

39500204

# **FINAL REPORT**

## **Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment TDS Mobility Testing**

### **Prepared for:**

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

### **Prepared by:**

Geomega  
2995 Baseline Dr.  
Boulder, CO 80303

for

BHP Copper - Nevada Mining Company  
Robinson Operations

June 12, 1997



# **FINAL REPORT**

## **Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment TDS Mobility Testing**

**Prepared for:**

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

**Prepared by:**

Geomega  
2995 Baseline Dr.  
Boulder, CO 80303

for

BHP Copper - Nevada Mining Company  
Robinson Operations

**June 12, 1997**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction.....	1
2.0 Phase I TDS Mobility Testing.....	2
3.0 Phase II TDS Mobility Testing.....	2
3.1 Results of Phase II TDS Mobility Testing .....	3
3.1.1. Background Borings .....	3
3.1.2. Impoundment Samples .....	7
3.1.3. Interstitial Water Samples .....	11
3.2 Conclusions: Phase II TDS Mobility Testing .....	12
4.0 Phase III TDS Mobility Testing .....	12
4.1 Drilling Locations.....	13
4.2 Description of Borings.....	14
4.2.1. Boring P31 .....	14
4.2.2. Boring P32 .....	15
4.2.3. Boring P33 .....	16
4.3 Field Analyses of pH and Specific Conductivity.....	16
4.4 Laboratory Analyses of Moisture Content & Grain Size Distribution.....	17
4.5 Conclusions: Phase III TDS Mobility Testing.....	18
5.0 Conclusions.....	19

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report presents the results of a three-phased investigation to evaluate the potential for seepage and TDS mobility from the permitted Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment at BHP Copper, Robinson Operations. The Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment is a conventional unlined tailings disposal facility for the disposal of copper flotation tailings, located southwest of the active Robinson Operations mine site. Tailings generated during the milling process are pumped to the impoundment for disposal. Giroux Wash slopes from north to south, and an east-west tailings embankment was constructed to constrain deposition of tailings to the northern portion of Giroux Wash.

A geologic fault trending northwest-southeast underlies the eastern portion of the Impoundment in the vicinity of the embankment. East of the fault, the Impoundment is underlain primarily by volcanic rocks, with a depth to groundwater of approximately 250 feet below ground surface (bgs). West of the fault, the Impoundment is underlain by alluvium, with a depth to groundwater of approximately 800 feet bgs.

The NDEP requested that BHP Copper, Robinson Operations, investigate the potential for vertical seepage through the impoundment base, into underlying alluvium, volcanic detritus, and volcanic bedrock. BHP therefore completed the Phase I and II TDS Mobility Studies, which are summarized herein pursuant to Section 2.5.3. of the February 27, 1997 Work Plan (and recent Consent Agreement between BHP and the NDEP).

Through the preliminary Phase I investigation, and primarily through the Phase II program, BHP examined tailings deposited in the impoundment, the tailings/native alluvium interface, and native alluvium directly beneath impounded tailings. The Phase I and II investigations indicated limited vertical seepage into underlying alluvium has occurred at the time and boring locations observed. The Phase I and Phase II investigation activities were reported to NDEP on January 2, 1997 and March 31, 1997, respectively. As required by Section 2.5.3. of the February 27, 1997 Work Plan, this report also summarizes the Phase I and Phase II investigations.

The Phase III TDS Mobility investigation was completed pursuant to Section 2.5.4. of the February 27, 1997 Work Plan to determine the potential for horizontal seepage downgradient of the embankment. The results from the Phase III investigation are available, and therefore, are included in this report so that it will serve as a convenient and comprehensive final report of all TDS mobility studies.

## **2.0 Phase I TDS Mobility Testing**

BHP initiated the TDS mobility investigation with the preliminary Phase I program. One hollow stem auger boring was angle drilled through the tailings embankment and tailings, terminating in alluvium underlying the tailings. Field measurements of pH and TDS from recovered samples (Table 1) indicated TDS migration is attenuated by native alluvium within approximately 16 feet of the tailings/alluvium interface. However, difficult drilling conditions prevented the hollow-stem auger method from providing satisfactory subsurface samples, and promoted infiltration of tailings water into the augers thus contaminating the samples upon recovery. This limitation prevented a full investigation to be completed under the Phase I program and thus, the Phase II investigation was initiated.

## **3.0 Phase II TDS Mobility Testing**

Three angle borings were installed in December 1996 (TB-1, TB-2 and TB-3). All three borings were collared in the embankment, drilled through the embankment, through tailings and into underlying alluvium (Figure 1). Five vertical borings (B-1 through B-5) were completed both downgradient and upgradient of the embankment, outside the current tailings disposal area, to collect ambient background samples for characterization (Figure 1).

Relatively undisturbed samples were collected during Phase II drilling *via* continuous coring using a roto-sonic drilling rig. This drilling method provided better recovery and no avenue for tailings water contamination of subsurface samples, thus allowing for a more detailed analysis of TDS mobility than the Phase I activities. Samples recovered during the Phase II drilling program were analyzed in the field for paste pH and specific conductivity (SC), and for NDEP Profile I constituents by a State of Nevada certified laboratory.

### **3.1 Results of Phase II TDS Mobility Testing**

#### **3.1.1. Background Borings**

Five background soil borings (B-1 through B-5) were drilled in Giroux Wash at locations outside of the Tailings Impoundment area (Figure 1). The background borings were drilled and sampled to establish ambient pH, SC profiles, and soil chemistry for areas known to be unaffected by the deposition of tailings.

In general, the soil chemistry of background samples appears to be relatively similar. The measured pH values range between 7.3 and 9.3 while most of the SC values range between 60 and 300 uS/cm. The exception to this is the six to twelve feet depth interval of B-1. Physical and chemical characteristics of background soils in the boreholes are described below.

#### *Background Sample B-1*

The first background boring (B-1) was located approximately 50 feet west of the main drainage through Giroux Wash and about 165 feet south of the impoundment embankment (Figure 1). This bore was performed with a hollow-stem auger and sample was collected by a split-spoon sampler on July 9, 1996.

The upper interval of core obtained from B-1 was characterized as dry, unconsolidated, and well-sorted brownish-tan, silty-sand with minor secondary calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). The sand unit was continuous from the surface to a depth of 11 feet, where a semi-consolidated and resistant gravel layer was encountered. Drilling and sampling continued until the 16.5-foot depth interval at which point the resistance of the gravel layer resulted in auger refusal and precluded further sample recovery. As a result, the B-1 boring was terminated, backfilled with soil cuttings, and re-spudded approximately 10 feet east of the original location. Drilling at the new location was successful in penetrating the gravel layer, and soil sample collection was resumed at the 16- to 18- foot depth interval to a total depth of 20 feet.

SC values ranged from 175 uS/cm in the top two feet of soil (Table 2), where natural surficial leaching processes act to remove soluble soil salts, to 1910 uS/cm at a depth of 12-feet. SC values steadily decline below the 12-foot depth to the 20-foot depth (600 uS/cm) where drilling ended. A pronounced "conductivity spike" was measured in the 10 to 14 feet depth interval, which coincides with the gravel zone.

As with the SC measurements, soil chemistry changed around the 12-foot interval, where high concentrations of chloride (483 mg/kg) and sulfate (5930 mg/kg) were encountered. These concentrations are considerably higher than the other background locations and the chloride concentrations measure in the analysis of the tailings material (average tailings chloride concentration: 12 mg/kg). Since there are also increased concentrations of aluminum and sodium at this depth, it is hypothesized that this "concentration and conductivity spike" reflects a normal build-up of salts (localized hardpan) that has accumulated at the sand-gravel interface.

All samples recovered from boring B-1 were dry, and no evidence of tailings water infiltration at this boring location was observed. The chemistry observed in boring B-1 differs from the tailings chemistry in measured metal concentrations (e.g., copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, and zinc). Metal concentration in B-1 are indicative of the background ranges observed in B-2 and B-3 (described below). Elevated concentrations of major elements chloride, sulfate, and sodium were observed in B-1 soils at a depth of 12 feet bgs, derived from naturally derived salts associated with hardpan.

#### *Background Sample B-2*

Background boring B-2 was located approximately half a mile south of the impoundment, approximately 20 feet north of the BHP property fence, which runs east-west across Giroux Wash (Figure 1), and is located approximately 50 feet west of the main drainage in Giroux Wash. This boring was drilled by the hollow-stem auger and sampled using a split-spoon sampler on July 10, 1996.

Soil core in B-2 was dry, unconsolidated, light brown, gravelly sand extending from the ground surface to the total boring depth at 18 feet. An increase in gravel content was observed at a depth of 10- to 12-feet. Unlike boring B-1, this gravel layer did not impede drilling; however, due to the increased grain size and loose nature of the soil, there was no sample recovery from the 14 to 18 feet depth interval. The hole was subsequently abandoned and backfilled with soil cuttings.

Field measurements of SC were relatively uniform along the entire depth of B-2, ranging from 89 uS/cm<sup>2</sup> at a depth of 4-feet, increasing to a maximum of 131 uS/cm<sup>2</sup> at 8-feet, and decreasing to 116 uS/cm<sup>2</sup> at 14-feet (Table 2). As with B-1, the highest SC values recorded in boring B-2 is associated with increasing gravel content at the 8- to 12-foot depth interval, suggesting that similar geochemical mechanisms, such as precipitation of calcite and other hardpan solid phases, may be occurring at the sand-gravel contact.

The soil chemistry in B-2 is relatively uniform, with the exception of calcium (133,000 mg/kg) in the 2- to 4-foot layer, which is more than double that measured at other locations.

#### *Background Sample B-3*

An additional background boring was located close to B-1 to determine if the conductivity spike observed in B-1 was a localized phenomenon, or if the spike had horizontal continuity. Background boring B-3 was subsequently located approximately 300 feet south of the impoundment and 50 feet west of the main drainage. The drilling was performed by a hollow-stem auger and sampled with a split-spoon sampler on July 10, 1996.

Background boring B-3 was drilled to a total depth of 24 feet, through coarse, gravelly sand at the surface (0- to 2-foot) transitioning to a buff-colored fine to medium sand at 2- to 4-feet, and then to a reddish silt with clay and fine sand from 4- to 24-feet. Occasional secondary calcite was observed in the upper 8 feet. Highly developed "partings" dominated the structure of this soil probably due to the presence of clay minerals.

Measured SC values in B-3 were relatively uniform over the entire depth, ranging from 283 uS/cm at the surface to 244 uS/cm at the 24-feet (bottom of the hole), and are approximately one-half those measured in B-3 (Table 2).

The soil chemistry in B-3 is fairly uniform through its depth except that, like B-2, there is approximately twice as much calcium (102,000 mg/kg) in the 2- to 4-foot layer than other locations.

Data collected from B-2 and B-3 indicate that the concentration and conductivity spike observed in B-1 was a localized phenomenon without significant horizontal continuity. Therefore, the conductivity spike observed in B-1 is not considered relevant for comparing background sample data to impoundment sample data.

#### *Background Sample B-4*

Background sample B-4 was located approximately 600 feet west of the tailings impoundment, near the tree-line which marks the edge of the impoundment area and in an area that will be inundated with tailings in the next year (Figure 1). Hence, the surface soil had been removed from this area. Sample was collected from the surface to a depth of 20 feet using the roto-sonic drill rig on Dec. 8, 1996. Since this bore was within the ultimate impoundment foot print, it was filled with bentonite grout when completed.

Soil core from B-4 consisted of a dry, unconsolidated, white gravelly sand. Unlike the previous borings, the sample was relatively uniform throughout its entire depth and lacked a distinct gravel layer.

Field measurements of pH and SC were uniform throughout the boring. The pH ranged between 9.0 and 9.3 while the SC range between 67 and 101 uS/cm.

#### *Background Sample B-5*

This twenty foot vertical boring was completed northeast of the tailings impoundment in an area outside the ultimate impoundment footprint. The boring was performed by the roto-sonic drill rig on December 3, 1996.

Unlike the other background samples, soil core in B-5 varies distinctly with depth from the surface. The surface soil is a dark brown sandy soil with visible organic material. Soil recovered from the 5-foot depth was a lighter brown than the surface soil, and contained secondary calcite. Below the 5-foot depth down to a depth of 10-feet, sample consisted of reddish brown sand. Beneath the 10-foot depth, the sample contained powdery fine gray material representing bedrock at this location.

Field measurements of pH and SC were heterogeneous, as were the observed physical characteristics of the sample recovered from B-5. The surface soil had a pH of 7.6 and an SC of 75 uS/cm. The SC increased at the 5-foot depth to 220 uS/cm, likely due to the presence of secondary calcite, while the pH was measured to be 7.3. At the 10-foot level, the pH increased to 8.2 and the SC decreased to 90 uS/cm. In the bedrock (below 10 feet in depth), pH and SC at the 15- and 20-foot depths were 8.4 and 8.5, and 66 and 62 uS/cm respectively.

#### 3.1.2. Impoundment Samples

Three angle borings were drilled by the roto-sonic rig from the top of the embankment to collect samples from both the tailings deposited in the impoundment and the native material, underlying the tailings for assessment of soil and pore water quality underlying Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment. Drilling was discontinued when measured pH and SC were similar to background measurements collected from native soil samples.

The borings were drilled from the top of the embankment at an angle between 30 and 35 degrees to the horizontal. The bores were drilled from the embankment crest, emerged from the side of the embankment approximately half-way between the crest and the tailings surface; casing was then pushed through the embankment, into open air, and then through the tailings until it met refusal at the tailings/native material interface. The sample within the casing was recovered with the core barrel. These samples consisted mainly of tailings and some of the native material at the interface. To collect sample below the interface, a second casing was advanced as the drilling proceeded. After completion of the bores, the casings were filled with bentonite grout and then removed.

Since these bores were drilled at roughly a 30 degree angle from the horizontal, the bore depth is approximately twice the vertical depth (the sine of 30 degrees is one half). To avoid confusion, this text will refer to vertical depth only. Physical and chemical characteristics of impounded tailings and underlying soils collected from each borehole are described below.

#### *Impoundment Sample TB-1*

This 35 degree boring was drilled at a location approximately 1,000 feet from the east end of the tailings impoundment embankment on December 7, 1996. This boring was closest to the point where tailings are discharged into the impoundment.

The vertical bore depth of TB-1 was 53 feet, of which 25 feet were through the embankment, 8 feet were through tailings, and 20 were into the substrate. Sample recovered from TB-1 consisted of 7 vertical feet of wet black tailings, underlain by one vertical foot of wet black tailings mixed with gravel and coarse sand. Below this level, five vertical feet of wet gravelly sand were recovered. Sample recovered from beneath the wet gravelly sand consisted of a fairly uniform gravelly sandy loam which was slightly damp.

Field measurements of SC were taken on each sample as it was collected to determine the depth at which to cease drilling. Drilling was ceased after collection of several successive samples the SC measurements which resembled those of the background samples. On-site field measurements for pH were attempted but were abandoned as the meter malfunctioned due to the extreme cold. After collection, field measurements of SC were confirmed in the field laboratory located in a BHP warehouse. Measurements of pH were also made at that time.

Eight soil samples were collected from TB-1 and submitted to a Nevada certified analytical laboratory for NDEP Profile I Analysis for Solids. The following table summarizes select field and laboratory chemical analyses of sample recovered from TB-1:

### Soil Chemistry from TB-1

(Depth = vertical depth below surface of tailings, depth units are feet, SC units are umhos, pH in standard units, concentrations are in mg/kg, DL = detection limit)

Depth	SC	pH	SO4	Ag	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Ni
5 (wet tails)	1580	8.7	3720	49	1160	130,000	676	164	34
7 (wet tails)	1024	8.5	407	DL	29	13,700	336	8	7
9 (wet gravel)	198	8.5	257	DL	7	9,530	305	3	9
13 (damp loam)	189	8.6	278	DL	5	17,700	371	2	9
15 (damp loam)	189	8.6	243	DL	7	13,700	255	2	8
21 (damp loam)	164	8.6	280	DL	14	9,410	191	2	8
25 (damp loam)	152	8.6	177	DL	20	7,400	153	2	7
28 (damp loam)	145	8.6	176	DL	10	6,330	155	2	10

### *Impoundment Sample TB-2*

This angle boring was located near the middle of the tailings impoundment, directly above the deepest tailings deposit. The boring was sampled to a total vertical depth of 63 feet; 22 feet through the embankment, 12 feet through the tailings, and 52 feet into the substrate. The boring was completed on December 6, 1996.

The sample recovered from TB-2 consisted of 11 feet of black tailings, one foot of wet tailings and sand, 3 feet of damp sand, and 16 feet of very slightly damp gravelly sandy clay loam. The tailings/native material interface is at a location 12 vertical feet below the surface of the tailings.

Six soil samples were collected from TB-2 and submitted to a Nevada certified analytical laboratory for NDEP Profile I Analysis for Solids. The following table summarizes select field and laboratory chemical analyses of sample recovered from TB-2:

### Soil Chemistry from TB-2

(Depth = vertical depth below surface of tailings, depth units are feet, SC units are umhos, pH in standard units, concentrations are in mg/kg, DL = detection limit)

Depth	SC	pH	SO4	Ag	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Ni
9 (damp tails)	720	7.4	412	DL	12	18,600	324	4	8
14 (damp sand)	280	8.7	243	DL	5	12,300	376	DL	5
17 (damp loam)	123	8.7	293	DL	10	12,200	324	2	9
21 (damp loam)	112	8.6	323	DL	23	15,000	382	3	12
28 (damp loam)	156	8.6	489	DL	15	10,700	284	2	9
36 (damp loam)	203	8.6	809	DL	13	10,500	255	2	10

Below the tailings interface, the soil chemistry was similar to background conditions (Table 3 and Figures 2 through 5). The exception to this was the sample from the 36-foot vertical depth which contained elevated levels of calcium, chloride, and sulfate, approximately twice the levels observed at other locations in the bore.

### *Impoundment Sample TB-3*

This angle bore was located approximately 1,000 feet from the west edge of the impoundment embankment and was completed on December 5, 1996. Samples were collected from 53 vertical feet of material; 22 feet through the embankment, 11 feet through the tailings, and 20 feet through the substrate,

The sample recovered from TB-3 consisted of 9 feet of black tailings, two feet of mixed tailings and sand, and 20 feet of very slightly damp gravelly sandy clay loam. The tailings/native material interface is at a location 11 vertical feet below the surface of the tailings.

Nine soil samples were collected from TB-3 and submitted to a Nevada certified analytical laboratory for NDEP Profile I Analysis for Solids. The following table summarizes select field and laboratory chemical analyses of sample recovered from TB-3:

### Soil Chemistry from TB-3

(Depth = vertical depth below surface of tailings, depth units are feet, SC units are umhos, pH in standard units, concentrations are in mg/kg, DL = detection limit)

Depth	SC	pH	SO4	Ag	Cu	Fe	Mn	Mo	Ni
0 (wet tails)	530	7.8	994	1	781	107,000	724	112	28
2 (wet tails)	655	7.8	1110	DL	687	105,000	665	105	29
5 (wet tails)	690	7.8	753	DL	676	113,000	729	103	28
7 (damp tails)	303	8.3	880	1	261	50,200	450	31	18
9 (dry mix)	270	8.3	459	DL	11	6,850	195	2	8
11 (wet mix)	383	8.7	335	DL	12	6,320	171	DL	12
14 (damp loam)	152	8.7	362	DL	36	11,100	275	3	14
17 (damp loam)	128	9.0	373	DL	30	12,500	305	DL	10
19 (damp loam)	128	9.1	270	DL	22	8,210	343	DL	9

The results of NDEP Profile I analyses demonstrate two intervals of soil chemistry discontinuities (Figures 2 through 5). The first discontinuity occurred between the 5- and 7-foot samples corresponding to the location of the tailings interface. Across this interval copper decreased from 676 to 261 mg/kg, iron from 113,000 to 50,200 mg/kg, and molybdenum from 103 to 31 mg/kg. Sulfate concentrations were similar across this distance. The second chemical discontinuity occurred between the 7- and 9-foot samples where sulfate decreased from 880 to 459 mg/kg, copper from 261 to 11 mg/kg, iron from 50,200 to 6,850 mg/kg, and molybdenum from 31 to 2 mg/kg. The location of this second break coincides with the mid-point of the wet soil.

#### 3.1.3. Interstitial Water Samples

The 23 soil samples collected from the angle borings (TB-1, TB-2 and TB-3) that were submitted for NDEP Profile I Soils Analysis, were centrifuged in order to collect pore fluids for NDEP Profile I Water Analysis. Of the 23 samples, only three yielded an adequate fluid volume (e.g. more than 10 ml)

for chemical analysis. These samples were the 7-foot sample from TB-1 (13.5 ml) and the 0- and 5-foot samples from TB-3 (250 and 50 ml respectively). For these samples, the TDS ranged from 2550 to 3040 mg/L, sulfate from 1460 to 2100 mg/L, and manganese from 0.37 to 0.55 mg/L (Table 4).

Samples with volumes less than 250 ml were diluted with distilled water to 250 ml in order to obtain enough volume to perform the analyses. Analytical results reported here account for the dilution by re-scaling the reported analyte concentrations (i.e. for the 50 ml to 250 ml dilution, reported analyte concentrations are multiplied by 5 to account for this dilution). Fluid volumes sufficient for analysis could not be recovered from below the tailings/native material interface. Adjusted analyte concentrations are presented in Table 4.

### **3.2 Conclusions: Phase II TDS Mobility Testing**

Based on the field and laboratory data generated from the Phase II borings and sample analysis, tailings solution infiltration into native materials below the impoundment is limited to a zone less than three vertical feet below the tailings/native material interface at the tailings borehole locations. In addition, wetting of the native material by water in the impoundment has not been observed at depths more than five feet below the tailings interface. Both of these observations are best represented by boring, TB-3.

maybe

The gravimetric water content of the tailings ranges between 5 and 19 percent (total porosity of the tailings is 30 percent) while the water content in the substrate ranges between 6 and 15 percent (average total porosity of the soils 25 percent) (see Table 5 and Figure 6). In-situ moisture contents measured in Giroux Wash soils prior to construction of the tailings impoundment ranged between 4 and 15 percent (WESTEC, 1993). Hence, it appears that neither the tailings, nor the substrate soils, are near saturation, which limits tailings solution infiltration into the native material underlying the impoundment.

### **4.0 Phase III TDS Mobility Testing**

Three vertical hollow-stem auger borings (P31, P32, P33; Figure 1) were drilled downgradient of the embankment. Split spoon samples were collected at 5-foot intervals for observation of physical characteristics

(Appendix I), and field analysis of paste pH and specific conductivity (Table 6). Split spoon samples representative of subsurface conditions and lithologies encountered during drilling were selected for laboratory analysis of 1) natural moisture content, and 2) grain size distribution (Tables 7 and 8, respectively).

A proposed total depth for each Phase III boring was established at 75 feet, based on subsurface conditions documented during drilling of two monitoring wells (WCC-G1 and WCC-G3) downgradient of the embankment. As shown on the boring log for WCC-G1 (Appendix I), a layer of fine to very coarse sand and gravel was encountered from 42 to 50 feet below ground. Similarly, in WCC-G3 (Appendix I) an interval of fine to medium sand and gravel was encountered from 44 to 68 feet below ground. Below approximately 50 feet in WCC-G1 and 70 feet in WCC-G3, the boring logs suggest that the volcanic and alluvial material is fine-grained and cementaceous.

If horizontal seepage occurs, it will likely be preferentially conducted in the shallow, gravel and sand located within a depth of 75 feet below the embankment base. At the time of the investigation, no evidence of seepage was encountered by the Phase III borings (P31, P32, P33).

#### **4.1 Drilling Locations**

The borehole locations for P31 and P32 were selected at locations downgradient of where tailings deposition was thickest at the time of drilling, and hydraulic heads would be greatest. These locations are shown in Figure 1. Boring P31 did not encounter volcanics, as it was located west of the Giroux Wash fault. Thus, boring P33 was drilled near the eastern extent of the embankment (Figure 1), downgradient of tailings deposition.

Note, the Tailings impoundment is in the initial stage of filling, and tailings have not been distributed along the entire length of the embankment. Therefore, boring P33, drilled specifically to encounter volcanics, is located downgradient of the current eastern distal edge of tailings deposition (Figure 1).

Borings P31 and P32 were drilled downgradient of the central portion of tailings deposition, and thus are downgradient of thick tailings deposits. Horizontal seepage, if it occurs, will be controlled by the hydraulic head associated with area of thickest tailings deposition.

A drainage blanket and associated underdrainage system was installed on the embankment, and extends downgradient of the embankment to intercept potential seepage and increase stability. The Phase III borings were drilled 5 to 20 feet downgradient (south) of the existing drainage system boundary.

The Phase III borings were drilled over a two day progression, starting with P31, moving to P32 and finally P33. Boring P31 was left open for approximately 24 hours after drilling, while borings P32 and P33 were drilled. As well, boring P32 was left open for approximately 6 hours while P33 was drilled. Boring P33, the last boring drilled, was left open for approximately 3 hours prior to abandonment. The borings were checked periodically for water production, and remained dry until abandonment. Groundwater was not encountered in any Phase III boring, and the boreholes were abandoned by re-filling with a 50% mixture of bentonite and cuttings.

#### **4.2 Description of Borings**

The Phase III borings P31 and P32 encountered gravel-rich alluvium similar to WCC-G1 and WCC-G3. However, the alluvial matrix material observed in borings P31 and P32 was less-coarse than that recorded for the wells. Boring P33 encountered a thin veneer of alluvium, with underlying gradationally-weathered volcanic tuff. Boring logs for P31, P32 and P33 are provided in Appendix I, and summaries of drilling results are provided in the following sections.

##### **4.2.1. Boring P31**

Boring P31 was drilled east of the central Giroux Wash drainage (Figure 1). This boring encountered alluvium (gravel with variable silt and sand matrix) (See boring log in Appendix I). At a depth range between 40 and 48 feet, gravel content decreased, with silty sand dominating this interval. At 48 feet, gravels were re-encountered and remained consistent to 75 feet. The alluvial matrix changed with depth in P31: silt-rich from 0 to 30 feet; silty-sand to 50 feet; silt rich to 65 feet; silty-sand to sand from 65 to 75 feet. Saturated conditions were not encountered during drilling of P31, nor was a

notably permeable horizon encountered. Therefore, drilling was terminated at 75 feet in depth.

The sediments encountered in P31 appear capable of conducting horizontal seepage if such were to occur. However, the boring was dry throughout its depth. Boring P31 was left open for 24 hours after drilling. The boring was checked for water production several times during this period using a "popper" type depth sounder. No water was observed in the boring to a depth of 75 feet. Due to low cohesion of sands, the boring collapsed from the original depth of 75 feet up to approximately 60 feet below ground approximately 14 hours after drilling. No water was observed prior to abandonment of the borehole. The borehole was abandoned by refilling with a 50% mixture of cuttings and bentonite chips to seal the borehole and prevent infiltration through the disturbed material.

#### 4.2.2. Boring P32

Boring P32 was drilled west of the central Giroux Wash drainage (Figure 1). This boring encountered alluvium, similar to P31, but consisted overall of more fine-grained material. Alluvial gravels were encountered within specific horizons in boring P32, whereas P31 showed more continuous gravel layers. The alluvial strata in P32 varied with depth between 0 to 40 feet from silty-sand to sandy-clay, and also varied in gravel content and size. Within the depth range of approximately 40 to 60 feet, gravels were abundant. Gravel content diminished between 60 to 65 feet. Between 65 and 75 feet in depth, a clayey to silty sand was encountered, containing a minor amount of gravel, and in certain horizons common coarse sand layers. Saturated conditions were not encountered during drilling of P32, nor was a notably permeable horizon encountered. Therefore, the decision was made to stop drilling at 75 feet in depth.

Similar to P31, the sediments encountered in P32 also appear capable of conducting horizontal seepage if such were to occur. However, the boring was dry throughout its depth. Boring P32 was left open for 6 hours after drilling. The boring was checked for water production several times during this period. No water was observed in the boring. The borehole was abandoned by refilling with a 50% mixture of cuttings and bentonite chips to seal the borehole and prevent infiltration through the disturbed material.

#### 4.2.3. Boring P33

Boring P33 was drilled downgradient of the eastern section of the embankment in order to encounter volcanic material (Figure 1). This boring encountered a thin veneer of alluvium and then penetrated into gradationally weathered volcanic rock. This boring was clearly located east of the Giroux Wash fault which juxtaposes a thick alluvial sequence to the west against volcanics to the east.

The volcanic tuff penetrated by P33 graded with depth from saprolite through weathered rock, to auger refusal. Split spoon refusal prevented collection of volcanic saprolite and rock samples in P33; cuttings were observed during drilling. The saprolite and volcanic tuff were dry. As the volcanic tuff becomes less weathered with depth, the potential for conducting seepage is severely diminished.

The current eastern limit of tailings disposal does not extend far beyond the apparent location of the fault as evidenced by boring P32 encountering alluvium (west of the fault). Therefore, a limited depth of tailings exists on the eastern side of the fault, which overlies volcanics. This currently limits hydraulic head that drives potential vertical and horizontal seepage, and further diminishes the existing potential for seepage to be occurring from the impoundment through the volcanics.

Boring P33 was left open for 3 hours after drilling. The boring was checked for water production twice during this period. No water was observed in the boring. The borehole was abandoned by refilling with a 50% mixture of cuttings and bentonite chips to seal the borehole and prevent infiltration through the disturbed material.

#### **4.3 Field Analyses of pH and Specific Conductivity**

Field measurements of paste pH and specific conductivity (SC) were conducted on split spoon soil samples to identify pH and/or SC spikes from high ionic strength tailings seepage within a specific horizon. Measured pH and SC were fairly consistent within each boring, decreasing slightly with depth (Table 6). No pH or SC spikes were observed in any sampled horizon, strongly suggesting no horizontal tailings water seepage is occurring.

#### **4.4 Laboratory Analyses of Moisture Content & Grain Size Distribution**

Laboratory analyses of moisture content (Table 7) and grain size distribution (Table 8) were conducted on split spoon samples from borings P31 and P32. Samples selected for these analyses were representative of the major lithologies encountered with depth in each boring. Laboratory analyses were not conducted on P33 samples. Split spoon refusal in P33 prevented sample collection for laboratory analysis of moisture content. Boring P33 encountered gradationally weathered volcanic tuff, where drill cuttings do not represent grain size of the rock material.

Natural moisture content of the alluvium sampled in borings P31 and P32 were consistently low, ranging from 1.07% to 6.25% (Table 7). Average porosity measured in the subsurface alluvium is 25% (taken from site characterization work performed by WESTEC (1993) to support siting and design of the impoundment). These results indicate that the alluvium sampled in borings P31 and P32 is unsaturated, thus indicating no evidence of seepage from the impoundment.

Grain size distribution in samples collected from borings P31 and P32 indicate that overall, the alluvial sequence penetrated by these borings is comprised predominantly of sand, with minor gravel, and common to minor silt/clay. This data is supported by field observations of split spoon samples collected from each boring. Alluvium encountered by boring P31 is a fining upward sequence (Figure 7). Note for P31 that a higher weight percentage of the material is retained by the coarser sieves as samples increase in depth. Boring P32 encountered a fining-downward sequence (Figure 8), where a greater percentage of coarse-grained material was retained at shallower depths.

Grain size distribution indicates that boring P31 is generally more coarse-grained than P32, which is supported by field observations. Comparing Figure 7 and Figure 8 (boring P31 and P32, respectively), a higher percentage of fine-grained sediments (e.g. 200 mesh) comprises the samples from P32 (20% to 50%), than for P31 (2% to 12%). Coarse to fine sand comprises the majority of alluvial samples collected from borings P31 and P32, with varying amounts of gravel, silt and clay. These data suggest that the alluvial sequence underlying the embankment is relatively permeable. Therefore, if horizontal seepage was occurring from the impoundment, the

borings P31 and P32 encountering conductive sediments would have intercepted tailings water. However, the borings were dry, as discussed above, and there appears to be no seepage occurring from the impoundment.

#### **4.5 Conclusions: Phase III TDS Mobility Testing**

Phase III borings P31, P32 and P33 provided a detailed sampling and analysis of the subsurface alluvium underlying the downgradient edge of the impoundment. Textural observations of the subsurface horizons encountered in these borings were compared to boring logs prepared for monitoring wells WCC-G1 and WCC-G3 (referenced previously for determining drilling depth).

The alluvial system underlying the impoundment shows extensive variability in material texture, color, and grain size distribution (characteristic of alluvial systems). Each of the three borings drilled for the Phase III TDS mobility testing (P31, P32 and P33) differed from each other, and each differed from WCC-G1 and WCC-G3. Figure 9 is a schematic block diagram of the impoundment and downgradient area, illustrating the Phase III borings, monitoring wells, and alluvial system sedimentology. Subsurface horizons that appear more permeable than adjacent horizons within each boring (based upon visual characteristics) are shown in green. There does not appear to be overall continuity of the apparent, relatively permeable zones (Figure 9). As well, no continuous fine-grained aquitard horizon was encountered in the Phase III borings, which would lead to horizontally directed seepage through the native alluvium.

Unsaturated conditions were encountered in the Phase III borings (based on visual observation, and moisture content results in Table 7). While grain size distribution varied considerably with depth and between borings (Table 8), no notably coarse grained horizons were encountered that would provide a direct preferential flow path for seepage. Measured pH and specific conductivity did not indicate the presence of tailings solution in the sediment horizons sampled. Therefore, the Phase III TDS Mobility Testing program indicates that horizontal seepage is not occurring beyond the embankment of the Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

Current tailings disposal in the Giroux Wash Impoundment primarily overlies alluvium, with a limited extent of tailings disposal along the eastern section of the embankment overlying volcanics. The alluvial sediments underlying the impoundment consist of fluvial and colluvial deposits, with stratified (and probably lenticular) sediment sequences that vary in grain size distribution.

TDS Mobility testing indicated that vertical seepage of tailings water is currently limited to less than five feet below the tailings/native material interface during the first year of operation, with solute transport limited to less than three feet below the interface at present. The Phase III testing program indicated that horizontal seepage is not occurring downgradient of the embankment. Therefore, the Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment currently provides sufficient and substantial retention of tailings solution. The conclusions from the TDS mobility study, and routine groundwater monitoring downgradient of the embankment indicate that waters of the State are not being impacted by the impoundment.

# Tables

**Table 1. Phase I TDS Mobility Investigation.**  
**Field Analyses of Phase pH and TDS**

<b>Vertical Depth Below Tailings (feet)</b>	<b>pH</b>	<b>TDS (mg/L)</b>
2	9.66	444
6	8.97	527
8	8.88	541
10	9.05	713
12	9.07	444
14	8.85	1162
16	8.56	538
21	8.64	147

**Table 2.** Specific Conductivity Profiles of Background Samples  
(depth units in feet, specific conductivity units in  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}^2$ )

Depth	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5
0-2	175	107	---	---	70
2-4	194	89	283	68	---
4-6	710	105	252	74	220
6-8	749	131	206	---	---
8-10	1850	120	262	66	90
10-12	1910	120	270	---	---
12-14	867	116	255	95	---
14-16	---	---	271	99	66
16-18	523	---	261	---	---
18-20	600	---	264	95	62
20-22	---	---	221	---	---
22-24	---	---	244	---	---

↑  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

**Table 3. Background Soil Chemistry\***

\*composited from 6 background soil analyses not including the conductivity spike in B-1  
(units are mg/kg)

<u>Analyte</u>	<u>Concentration</u>
chloride	<10
sulfate	307
aluminum	6,960
calcium	78,080
copper	8
iron	7,746
magnesium	2,486
manganese	245
molybdenum	<1.8
potassium	1,507
silver	1.3
sodium	242
zinc	36

**Table 4.** Interstitial Water Chemistry of Tailings  
(units are mg/L and standard units for pH)

Analyte	TB-3 (0-ft.)	TB-3 (5-ft.)	TB-1 (7-ft.)
pH	7.51	6.65	6.31
TDS	3040	2940	2550
alkalinity	65	46	93
calcium	674	670	443
chloride	36	47	41
fluoride	1.2	1.5	<0.1
potassium	18	28	<0.76
magnesium	45	36	87
sodium	36	42	40
nitrate	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
sulfate	2100	1970	1465
silver	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003
aluminum	0.055	0.11	<0.021
arsenic	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
barium	0.013	0.03	0.11
cadmium	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002
chromium	0.006	<0.005	<0.005
copper	0.003	0.005	<0.003
iron	<0.024	<0.024	<0.024
mercury	<0.0004	<0.0004	<0.0004
manganese	0.55	0.44	0.37
nickel	<0.017	<0.017	<0.017
lead	0.003	0.015	0.004
selenium	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003
thallium	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
zinc	0.016	0.021	0.012

**Table 5.** Gravimetric Water Contents of Impoundment Samples  
 (Depth = vertical depth below surface of tailings, depth units are feet, WC  
 = gravimetric water content, tailings interface underlined)

TB-1		TB-2		TB-3	
Depth	WC	Depth	WC	Depth	WC
5	0.13	<u>9</u>	<u>0.08</u>	0	0.15
7	0.15	14	0.09	2	0.13
<u>9</u>	<u>0.16</u>	17	0.09	5	0.13
13	0.15	21	0.11	7	0.09
15	0.15	28	0.11	9	0.05
21	0.11	36	0.12	<u>11</u>	<u>0.19</u>
25	0.08			14	0.14
28	0.06			17	0.13
				19	0.09

**Table 6**  
**BHP - Robinson Operations. Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment.**  
**Phase III TDS Mobility Drilling**  
**Paste pH and Specific Conductivity (SC) Results**

Date Drilled: May 21-22, 1997				Driller: Webber Environmental Project Manager: Bill Newcomb		
	P31		P32		P33	
Depth (ft)	pH	SC (umhos/cm)	pH	SC (umhos/cm)	pH	SC (umhos/cm)
5	NM	NM	NM	NM	8.83	250
10	8.6	433	8.3	385	8.15	256
15	8.6	463	8.3	230	8.56	227
20	8.3	481	8.4	180	8.92	242
25	8.2	441	8.1	383	8.75	250
30	8.2	394	7.3	390	Auger Refusal	
35	8.1	387	7.9	223		
40	8.1	381	7.9	222		
45	7.9	368	7.9	234		
50	8.1	369	8.0	215		
55	8.1	366	7.9	214		
60	7.9	363	7.9	219		
65	7.8	390	8.1	218		
70	8.1	362	8.0	211		
75	8.2	386	7.9	211		
Boring Terminated						

<b>Table 7: Phase III TDS Mobility Testing. Moisture Content Results</b>		
<b>Boring</b>	<b>Depth (feet)</b>	<b>% Moisture Content</b>
P31	20	1.35
P31	35	1.07
P31	45	2.84
P31	60	3.15
P31	65	2.05
P31	70	2.05
P32	15	3.3
P32	30	6.25
P32	45	2.21
P32	60	4.37
P32	70	5.73
P32	75	2.97

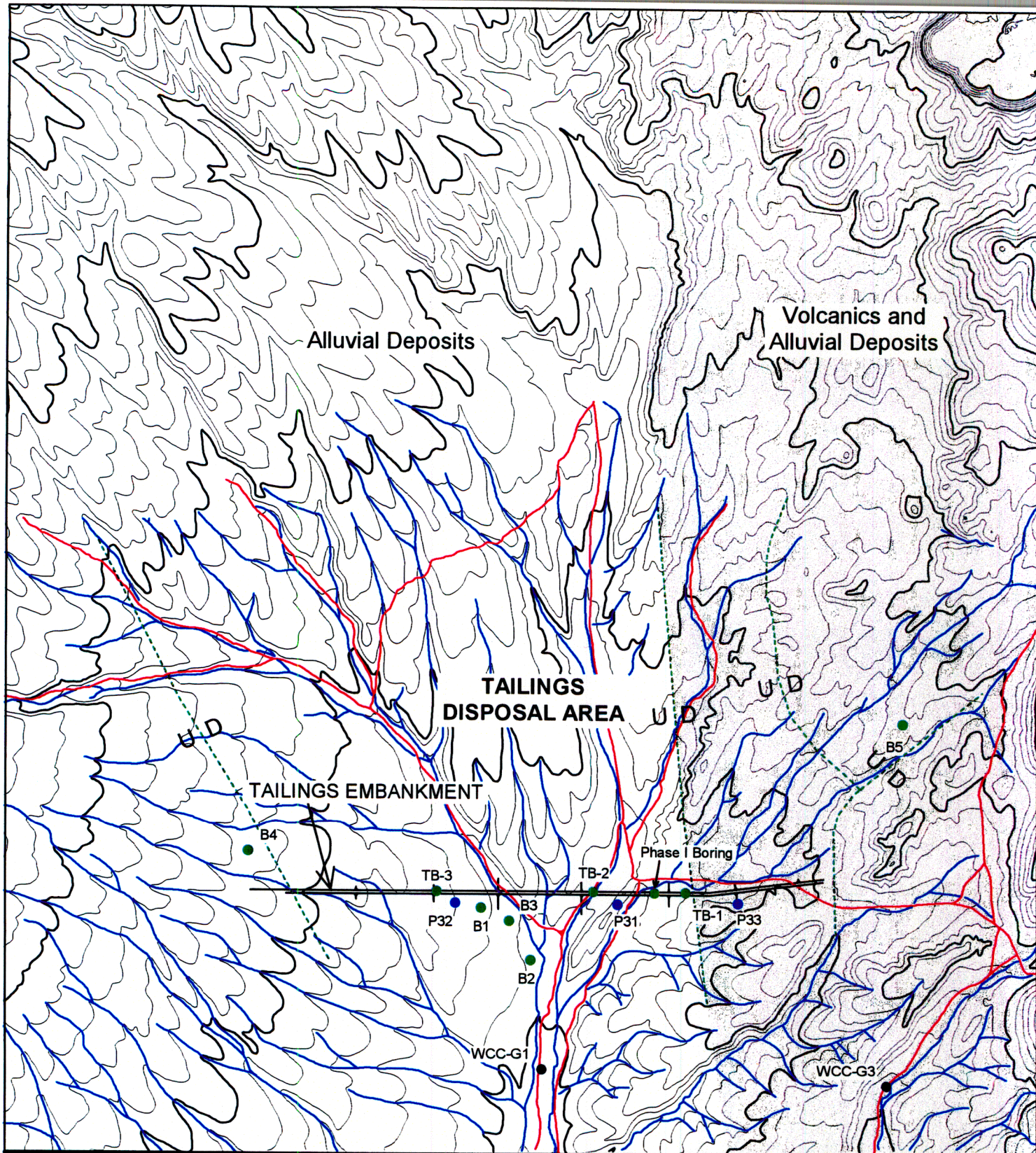
Table 3

P31	Boring	Depth (feet)	Gravel	Sand						Silt or Clay	Silt or Clay
				Coarse	Coarse- Med.	Medium	Med.-Fine	Fine			
								10 mesh 1.688 mm	100 mesh 0.150 mm		
P31	P31	20	4.9	8.5	26.0	34.9	8.5	6.7	NM	NM	
	P31	35	13.5	12.4	10.9	37.1	10.7	7.0	NM	NM	
	P31	45	14.2	19.3	15.8	23.5	8.3	9.9	NM	NM	
	P31	60	11.0	8.1	11.2	43.1	19.9	3.2	NM	NM	
	P31	65	47.6	16.7	11.2	5.4	4.6	4.3	NM	NM	
	P31	70	22.8	18.8	12.7	25.1	8.0	5.6	NM	NM	

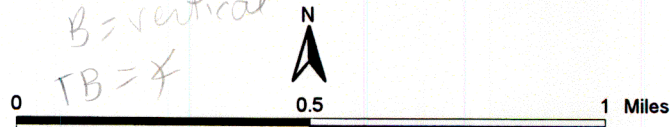
Table 8 - Continued.

Table 8 - Continued.												
P32	Boring	Depth (feet)	Gravel		Sand						Silt or Clay	
					Sand							
					Coarse		Med.	Med.-Fine		Fine		
					10 mesh	20 mesh		65 mesh	100 mesh			
			1/4"		1.688 mm	0.841 mm	0.297 mm	0.210 mm	0.150 mm			
P32		15	29.1		25	9.7	4.1	1.1	1.2	3.7	26.2	
P32		30	15.5		11.2	5.6	5.2	1.2	3.7	14.5	43.1	
P32		45	23.7		18.9	11.1	13.2	5.3	2.4	5.8	19.6	
P32		60	17.1		15.6	7	10	4.8	6.4	8.1	31.1	
P32		70	26.9		12.3	7.1	9.1	5.2	4.2	4.7	30.4	
P32		75	6.6		7.1	6.3	10.2	4.5	5.3	8.3	51.8	

# Figures



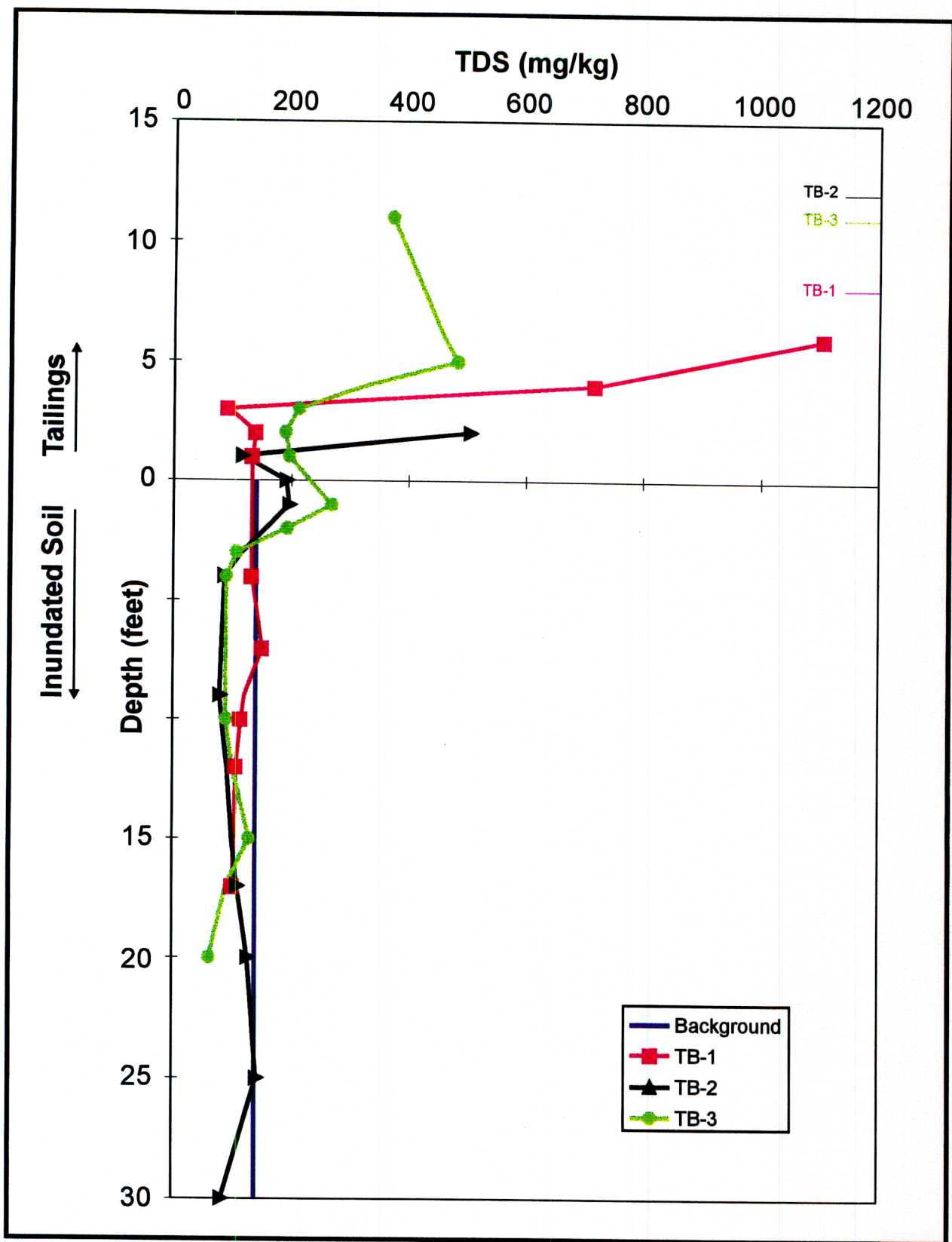
- Phase I/Phase II Borings
- Phase III Borings
- Monitoring Wells
- Volcanics
- Projected Faults
- Road
- Drainage
- Contour: 100 ft. Interval
- Contour: 20 ft. Interval



Generation  
Date:  
6/13/97

Figure 1.  
Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment Boring Locations.

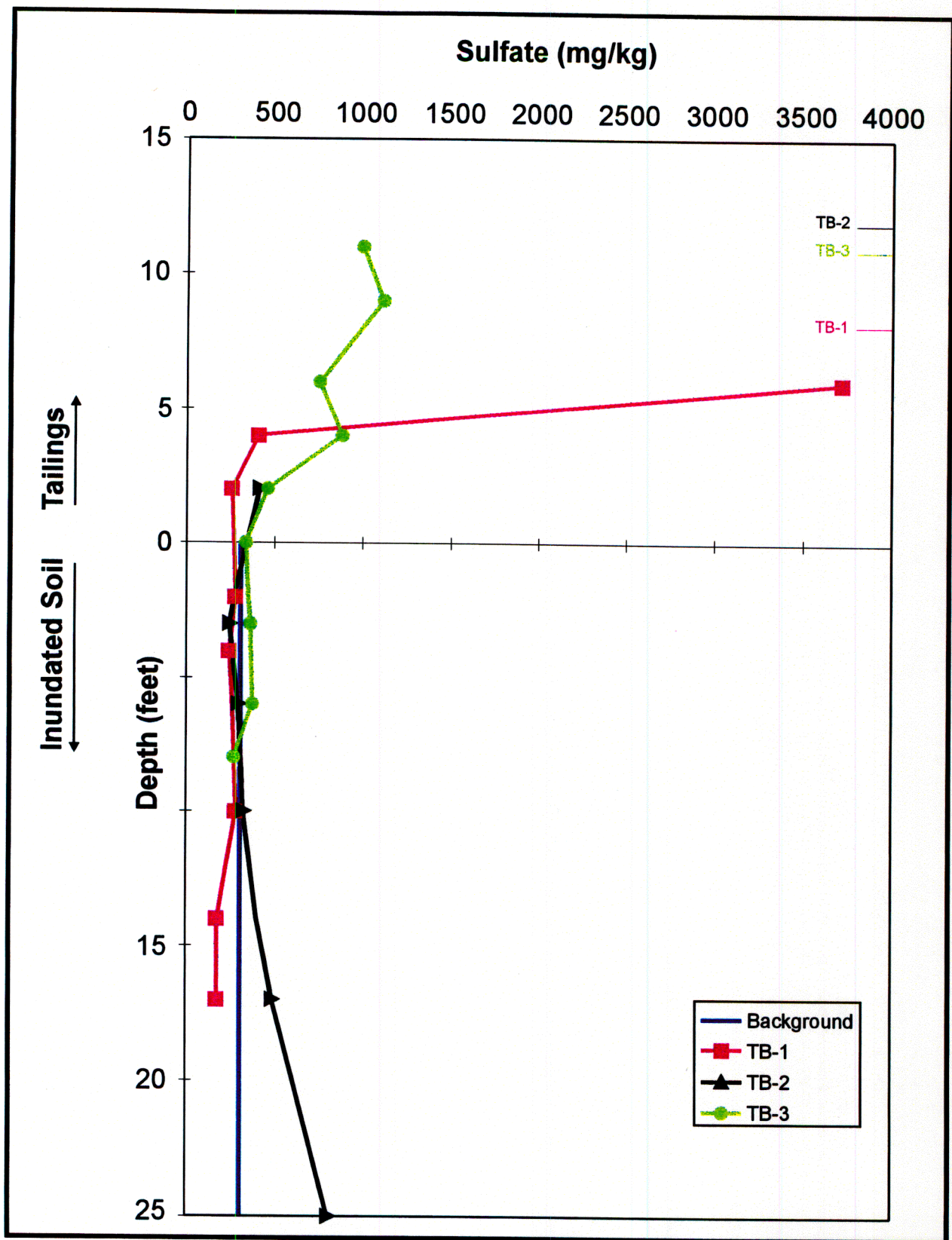




Generation  
Date:  
1/31/97

Figure 2. Giroux Wash TDS vs. Depth  
through Tailings and Pre-Inundation Surface.

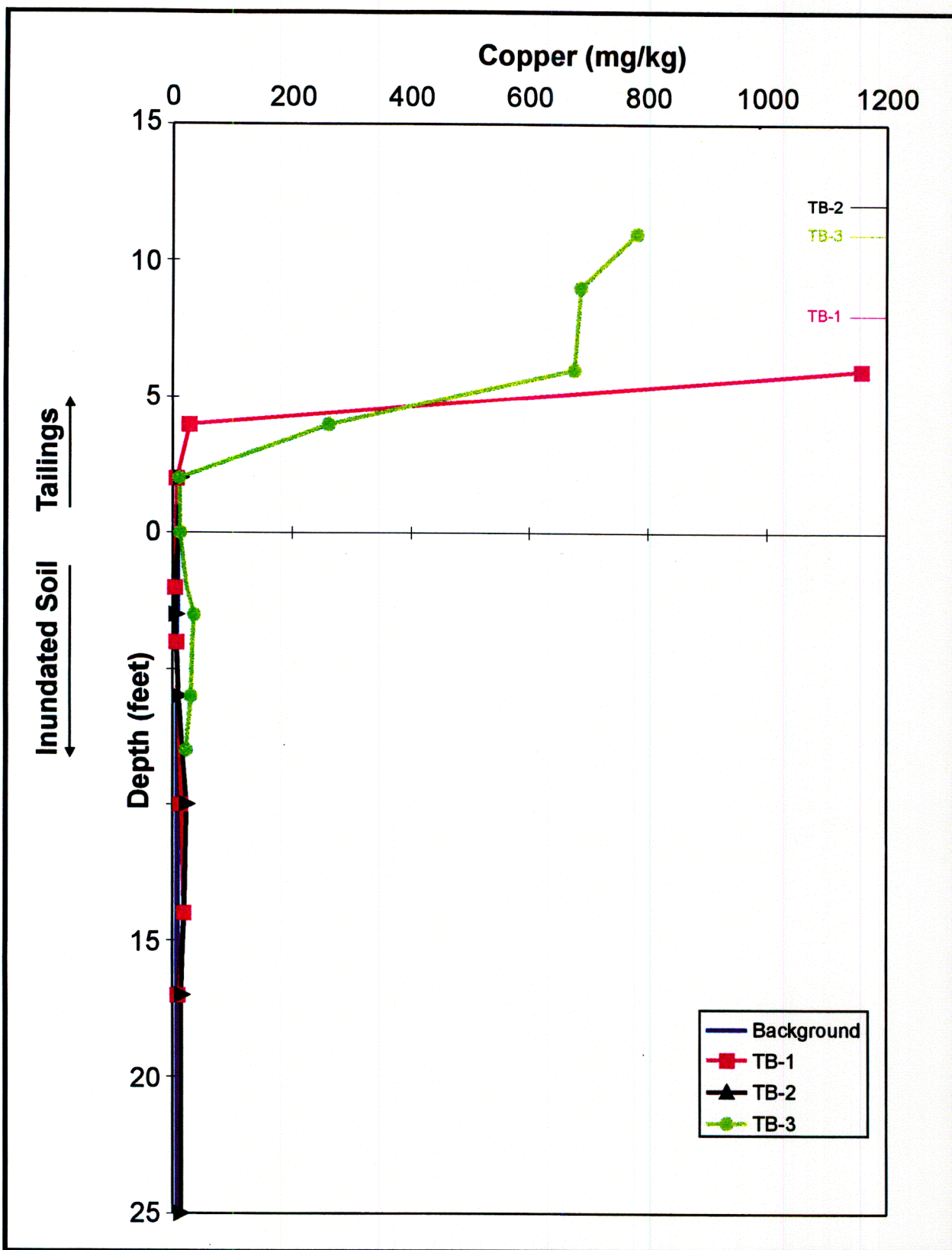




Generation  
Date:  
1/31/97

Figure 3. Giroux Wash Sulfate vs. Depth  
through Tailings and Pre-Inundation Surface.

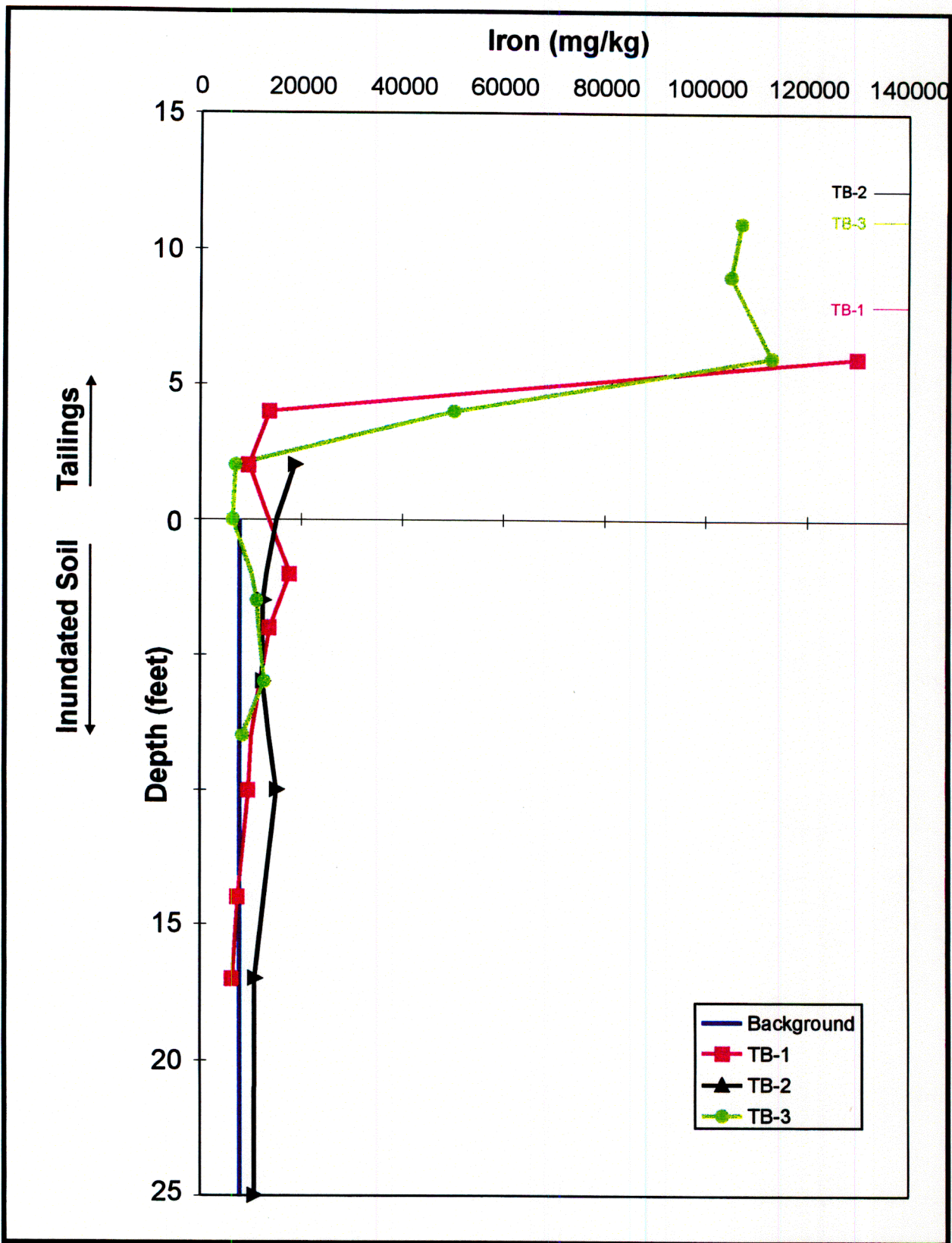




Generation  
Date:  
1/31/97

Figure 4. Giroux Wash Copper vs. Depth  
through Tailings and Pre-Inundation Surface.

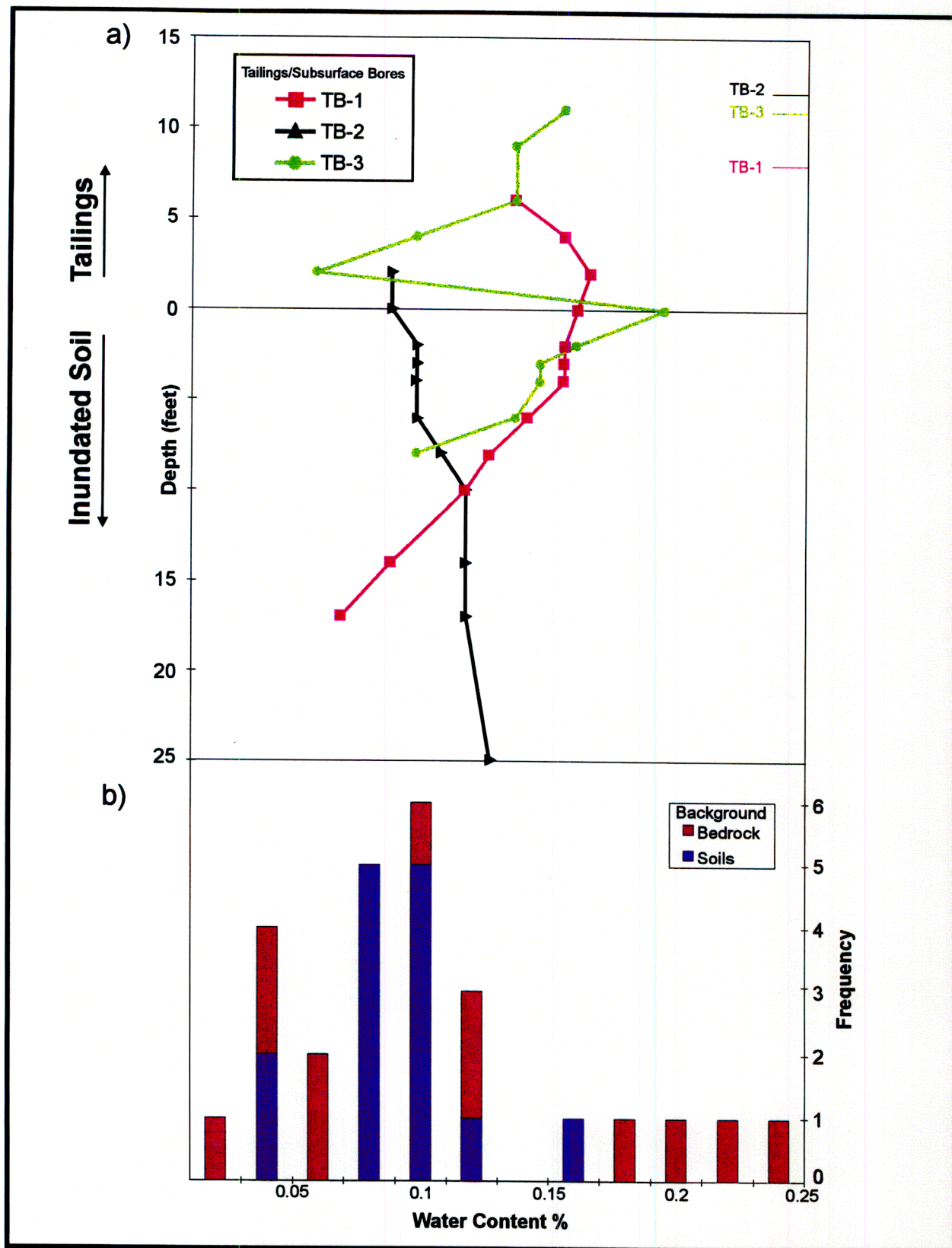




Generation  
Date:  
1/31/97

Figure 5. Giroux Wash Iron vs. Depth  
through Tailings and Pre-Inundation Surface.





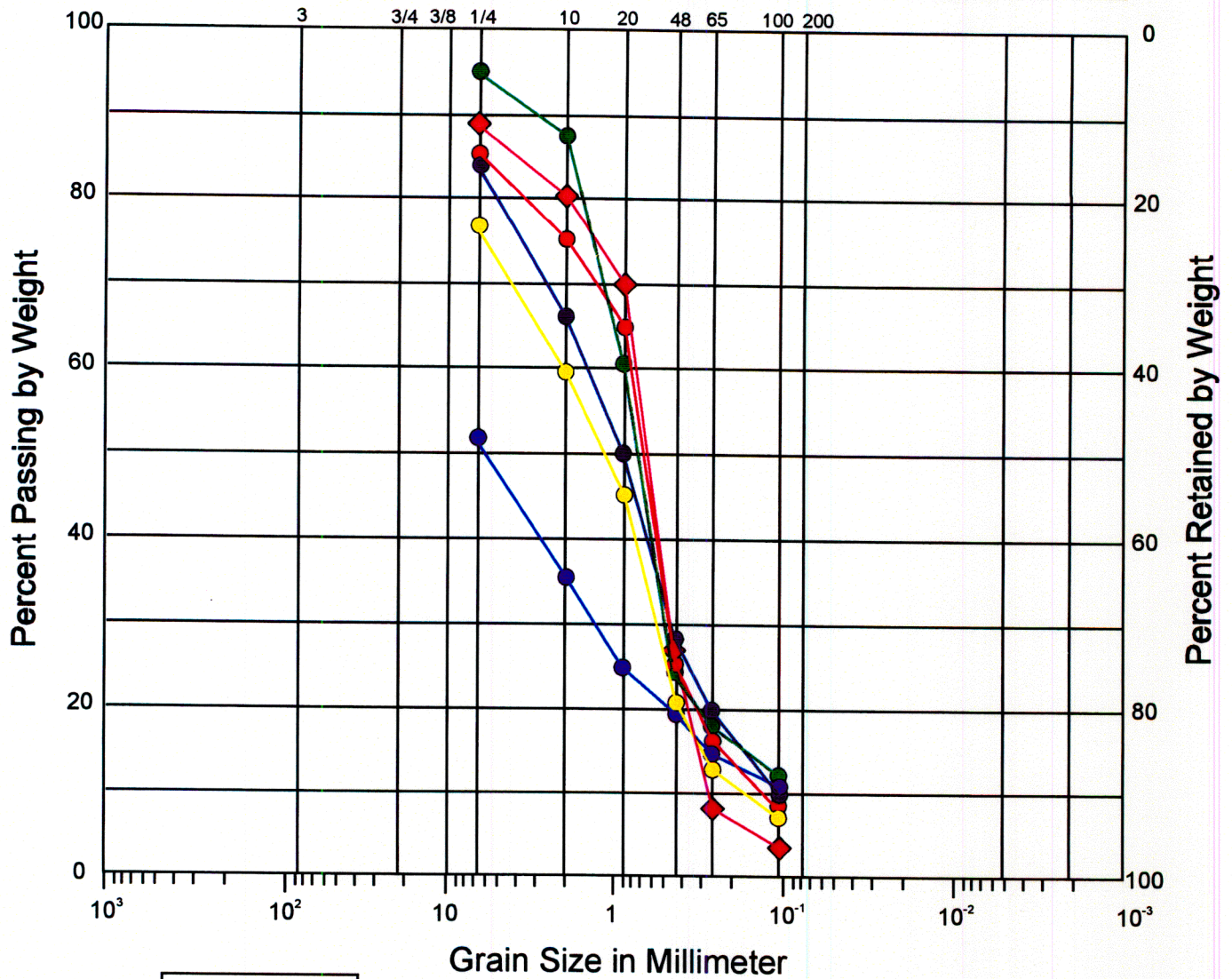
Generation  
Date:  
1/31/97

Figure 6: a) Giroux Wash Water Content vs. Depth through Tailings and Pre-Inundation Surface. b) Background Soil and Bedrock Moisture Contents.



# Unified Soil Classification

Cobbles	Gravel		Sand			Silt or Clay
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	
U.S. Sieve Size in Inches			U.S. Standard Sieve No.			Hydrometer



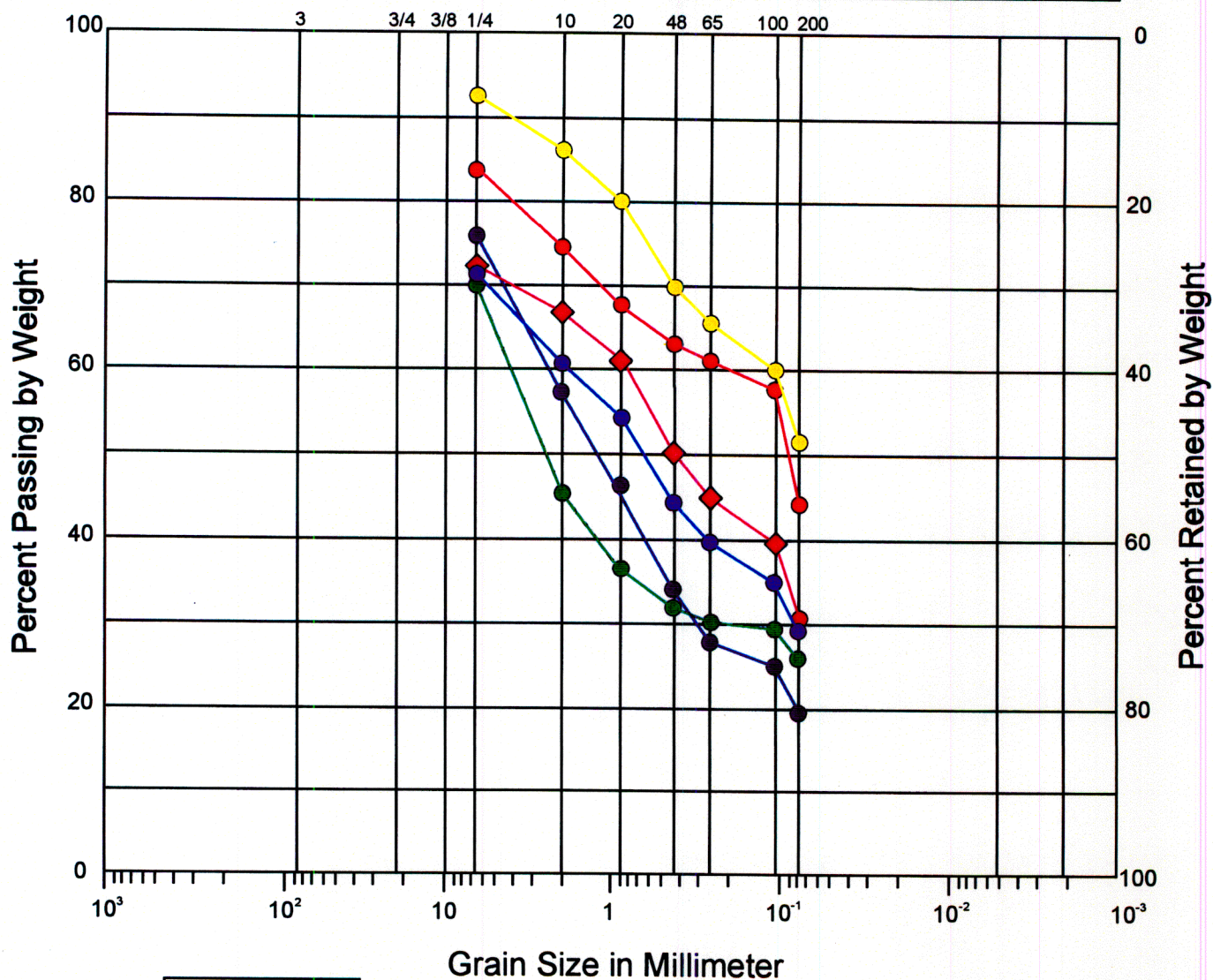
Generation  
Date:  
6/11/97

Figure 7. Grain Size Distribution of P31.



# Unified Soil Classification

Cobbles	Gravel		Sand			Silt or Clay
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	
U.S. Sieve Size in Inches			U.S. Standard Sieve No.			Hydrometer



Generation










Date:

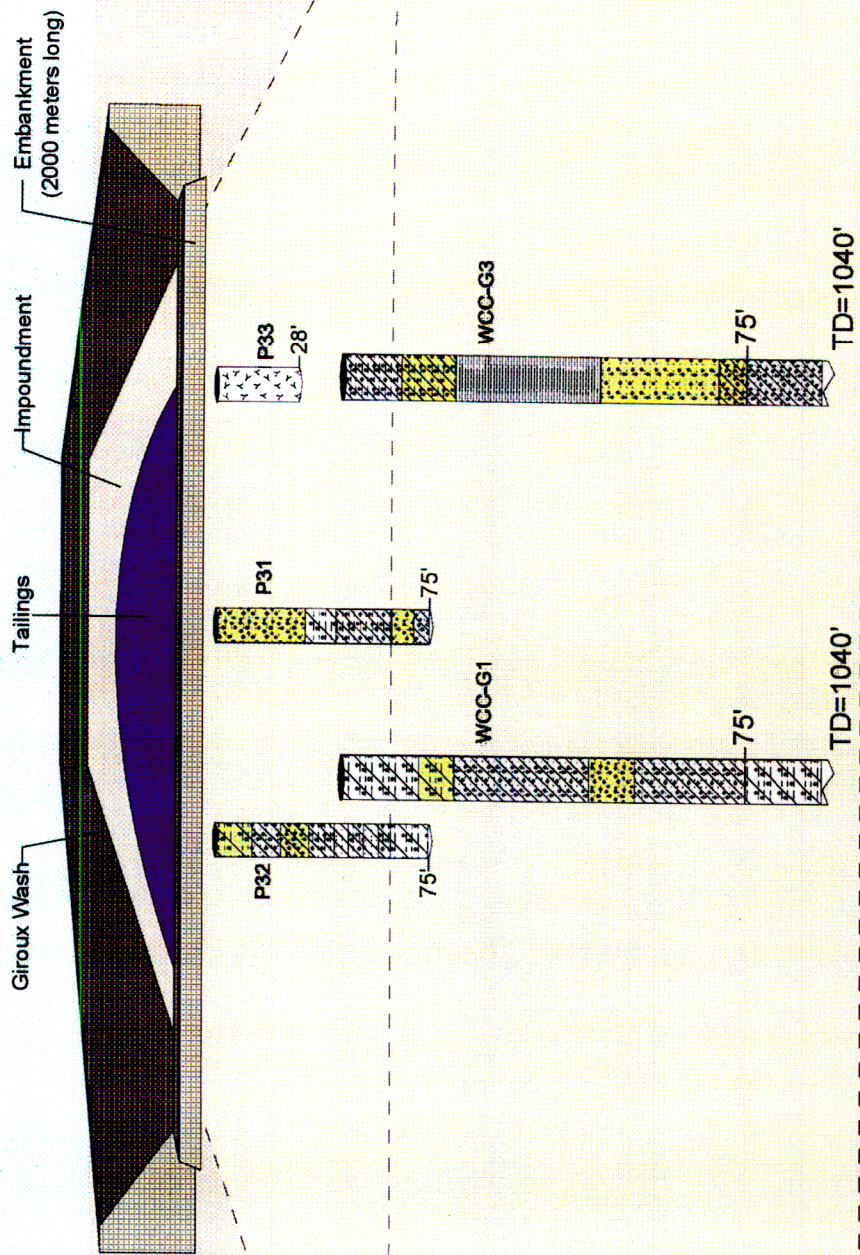
6/11/97

Figure 8. Grain Size Distribution of P32.



# LEGEND

-  silty to clayey fine sand with trace fine to coarse sand & gravel
-  silty fine to very coarse sand with some gravel
-  silty fine to medium sand with trace coarse sand & gravel
-  clayey silt to silty clay with trace fine sand & gravel
-  fine to medium silty sand with coarse sand & gravel
-  silty clay with fine to medium sand & some gravel
-  fine to medium sand with some clay & small gravel
-  silty clayey fine to medium sand with some gravel slightly cemented
-  relatively permeable sediments (based on texture)



Generation  
Date:  
6/6/97

Figure 9. Selected Cross-Section of Giroux Wash Tailings Impoundment (View to North). Relatively Permeable Zones (Based on Texture) are Colored Green. Drawing Not to Scale.

# APPENDIX I

## Boring Logs

WCC-G1, WCC-G3, P31, P332 and P33

Woodward-Clyde Consultants PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON HOLE NO. WCC-G1

BORING LOCATION <u>T.15N, R.61E, S.25 COORD. N88.426.5, E87.635.3</u>		ELEVATION AND DATUM <u>GROUND=8392.87'</u>	
DRILLING AGENCY <u>LANG EXPLORATORY DRILLING</u>	DRILLER <u>BRYON/MARK/BENJIE</u>	DATE STARTED/DATE FINISHED <u>06-23-91 TO 06-26-91</u>	
DRILLING EQUIPMENT <u>DRILLTECH DH-1</u>	COMPLETION DEPTH <u>1040'</u>	SAMPLER <u>UNDISTURBED</u>	
DRILLING METHOD <u>REVERSE CIRCULATION AIR ROTARY</u>	DRILL BIT <u>6 1/8" TRI-CONE</u>	NO. OF SAMPLES	DIST. <u>850'</u>
SIZE AND TYPE OF CASING <u>2" STEEL</u>	WATER ELEV. <u>850'</u>	COMPL. <u>770'</u>	24 HRS. <u>768'</u>
TYPE OF PERFORATION <u>0.020 STAINLESS STEEL WIRE-WRAP</u>	FROM <u>982</u> TO <u>1002</u> FT	CHECKED BY <u>SWR/SFR</u>	
SIZE AND TYPE OF PACK <u>#6-12 VALLEY GRAVEL</u>	FROM <u>813</u> TO <u>1027</u> FT	P. BROOKS/D. ROYBAL	
TYPE OF SEAL <u>BENTONITE</u>	FROM <u>785</u> TO <u>813</u> FT		

DEPTH (FEET)	DESCRIPTION	GRAPHIC LOG					SAMPLES	REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid loss, etc.)
		LITHOLOGY	Plasma-sensor Installation	Water Content	Plasma-sensor Data	Type of Sample		
0	DRY, LIGHT BROWN SILTY TO CLAYEY, VERY FINE SAND WITH TRACE FINE TO COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIAMETER (SM/SC)							
10								
20	MOIST, LIGHT BROWN SILTY FINE TO VERY COARSE SAND WITH SOME SANDSTONE, LIMESTONE AND WELDED TUFF GRAVELS TO 20mm (SM)							GRAVELS ARE SUBROUNDED TO SUBANGULAR
30								
40	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIA. (SM)							HARDER DRILLING @ 42 FEET
50	MOIST, LIGHT-GRAY FINE TO VERY COARSE SAND WITH SOME GRAVEL TO 25mm DIA. (SP)							GRAVEL INCLUDES: LIMESTONE, CHERT, WELDED TUFF, AND SANDSTONE (RARE)
60	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY FINE SAND WITH TRACE COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIAMETER (SM)							-DRILLING EASIER
70	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE SAND AND GRAVELS TO 20mm DIAMETER (SM)							SOME DIFFICULTY PULLING THE ROD-HOLE CAVING IN
80								
90								
100								
110	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO VERY COARSE SAND WITH SOME GRAVELS TO 20mm DIA. (SP)							
120	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIA. (SM)							
130	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO VERY COARSE SAND WITH SOME GRAVELS TO 20mm DIAMETER (SP)							
140								

GRAB AND CHIP SAMPLE @ 10 FT. INTERVALS

PROJECT NO. 9053348N-T3100

SHEET 1 OF 7

Woodward-Clyde Consultants

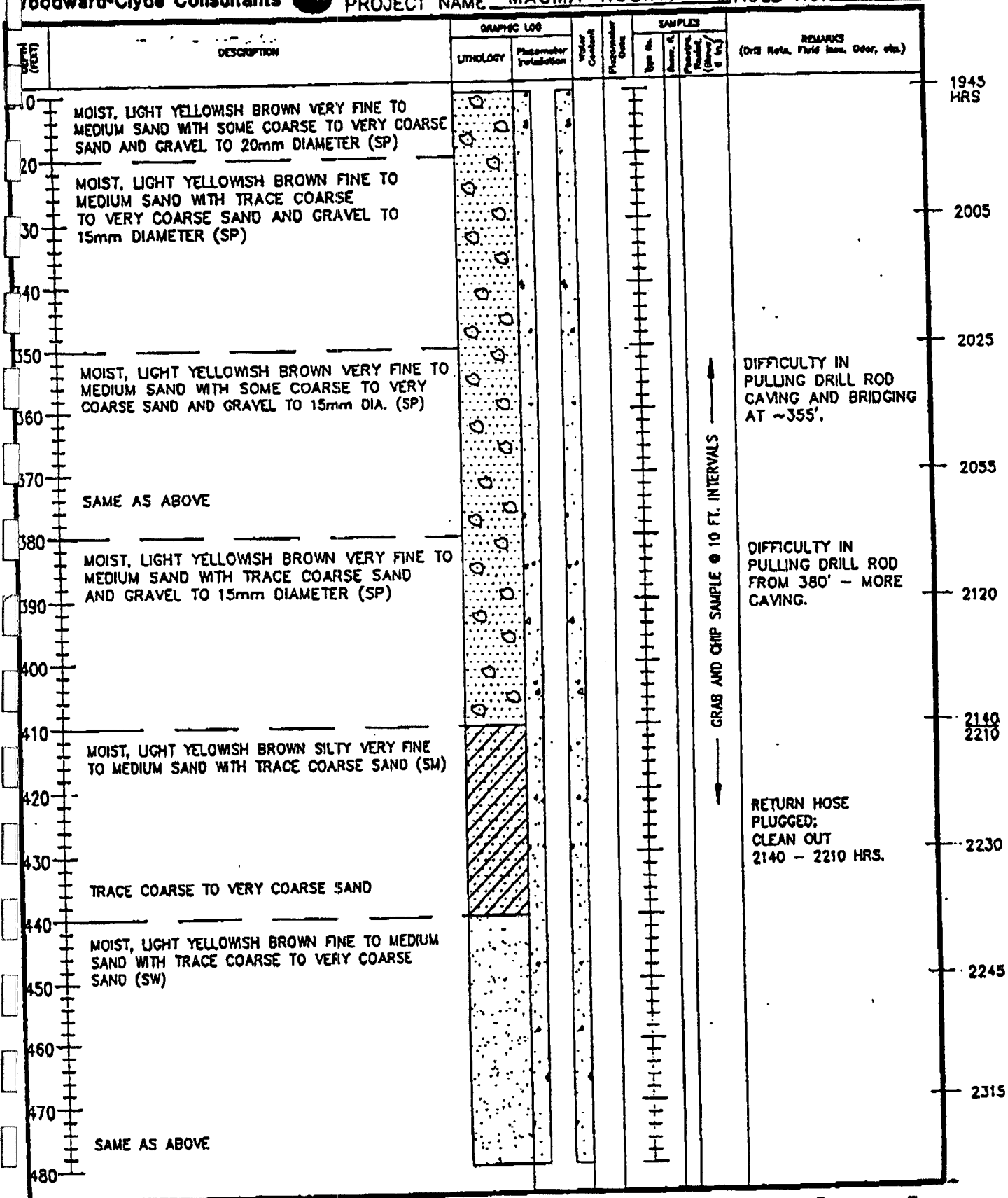
PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON

HOLE NO. WCC-G1

DEPTH (FEET)	DESCRIPTION	GRAPHIC LOG		Grain Content	Plasticity Index	SAMPLES				REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid loss, Q-log, etc.)	
		LITHOLOGY	Permeability Indication			Type	Grain Size	Number Retained (Grain Size)	Grain Size		
140	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIAMETER (SM)									GRAVELS INCLUDE: LIMESTONE, CHERT, WELDED TUFF, AND SANDSTONE (RARE) SUBROUNDED TO SUBANGULAR	1620 HRS.
150											
160	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN VERY FINE TO COARSE SAND WITH SOME GRAVELS TO 20mm DIAMETER (SP)										1640
170											
180	SAME AS ABOVE										1705
190											
200	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN VERY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 15mm DIAMETER (SP)										1730
210											
220	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN VERY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIAMETER (SP)									INCREASE IN GRAVEL CONTENT AT 214 FT.	1755
230											
240	SAME AS ABOVE										1820
250											
260	SAME AS ABOVE										1845
270											
280	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN VERY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND TRACE GRAVEL TO 15mm DIAMETER (SP)									PARTIAL LOSS OF CIRCULATION	1905
290											
300	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN VERY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIAMETER (SP)										1925
310											

PROJECT NO. 9053348N-T3100

SHEET 2 OF 7



DEPTH (FEET)	DESCRIPTION	GRAPHIC LOG		LITHOLOGY	Penetration Resistance	Moisture Content	Porewater Pressure	SAMPLES				REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid loss, etc.)
		LITHOLOGY	Penetration Resistance					Type	Size	Number	Depth (Feet)	
480	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND (SW)											
490	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE TO SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL (SP)											
500	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND (SW)											
510												
520	MOIST, LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH TRACE TO SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND GRAVELS TO 15mm DIA. (SP)											
530												
540	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN FINE TO MEDIUM SILTY SAND WITH SOME SMALL GRAVEL AND COARSE SAND. SLIGHTLY CEMENTED TO CEMENTED (SM)											
550												
560	SAME AS ABOVE											
570	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN FINE TO MEDIUM SILTY SAND WITH SOME COARSE SAND AND SMALL GRAVEL SLIGHTLY CEMENTED TO CEMENTED (MOIST TO DAMP) (SM)											
580												
590	GRAVELLY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND (SP)											
600	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN SILTY FINE TO MEDIUM SAND WITH SOME COARSE TO VERY COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL TO 20mm DIA. SLIGHTLY CEMENTED TO CEMENTED (SM)											
610												
620												
630												
640	LIGHT BROWN GRAVELLY FINE TO VERY COARSE SAND WITH SOME SILT (SP)											
650												

GRAB AND CHIP SAMPLE @ 10 FT. INTERVALS

NOTE: BRIDGED OFF TRIP OUT @ 0040 HRS. BOTTOM OF BRIDGE @ 360'.  
0100 HRS. WORKING ON RIG. HYD. VALVE. & CHANGING HYD. PUMP COMPLETE REPAIRS @ 0520 HRS.  
DRILL PIPE BACK AT BOTTOM @ 0730 HRS.

570' - SWITCHED TO WATER TO KEEP HOLE CLEAN.  
HOLE BRIDGED OFF AT 570' - 0840 HRS.

1130 HRS. - BACK IN HOLE

GRAVEL INCLUDES: SANDSTONE, CHERT, LIMESTONE, WELDED TUFF, QUARTZITE, & SHALE.

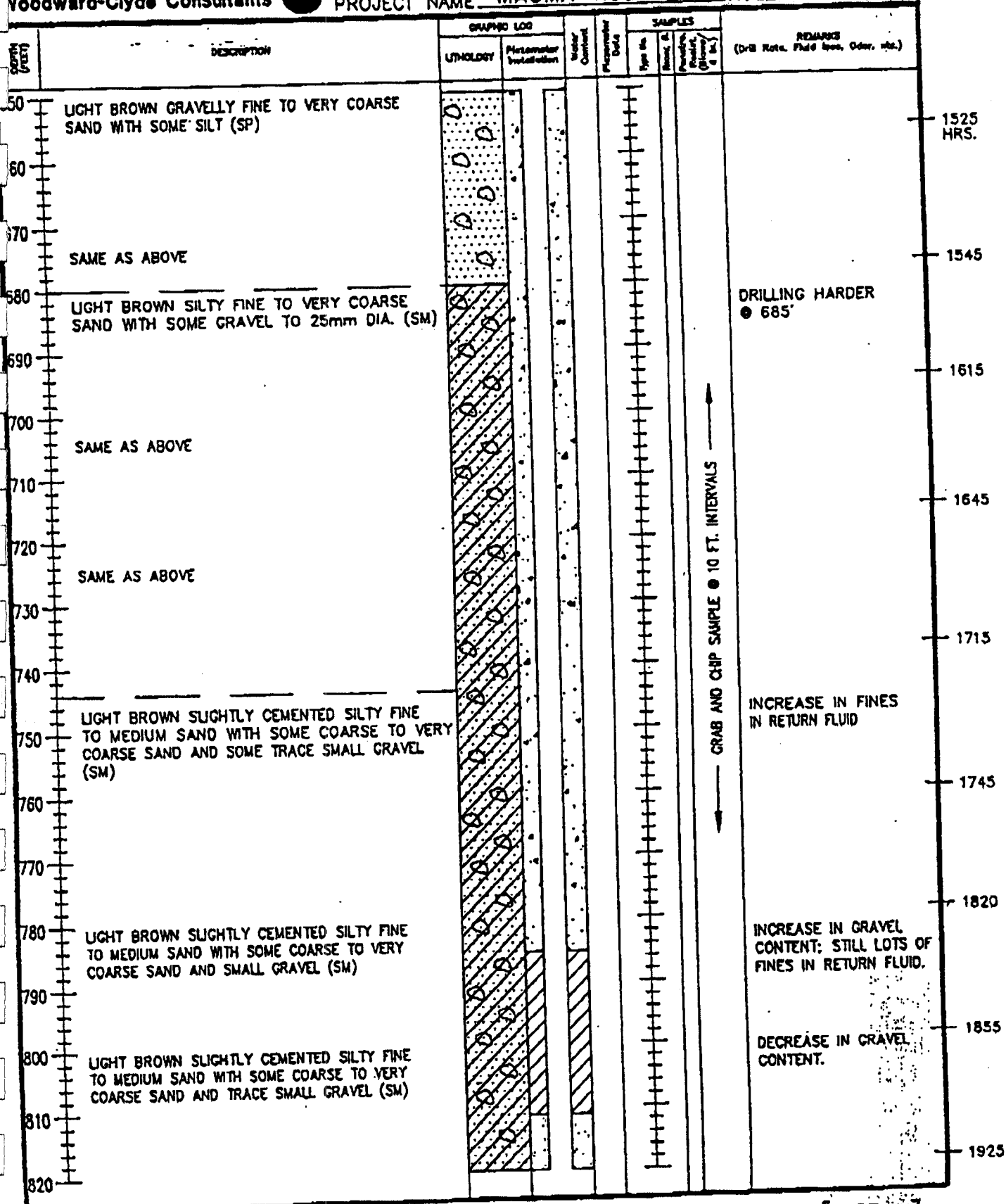
1320' - 1340 REPAIR RETURN HOSE CONNECTION

QUARTZITE GRAVEL HAS TRACE PYRITE; SIMILAR TO THAT ENCOUNTERED IN WCC-6M

Woodward-Clyde Consultants

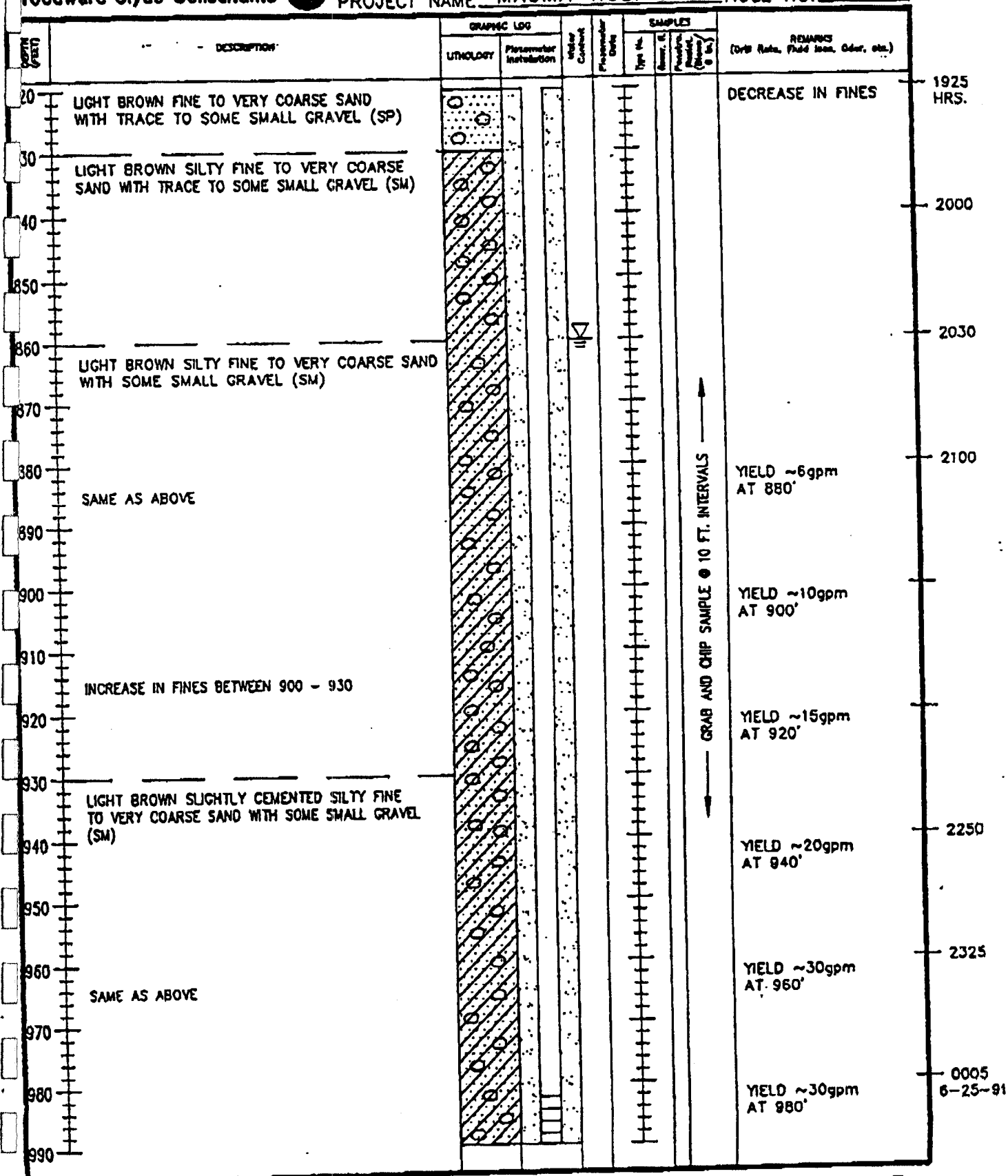
PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON

HOLE NO. WCC-G1



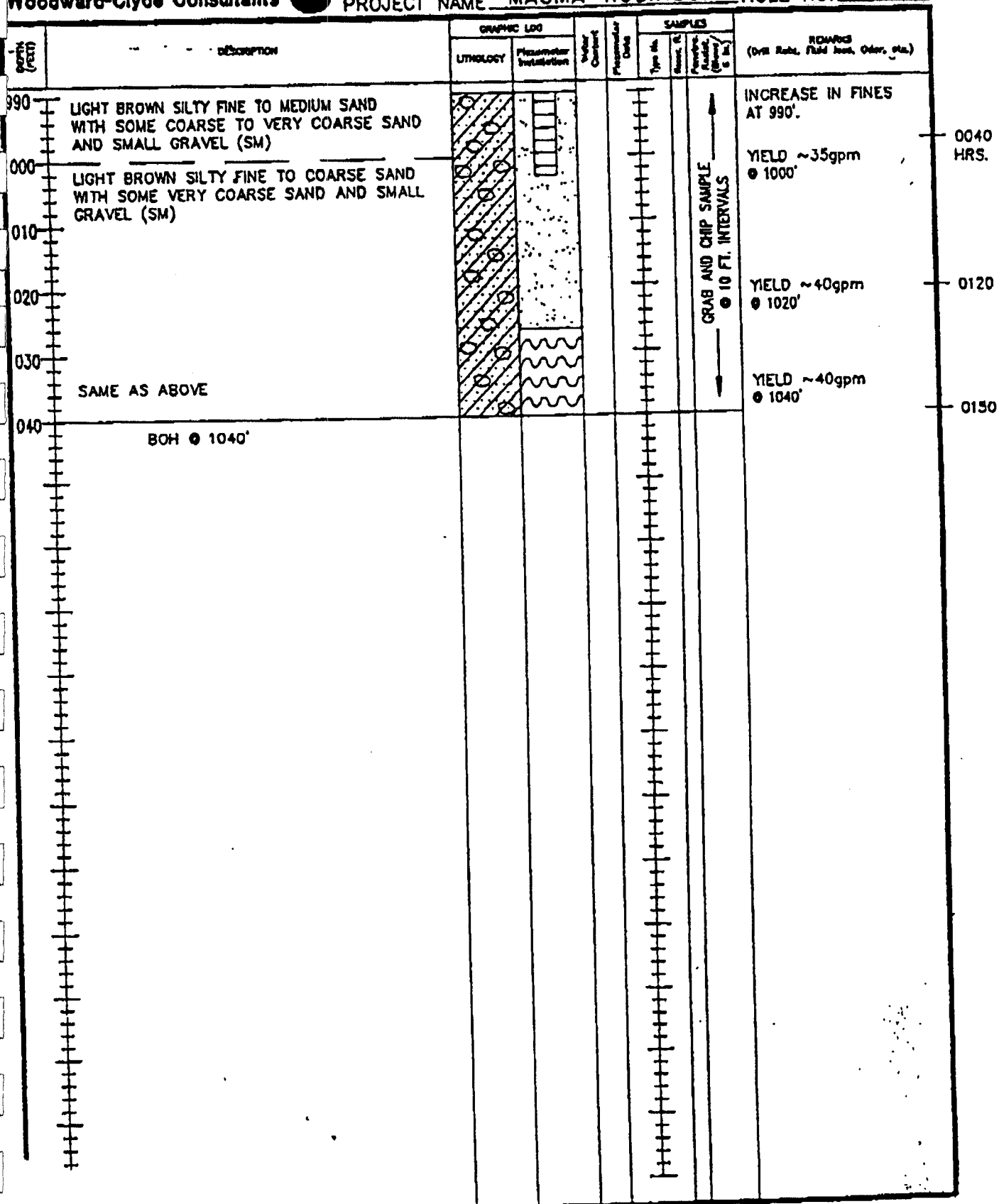
PROJECT NO. 9053348N-T3100

SHEET 5 OF 7



Woodward-Clyde Consultants

PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON HOLE NO. WCC-G1





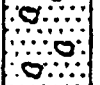





9053348N-T3100

SHEET 7 OF 7

Woodward-Clyde Consultants  PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON HOLE NO. WCC-G3

HOLE LOCATION T16N. R82E, S30 COORD. N 88.231.4 E 92.058.1		ELEVATION AND DATUM GROUND = 8714.13'	
DRILLING AGENCY LANG EXPLORATORY DRILLING	DRILLER BRYON MARK BENJIE	DATE STARTED/ DATE FINISHED 6/27/91 TO 6/28/91	
DRILLING EQUIPMENT DRILLTECH DH1	COMPLETION DEPTH 1005'	SAMPLER CUTTINGS	
DRILLING METHOD REVERSE CIRCULATION AIR ROTARY	DRILL BIT 6-3/8" HAMMER	NO. OF SAMPLES	UNDISTURBED
SIZE AND TYPE OF CASING 2" STEEL	WATER ELEV. 505'	FIRST	24 HRS. 290'
TYPE OF PERFORATION 0.020 STAINLESS STEEL WIRE-WRAP	FROM 500 TO 520 FT	LOCATED BY	CHECKED BY
SIZE AND TYPE OF PACK #6-12 VALLEY SAND	FROM 469 TO 552 FT	P. BROOKS/D. ROYBAL	
TYPE OF SEAL BENTONITE	FROM 444 TO 469 FT	SWR/SFR	

DEPTH (FEET)	DESCRIPTION	GRAPHIC LOG				SAMPLES				REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid loss, Q-log, etc.)
		LITHOLOGY	Piezometer Installation	Water Control	Piezometer Data	Type & Size	Interval	Depth	Interval	
0	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN, CLAYEY SILT TO SILTY CLAY, WITH TRACE TO SOME FINE SAND, AND TRACE SMALL GRAVEL, DRY (ML-CL)									0230 HRS. START DRILLING 8" HOLE TO SET SURFACE CASING
10	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN, FINE TO MEDIUM SILTY SAND, SOME COARSE SAND AND FINE GRAVEL, MOIST TO DAMP (SM) ALLUVIUM									
20	LIGHT BROWN TO GRAY, SILTY CLAY WITH SOME FINE TO MEDIUM SAND, SOME SMALL GRAVEL (CL) VOLCANIC TUFF									HOLE DRILLED USING 6-3/8" HAMMER WITH WATER
30										0245 HRS.
40										
50										0345
60	LIGHT BROWN TO GRAY, FINE TO MEDIUM SAND, SOME CLAY, SOME SMALL GRAVEL TO 15mm, SLIGHTLY CEMENTED (SP)									
70	LIGHT GRAY TO TAN, FINE TO MEDIUM SAND, SILTY, SLIGHTLY CLAYEY, SOME COARSE SAND, SOME SMALL GRAVEL, SLIGHTLY CEMENTED (SM-SP)									0410
80										
90										
100	SAME AS ABOVE BECOMING MORE CEMENTED									0430
110										
120	LIGHT GRAY TO TAN, FINE TO MEDIUM CEMENTED TO SLIGHTLY CEMENTED SAND, SILTY, WITH SOME COARSE SAND, TRACE TO SOME SMALL GRAVEL. (SM-SP)									0445
130										
140	SAME AS ABOVE									0455
150										
160										0505

Woodward-Clyde Consultants

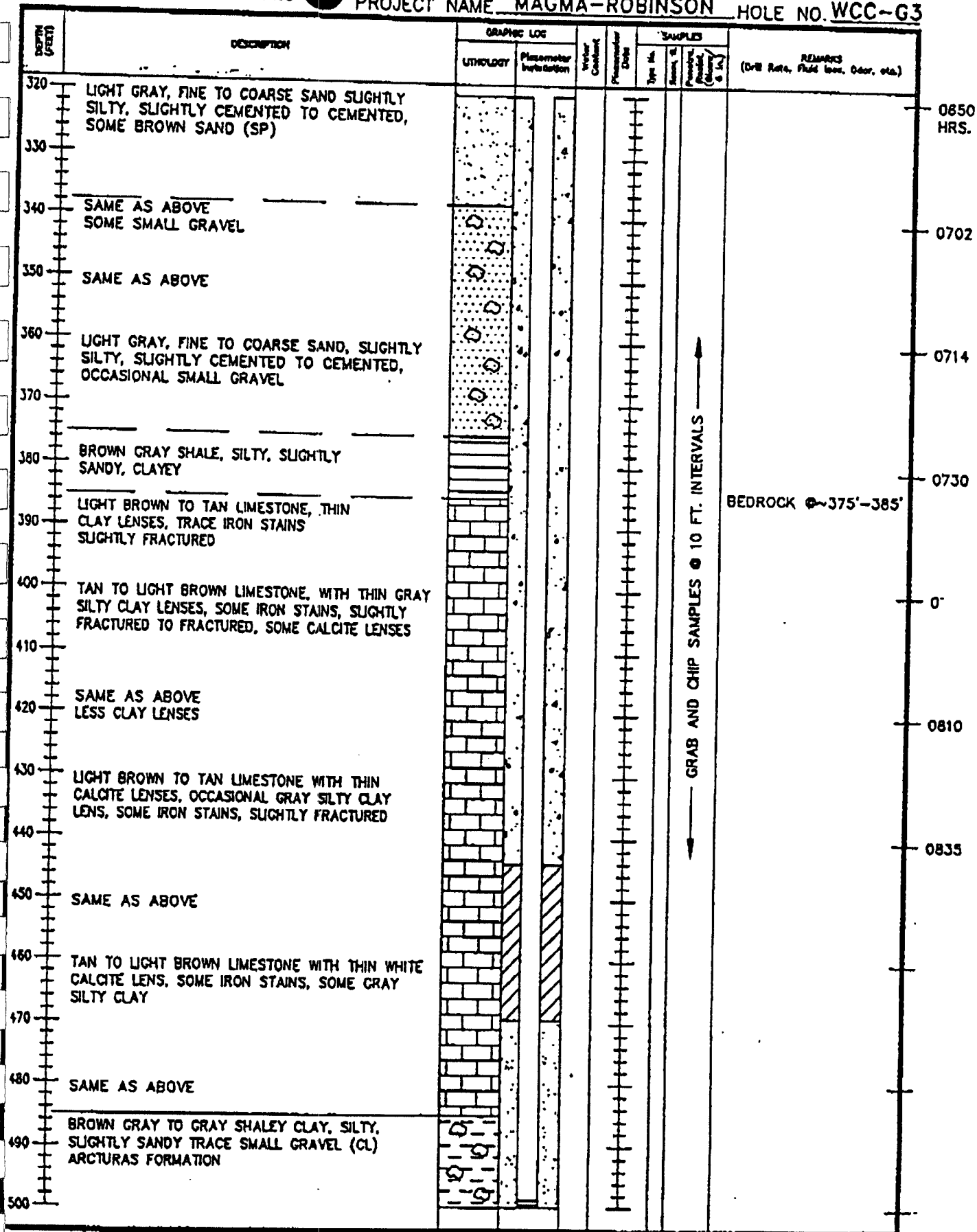
PROJECT NAME MAGMA-ROBINSON

HOLE NO. WCC-G3

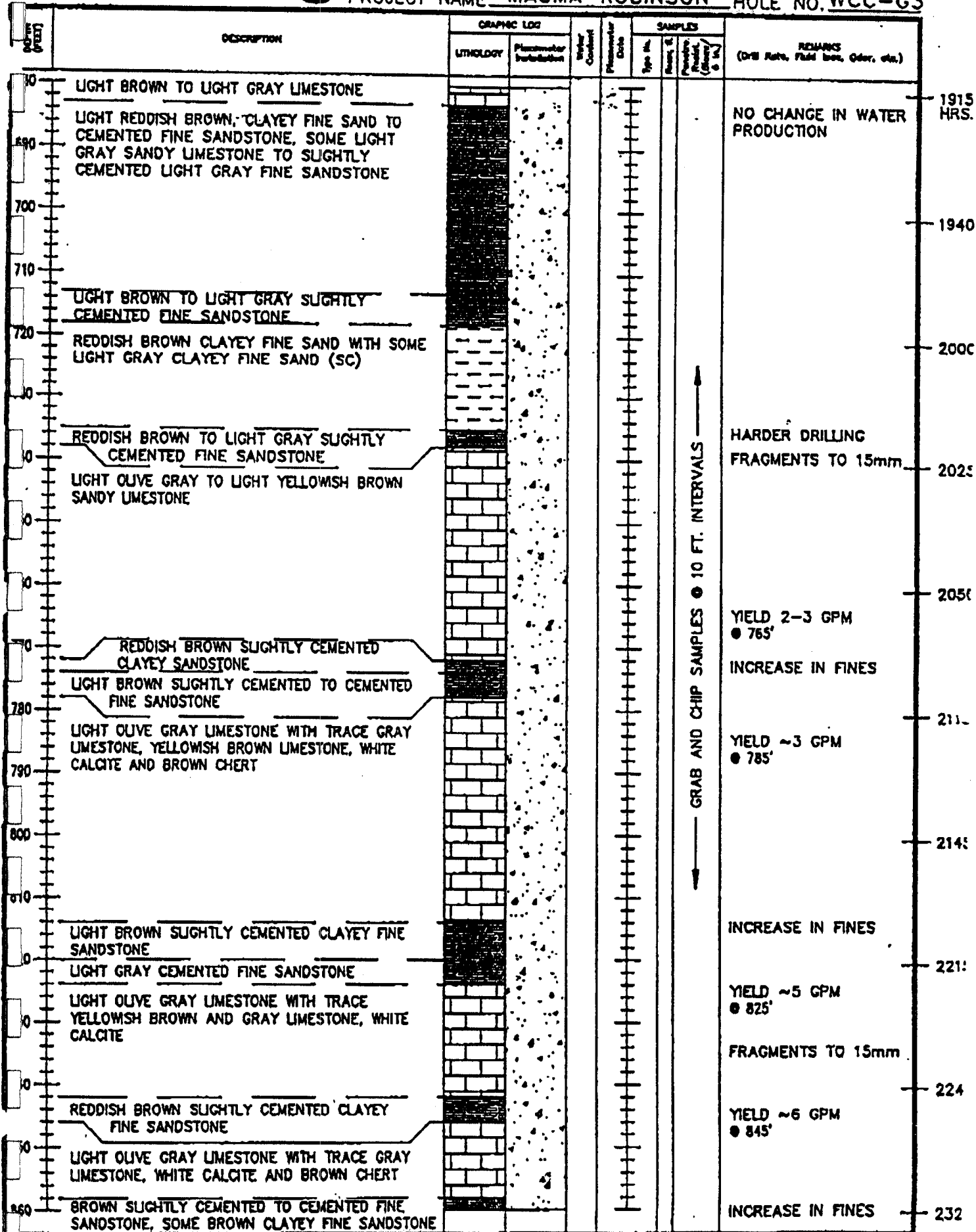
DEPTH FEET	DESCRIPTION	GRAPHIC LOG		WATER CONTENT	PLASTICITY INDEX	SAMPLES				REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid Loss, Etc., etc.)	
		LITHOLOGY	Plasticity Index			Type	Size	Depth	Interval		
140	LIGHT GRAY TO GRAY, FINE TO MEDIUM CEMENTED TO SLIGHTLY CEMENTED, SAND, SILTY, WITH SOME COARSE SAND AND SMALL GRAVEL (SM-SP)									VERY EASY DRILLING	0505 HRS.
150											
160	LIGHT BROWN TO TAN, FINE TO MEDIUM, SLIGHTLY CEMENTED TO CEMENTED SAND, SILTY, SOME COARSE SAND AND SMALL GRAVEL (SM-SP)										0515
170											
180	SAME AS ABOVE									REPAIR HYD. HOSE ~ 5MIN	0530
190	LIGHT GRAY TO TAN, FINE TO MEDIUM CEMENTED SAND SILTY, SOME COARSE SAND AND SMALL GRAVEL (SM-SP)										
200											0545
210	SAME AS ABOVE									EASY DRILLING	
220											05
230	GRAY TO DARK GRAY, FINE TO COARSE SLIGHTLY SILTY SAND, SOME SMALL GRAVEL CEMENTED (SM-SP)										
240	SAME AS ABOVE										0605
250											
260	GRAY TO LIGHT GRAY, FINE TO COARSE SLIGHTLY SILTY SAND SOME SMALL GRAVEL, SLIGHTLY CEMENTED TO CEMENTED (SM-SP)									EASY DRILLING	0615
270											
280	SAME AS ABOVE										0630
290	BROWN TO RED BROWN, FINE TO COARSE SILTY SAND WITH TRACE RED SILTY CLAY AND SOME SMALL GRAVEL, CEMENTED (SM)										
300	SAME AS ABOVE										0637
310	GRAY TO LIGHT GRAY FINE TO COARSE SAND SLIGHTLY SILTY, TRACE RED SILTY CLAY, SLIGHTLY CEMENTED (SP)										0650
320											

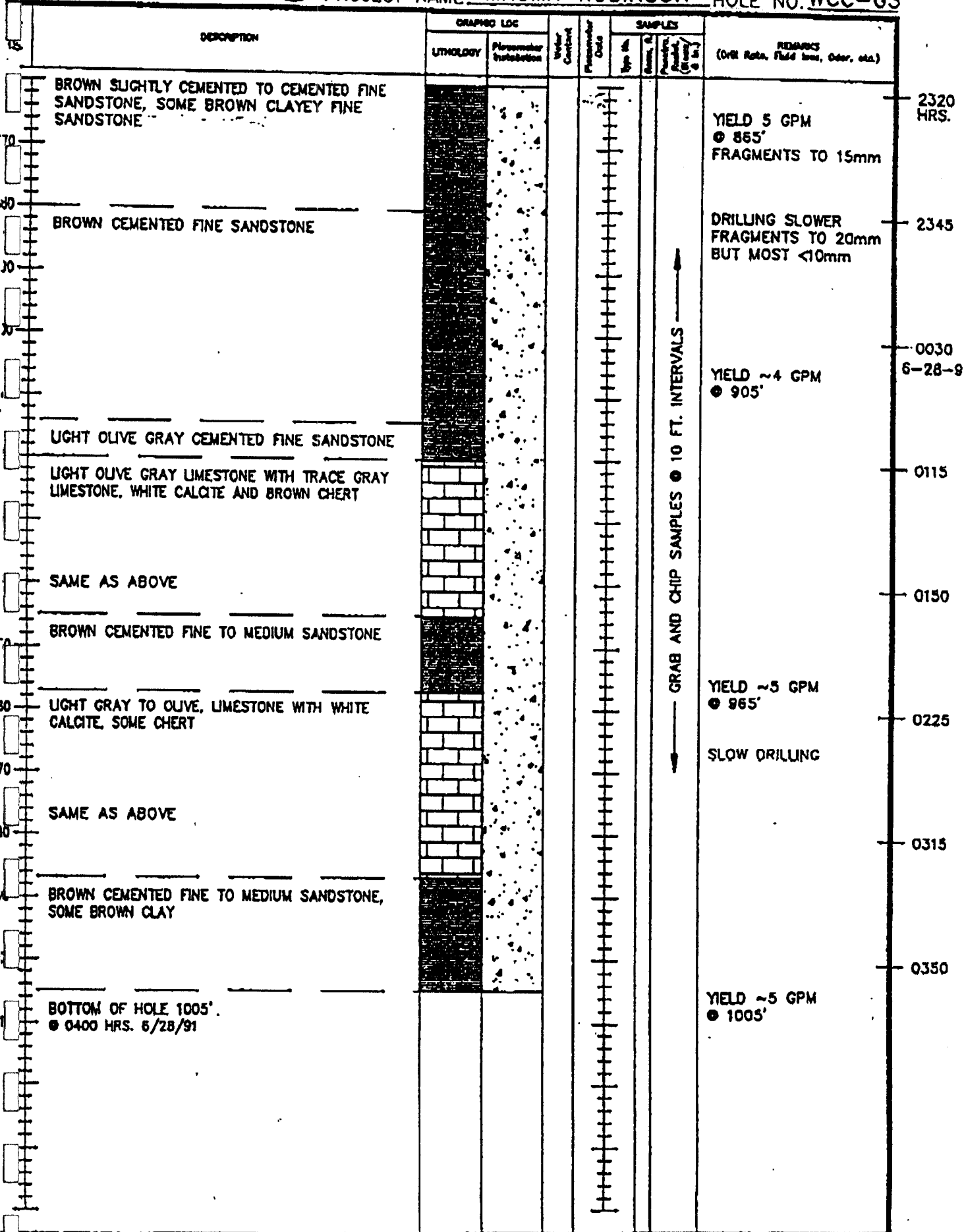
PROJECT NO. 9053348N-T3100

SHEET 2 OF 6



DEPTH FEET	DESCRIPTION	CAMPUS LOG		WATER CONTENT	PNEUMATIC LOG	SAMPLES				REMARKS (Drill Rate, Fluid loss, Color, etc.)
		LITHOLOGY	Pneumometer Indication			Type & No.	Amount of Sample (lb.)	Depth of Sample (ft.)	Interval (ft.)	
10	BROWN GRAY TO GRAY, SHALEY CLAY, SILTY SLIGHTLY SANDY (CL)									
110	BROWN GRAY LIMESTONE, FRACTURED, SOME SHALE SANDY GRAVEL									WATER DETECTED @ ~505' YIELD ~5 GPM
520	BROWN GRAY, SHALEY CLAY, SILTY, SLIGHTLY SANDY, SOME GRAVEL (CL)									
530	GRAY, SHALEY CLAY TO SHALE, SILTY, SLIGHTLY SANDY BECOMING GRAY GREEN @ ~535' (CL)									
540	SAME AS ABOVE									1201 HRS.
	SAME AS ABOVE									1245
	SAME AS ABOVE									1330
600	LIGHT GRAY TO GRAY, SHALEY SANDY CLAY WITH COARSE SAND SIZE FRAGMENTS OF RED JASPER AND LIGHT GREEN CHERT									1400
610	TAN AND LIGHT GREENISH GRAY, SHALEY SANDY CLAY									1430
620										YIELD ~3 GPM @ 625'
630	BROWN, SHALEY SANDY CLAY WITH TRACE GREENISH GRAY SANDY CLAY AND LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN LIMESTONE (CL)									1500
										YIELD ~3 GPM @ 645'
	LIGHT BROWN, CLAYEY, FINE SAND WITH TRACE YELLOWISH BROWN LIMESTONE AND COARSE SAND SIZE RED JASPER AND LIGHT GREEN CHERT (SC)									1530
										1600 HRS. STOPPED FOR INSURANCE REASONS 1720 HRS. TRIP BACK INTO HOLE STARTED AGAIN
680	LIGHT BROWN TO LIGHT GRAY LIMESTONE									1900
										1915





# SOIL BORING COMPLETION LOG

**BORING ID** Boring P31  
**TOTAL DEPTH** 75'  
**DRILLING CO.** Webber Environmental  
**DRILLER** -----  
**DATES DRILLED** 05/21/97

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**CLIENT** BHP, Nevada  
**LOCATION** Robinson Project  
**MANAGER** Bill Newcomb  
**LOGGED BY** Bill Newcomb



DEPTH	SOIL TYPE	SOIL DESCRIPTION	SPT	pH	S.C.	NOTES
0	Alluvium 1: road-compacted.		NM	NM	NM	
10						
	Alluvium 2: light brown material with silt and silty sand and gravels (>1"). sandy layer of residual rhyolite at 30'.		22-22-13	8.6	433	MC and GS sample at 20'.
			12-15-22	8.6	463	
20			20-31-50/6"	8.3	481	
			25-50/5"	8.2	481	
			41-50/5"	8.2	394	
30	Alluvium 3: brown silty sand matrix.		22-50/5"	8.1	387	MC and GS sample at 35'.
40			41-50/6"	8.1	381	
	Mixed Sand: light brown, silty fine to medium sand grading into small gravels.		31-50/3"	7.9	368	MC and GS sample at 45'.
50			NM			
	Alluvium 4: mixed clast gravel with brown silty clay matrix.		50/5"	8.1	369	MC and GS sample at 60'.
			50/5"	8.1	366	
60			50/5"	7.9	363	
	Sand and gravels: brown to gray, dry sands and gravels. gravels <0.5".		12-50/6"	7.8	390	MC and GS sample at 65'.
70			50/5"	8.1	362	
	Alluvium 5: brown alluvium with sandy-silty matrix. hard drilling.		50/5"	8.1	362	MC ang GS sample at 70'.
			50/3"	8.2	386	
80						



# SOIL BORING COMPLETION LOG

**BORING ID** Boring P32  
**TOTAL DEPTH** 75'  
**DRILLING CO.** Webber Environmental  
**DRILLER** -----  
**DATES DRILLED** 05/21/97

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**CLIENT** BHP, Nevada  
**LOCATION** Robinson Project  
**MANAGER** Bill Newcomb  
**LOGGED BY** Bill Newcomb

DEPTH	SOIL TYPE	SOIL DESCRIPTION	SPT	pH	S.C.	NOTES
0		Alluvium 2: light brown alluvial gravels with silty sand matrix.	NM	NM	NM	
10			50/6"	8.3	385	
20			12-16-23	8.3	230	MC and GS sample at 15'.
30		Alluvium 4: light brown silty sandy clay with alluvial gravels.	20-31-36	8.4	180	
40			27-31-50/2"	8.1	383	
50			31-24-27	7.3	390	MC and GS sample at 30'.
60		Alluvium 5: light brown alluvial gravels with clayey silt to fine sand matrix. Variable clast size grading to gravel at 45'.	17-50/6"	7.9	223	
70			50/6"	7.9	222	
80			50/5"	7.9	234	MC and GS sample at 45'.
		Alluvium 4: mixed clast gravel with brown silty clay matrix.	25-14-24	8.0	215	
			50/6"	7.9	214	
			17-30-31	7.9	219	MC and GS sample at 60'.
		Alluvium 5: reddish-brown clayey silt to clayey fine sand and minor gravel.	17-30-50	8.1	218	
			16-27-32	8.0	211	MC and GS sample at 70'.
			50/6"	7.9	211	MC and GS sample at 75'.



# Geomega

## SOIL BORING COMPLETION LOG

**BORING ID** Boring P33  
**TOTAL DEPTH** 28'  
**DRILLING CO.** Webber Environmental  
**DRILLER** ----  
**DATES DRILLED** 05/22/97

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**CLIENT** BHP, Nevada  
**LOCATION** Robinson Project  
**MANAGER** Bill Newcomb  
**LOGGED BY** Bill Newcomb

DEPTH	SOIL TYPE	SOIL DESCRIPTION	SPT	pH	S.C.	NOTES
0						
5						
10						
15						
20						
25						
30						

0	✓	VOLCANICS: spoon refusal. observed cuttings. gray-brown silty fine sand, residual weathered volcanic rock. clasts of unweathered volcanic rock at 25'.				
5	✓		NM			
10	✓		NM	8.83	250	
15	✓		NM	8.15	256	
20	✓		NM	8.56	227	
25	✓		NM	8.92	242	
30	✓		NM	8.75	250	