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Outline

- Mandate
- Relevant Acts and Scope of Review
- Technical Review and Recommendations
 - Groundwater Quantity
 - Permafrost
 - Mine Waste Management

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Mandate

- **Natural Resources Canada is a federal department responsible for ensuring the country's natural resources are developed sustainably, competitively and inclusively.**
- NRCan is a science-based department, with nearly half of its employees being scientists, engineers or technicians.
- NRCan scientists are conducting research on permafrost, groundwater, mine waste characterisation and management as well as environmental dispersal and effects associated with acid rock drainage and/or metal leaching.
- NRCan also provides scientific support to organizations that advance knowledge in mine waste management, including in areas such as prevention and control of acid rock drainage and metal leaching, disposal technologies, mine water treatment.

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Relevant Acts and Scope of Review

- **Regulator for the *Explosives Act*:**
 - Provision of licenses for the storage and manufacture of explosives
- **Scientific Analysis Provided:**
 - Groundwater Quantity/flow (hydrogeology)
 - Permafrost
 - Mine Waste Management



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Technical Review: Groundwater Quantity

- Hydrogeological data are collected to characterize subsurface properties and groundwater conditions in order to develop an understanding of groundwater flow and interactions with surface waters.
- Groundwater models are used to help quantify and assess current groundwater conditions and predict those expected to develop as a result of mining and closure activities.
- Groundwater data and knowledge are essential for assessing impacts on groundwater quantity and quality, and groundwater interactions with surface waters.

Specific Issues Considered:

- Complexity of vertical groundwater flow through taliks and their monitoring
- Assessment of tailings and waste rock disposal in exhausted pits
- Assessment of closure and post-closure phases
- Effect of saline water storage in B7
- Groundwater flow basin near the Discovery underground mine
- Inclusion of grouting in hydrogeology model and groundwater inflow estimates

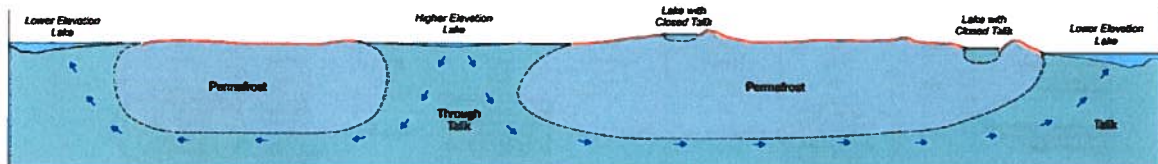
Λαλτὰ ἡμεῖς ἰσχυροῦσθε: Ἐσχυρεῖτε ἁπλοῦς ἀντιπαραστήσει

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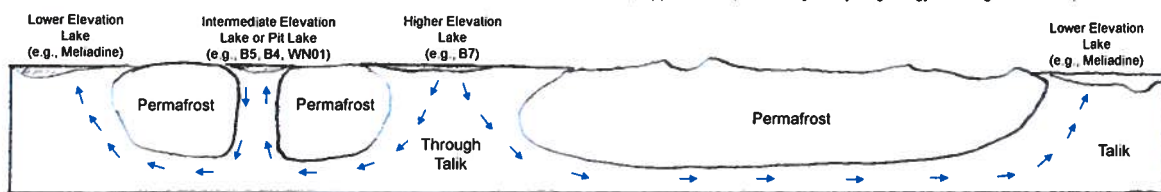
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Conceptual permafrost and groundwater flow model

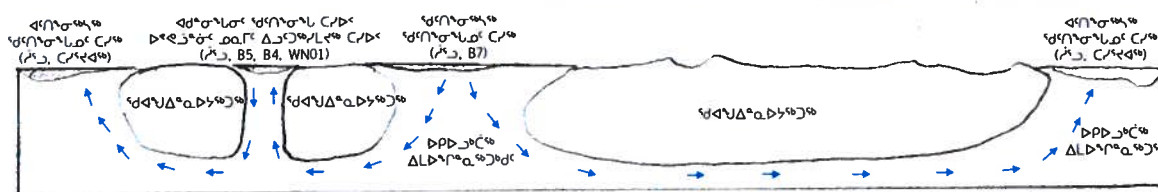


Source: Appendix G5, Summary of Hydrogeology Existing Conditions, Dec 2021



NRCan, 2023

- Intermediate elevation lakes with through talik can receive groundwater flow from upslope lakes and/or provide groundwater flow to downslope lakes, with implications for in-pit disposal

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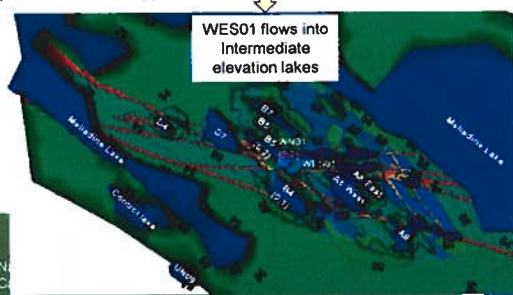
Table 2: Predicted Correct Seepage Discharge from In-Bed Pits to Downgradient Surface Water Lakes and Pit Lakes

Table 2: Predict Contact Seepage Discharge from In-filled Pits to Downgradient Surface Water Lakes and Pit Lakes								
Year	VE 01	VE 02	VE 04	VE 10	AN01	P100	P103	DISC
Pit Bottom Elevations	in soil	-10	30	-45	45	25	5	75
Backfill Material(s)	"	"	Fillings	Fillings	Fillings	Fillings	Fillings	Wash Rock
Backfill Elevations	in soil	50	54	47	44	47	45	58
Underlying Underground	"	present	not present	not present	present	present	present	present
Precipitation Pit Lake Elevations	in soil	42.5	63	63.6	58.3	58.7	60.3	67
Receptor and Predicted Contact Water Flux using Numerical Groundwater Modeling	in/day	Lake B4 - 0.1 Pit Lake WYND1 - 0.7 Lake B5 - 0.2 (total contact water seepage) = 1	Melindree Lake - 22	Melindree Lake - 4 (total contact water seepage) = 4	No Pit Lake Discharge Groundwater discharges to Pit Lake Total Discharge to Pit Lake = 93.7	Lake B4 - 0.62	No Pit Lake Discharge Groundwater discharges to Pit Lake = 0.4 Lake B4 - 0.03 Total Discharge to Pit Lake = 2.1	Melindree Lake - 0.8 Lake WYND1 - 0.8 Lake C211 - 1.0 Lake C245 - 0.4 Lake B4 - 0.03 Total contact water seepage = 2.1
Input (into 2nd arm of contact water seepage) Using Numerical Groundwater Modeling	Years	Lake B4 - 450 Lake WYND1 - 70 Lake B5 - 70	Melindree Lake - ~1000	Melindree Lake - 275	not applicable	Lake B4 - 65C	not applicable	Melindree Lake - ~1000 Lake WYND1 - ~1000 Lake C211 - ~1000 Lake C245 - ~1000 Lake B4 - ~1000

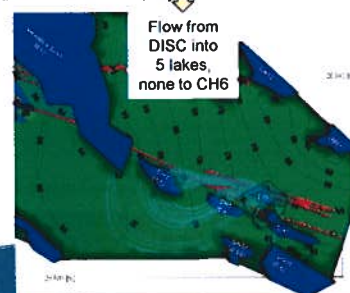
ed) From: Lucas.2022@univie.ac.at

d) Travel times do not include time to consider when toll systems fail or the toll system is not used. Actual travel times may be faster than predicted as a result of how the tolls are incorporated in the road network. Section 8.8

Source: WSP Technical Memo, Reference no. 22524250-972-TM-Rev1-6000, May 05, 2023



Flow into
Pit Lake WN01,
an in-filled pit
with an
intermediate
elevation



Flow from
DISC into
5 lakes,
none to CH6

[illegible]

Technical Review: Permafrost

- Knowledge of permafrost is required to minimize the impacts of the project on the environment, and the impacts of the environment on the project.
- Knowledge of distribution of permafrost and unfrozen ground (talik) is essential for determining groundwater flow pathways.

Specific Issues Considered:

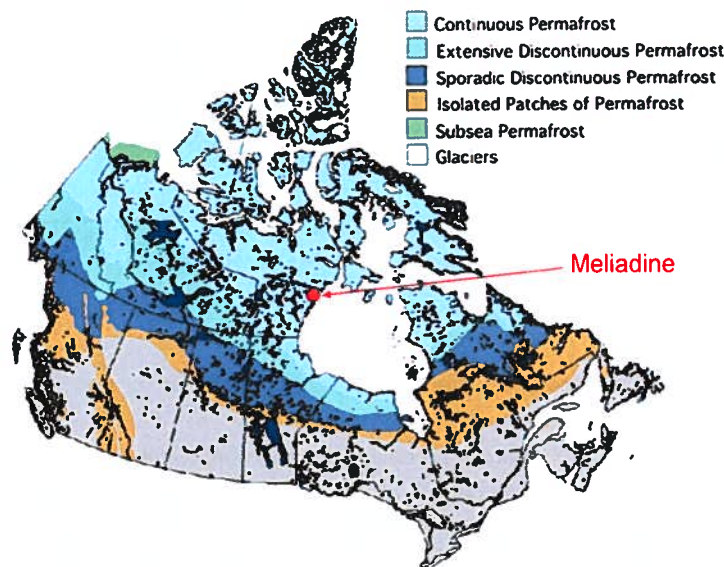
- Thermal modelling- To support design of Mine Waste Storage Facilities
- Ground thermal regime in the project area
- AEM response to Commitment 19 (Thermal modelling of temporary water storage in pits)
- AEM response to Commitment 42 (In-pit deposition alternative and disposal study)

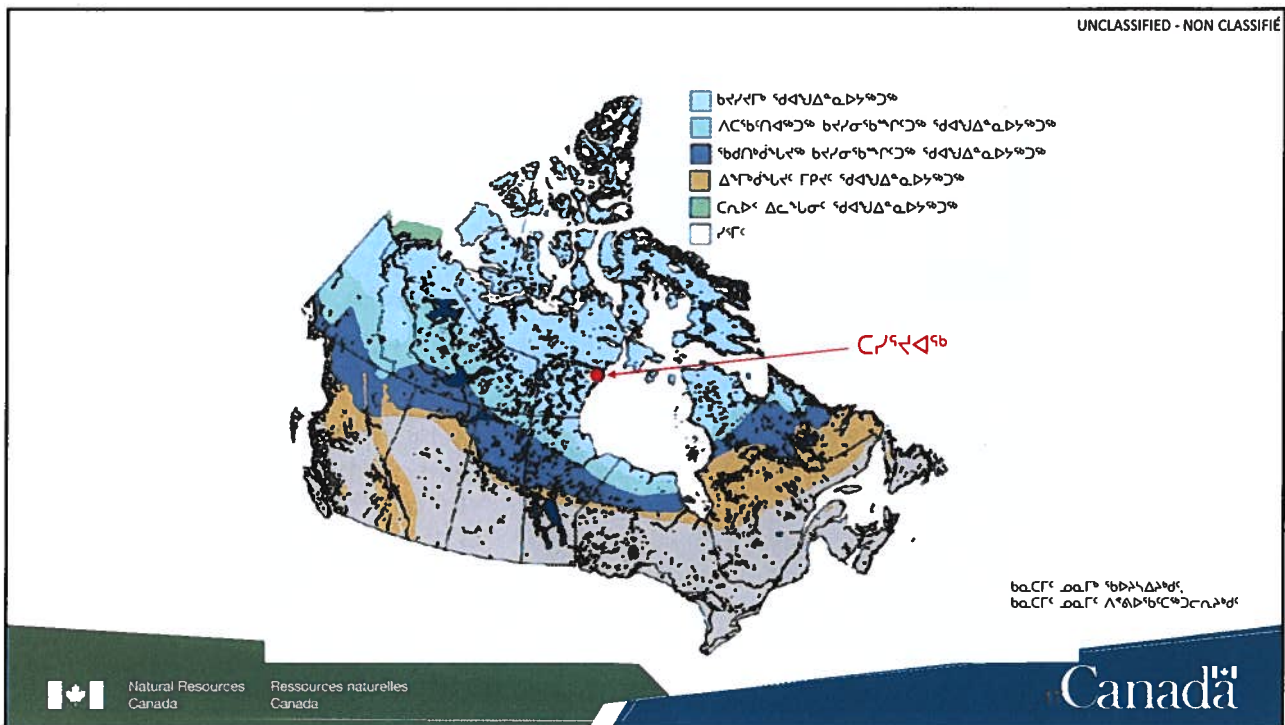
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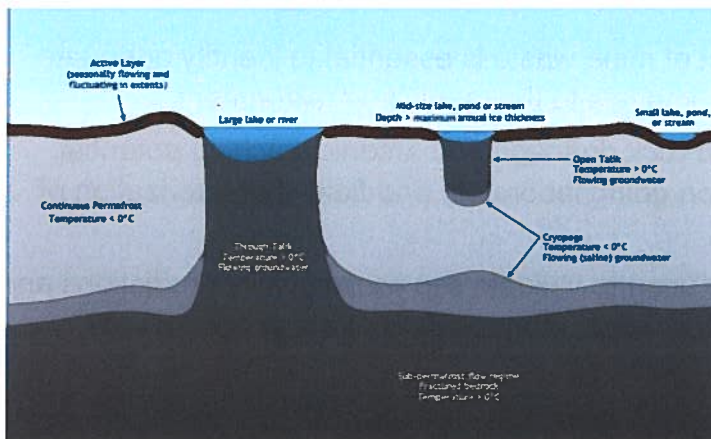
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Permafrost

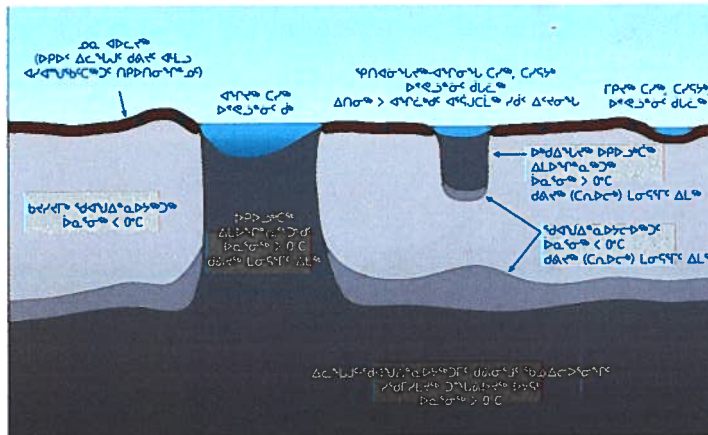


Source – Rescan, Sabina Gold FEIS submission to NIRB, 2017

- Although permafrost is continuous at Meliadine, unfrozen ground (talik) can exist beneath lakes.
- Through taliks beneath large deep lakes or pits provide unfrozen groundwater flow pathways between these lakes and pits, and also with mine workings below the continuous permafrost.

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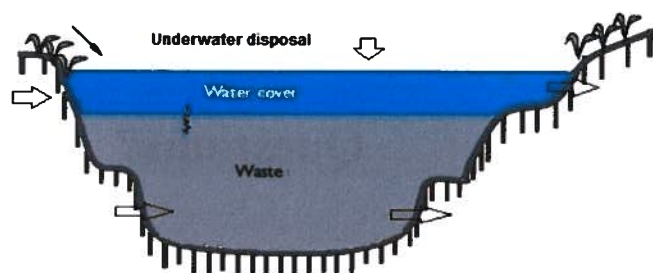
Technical Review: Mine Waste Management

- Representative characterization of mine waste is essential to identify adequate management methods to limit the impacts to the receiving environment.
- Some mine waste presents acid rock drainage and arsenic leaching potential. Therefore, NRCan recommends on-going laboratory and field characterization of mine waste.
- This characterization should be used to validate site water quality predictions and the proponent should adapt its mine waste management strategy accordingly.

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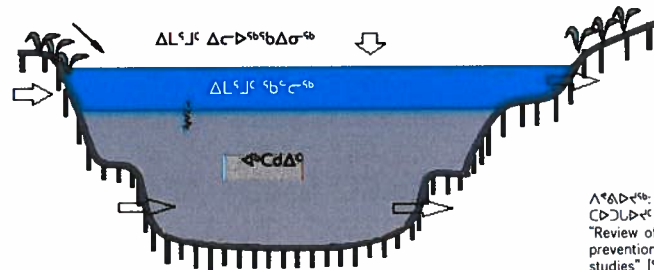
Mine Waste Management: In-pit Disposal



- In-pit disposal under the water table reduces/eliminates:
 - acid rock drainage and metal leaching;
 - groundwater contamination if appropriately designed; and
 - maintenance of above ground dam structures.
- NRC can recommend that acid rock drainage and arsenic leaching mine waste be placed in exhausted open pits to the extent practicable as recommended by MEND 2.36.1 and 2.36.1b

Source: Pit disposal concept (adapted from MEND report 2.36.1 "Review of in-pit disposal practices for the prevention of acid mine drainage – Case studies") from [Subaqueous in-pit disposal – Mine Closure \(gk fj\)](#)

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Questions?

UNCLASSIFIED - NON CLASSIFIÉ

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¿VqUqV?



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