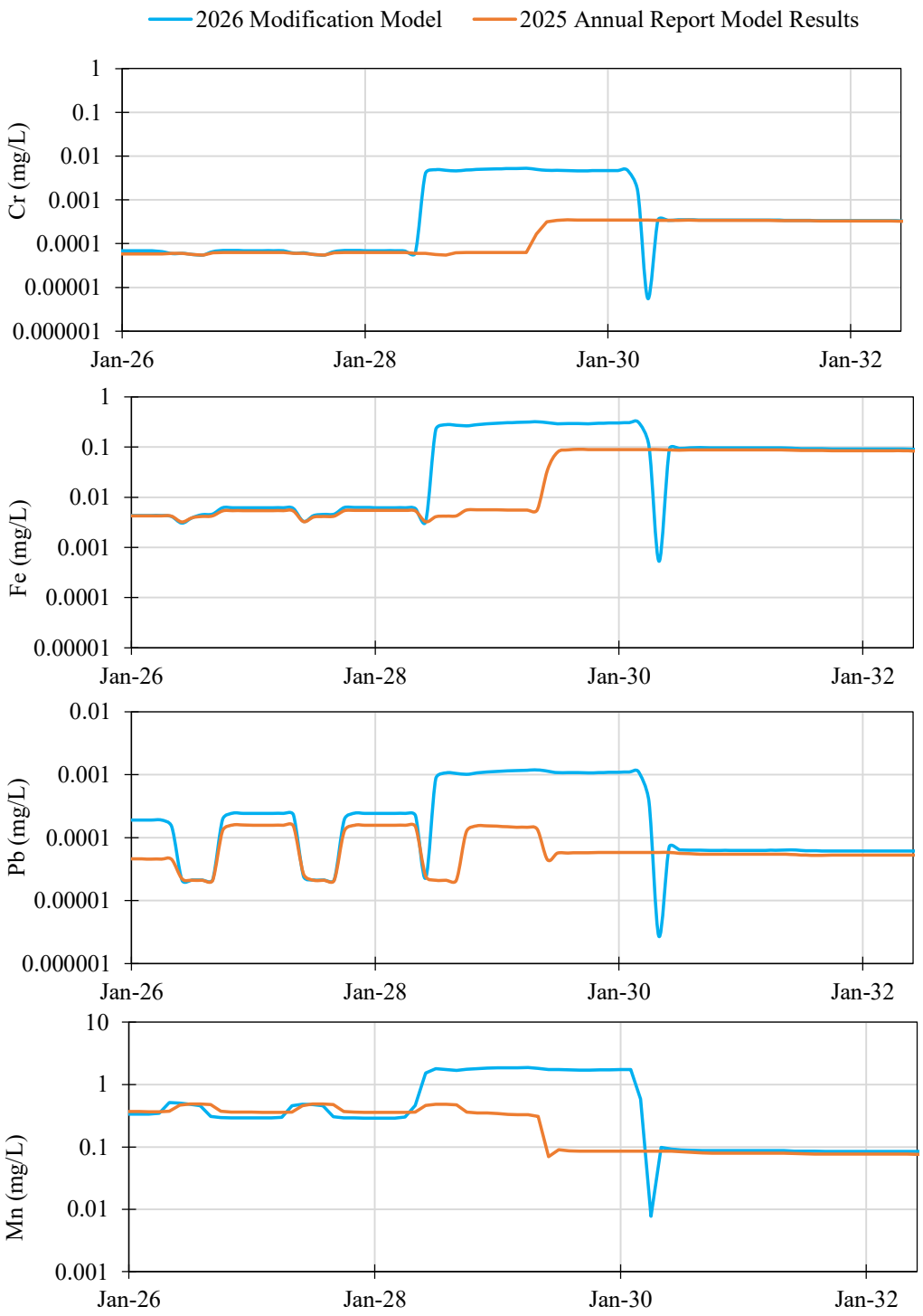


Figure B.4-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Pit

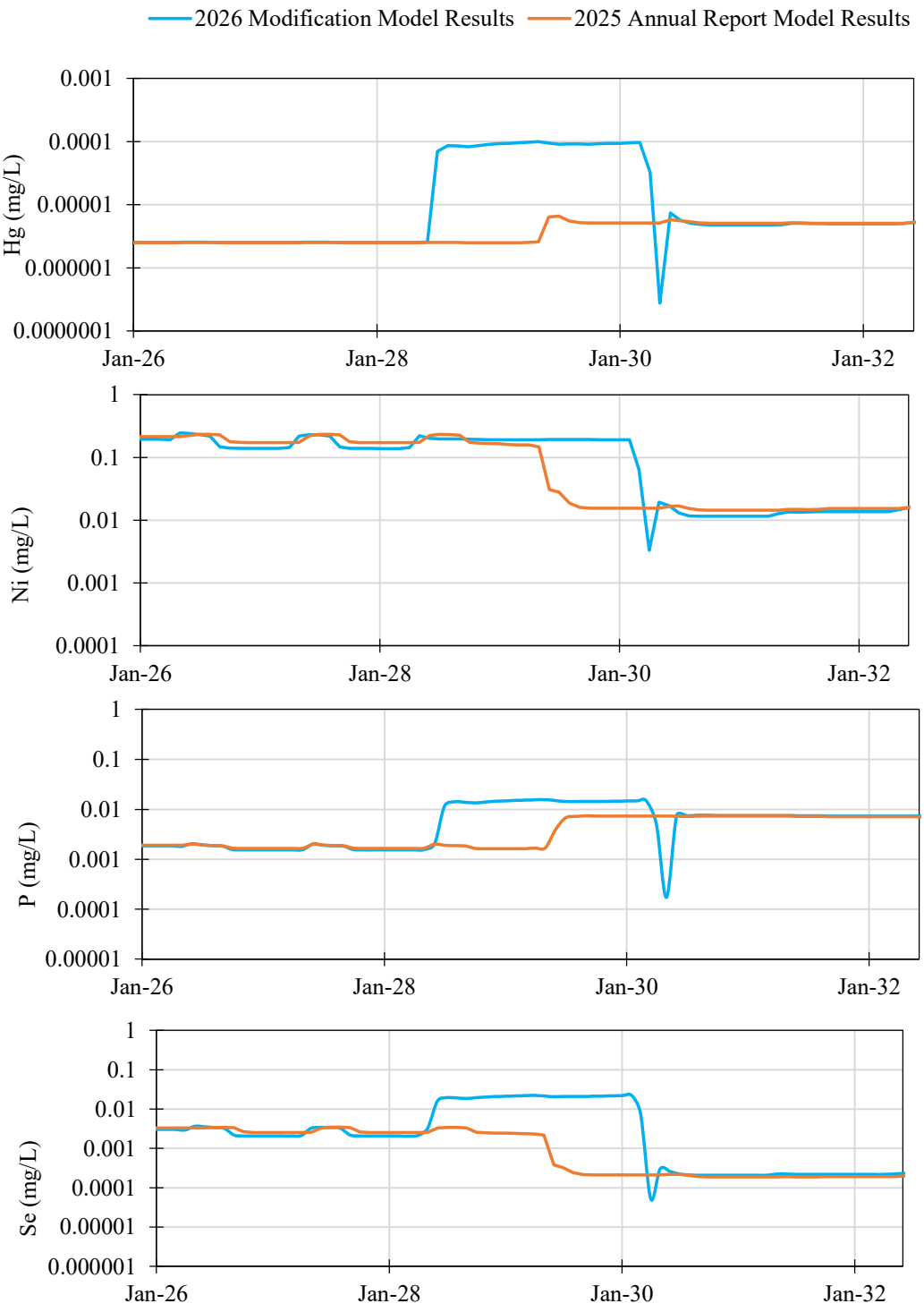


Figure B.4-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Pit

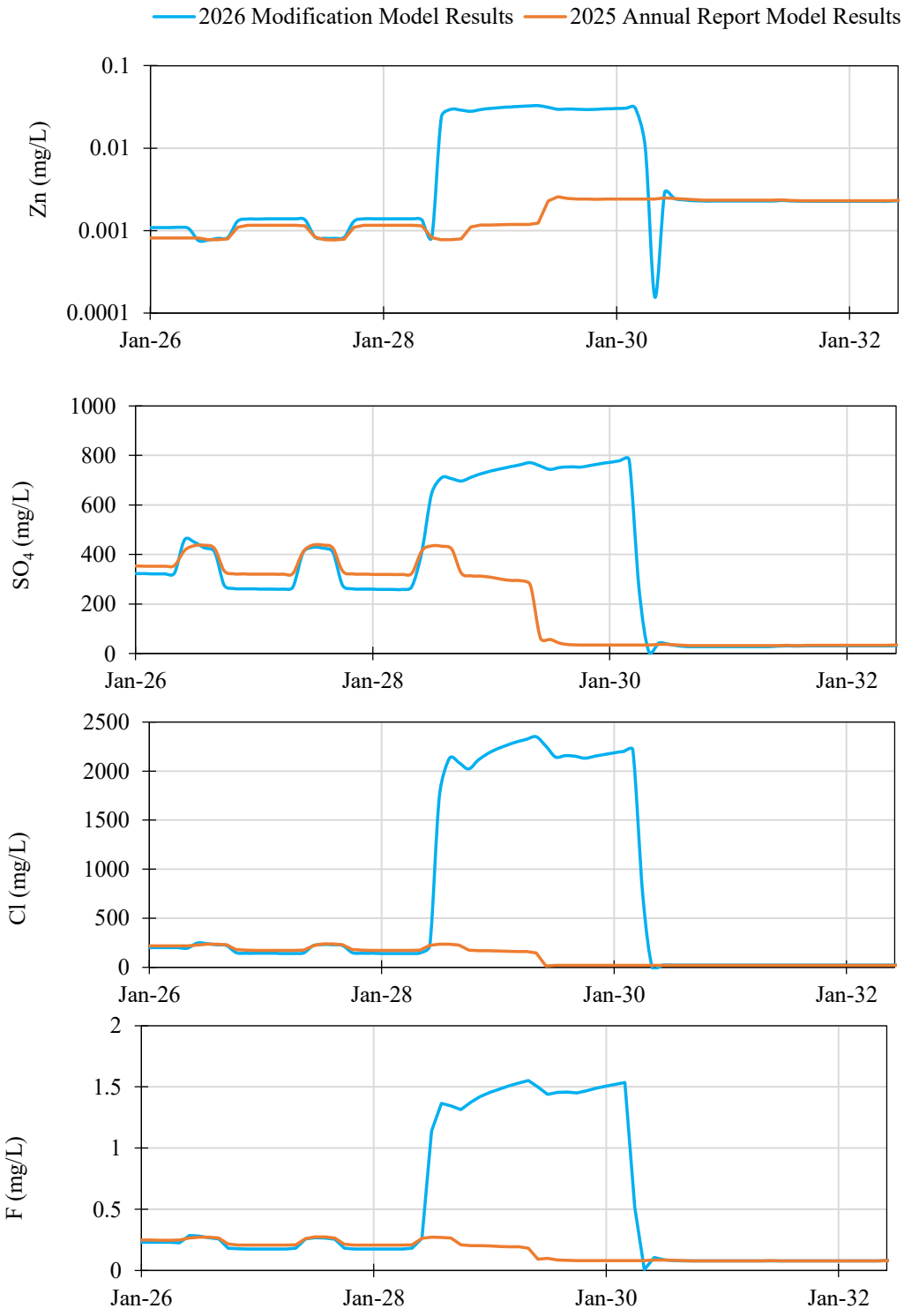


Figure B.4-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Pit

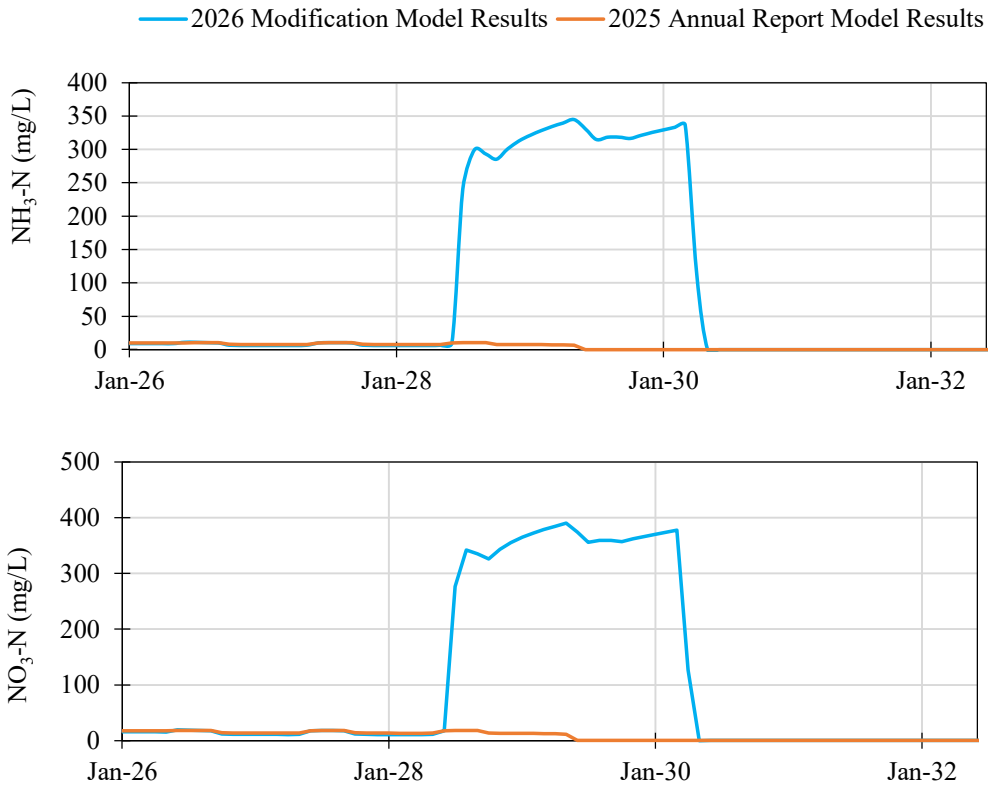


Figure B.4-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Pit

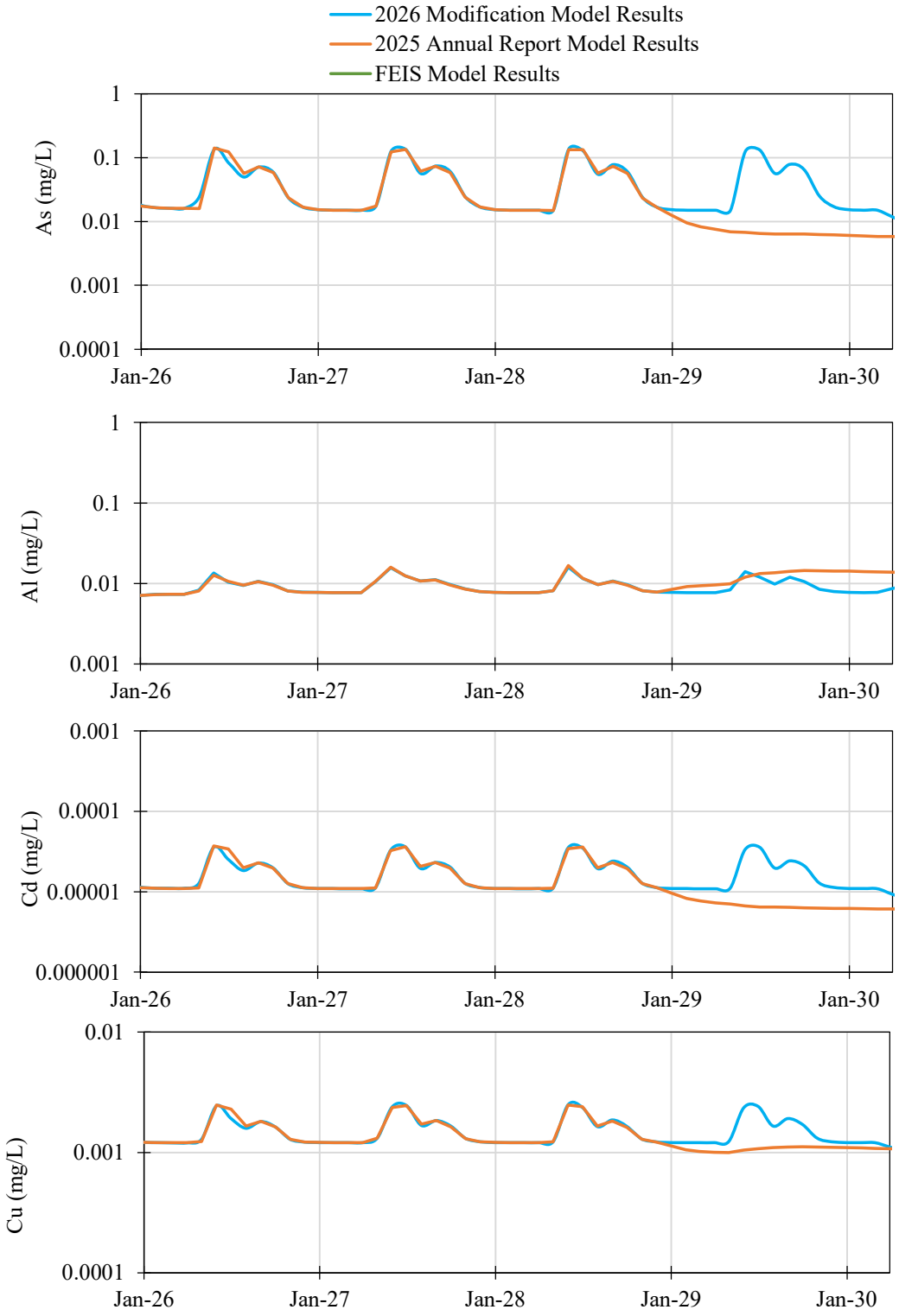


Figure B.5-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

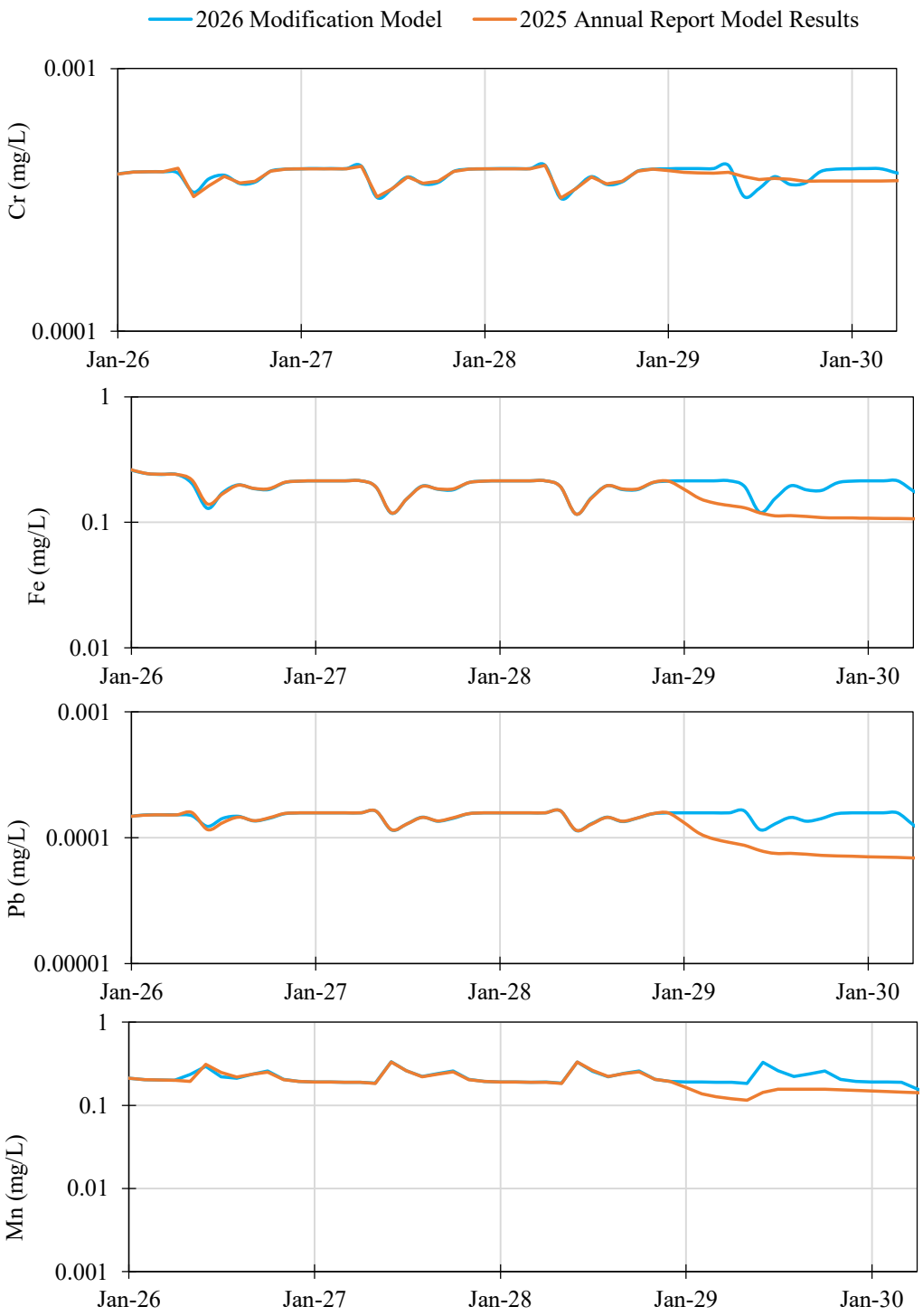


Figure B.5-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

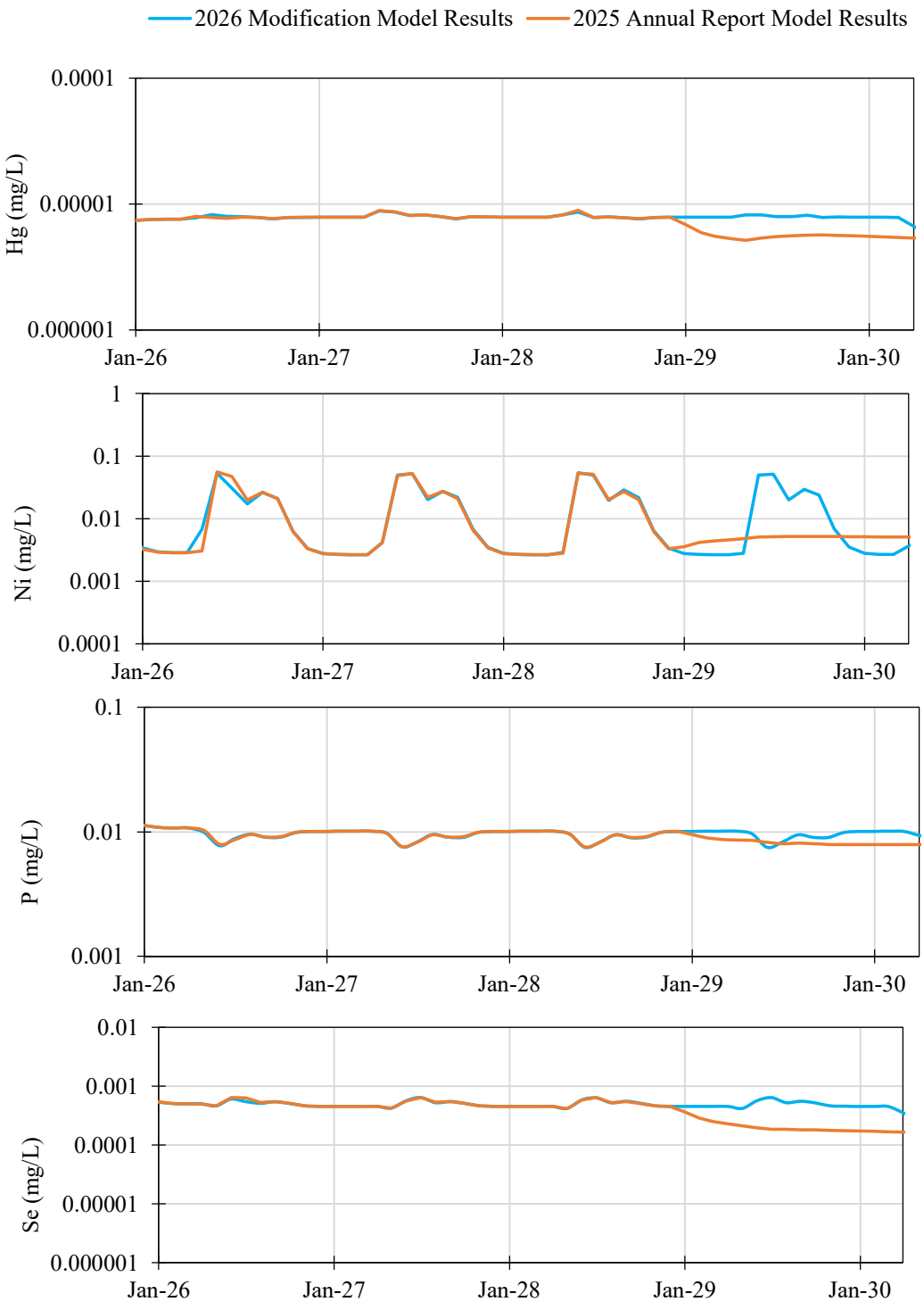


Figure B.5-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

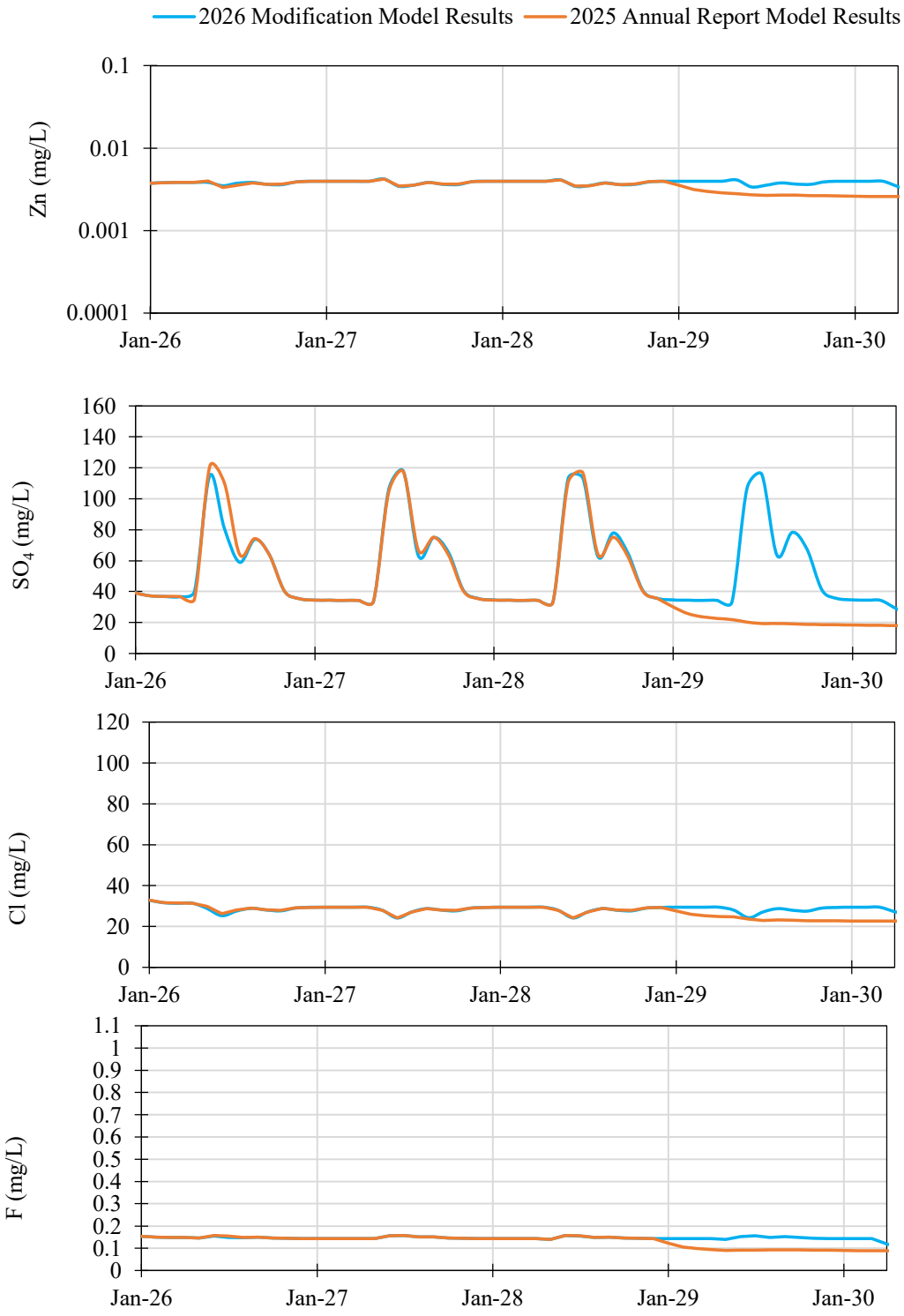


Figure B.5-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

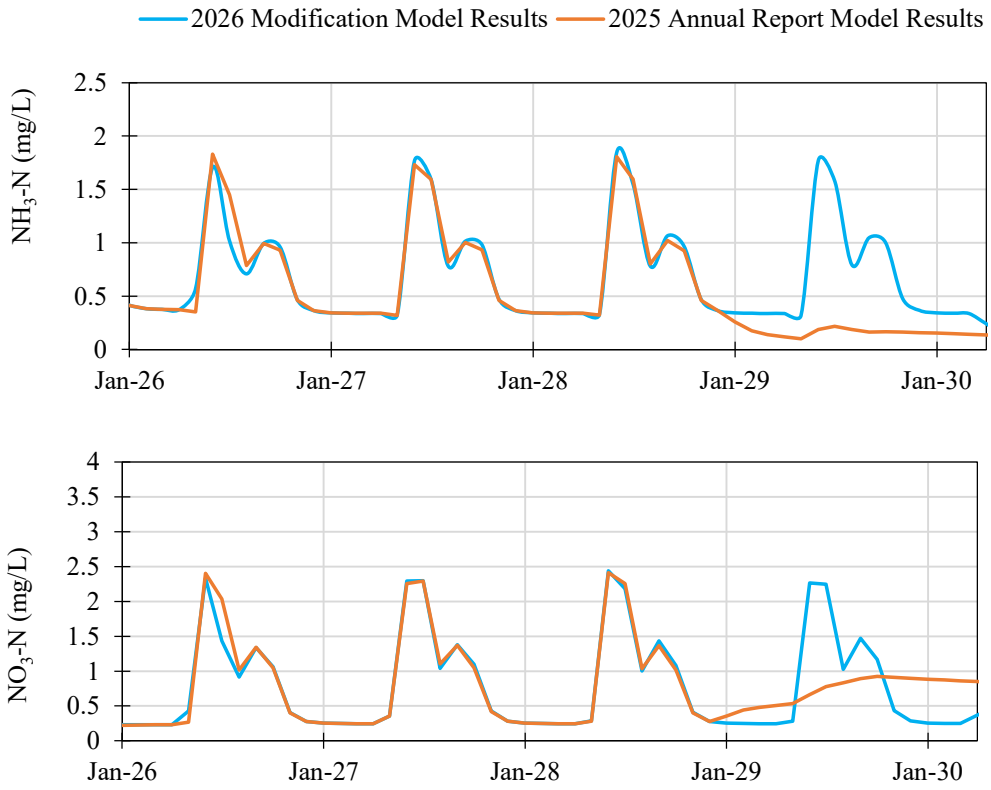


Figure B.5-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond

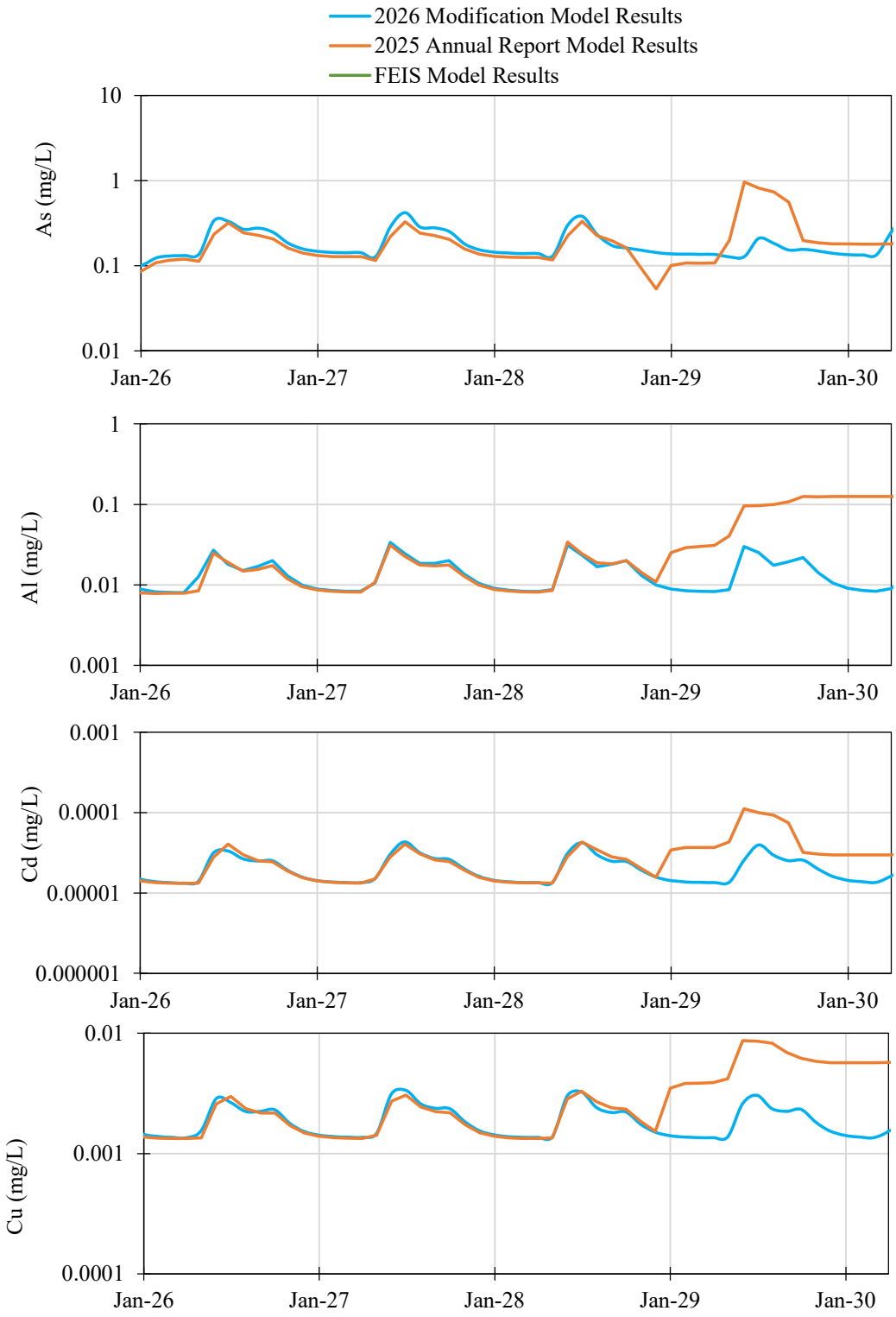


Figure B.6-1: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Attenuation Pond

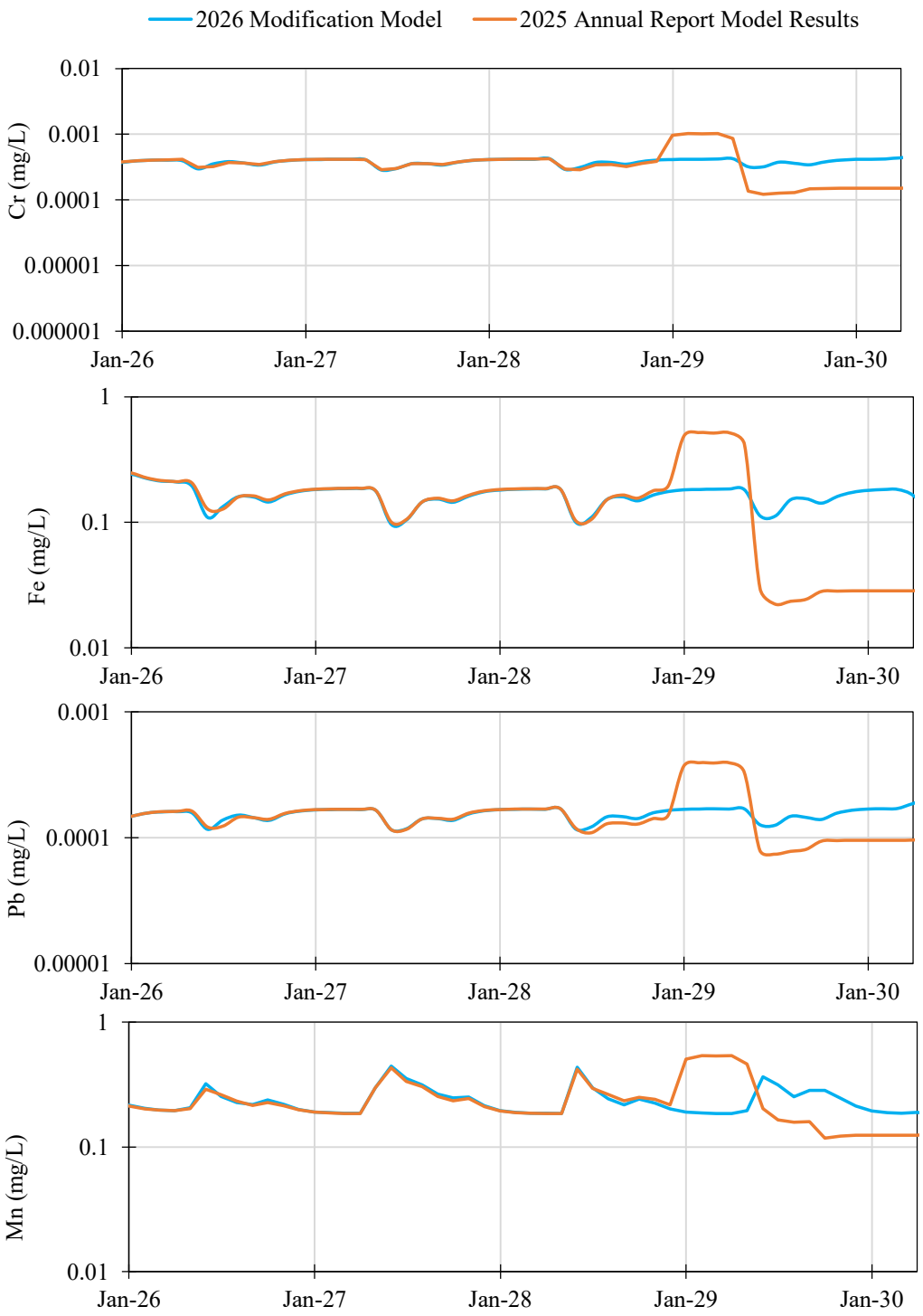


Figure B.6-2: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Attenuation Pond

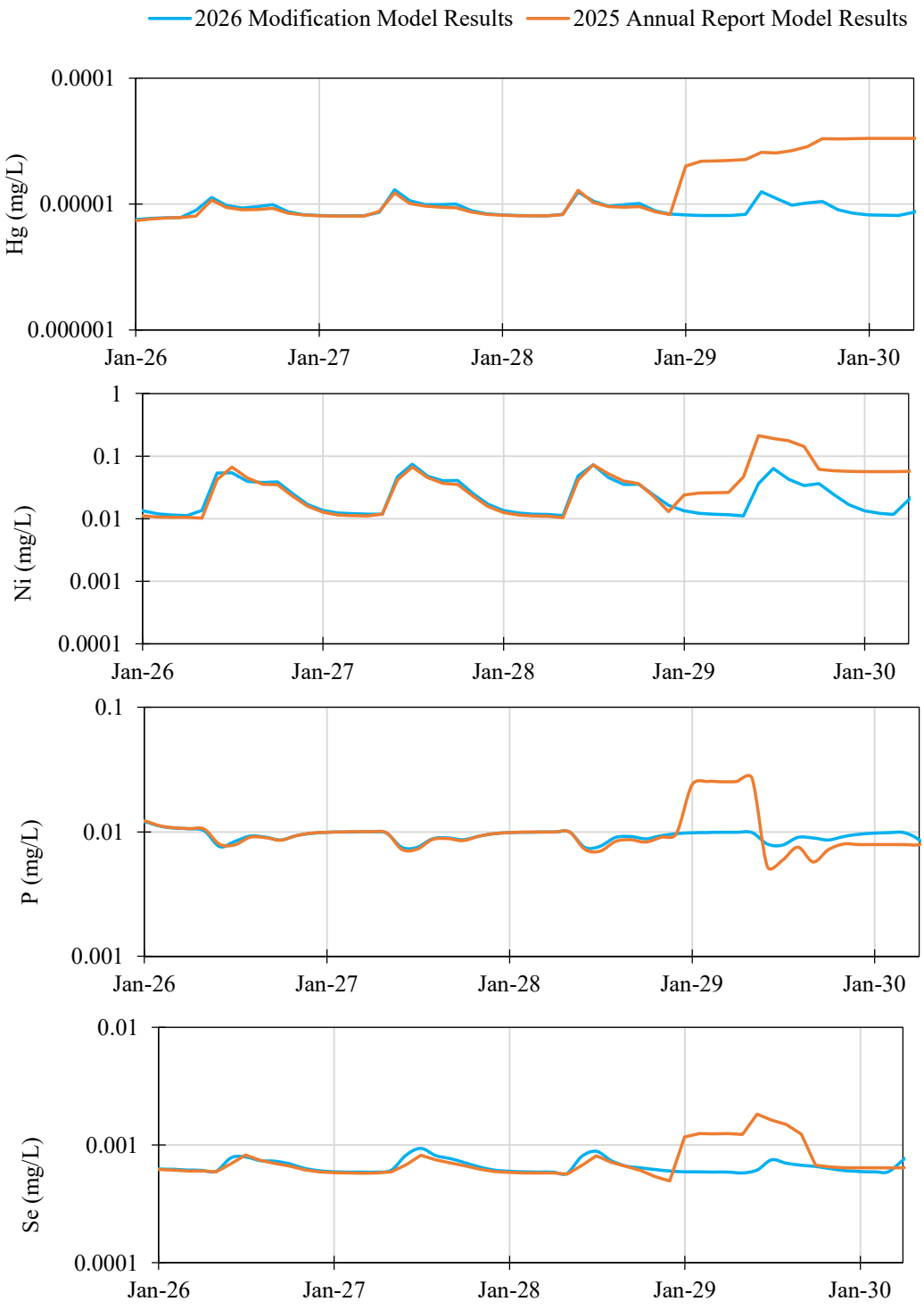


Figure B.6-3: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Attenuation Pond

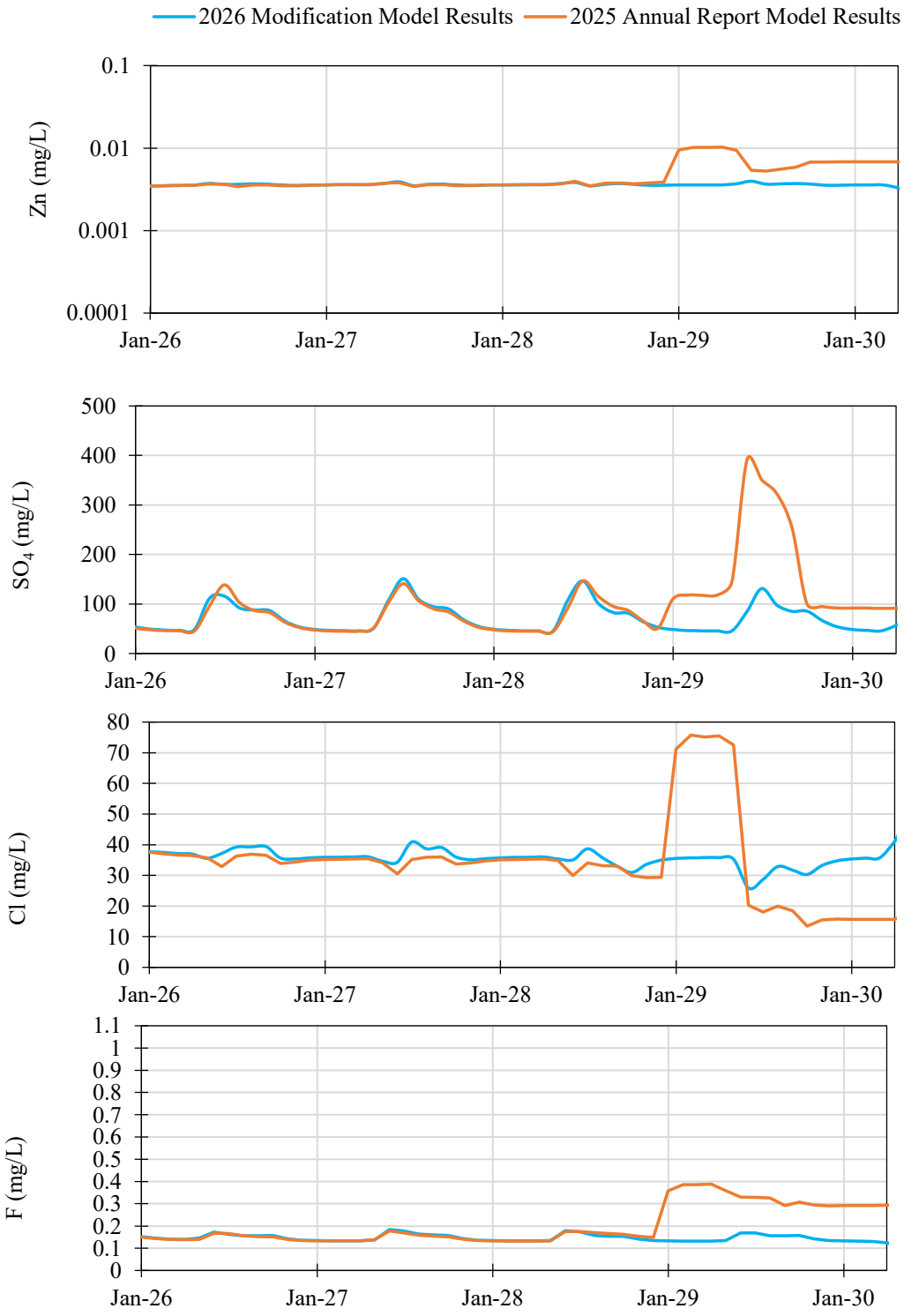


Figure B.6-4: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Attenuation Pond

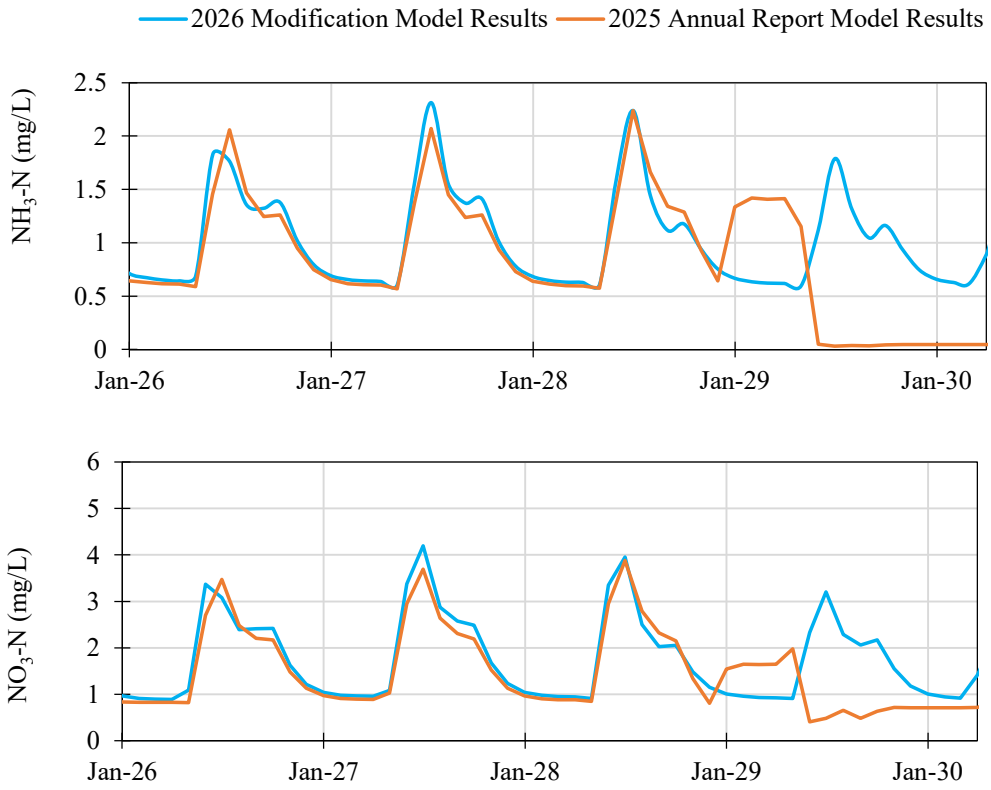


Figure B.6-5: Water quality model results from the 2026 Modification Model and 2025 Annual Report for the IVR Attenuation Pond