

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

ATTACHMENT 10
Piteau TM 21-01 CTFS Unsaturated Flow Modelling
Revision

FILE: 3898 TM21-01

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

FINAL: January 26, 2021

REVISED: September 21, 2021

TO: Ted Grandy, Catherine Clark
Lithium Nevada Corporation

FROM: Tyler Cluff
Email: tcluff@piteau.com

RE: **Clay Tailing Filter Stack (CTFS) Unsaturated Flow Modeling Revision 1**

INTRODUCTION

This technical memorandum has been prepared at the request of Lithium Nevada Corporation (LNC) to estimate infiltration through the Clay Tailing Filter Stack Facility (CTFS) upon permanent closure. Seepage through the CTFS will be controlled by unsaturated flow governing equations because i) clay tailings will be mechanically and naturally dried to near optimal moisture content prior to stacking, and ii) a store and release cover will be placed upon closure to eliminate / reduce infiltration to the facility. The objectives of this analysis are:

- Estimate long term infiltration through the proposed store and release cover;
- Estimate draindown from residual pore water present in clay tailings for water management.

This analysis includes a sensitivity designed to consider sectors of the CTFS which may be exposed to greater precipitation and/or snow cover (i.e. north facing slopes) and addresses the effect of non-structural material on the hydraulic conductivity of the tailings.

The CTFS will be constructed on a single lined synthetic liner as proposed in the engineering design report (Newfields, 2020). The engineering design provides that the CTFS will be fully lined with an HDPE geomembrane, with two feet of material as overliner and underlain with a six-inch liner bedding material. The facility will include an underdrain collection system above the geomembrane to collect drainage from the stack. Drainage from the stack will report to the geomembrane lined reclaim ponds.

The CTFS is designed to span an area of ~386 acres and have an average thickness of 190 ft (~58 m). The CTFS surface will be graded to match natural topography (~3% - 6%) which drains towards the southeast, encouraging runoff and reducing the presence of ponds forming on the surface. The clay tailings will be comprised of a silty sand to a silty clay material and will meet the criteria for a clay cap. Measured hydraulic conductivity range from 4.8×10^{-6} cm/s to 1.2×10^{-7} cm/s (DBS&A, 2019, Newfields, 2019). Therefore, the clay tailings themselves will function as a 190 ft thick low permeability cap which will impede infiltration and enhance the functionality of the store and release cover. Compaction drying, and stacking of clay tailings in the CTFS is anticipated to further reduce the hydraulic conductivity of materials. Due to the thickness and stacking of clay tailings, the material itself is not expected to develop desiccation cracks that might penetrate the full 190 ft profile. Composite salt/clay tailings materials were tested to have even lower hydraulic conductivity values than unmixed clay tailings (1.2×10^{-7} cm/s) owing to the hydration of salts (Newfields, 2019). Table 1 summarizes the particle size distributions and hydraulic conductivity values for available clay tailings samples. Laboratory testing results are provided in Attachment A.

Table 1 Hydraulic summary of clay tailing samples

| Sample ID | % Sand & Gravel | % Silt | % Clay | USCS Classification | Hydraulic Conductivity (cm/s) | Φ_{sat} | Type | Source |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 4-LFILTCAKE-E05B-315 | 61.4 | 17.1 | 21.4 | SM | 8.3×10^{-7} | 0.63 | Clay Tailings | DBSA, 2019 |
| 4381-Blend | 52.8 | 12.3 | 34.9 | SM | 4.8×10^{-6} | 0.59 | Clay Tailings | DBSA, 2019 |
| 19-036-01 | 16.5 | 83.5 ¹ | | ML | 4.1×10^{-7} | 0.59 | Clay Tailings | Newfields, 2019 |
| 19-057-02C | 35.4 | 64.6 ¹ | | ML | 1.2×10^{-7} | 0.45 | Composite Salt / Clay Tailings | Newfields, 2019 |

¹ This is percentage of Silt and Clay combined

² Saturated Porosity (Φ_{sat})

The CTFS will be divided into two zones as follows:

- Structural zone: This zone will consist of stacked and compacted clay tailings.
- Non-structural sector: This zone will consist of a mixture of clay tailings with interlayers of salt. The effect of hydrated salts has been shown to decrease the hydraulic conductivity of the clay tailings (Newfields, 2019). This zone is anticipated to be comprised of interbeds of clay and salt, which at the bulk, 190-ft thick scale, resembles a well mixed material.

Both CTFS zones are planned to be closed with a 24-inch thick store and release cover, comprised of a waste rock layer and growth media. The cover design is engineered to shed runoff, foster vegetation growth, and limit erosion / exposure of clay tailings. The cover will be vegetated using a seed mixture, as previously described in unsaturated modeling for waste rock and coarse gangue facilities (Piteau, 2020). The cover design is as follows:

- 12-inch layer of growth media (alluvium) will be placed on top to foster vegetation growth;

- 12-inch layer of run of mine waste rock will underlay the growth media. This material is designed as a coarser grained layer to reduce erosion, supply a material buffer should an isolated rill come in contact with surface runoff, and support deeper root growth.

Alluvium growth media and waste rock hydraulic properties were previously characterized in the Thacker Pass Project Water Quantity and Quality Impacts Report (Piteau, 2020). A schematic of the CTFS closure design is provided in Figure 1.

APPROACH

The analysis followed the approach and methodology utilized to simulated infiltration through Waste Rock Storage Facility (WRSF) and coarse gangue stockpiles in the Thacker Pass Project Water Quantity and Quality Impacts Report (Impacts Report) (Piteau, 2020). Model configuration was adjusted to reflect the CTFS geometry, including the modified store and release cover, and material properties. A summary of the model approach is as follows:

- Identical meteorological boundary conditions were used as in the Impacts Report.
- A seepage face was employed as the lower boundary conditions.
- Root water uptake was simulated using the same Feddes parameters; however, the root length density was adjusted to reflect the thicker store and release cover and truncated so roots would not extend into clay tailings. A root density to a depth of 0.6 m, following that found by Winkler for Nevada climate was used (Winkler, 1999).
- Hydraulic properties for growth media and waste rock materials were identical to those used in the Impacts Report (Table 2). CTFS materials were assigned hydraulic properties based on geometrically averaged values from soil testing.
- Two suites of Hydrus 1D models were developed to assess i) potential infiltration through the CTFS cover and ii) draindown from residual water within clay tailings present during stacking. Brief descriptions of the Hydrus 1D model are as follows:

Infiltration models: A 10-meter thick model was developed to simulate long term infiltration through the CTFS store and release cover. Because of the very long equilibration period (due to the low hydraulic conductivity of clay tailings), it was more practical to breakout the infiltration model separately. Initial water contents were recycled through until equilibrium was reached in the clay tailings (i.e. water contents did not change). Equilibrium seepage rates were then estimate using the unsaturated models. Several sensitivities were run for this configuration to assess infiltration.

Drain down model: A 58.5-meter thick (192 ft) model was developed to simulate the drain down from residual water content in clay tailings. Initial water content for materials was 23% - 46% as described in Table 2. The simulation was run for a 1,000 year period. All other model inputs were identical to the infiltration model.

It should be noted that clay tailings will be dried and stacked at near optimal moisture content, thus the materials are unsaturated upon placement and are not anticipated to produce any meaningful seepage. The purpose of this exercise is to validate the concept.

A side-by-side summary of both configurations are shown in Figure 2. Flux values from the 1D Hydrus models were multiplied by the facility footprint to assess the total seepage rate.

- Six sensitivity analyses were run for the infiltration model configuration to evaluate the potential variation that may be encountered during closure. The sensitivities are described as:

Alternate clay tailings: Clay tailings material were assigned hydraulic properties of silty loam from the HYDRUS database. The key element is that hydraulic conductivity was raised by two orders of magnitude to 1.2×10^{-4} cm/s.

No transpiration: Plant transpiration was turned off in this sensitivity to assess the effect of root uptake in controlling infiltration.

Decreased Potential Evaporation/Transpiration: PET rates were decreased by 15% to assess the effect on infiltration. This is more robust than adjusting precipitation rates because it does not need to account for the episodic occurrence of precipitation.

12-inch cover: An alternative cover configuration utilizing only 12-inches of growth media was used to simulate infiltration. This is a similar cover design as the waste rock facilities and coarse gangue facilities.

Cover only: This sensitivity only simulated the upper 24-inch cover material. No tailings were simulated. The lower boundary condition at the bottom of the cover was simulated using a deep drainage boundary condition, meaning that the lower boundary simulated the same water content and unsaturated hydraulic conductivity to permit pore water to drain out of the model.

Precipitation x 2: This sensitivity multiplied daily precipitation by a factor of 2. The frequency of rainy days remained the same with double the magnitude. The cumulative effect doubles precipitation, but maintains the lower PET measured on rainy days. This sensitivity is designed to consider sectors of the CTFS which may be exposed to greater precipitation and/or snow cover (i.e. north facing slopes).

All Hydrus models conservatively simulate infiltration in the structural zone (i.e. clay tailings), because the clay tailing material has been shown to possess greater hydraulic conductivity than the composite salt / clay tailings. The non-structural zone will have less infiltration than the structural zone, owing to its lower saturated hydraulic conductivity values. Additionally, physical processes associated with the dissolution of salts are anticipated to increase density contrasts between the tailings pore water and meteoric water, thus further reducing the saturated hydraulic conductivity of composite salt/clay tailings.

Table 2 **Materials property summary of CTFS models**

| Material | alpha (1/m) | N | θ_r | θ_{sat} | Ksat (cm/s) | Initial Water Content (%) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Growth Media | 0.74 | 1.342 | 0.021 | 0.424 | 6.1×10^{-5} | 23 |
| Waste Rock | 1.67 | 1.336 | 0.03 | 0.435 | 6.8×10^{-4} | 23 |
| Clay Tailings | 0.6 | 1.128 | 0.066 | 0.61 | 1.2×10^{-6} | 46 ¹ |
| Alternate Clay Tailings ² (Hydrus' Silt Loam) | 2 | 1.41 | 0.067 | 0.45 | 1.2×10^{-4} | 30 |

¹ Projected water content of stacked clay tailings

² Selected soil material data from HYDRUS database

RESULTS

Infiltration model results

Infiltration through the store and release cover was minimal, simulated as ~0.01% MAP (Table 3). The store and release cover was very effective in facilitating the removal of infiltration from precipitation or temporary ponding. Nearly all precipitation was removed via root uptake or evaporation. Cumulative fluxes to the model are shown in Figure 3, which identifies that ~69 m of precipitation entered the store and release cover and a nearly equal amount of water was removed via root uptake. Approximately 0.02 m of seepage occurred during the simulation.

Water content in the store and release cover varies seasonally according to meteorological conditions (Figure 4). The low hydraulic conductivity of the clay tailings enhanced the effectiveness of the store and release cover by acting as a flow barrier to the wetting front. Soil moisture stored in the cover was then removed during the growing season via root uptake and soil capillarity prior to penetrating the clay tailings.

The water content profile of the 10-meter simulated section at several time periods during the simulation is shown in Figure 5. Water content in the clay tailings has reached equilibrium during the final model simulation, as shown by the consistent water content profile, thus simulated results represent an equilibrium condition.

Infiltration model sensitivities all indicated that the range of reasonable infiltration through the cover was low (0.06% - ~6% MAP). The majority of sensitivity scenarios indicated minor changes to seepage rates associated with input parameters. Modifications to the clay tailings material produced higher infiltration rates over the base case but were still quite low and underscoring the effectiveness of the store and release cover.

Eliminating vegetation from the cover and/or reductions to atmospheric PET had minimal effect on simulated infiltration, indicating that the climatic evaporation deficit is sufficiently large to attenuate fluctuations in year to-year PET. These sensitivities underscore the robustness of the store and release cover, that even unvegetated it can effectively intercept precipitation from infiltrating.

Doubling the precipitation rate had a moderate effect on increasing seepage rates (~5.2% MAP) because precipitation falls during the winter season when PET is low. The increased seasonal water content of cover materials provides a pathway for percolation into tailings materials. However, it should be noted that this condition would occur only on a portion of the CTFS and southern facing slopes would be exposed to the opposite conditions (i.e. lower infiltration rates in those sectors). Thus the net effect is insubstantial. Additionally, the double precipitation model does not account for increases to vegetation density that would occur where soil moisture can sustain growth.

The “Cover only” sensitivity produced the highest infiltration rate at ~6.3% MAP. The “Cover only” sensitivity is considered an overestimate of potential seepage because in reality the presence of any underlying materials will constrain the infiltration rate below the cover and allow root transpiration to remove pore water. Fine-grained materials, such as the clay tailings, have a very low saturated hydraulic conductivity which will cause increased water content at the boundary between materials seasonally, until transpiration removes water from the cover. Coarse-grained materials will form a Richard’s barrier (low unsaturated hydraulic conductivity) at the transition of the cover until sufficient water content is reached to permit percolation. This allows transpiration to consume much of the seasonal wetting front before infiltration migrates into underlying material.

Table 3 Summary of Infiltration Results

| Simulation / Sensitivity | Cumulative 1D Seepage (m) | Average Seepage rate (in/yr) | Average Seepage rate (% MAP) | Facility Seepage rate (gpm) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Base Case | 0.02 | 0.001 | 0.01% | 0.02 |
| Alternate Clay Tailings | 1.0 | 0.056 | 0.46% | 1.12 |
| No Transpiration | 2.2 | 0.121 | 0.99% | 2.42 |
| Reduced Evaporation | 0.14 | 0.008 | 0.06% | 0.15 |
| 12-inch Cover | 0.68 | 0.038 | 0.31% | 0.76 |
| Cover Only | 13.6 | 0.76 | 6.26% | 15.2 |
| Precipitation x 2 ¹ | 11.3 | 0.64 | 5.22% | 12.7 |

¹Sensitivity meant to represent, among other properties, north facing slopes with greater precipitation and/or snow drifts.

Draindown model results

Seepage related to the drainage of insitu water content during the first 1,000 years of emplacement was zero. Water content at the bottom of the CTFS was simulated to slowly increase as a result of unsaturated gravity drainage (Figure 6). However, pore water along the bottom of the CTFS will remain in tension with clay material until water content reaches field saturation conditions to overcome capillary tension and freely seep into the collection system. The wetting front via infiltration slowly migrated downward to approximately the 20-meter depth during the 1,000 year simulation, confirming that there will be significant time before any infiltration reaches the CTFS bottom. In practice a minor amount of draindown may occur, due to macro

pores, heterogeneity, and stacking irregularities; but it is anticipated to be very small, if measurable at all.

CONCLUSIONS

Key conclusions drawn from the foregoing analysis are summarized as follows:

- The hydraulic conductivity of the clay tailings materials (both the clay tailings and mixed clay tailings / waste salts) in the CTFS is anticipated to be very low, in the range of 10^{-6} to 10^{-7} cm/s based on testing data as well as the anticipated grain size of clay tailings and compaction during stacking. Hydration of salts after mixing with clay tailings is anticipated to reduce hydraulic conductivity further. Thus, the clay tailings themselves function as a 190 ft thick clay cap.
- A store and release cover is proposed to close the CTFS which is designed to shed runoff, reduce erosion, and foster vegetation growth. The store and release cover is expected to be very efficient at removing precipitation percolation, owing the thicker profile of materials (24-inch) and being underlain by low permeability clay tailings. The penetration of moisture through the upper clay tailings is limited by the material's low hydraulic conductivity. When the growing season resumes, soil capillarity and root uptake remove the excess water stored in the cover.
- Water content in the store and release cover will fluctuate seasonally, which will wet the upper layer of clay tailings and reduce desiccation. Given the thickness of the clay tailings, any desiccation in the upper horizon would not compromise the overall ability of the CTFS to impede infiltration.
- Moisture content through the CTFS was estimated to take several thousand years to equilibrate and produce any seepage to the underdrain system. No meaningful seepage related to draindown from residual water present in the clay tailings upon stacking is anticipated.
- Infiltration rates for the structural zone of the CTFS are estimated be quite low, ~0.01% of MAP. Reasonable sensitivities to the infiltration model suggest infiltration rates may vary from 0.06% - ~0.5% MAP (the "No Transpiration" sensitivity is unlikely to occur).
- Infiltration rates for the non-structural zone of the CTFS will be less than the structural zone, owing to the lower hydraulic conductivity value of composite salt/tailings material. Thus the results and sensitivity analysis for the structural zone is sufficient for seepage design purposes.
- Although sectors of the CTFS may experience different climatic conditions and infiltration rates, the design capacity of ET cells will be capable of managing seepage rates. The sensitivity analysis estimated 12.7 gpm of seepage from the CTFS in the case where the entire facility is subjected to doubled precipitation rates. Snow drifting or shading would be restricted to smaller footprints of the CTFS.
- A "Cover only" sensitivity provided an upper bound, very conservative estimate of potential infiltration (6.3% MAP, ~15 gpm seepage). The CTFS reclaim pond will be converted to

an evapotranspiration cell upon closure and can handle a seepage rate of 15 gpm even though the realistic seepage rate is expected to be orders of magnitude less.

LIMITATIONS

This investigation has been conducted using a standard of care consistent with that expected of scientific and engineering professionals undertaking similar work under similar conditions in Nevada. No warranty is expressed or implied.

This memorandum is prepared for the sole use of Lithium Nevada Corporation. Any use, interpretation, or reliance on this information by any third party, is at the sole risk of that party, and Piteau Associates accepts no liability for such unauthorized use.

CLOSING

We trust the above is adequate for your current needs. If you have any questions regarding the above, or we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

PITEAU ASSOCIATES USA LTD.



Tyler Cluff, PG
Senior Hydrogeologist

TC/ap

REFERENCES

- DBS&A, Inc., 2019. DBS&A Laboratory Report for the Piteau Associates, Lithium Nevada Sample Testing. October 2019.
- Piteau Associates. 2020. Thacker Pass Project. Water Quantity and Quality Impacts Report, Revision 1. Report No. 3898 R20-03. May.
- Newfields. 2019. Testing data for sample 19-036-01 and 19-057-02, provided via email January 2021 and September 2021 respectively.
- Newfields. 2020. Attachment J. Thacker Pass Project Engineering Design Report. Clay Tailings Filter Stack, Waste Rock Storage Facilities, Coarse Gangue Stockpile, Mine Facilities & Process Plant Stormwater Management.
- Winkler, W. 1999. Thickness of Monolithic Covers in Arid and Semi-Arid climates. MS Thesis, University of Wisconsin-Madison. January.

FIGURES

P:\Projects\0385.000 Lithium Nevada Thacker Pass Project\A-CAD\FIG\0385.000.122F.dwg-1/13/2021 4:53 PM

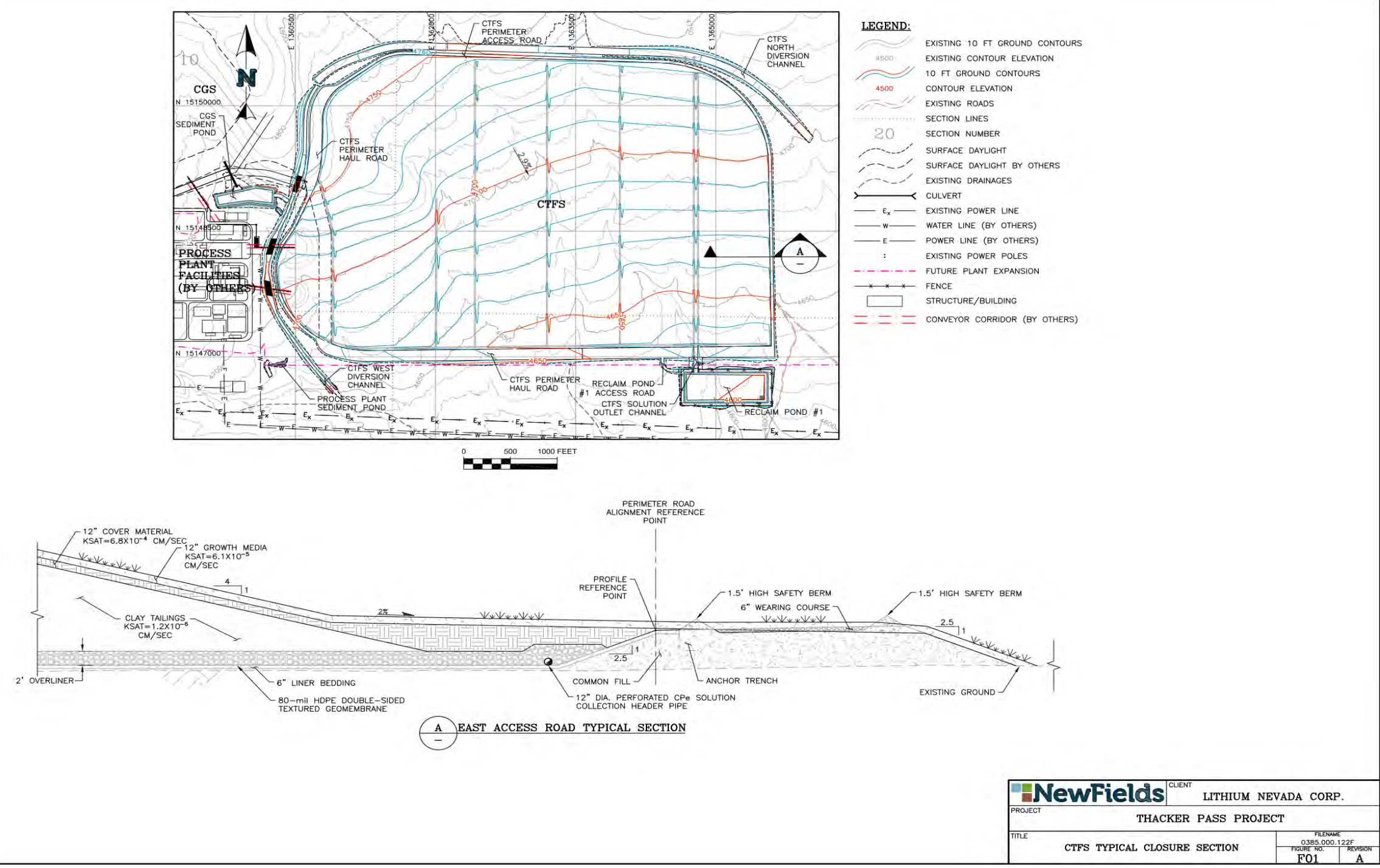

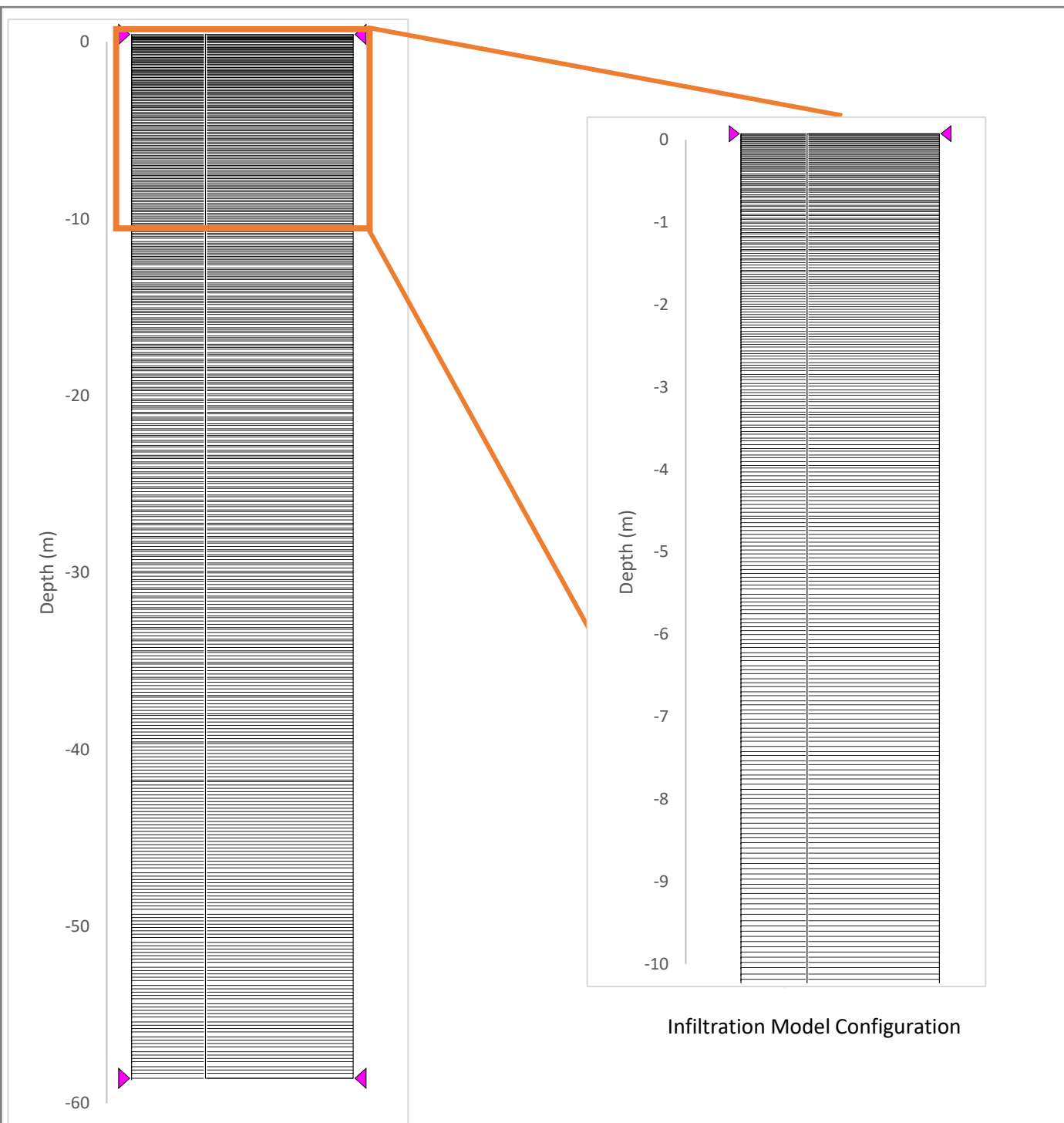



Figure provided from Newfields, 2020

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
|  PITEAU ASSOCIATES <small>GEOTECHNICAL AND WATER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS</small> | CTFS Closure Configuration | | |
| | CLIENT: | LNC | PROJECT: CTFS Infiltration Modeling |
| | JOB | 3898 | DRAWN: TC CHECKED: TC |
| | DATE: | January, 2021 | FIGURE: 1 |

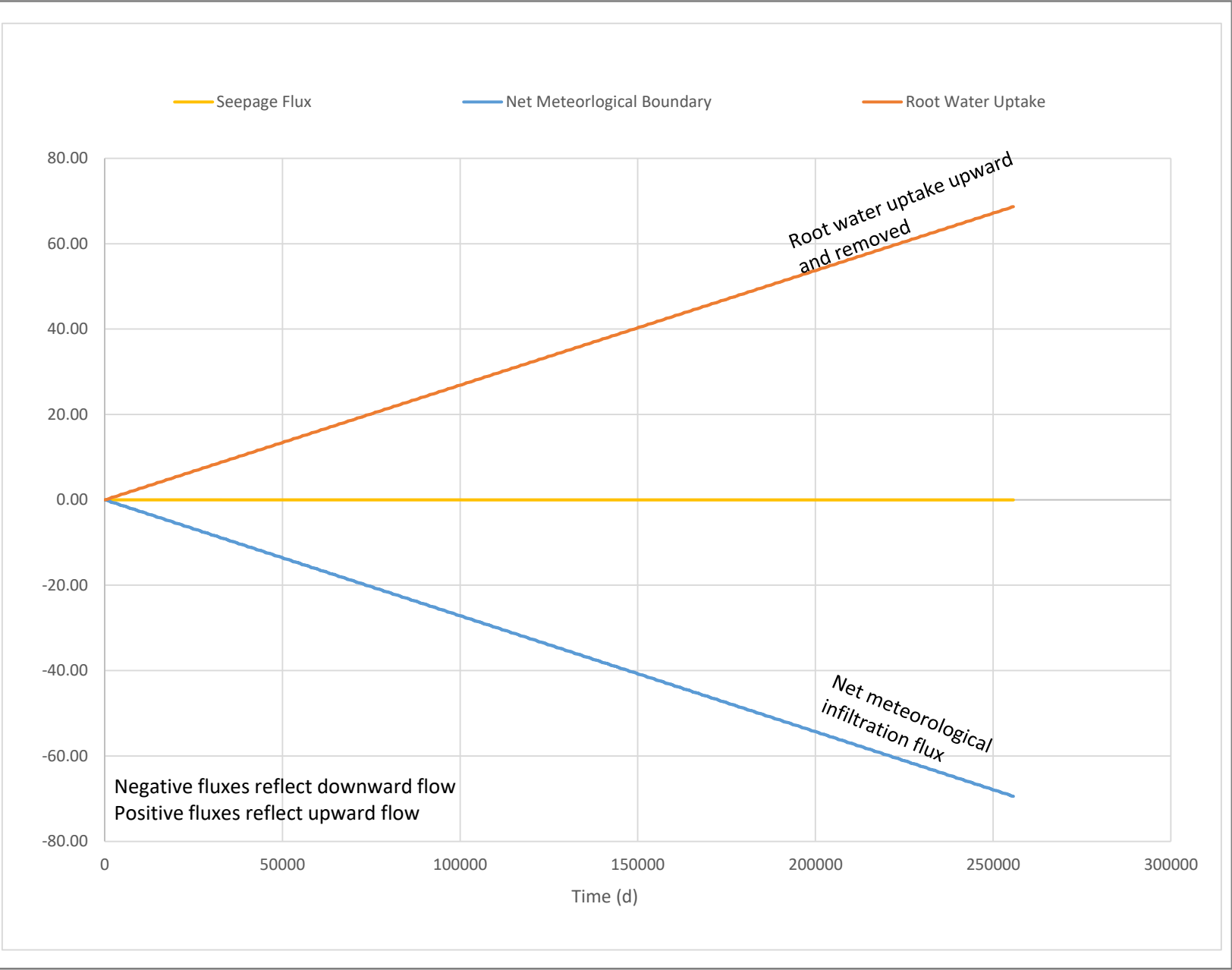


Draindown Model Configuration

Infiltration Model Configuration

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|  PITEAU ASSOCIATES <small>HYDROLOGICAL AND WATER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS</small> | 1D Hydrus Model Configurations | | |
| | CLIENT: LNC | PROJECT: CTFS | |
| | JOB #: 3898 | DRAWN: TC | CHECKED: TC |
| | DATE: January, 2021 | FIGURE: 2 | |

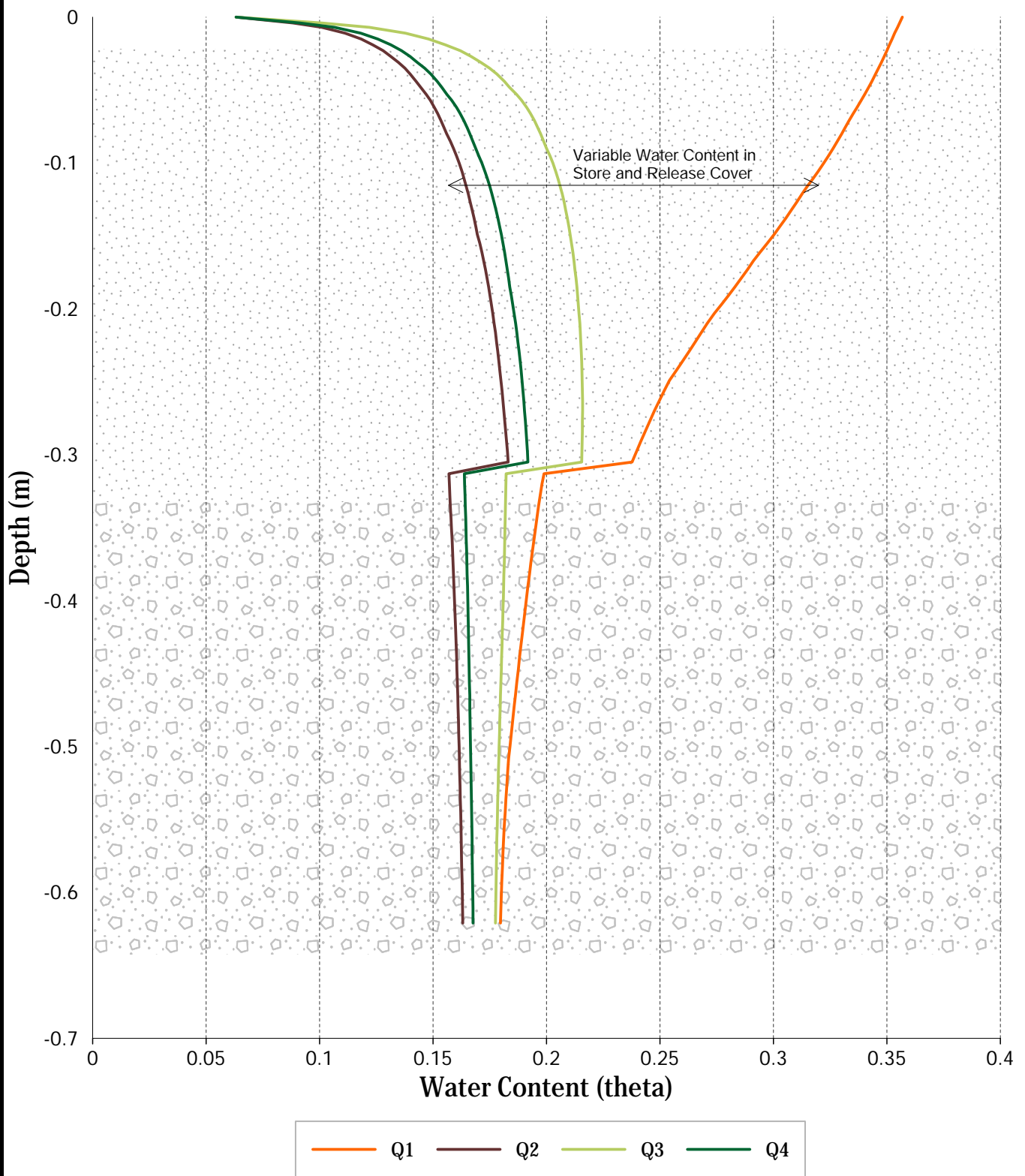
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Cumulative Fluxes for 10-m CFTS Infiltration Model



| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| CLIENT: LNC | PROJECT: CFTS Infiltration Modeling | |
| JOB #: 3898 | DRAWN: TC | CHECKE TC |
| DATE: January, 2021 | FIGURE: 3 | |



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Thacker Pass Project
Lithium Nevada Corporation
CTFS Infiltration Modeling



PITEAU ASSOCIATES
GEOTECHNICAL AND HYDROGEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

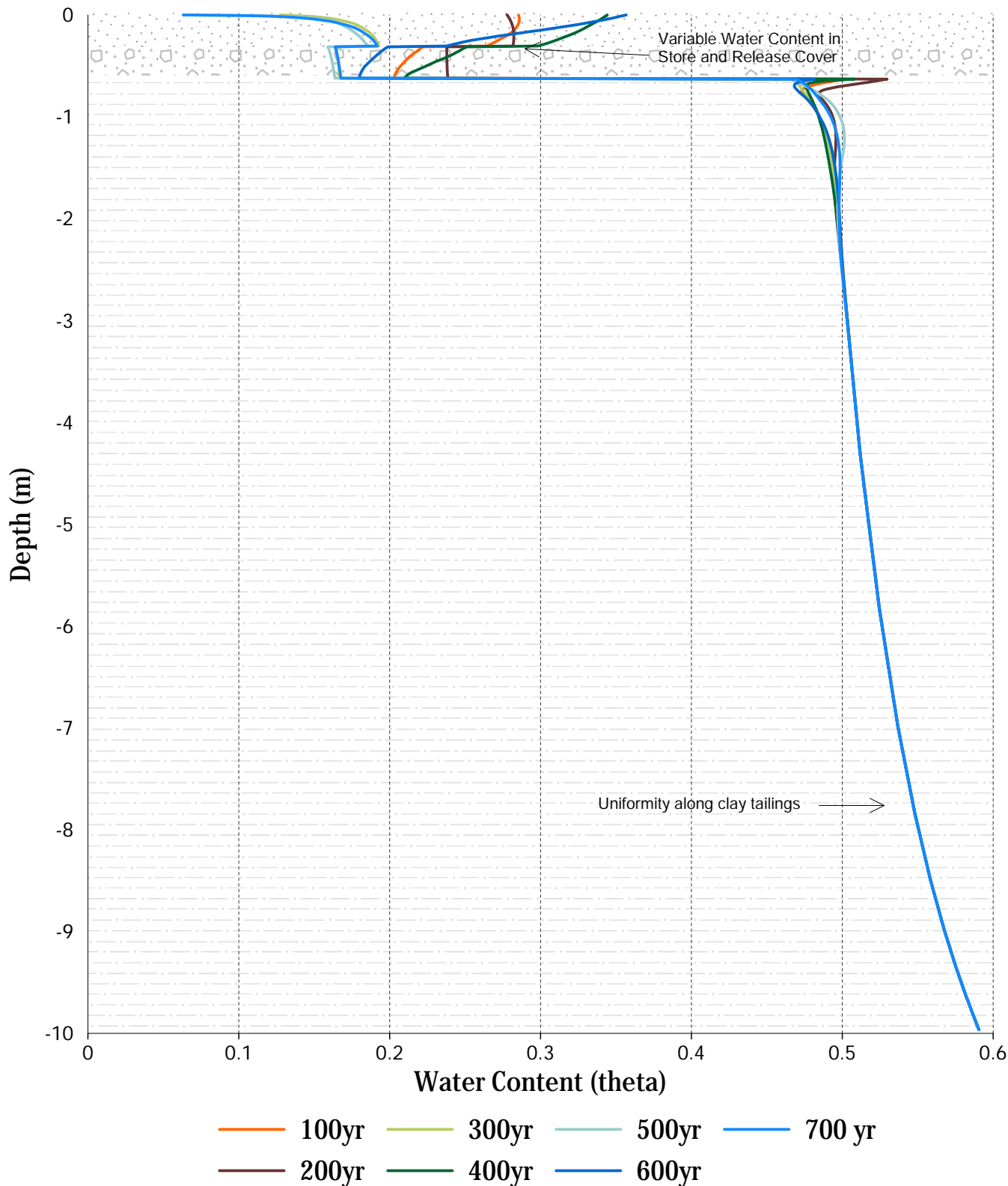
Annual Water Content Variation in Store and Release Cover

BY:
TC

DATE:
Jan 2021

NDEP 306
TC

FIG:
4



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CTFS Equilibrium Water Content Profile
Lithium Nevada Corporation
CTFS Unsaturated Flow Modeling



PITEAU ASSOCIATES
GEOTECHNICAL AND HYDROGEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

Equilibrium Water Content in 10-Meter Infiltration Model

BY:

TC

DATE:

Jan 2021

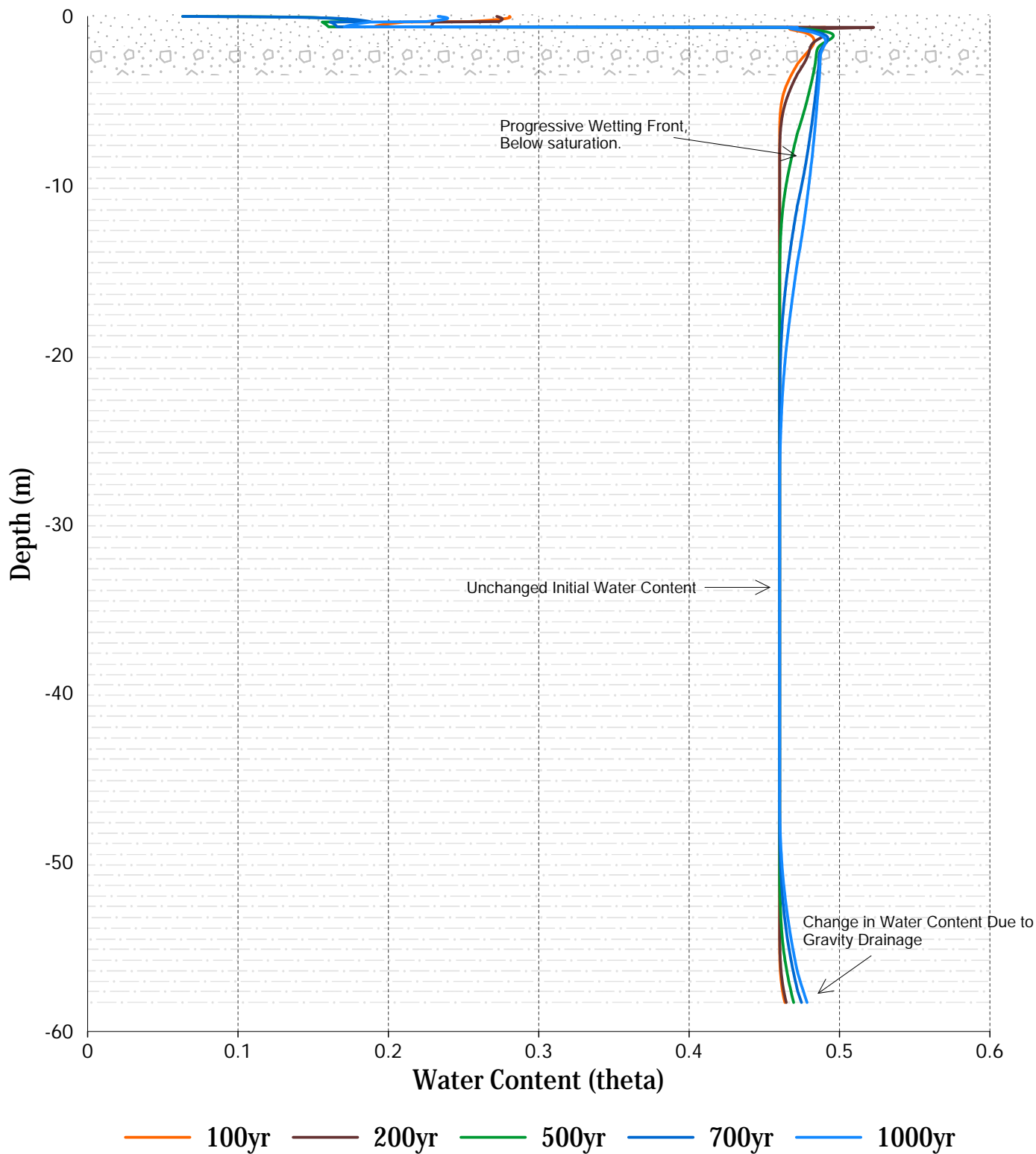
APPROVED:

TC

FIG:

5

NDRP 307



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CTFS Equilibrium Water Content Profile
Lithium Nevada Corporation
CTFS Unsaturated Flow Modeling



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Simulated Water Content in 58.5-Meter Drain Down Model

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------|----------|
| BY: | TC | DATE: | Jan 2021 |
| APPROVED: | TC | FIG: | 6 |

NDEP 308

ATTACHEMENT A
LABORATORY TESTING



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

Data for Initial Moisture Content, Bulk Density, Porosity, and Percent Saturation

Job Name: Piteau Associates
Job Number: DB19.1317.00
Sample Number: 4-LFILTCAKE-E05B-315 (Firm) (930 kg/m³)
Material Type: Tailings
Depth: NA

| | <u>As Received</u> | <u>Remolded</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Test Date:</i> | NA | 10-Sep-19 |
| <i>Field weight* of sample (g):</i> | | 490.40 |
| <i>Tare weight, ring (g):</i> | | 140.05 |
| <i>Tare weight, pan/plate (g):</i> | | 0.00 |
| <i>Tare weight, other (g):</i> | | 0.00 |
| <i>Dry weight of sample (g):</i> | | 208.81 |
| <i>Sample volume (cm³):</i> | | 224.27 |
| <i>Assumed particle density (g/cm³):</i> | | 2.65 |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Gravimetric Moisture Content (% g/g):</i> | | 67.8 |
| <i>Volumetric Moisture Content (% vol):</i> | | 63.1 |
| <i>Dry bulk density (g/cm³):</i> | | 0.93 |
| <i>Wet bulk density (g/cm³):</i> | | 1.56 |
| <i>Calculated Porosity (% vol):</i> | | 64.9 |
| <i>Percent Saturation:</i> | | 97.3 |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Laboratory analysis by:</i> | | D. O'Dowd |
| <i>Data entered by:</i> | | D. O'Dowd |
| <i>Checked by:</i> | | J. Hines |

Comments:

* Weight including tares
NA = Not analyzed
--- = This sample was not remolded



Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity Falling Head Method

Job Name: Piteau Associates
Job Number: DB19.1317.00
Sample Number: 4-LFILTCake-E05B-315 (Firm) (930 kg/m³)
Material Type: Tailings
Depth: NA

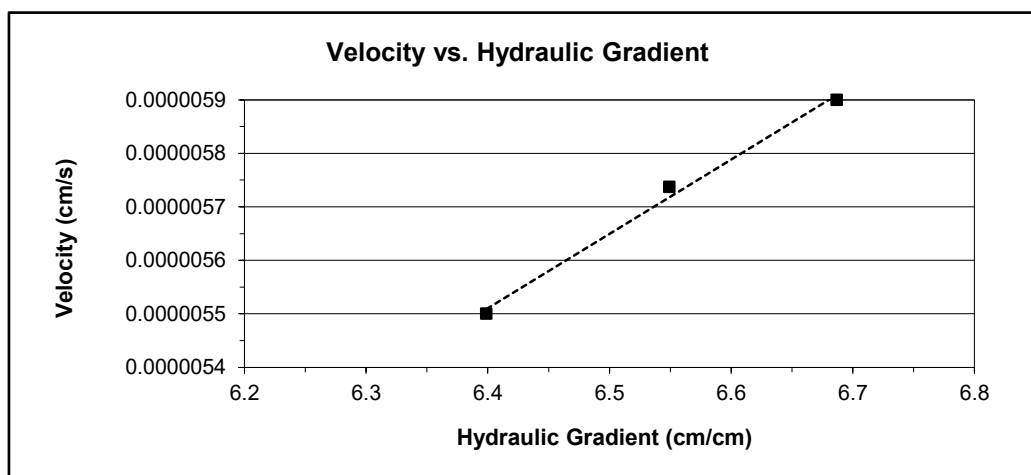
Type of water used: TAP
Backpressure (psi): 0.0
Offset (cm): 0.1
Sample length (cm): 7.64
Sample x-sectional area (cm²): 29.36
Reservoir x-sectional area (cm²): 0.70

| Date | Time | Temp (°C) | Reservoir head (cm) | Corrected head (cm) | Elapsed time (sec) | Ksat (cm/sec) | Ksat @ 20°C (cm/sec) |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Test # 1: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 12:53:47 | 22.5 | 51.1 | 51.0 | 2425 | 8.9E-07 | 8.4E-07 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 13:34:12 | 22.5 | 50.5 | 50.4 | | | |
| Test # 2: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 14:09:12 | 22.5 | 50 | 49.9 | 2078 | 8.8E-07 | 8.3E-07 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 14:43:50 | 22.5 | 49.5 | 49.4 | | | |
| Test # 3: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 15:25:59 | 22.5 | 48.9 | 48.8 | 2601 | 8.7E-07 | 8.2E-07 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 16:09:20 | 22.5 | 48.3 | 48.2 | | | |

Average Ksat (cm/sec): 8.3E-07
Oversize Corrected Ksat (cm/sec): NA

Comments:

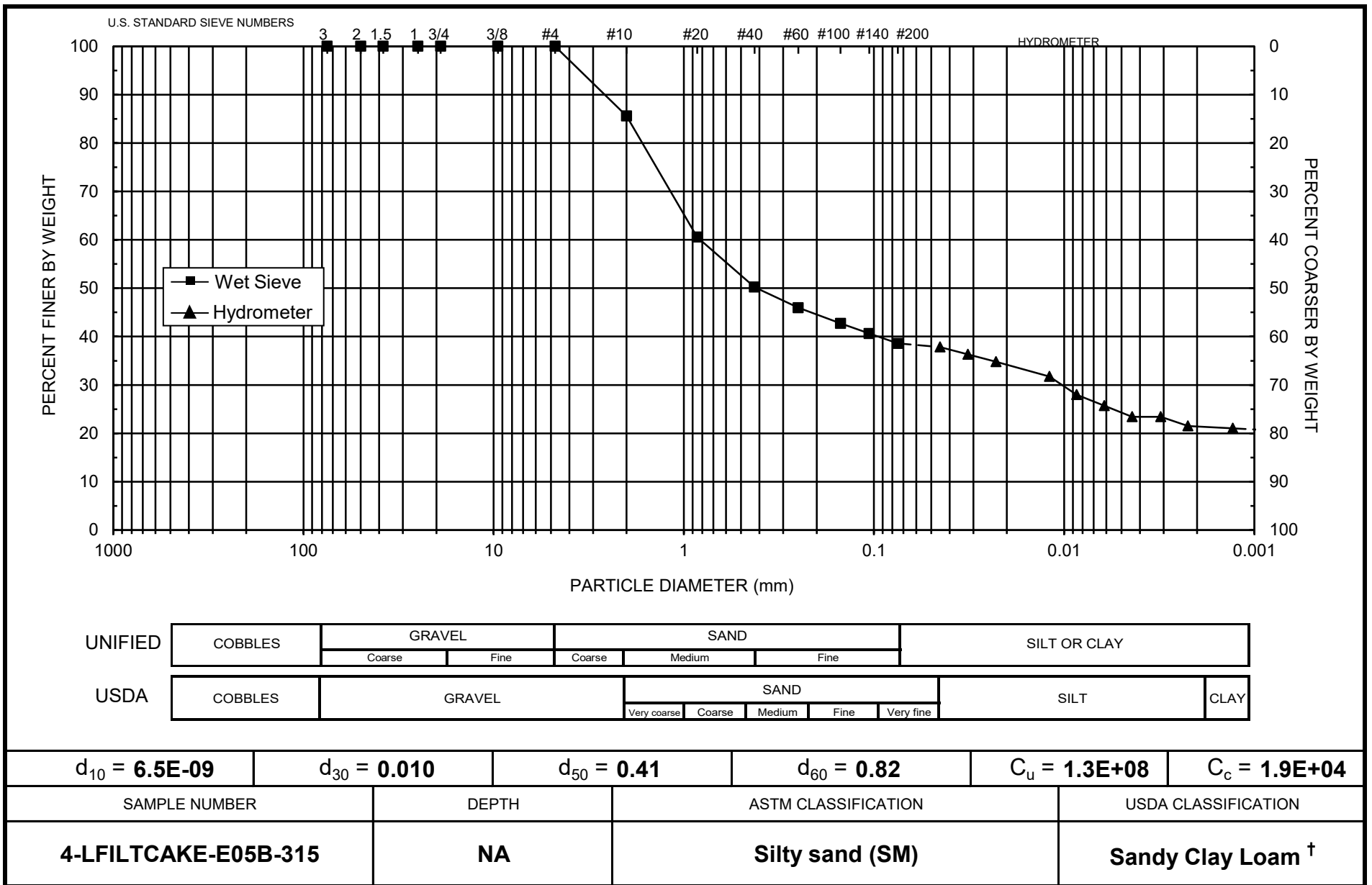
--- = Oversize correction is unnecessary since coarse fraction < 5% of composite mass
NA = Not applicable



Laboratory analysis by: D. O'Dowd

Data entered by: D. O'Dowd

Checked by: J. Hines



[†] Greater than 10% of sample is coarse material

Note: Reported values for d_{10} , C_u , C_c , and ASTM classification are estimates, since extrapolation was required to obtain the d_{10} diameter

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.





**Data for Initial Moisture Content,
Bulk Density, Porosity, and Percent Saturation**

Job Name: Piteau Associates
Job Number: DB19.1317.00
Sample Number: 4381-Blend (Firm) (970 kg/m³)
Material Type: Tailings
Depth: NA

| | <u>As Received</u> | <u>Remolded</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Test Date:</i> | NA | 10-Sep-19 |
| <i>Field weight* of sample (g):</i> | | 717.10 |
| <i>Tare weight, ring (g):</i> | | 276.80 |
| <i>Tare weight, pan/plate (g):</i> | | 0.00 |
| <i>Tare weight, other (g):</i> | | 0.00 |
| <i>Dry weight of sample (g):</i> | | 274.58 |
| <i>Sample volume (cm³):</i> | | 283.34 |
| <i>Assumed particle density (g/cm³):</i> | | 2.65 |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Gravimetric Moisture Content (% g/g):</i> | | 60.4 |
| <i>Volumetric Moisture Content (% vol):</i> | | 58.5 |
| <i>Dry bulk density (g/cm³):</i> | | 0.97 |
| <i>Wet bulk density (g/cm³):</i> | | 1.55 |
| <i>Calculated Porosity (% vol):</i> | | 63.4 |
| <i>Percent Saturation:</i> | | 92.2 |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Laboratory analysis by:</i> | D. O'Dowd | |
| <i>Data entered by:</i> | D. O'Dowd | |
| <i>Checked by:</i> | J. Hines | |

Comments:

* Weight including tares
NA = Not analyzed
--- = This sample was not remolded



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity Falling Head Method

Job Name: Piteau Associates
Job Number: DB19.1317.00
Sample Number: 4381-Blend (Firm) (970 kg/m³)
Material Type: Tailings
Depth: NA

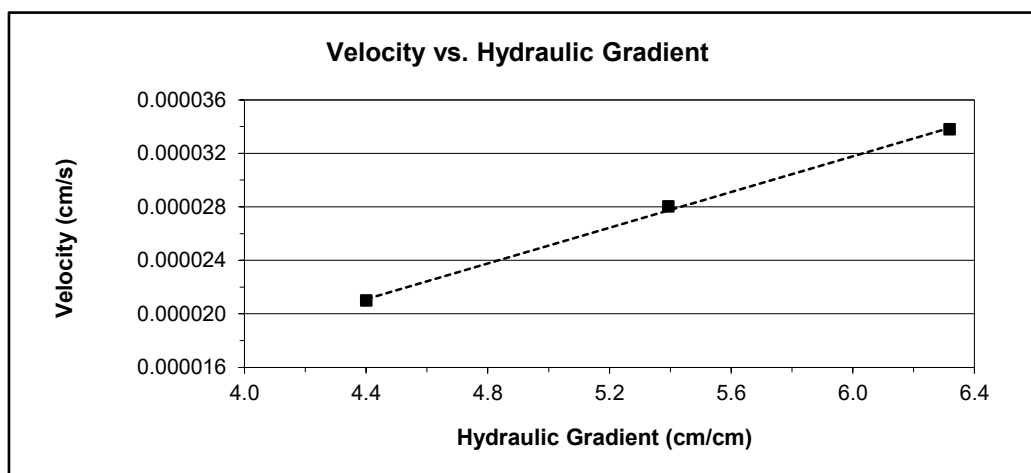
Type of water used: TAP
Backpressure (psi): 0.0
Offset (cm): 0.1
Sample length (cm): 7.00
Sample x-sectional area (cm²): 40.49
Reservoir x-sectional area (cm²): 0.70

| Date | Time | Temp (°C) | Reservoir head (cm) | Corrected head (cm) | Elapsed time (sec) | Ksat (cm/sec) | Ksat @ 20°C (cm/sec) |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Test # 1: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 13:11:45 | 22.5 | 45.7 | 45.6 | 1408 | 5.3E-06 | 5.0E-06 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 13:35:13 | 22.5 | 42.95 | 42.9 | | | |
| Test # 2: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 14:06:01 | 22.5 | 39.6 | 39.5 | 2160 | 5.2E-06 | 4.9E-06 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 14:42:01 | 22.5 | 36.1 | 36.0 | | | |
| Test # 3: | | | | | | | |
| 12-Sep-19 | 15:24:35 | 22.5 | 32.55 | 32.5 | 2718 | 4.8E-06 | 4.5E-06 |
| 12-Sep-19 | 16:09:53 | 22.5 | 29.25 | 29.2 | | | |

Average Ksat (cm/sec): 4.8E-06
Oversize Corrected Ksat (cm/sec): ---

Comments:

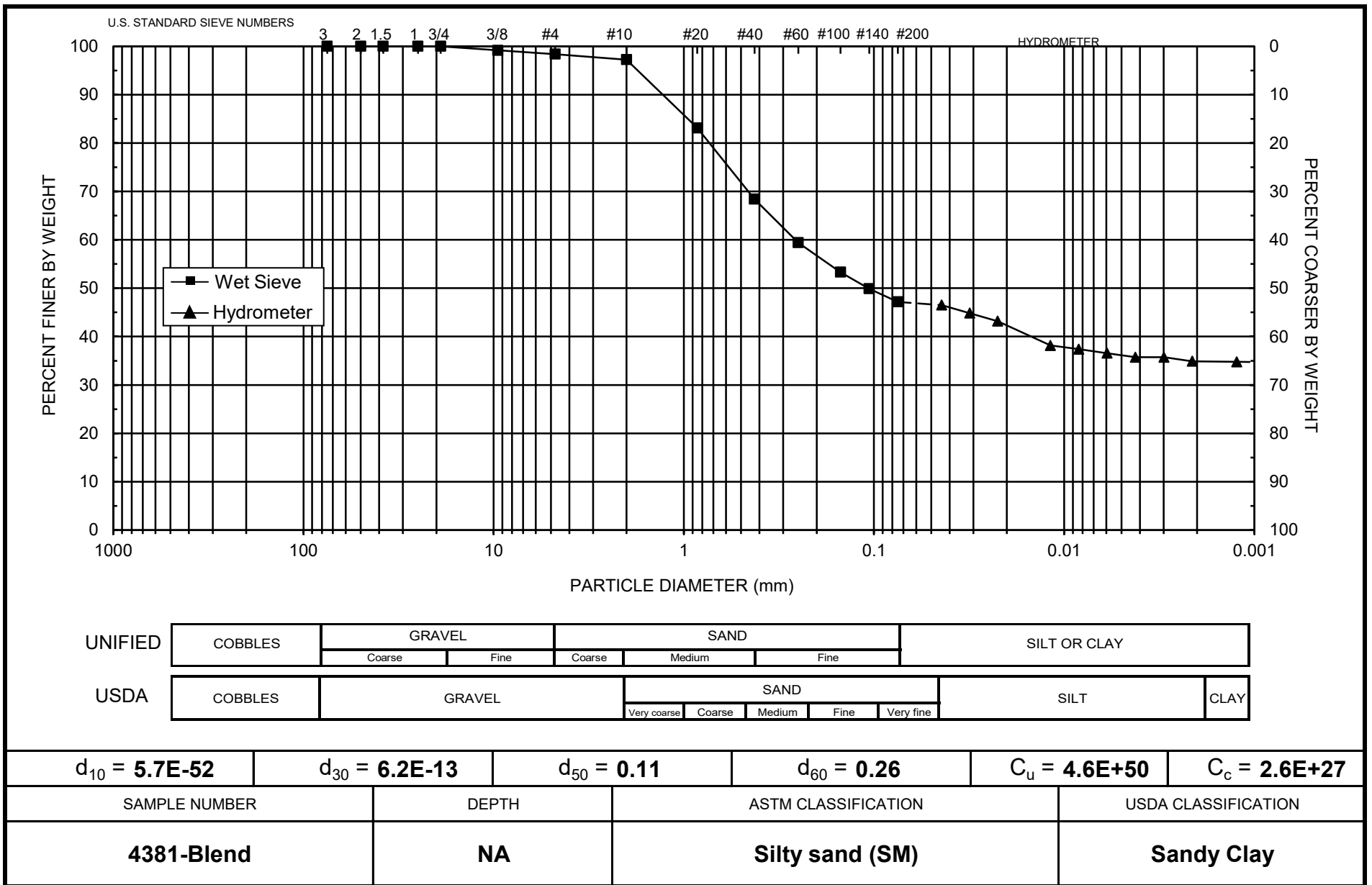
--- = Oversize correction is unnecessary since coarse fraction < 5% of composite mass



Laboratory analysis by: D. O'Dowd

Data entered by: D. O'Dowd

Checked by: J. Hines



Note: Reported values for d_{10} , C_u , C_c , and ASTM classification are estimates, since extrapolation was required to obtain the d_{10} diameter

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.



Flexible Wall Hydraulic Conductivity ASTM D5084

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Client: Lithium Nevada | Lab Sample No.: 19-036-01A |
| Project: Thacker Pass | Field Sample No.: Clay Tailings |
| Project No.: 475.0385.000 | Location: Pilot Plant |
| Phase: - | Elevation/Depth: N/A |
| Requested By: Mark Walden | Tested By: K.Engelmeier |
| Test Started: 4/1/2019 | Checked By: K.Magner |
| Test Finished: 2/25/2019 | Sample Description: Light brown Silt with Sand |

Test Boundary Conditions

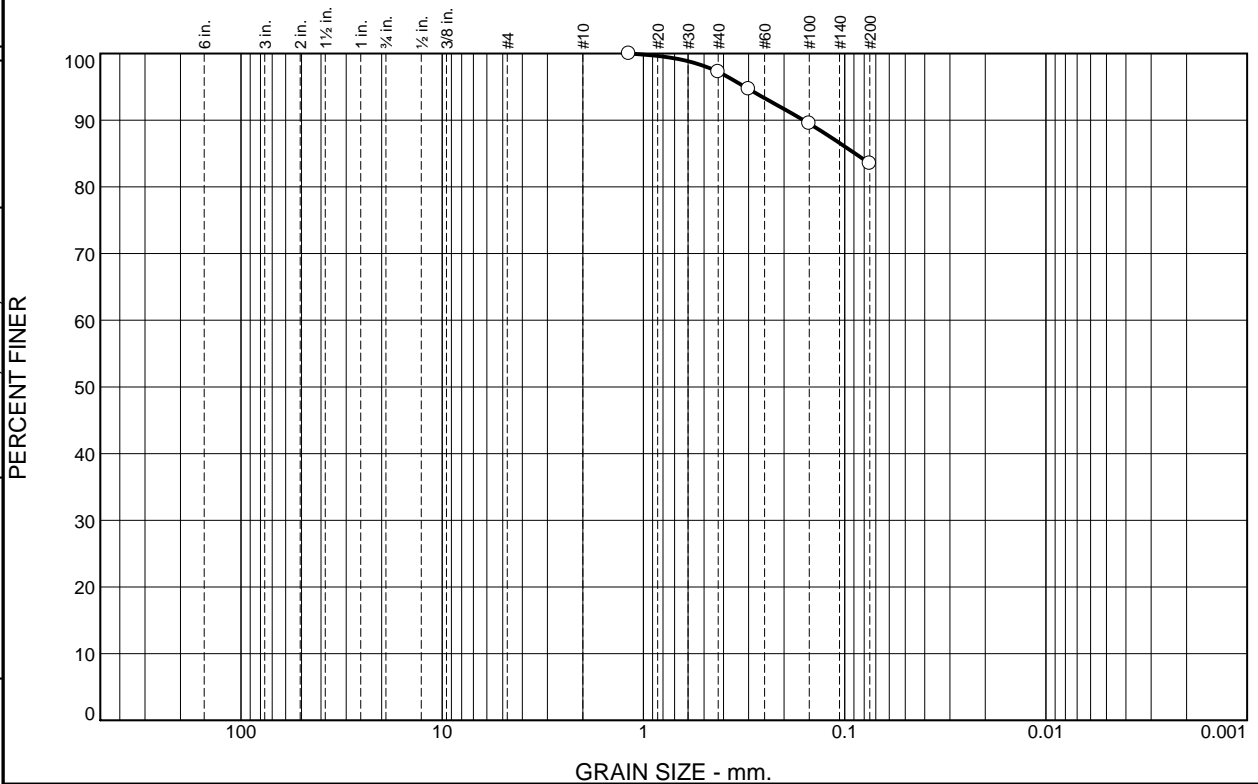
| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Type of Permeant | De-aired Bottled |
| Magnitude of Back pressure (psi) | 50 |
| Saturated (Y/N): | Yes |
| Permeability: Effective Stress (psi) | 5 |
| Sample Type | Remolded |
| Burrete Area (cm ²) | 0.877 |

| Test Specimen Data | Initial | After Consolidation | Final |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Wet Soil + Tare (g) | 905.8 | | 945.26 |
| Dry Soil + Tare (g) | 612.31 | | 640.35 |
| Tare (g) | 0.00 | | 45.19 |
| Wt. of Water (g) | 293.49 | | 304.91 |
| Dry Soil (g) | 612.31 | | 595.16 |
| Moisture Content (%) | 47.9 | | 51.2 |
| Sample Volume (ft ³) | 0.02023 | 0.02012 | |
| Dry Unit Weight (pcf) | 66.7 | 66.9 | |
| Wet Unit Weight (pcf) | 98.7 | 106.6 | |
| Saturation (%) | 80.7 | 100.0 | |
| Relative Compaction (%) | 89.1 | 89.3 | |
| Height (in) | 5.680 | 5.672 | |
| Diameter (in) | 2.799 | 2.795 | |
| Area (in ²) | 6.153 | 6.137 | |
| Est. Moisture Content after Consolidation (%) | | 59.1% | |
| Est. Void Ratio after Consolidation | | 1.731 | |
| Specific Gravity* | 2.93 | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| *Specific gravity is measured Maximum Dry Unit Weight: ASTM D 1557 | Maximum Dry Unit Weight (pcf): | 74.9 |
| | Initial Remolded Dry Unit Weight (pcf): | 66.7 |
| | Initial Percent Compaction: | 89% |
| | Initial Void Ratio: | 1.741 |
| | Optimum Moisture Content(%): | 40.4 |
| | Initial Moisture Content (%): | 47.9 |
| | Confining Pressure (psi): | 5.0 |
| | Hydraulic Conductivity, k₂₀ (cm/s): | 4.1E-07 |
| | Gradient Range (h/L): | 2.6 3.6 |

Test results included in this report relate only to the items inspected or tested. This report shall not be reproduced, in full, without prior written approval of NewFields.

Particle Size Distribution Report



| % +3" | % Gravel | | % Sand | | | % Fines | |
|-------|----------|------|--------|--------|------|---------|------|
| | Coarse | Fine | Coarse | Medium | Fine | Silt | Clay |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 13.7 | 83.5 | |

| SIEVE SIZE | PERCENT FINER | SPEC.* PERCENT | PASS? (X=NO) |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| #16 | 100.0 | | |
| #40 | 97.2 | | |
| #50 | 94.7 | | |
| #100 | 89.5 | | |
| #200 | 83.5 | | |

* (no specification provided)

Location: Pilot Plant/ Clay Tailings
Sample Number: 19-036-01

Material Description

Light Brown silt with sand

Atterberg Limits

PL= 35 LL= 48 PI= 13

Coefficients

D₉₀= 0.1601 D₈₅= 0.0887 D₆₀=
D₅₀= D₃₀= D₁₅=
D₁₀= C_u= C_c=

Classification

USCS= ML AASHTO= A-7-5(14)

Remarks

Atterberg and moisture correction dried at 110C / Natural
Moisture Content: 51.9%

NewFields

Client: Lithium Nevada
Project: Thacker Pass

Project No: 475.0385.000

Date: 4/1/2019

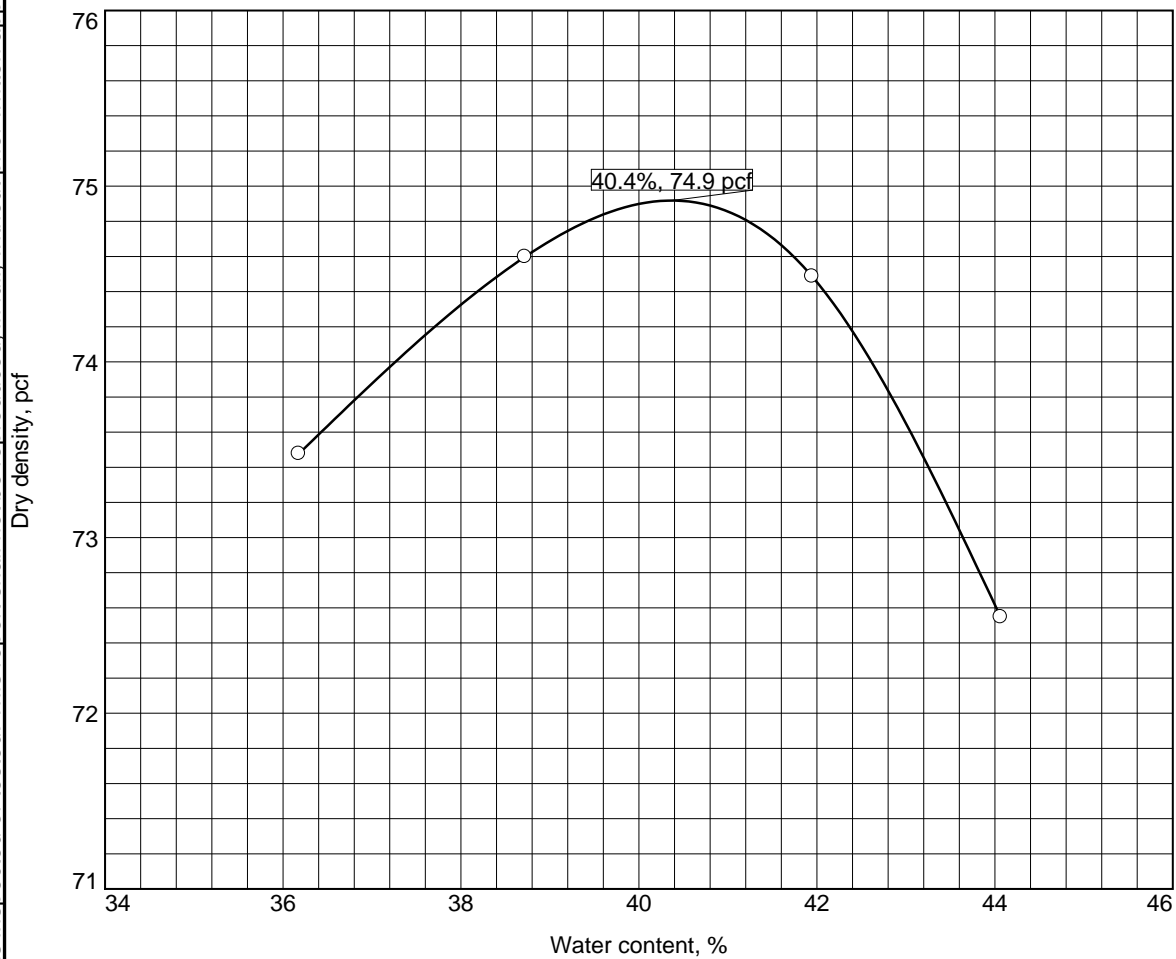
Figure 19-036-01

Tested By: AH

Checked By: JH

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COMPACTION TEST REPORT



Test specification: ASTM D 1557-12 Method B Modified

| Elev/ Depth | Classification | | Nat. Moist. | Sp.G. | LL | PI | % > 3/8 in. | % < No.200 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------|----|----|----------------|---------------|
| | USCS | AASHTO | | | | | | |
| | ML | A-7-5(14) | 51.9 | 2.932 | 48 | 13 | 0.0 | 83.5 |

| TEST RESULTS | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Maximum dry density = 74.9 pcf Optimum moisture = 40.4 % | Light Brown silt with sand |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project No. 475.0385.000 Client: Lithium Nevada Project: Thacker Pass Date: 4/1/2019 Location: Pilot Plant/ Clay Tailings Sample Number: 19-036-01 | Remarks: *Measured Specific Gravity *Dried at 110C |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

Figure 19-036-01

Tested By: CB Checked By: JH

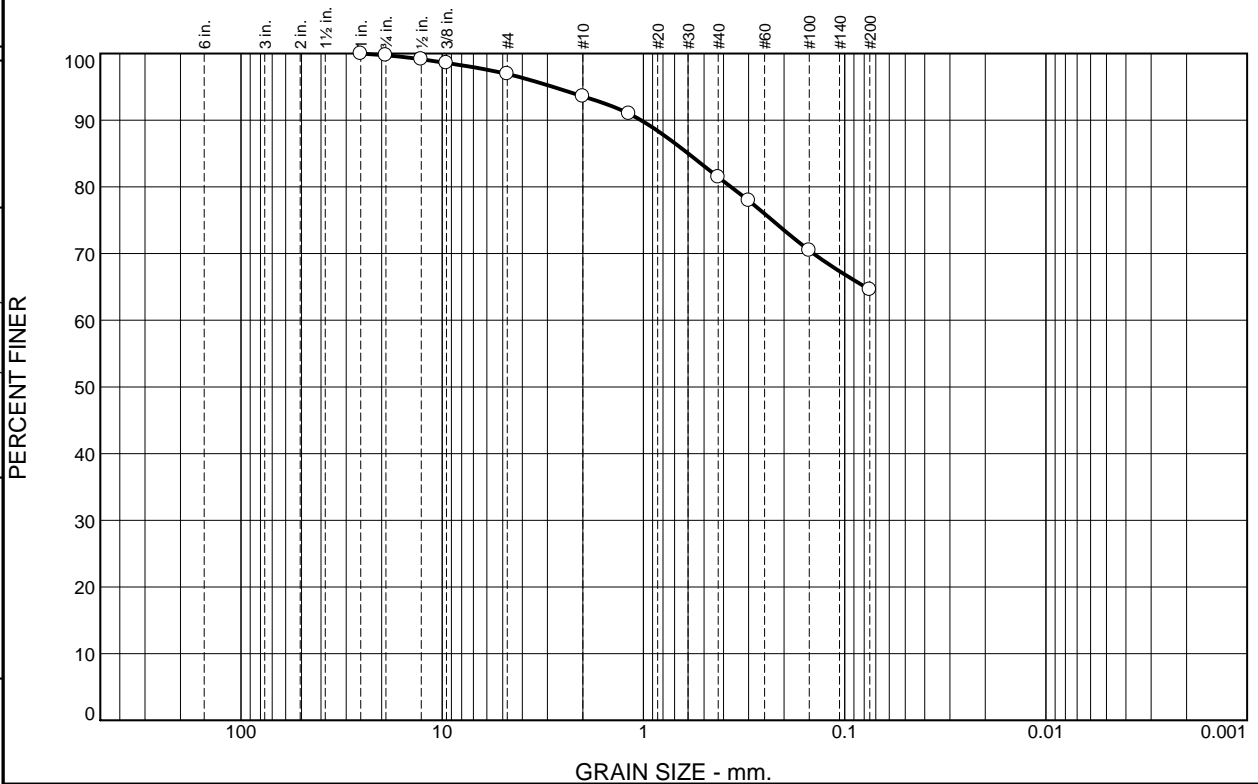
Flexible Wall Hydraulic Conductivity ASTM D5084

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Client: Lithium Nevada | Lab Sample No.: 19-057-02C |
| Project: Thacker Pass | Field Sample No.: Composite Tailings |
| Project No.: 475.0385.000 | Location: Composite Tailings |
| Phase: - | Elevation/Depth: Composite |
| Requested By: Kerry Magner | Tested By: KE |
| Test Started: 3/22/2019 | Checked By: KE |
| Test Finished: 3/25/2019 | Sample Description: Light brown sandy silt |

| Test Boundary Conditions | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Type of Permeant | De-aired Bottled | | |
| Magnitude of Back pressure (psi) | 50 | | |
| Saturated (Y/N): | Yes | | |
| Stage 1: Effective Stress (psi) | 5 | | |
| Sample Type | Remolded | | |
| Burrete Area (cm ²) | 0.877 | | |
| Test Specimen Data | Initial | During k Testing | Final |
| Wet Soil + Tare (g) | 977.97 | | 1104.40 |
| Dry Soil + Tare (g) | 688.77 | | 840.29 |
| Tare (g) | 0.00 | | 191.05 |
| Wt. of Water (g) | 289.20 | | 264.11 |
| Dry Soil (g) | 688.77 | | 649.24 |
| Moisture Content (%) | 42.0 | | 40.7 |
| Sample Volume (ft ³) | 0.02002 | 0.01989 | |
| Dry Density (pcf) | 75.8 | 76.0 | |
| Wet Density (pcf) | 107.7 | 110.4 | |
| Saturation (%) | 92.8 | 100.0 | |
| Percent Compaction | 89.7 | 90.0 | |
| Height (in) | 5.623 | 5.612 | |
| Diameter (in) | 2.799 | 2.794 | |
| Area (in ²) | 6.153 | 6.130 | |
| Est. Moisture Content after Consolidation (%) | | 44.8% | |
| Est. Void Ratio after Consolidation | | 1.210 | |
| Specific Gravity* | 2.70 | | |
| *Specific gravity is assumed Maximum Dry Density: ASTM D 1557 | Maximum Dry Density (pcf): | | 84.5 |
| | Initial Remolded Dry Density (pcf): | | 75.8 |
| | Initial Percent Compaction: | | 90% |
| | Initial Void Ratio: | | 1.222 |
| | Optimum Moisture Content(%): | | 34.5 |
| | Initial Water Content (%): | | 42.0 |
| | Confining Pressure (psi): | | 5.0 |
| | Hydraulic Conductivity, k ₂₀ (cm/s): | | 1.2E-07 |
| | Gradient Range (h/L): | | 1.0 1.8 |

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Particle Size Distribution Report



| % +3" | % Gravel | | % Sand | | | % Fines | |
|-------|----------|------|--------|--------|------|---------|------|
| | Coarse | Fine | Coarse | Medium | Fine | Silt | Clay |
| 0.0 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 12.1 | 16.9 | 64.6 | |

| SIEVE SIZE | PERCENT FINER | SPEC.* PERCENT | PASS? (X=NO) |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 100.0 | | |
| .75 | 99.7 | | |
| .5 | 99.1 | | |
| .375 | 98.6 | | |
| #4 | 96.9 | | |
| #10 | 93.6 | | |
| #16 | 91.0 | | |
| #40 | 81.5 | | |
| #50 | 77.9 | | |
| #100 | 70.5 | | |
| #200 | 64.6 | | |

* (no specification provided)

Material Description

Light Brown sandy silt

Atterberg Limits

PL= 33 LL= 48 PI= 15

Coefficients

D₉₀= 1.0279 D₈₅= 0.5986 D₆₀=
D₅₀= D₃₀= D₁₅=
D₁₀= C_u= C_c=

Classification

USCS= ML AASHTO= A-7-5(10)

Remarks

Atterberg and moisture correction dried at 110C

Location: Composite Tailings
Sample Number: 19-057-02

Date: 2/27/2019

NewFields

Client: Lithium Nevada
Project: Thacker Pass

Project No: 475.0385.000

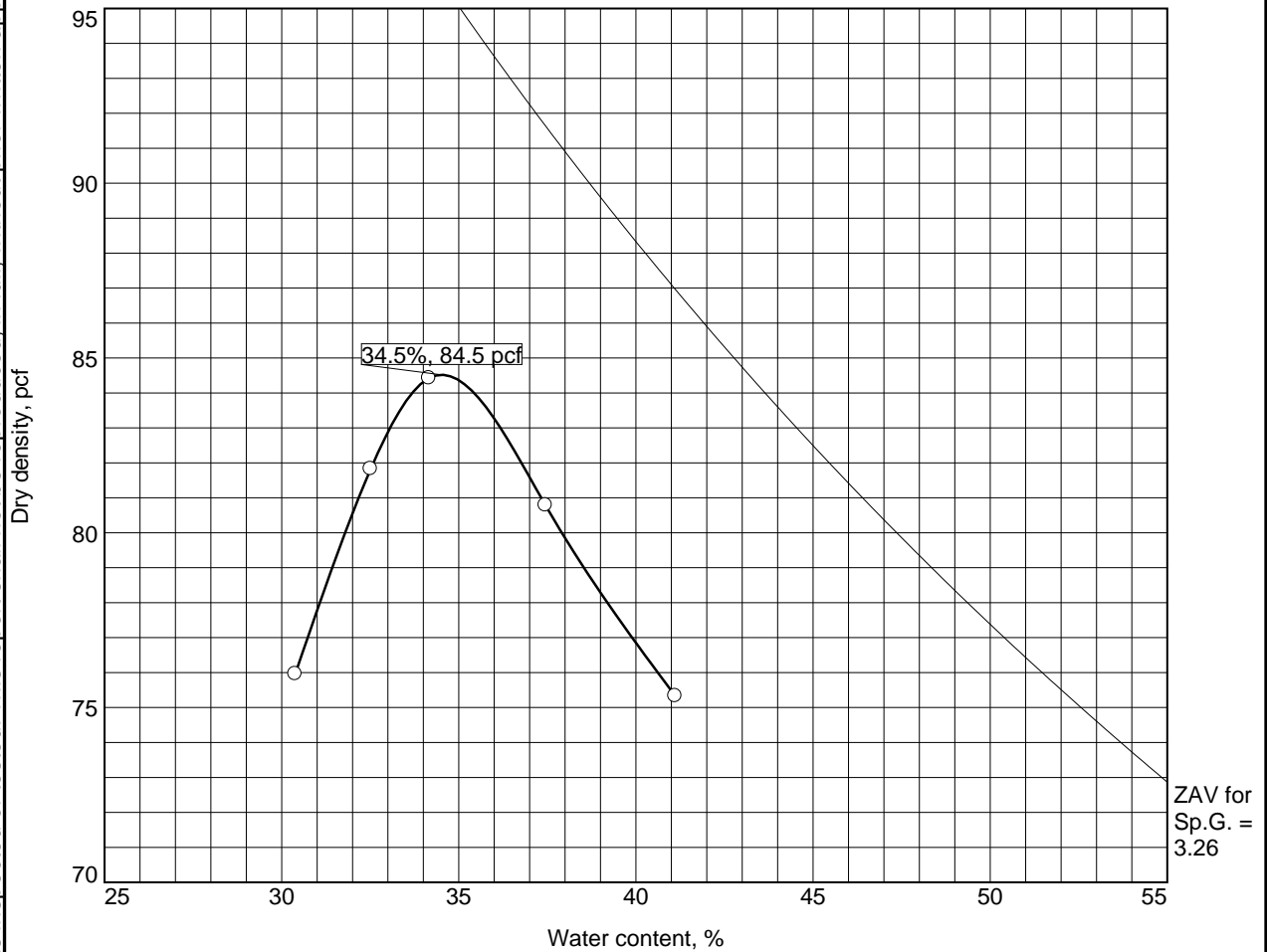
Figure 19-057-02

Tested By: AR

Checked By: JH

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COMPACTION TEST REPORT



Test specification: ASTM D 1557-12 Method B Modified

| Elev/ Depth | Classification | | Nat. Moist. | Sp.G. | LL | PI | % > 3/8 in. | % < No.200 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------|----|----|----------------|---------------|
| | USCS | AASHTO | | | | | | |
| | ML | A-7-5(10) | | 3.26 | 48 | 15 | 0 | 64.6 |

| TEST RESULTS | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Maximum dry density = 84.5 pcf Optimum moisture = 34.5 % | Light Brown sandy silt |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project No. 475.0385.000 Client: Lithium Nevada Project: Thacker Pass Date: 3/1/2019 Location: Composite Tailings Sample Number: 19-057-02 | Remarks: *Assumed Specific Gravity *Dried at 110C |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

Figure 19-057-02

Tested By: AR Checked By: JH