



NORTHERN DYNASTY MINES INC.

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES
2006 STUDY PLANS**

**CHAPTER 6.
WATER QUALITY**

JULY 2006

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6. WATER QUALITY

6.1 Mine Studies

Objectives/Study Area/Methods and Approach

For 2006 the water quality program for the mine studies has the same objectives (Section 6.1.1), study area (Section 6.1.2.1), and methods and approach (Section 6.1.2.2) as stated in the 2005 study plan. Tables 6.1-1 and 6.1-2 summarize activities and sampling, respectively, for surface water quality and sediment in 2004 through 2006. Figure 6.1-1 depicts the study areas for surface water quality for mine studies.

The same major activities as outlined in Section 6.1.2.3 of the 2005 study plan for stream locations, seeps, and groundwater will be done in 2006, with the following changes:

Field Studies, Surface Water Quality

Three new stations were added in 2005 and will be sampled again in 2006:

- SK124A—to provide flow and water quality data from a major tributary of the South Fork Kaktuli River.
- SK100B1 and SK100B2—to provide flow and water quality data from the upwelling or springs area on the South Fork Kaktuli River.

To complete a two-year baseline data set, samples will be collected from the following:

- 28 stations through spring breakup (see Table 6-9 in 2004 progress report for original site selection rationale).
- NK100B will be sampled through August 2006.
- SK100B1, SK100B2, and SK124A will be sampled through October 2006.

After the 2006 breakup event, preconstruction monitoring will begin at 17 locations:

- North Fork Kaktuli—four locations (NK100A, NK100B, NK100C, and NK119A) selected to monitor water quality that may be affected by mining-related activities (such as Option G of the mine development concept [MDC] in NK1.190 and fugitive dust from road-building and truck transport during construction and operation) and because these sites are collocated with fish-tissue and macroinvertebrate monitoring sites.
- South Fork Kaktuli—seven locations (SK100A, SK100B, SK100B1, SK100C, SK100D, SK119A, and SK124A) selected to monitor potential impacts to water quality related to MDC-25 and/or because these sites are collocated with fish-tissue and macroinvertebrate monitoring sites.

- Upper Talarik—six locations (UT100B, UT100D, UT100E, UT119A, UT119B, and UT141A) selected to monitor potential impacts to water quality related to MDC-25 (such as diversion channels into the Upper Talarik Creek) and/or because these sites are collocated with fish-tissue and macroinvertebrate monitoring sites.

Orthophosphate and separate analyses for nitrate and nitrite will be done by the analytical laboratory for all surface water quality samples and seep samples starting in May 2006.

Frying Pan Lake will be sampled at the inlets, outlet, and deepest part of the lake for water quality in the summer of 2006.

No samples will be collected in 2006 for analysis for volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, or pesticides.

Field Studies, Sediment Sampling

Sediment samples will be collected from 12 locations in 2006 for analysis for total sulfur and for acid volatile sulfide simultaneously extractable metals. Sites were selected by Mark Stelljes of SLR and are sites where sediment was sampled in 2004 and 2005.

Sample sites to be sampled for sediment in 2006 are as follows:

- North Fork Koktuli—NK100A, NK100B, NK100C.
- South Fork Koktuli—SK100A, SK100B, SK100C, SK119A.
- Upper Talarik—UT100B, UT100D, UT100E, UT119A, UT141A.

No lake, seep, or pond sediments will be collected in 2006.

Field Studies, Groundwater Quality

For 2006 studies of groundwater quality, the objectives, study area, and methods and approach are the same as described in the 2005 study plan. The sampling points that were added in 2005 will continue to be sampled in 2006 unless NDM stipulates otherwise. Two groundwater sampling locations will be added in the area of the proposed pit during the 2006 field program, which starts approximately June 5. The new locations are depicted as Proposed Baseline Monitoring Wells A and B on Figure 5.1-1 in Chapter 5, Groundwater Hydrology. A summary of groundwater sampling for water quality during 2004, 2005, and 2006 is provided in Table 5.1-2 in Chapter 5, Groundwater Hydrology.

Field Studies, Seep Water Quality

Twenty-four seeps throughout the study area that were selected by WMC and sampled in 2005 by HDR will be sampled in 2006 for water quality and flow in March (winter low-flow event), May (spring breakup event), and July or August (summer low-flow event) and for flow in October (fall precipitation event). Other seep activities will include the following:

- Measuring total and ferrous iron using a Hach colorimeter 890 during the 2006 seep water quality sampling events to provide an estimate of redox conditions.
- A seep reconnaissance to survey seeps that are persistent and flowing when groundwater levels are low prior to spring breakup in May 2006.
- A seep reconnaissance of areas not surveyed in 2005 will be completed in June 2006 and will include the mineralized area, South Fork Koktuli springs area (near SK100B1 and SK100B2), and NK1.190/Option G. Other activities that will be included in the June seep event include the following:
 - A one-time precipitate sampling protocol for seeps will be established with SRK.
 - Precipitate samples will be analyzed to determine their elemental and mineralogical composition.
 - Field parameters will be measured in seeps in the mineralized area to identify low-pH and high-conductivity seeps.
 - A reconnaissance of seeps near old Cominco well sites will be performed to identify whether the wells or boreholes have created unnatural seeps.
 - Additional seeps to sample will be identified from the mineralized area, South Fork Koktuli springs area, and NFK 1.190 for the July/August and October 2006 field events.

6.2 Transportation Corridor Studies

Baseline data on water quality were collected for the transportation corridor in 2004 and 2005 as described in Sections 6.2 (groundwater) and 6.3 (surface water) of the respective study plans for those years. A summary of the tasks performed during the water quality study for the transportation corridor is presented in Tables 6.2-1a (groundwater) and 6.2-1b (surface water). A summary of sampling conducted in 2004 and 2005 is presented in Table 6.2-2. Sample locations for groundwater quality are shown on Figure 6.2-1, and locations for surface water quality and sediment are on Figure 6.2-2.

No additional data are being collected in 2006. The baseline data on water quality along the transportation corridor will be presented in the environmental baseline document prior to filing of permit applications.

Table 6.1-1
Pebble Project Surface Water Quality and Sediment Studies Summary, Mine Studies, 2004-2006
Consultant: HDR Alaska
Date: 05/05/06

| Field Studies - Water Quality | 2004 Study Tasks | 2005 Study Tasks | 2006 Study Tasks |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Mine Studies Area | | | |
| Surface Water Quality | 29 surface water stations - 7 sampling events (April-October) | 32 surface water stations - 8 sampling events (January, March, May-October) | <i>To complete 2-year baseline study:</i> |
| | | | 28 surface water stations - 3 sampling events (Jan/Feb., March and May) |
| | | | NK100B sampled through August; and SK100B1, SK100B2 and SK124A sampled through Oct. 2006 |
| | | | <i>For pre-construction monitoring:</i> |
| | | | 17 surface water stations - 5 sampling events (June-October) |
| | | | |
| | | | Frying Pan Lake sampled for water quality in June |
| Sediment Sampling | 18 streams in July and September | 15 streams in June, 13 sites in July, and 5 sites in September | 12 streams in June |
| | | 6 lakes once in summer 2005 | |
| | | 5-7 seeps in July and October | Precipitate sampling in seeps in June |
| Seep Water Quality | Water quality from 9 seeps in May and September | Flow measured from 9 seeps in March | Flow and water quality from 8 of 24 seeps in March (others were buried) |
| | | Flow and water quality from 23 seeps in July | Flow and water quality from 24 seeps in May and July |
| | | Flow from 24 seeps in August | Flow from 24 seeps in August |
| | | Flow and water quality from 24 seeps in October | Flow from 24 seeps in October |
| | | | |
| | | Reconnaissance in January, June, and July | Reconnaissance in May and June |

Table 6.2-1a
Pebble Project Environmental Studies
Study Summary for Groundwater Quality, Transportation Corridor, 2004-2006
Consultant: BEESC

| Discipline | 2004 Data Collected or Tasks | 2005 Data Collected or Tasks | 2006 Tasks to be Completed |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Groundwater Quality | Mine Studies Area | | |
| | Field Sampling October | None by BEESC | None by BEESC |
| | Coordination with NDM | | |
| | | | |
| | Transportation Corridor | | |
| | Information Gathering | Information Gathering | Data Compilation and Analysis |
| | Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan | Scope, Schedule | Preliminary environmental baseline document |
| | Field Sampling - July & October | 2005 Field Sampling Plan | |
| | Communication and Data Management | Field Sampling - March, July, and October | |
| | Coordination with NDM | Coordination with NDM | |
| | Coordination with local communities for observers | Coordination with local communities for observers | |
| | Presentation preparation | Data Compilation and Analysis | |
| | Report Writing | 2004 Progress Report | |

Table 6.2-1b
Pebble Project Environmental Studies
Study Summary for Surface Water Quality, Transportation Corridor, 2004-2006
Consultant: BEESC

| Discipline | 2004 Data Collected or Tasks | 2005 Data Collected or Tasks | 2006 Tasks to be Completed |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Surface Water Quality | Transportation Corridor | | |
| | Information Gathering | Information Gathering | Data Compilation and Analysis |
| | Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan | Scope, Schedule | Preliminary environmental baseline document |
| | Field Sampling - July - October | 2005 Field Sampling Plan | |
| | Communication and Data Management | Field Sampling - Feb, March, May - October | |
| | Coordination with NDM | Coordination with NDM | |
| | Coordination with local communities for observers | Coordination with local communities for observers | |
| | Presentation preparation | Data Compilation and Analysis | |
| Report Writing | 2004 Progress Report | | |

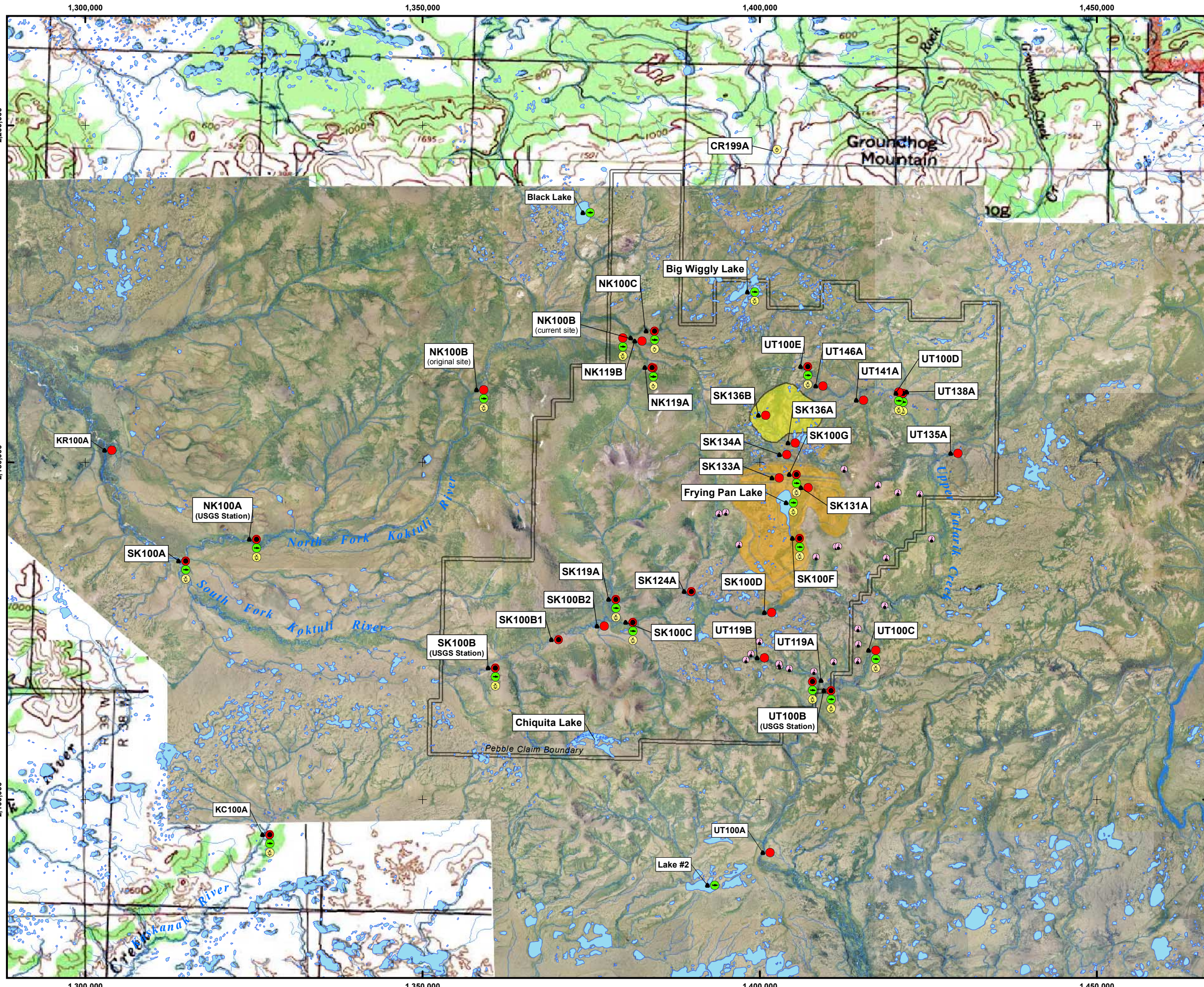
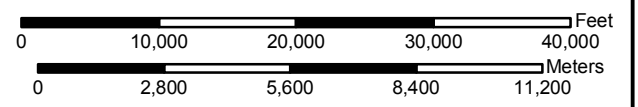
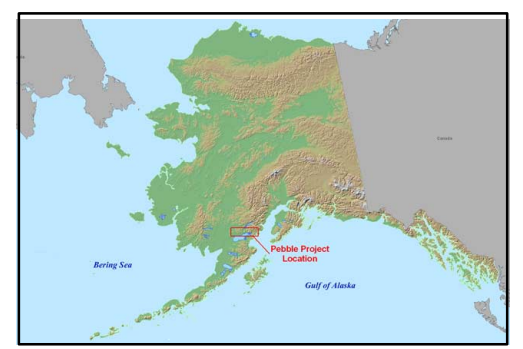


Figure 6.1-1
 Hydrology, Surface Water, and
 Aquatic Resources Study Area
 (2004-2006 Mine Studies)

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Legend

- Mine Development Concept Plan
 - Ore Body
 - Claim Boundary
 - Sampling Location
- Type of Sample Site**
- Hydrology & Water Quality sample site with data logger
 - Hydrology & Water Quality sample site without data logger
 - Fish tissue sample site
 - Macroinvertebrate & Periphyton sample site
 - Seep water quality sample site

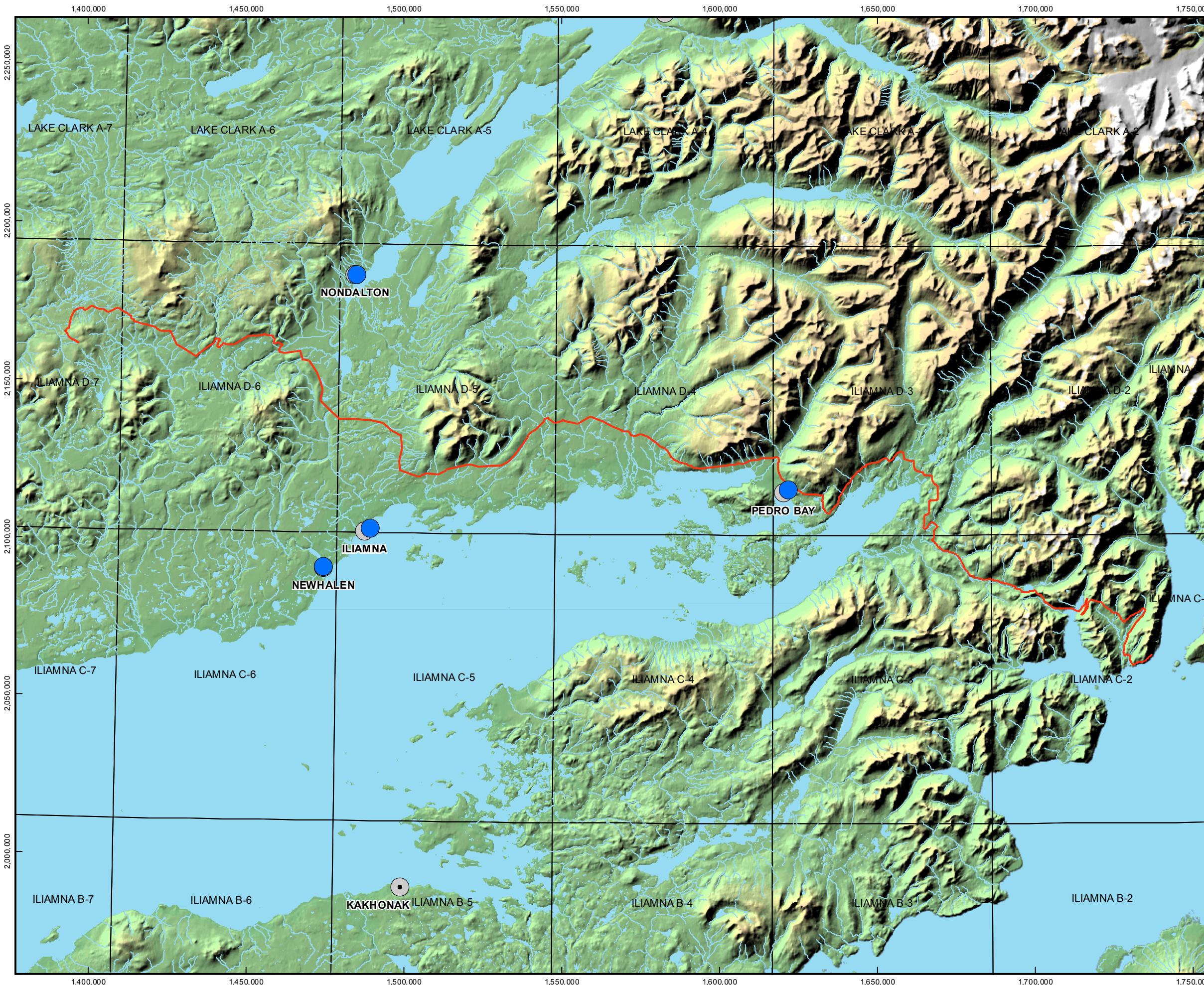


Scale 1:167,981
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 1983 North American Datum




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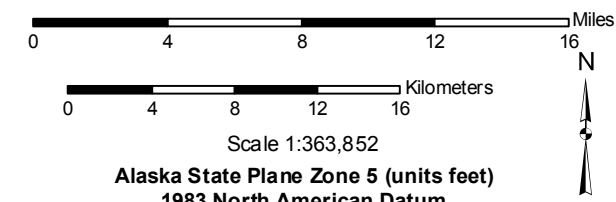
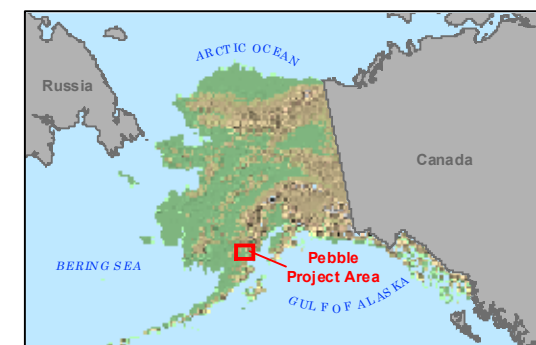
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Figure 6.2-1
Groundwater Quality
Transportation Corridor
2004 and 2005 Sampling Locations



Legend

-  Groundwater Quality
-  Towns
-  Proposed Transportation Corridor

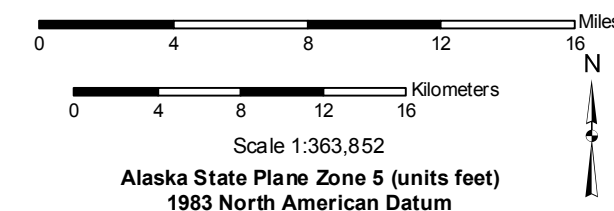
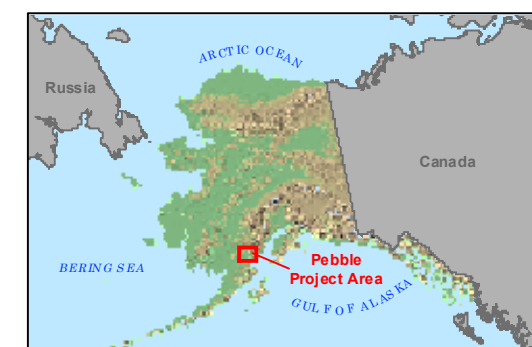


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| Version: 4 | Author: BEESC-ME |

Figure 6.2-2
Surface Water Quality and Sediment
Transportation Corridor
Study Area and Sampling Locations

Legend

- Surface Water Quality/Sediment sampled in 2004 and 2005
- Surface Water Quality/Sediment sampled only in 2005
- Surface Water Quality/Sediment to be sampled in 2006
- Tundra Ponds sampled in 2004 and 2005
- Tundra Ponds to be sampled in 2006
- Towns
- Proposed Transportation Corridor



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| File: 2006StyPlan_3_V05.mxd | Date: June 7, 2006 |
| Version: 5 | Author: BEESC-ME |

