



NORTHERN DYNASTY MINES INC.

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES
PROPOSED 2007 STUDY PLANS**

**CHAPTER 7.
TRACE ELEMENTS**

DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 2007

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7. TRACE ELEMENTS

7.1 Introduction

This document summarizes the proposed scope of work for the 2007 trace elements program for the Pebble Project. SLR Alaska (SLR) is the lead consultant for the trace elements program in 2007. Bristol Environmental and Engineering Services Corporation (BEESC) is performing sampling for the study in the transportation corridor.

The term “trace elements” refers to naturally occurring elements (mostly metals) that are analyzed for in various matrices. In Pebble Project documents, the term “trace elements” also is used to refer to the trace elements program. The trace elements program examines not only elements, but other naturally occurring compounds such as anions, cations, and biogenic hydrocarbons; the term “naturally occurring constituents” (NOC) is commonly used in this document to refer collectively to the analytical parameters included in the trace elements program.

The NOC studies in 2005 and 2006 are described in Chapter 7 of the study plans for those years (NDM, 2005 and 2006). The discussions in Sections 7.3 and 7.4 below indicate how the 2007 program differs from the studies in previous years.

7.2 Objectives

The objectives of the baseline study of NOC at the mine study area and along the transportation corridor are as follows:

- Continue collecting baseline data to characterize the natural levels of NOC existing in environmental media (i.e., terrestrial and aquatic vegetation, lake and pond sediment, surface soil), including their spatial and temporal variability, prior to mining operations.
- Provide environmental input to engineering design.
- Determine organic content in surface soils to support long-term site-monitoring objectives.
- Support the permitting process.
- Continue and update field procedures established in the 2004 study of NOC in surface soil and vegetation.

7.3 Mine Study Area

The study activities for 2004 through 2007 in the mine study area are summarized in Table 7.1-1. The sampling locations for the mine study area are presented on Figure 7.1-1. A record of sampling conducted at all locations in the mine study area in 2004 through 2006, and to be conducted in 2007, is presented in Tables 7.1-2a and b.

The 2007 study will characterize NOC in the following media:

- Terrestrial vegetation (includes lichens and mosses).
- Aquatic vegetation associated with lakes and ponds.
- Freshwater sediments associated with lakes and ponds.
- Surface soil (including soil bacteria).

The number of samples to be collected in 2007 is summarized by area and sample media in the 2007 field sampling plan for naturally occurring constituents in surface soil, sediment, and vegetation (NDM, In press2). The short-term goal of the sampling program is to collect data over two years at each location. Therefore, soil and terrestrial plant sampling in the area near the west deposit (Pebble West) will not be repeated except at sites where two years of data have not been collected. Sampling at Pebble West will occur in July and August and will target soil and terrestrial vegetation at the three sites (335011, 335081, and 335101) where only one year of sampling has been done, and sediment and aquatic vegetation from tundra ponds and lakes (Table 7.1-2a).

A new soil study to be conducted in Pebble West in 2007 will test the hypotheses of cyanogenic bacteria as a cyanide source in soil. Soil samples will be collected at 11 locations for bacteriological analysis focusing on the presence or absence of cyanide (HCN)-producing bacteria in native soils. In addition to vascular plants, mosses and lichens will be collected concurrently with and at the same location as each bacteriological soil sample. The 11 sample locations identified in Table 7-1.2a were selected based on previous analytical data that showed high levels of cyanide in soil and plants.

Sampling for the eastern deposit (Pebble East) is summarized in Table 7.1-2b. A total of 17 locations were sampled in 2006 as part of the Pebble East program. Surface soil, terrestrial and aquatic vegetation, and pond and lake sediments will be collected in 2007 from the same sites that were sampled in 2006 (Table 7.1-2 and Figure 7.1-1).

Additional aquatic vegetation samples will be collected in 12 small ponds in 2007 to complete two years of data collection which started in 2006. These samples will be collected from the same locations as in 2006. All aquatic vegetation sampling from these ponds will be coordinated with the water-quality team, which is collecting surface water and sediment samples, so that water, sediment, and aquatic vegetation samples are temporally and spatially collocated. The surface water and sediment sampling is described in Chapter 6 and in the 2007 field sampling plan for surface water quality, hydrology, and sediment (NDM, In press1).

Terrestrial vegetation sampling will include specific mosses and lichens that were relevant to other mine projects in Alaska. These vegetative types were first collected for the Pebble studies in 2006. Additional moss and lichen samples will be collected in 2007 in both Pebble East and Pebble West.

7.4 Transportation Corridor

The study activities for 2004 through 2007 for the trace elements study in the transportation corridor are summarized in Tables 7.2-1a and b. The sampling locations for the transportation corridor are presented on Figure 7.2-1. Table 7.2-2 presents a summary of sampling at each sample location throughout the

project. The number of samples of each sample medium proposed for 2007 in the transportation corridor is summarized in the 2007 field sampling plan for naturally occurring constituents (NDM, In press2). In 2007, sampling will be conducted only in the portion of the transportation corridor located in the Cook Inlet drainages.

The 2007 study will characterize NOC in the following media:

- Surface soil.
- Terrestrial vegetation.
- Aquatic vegetation associated with lakes and ponds.
- Pond and stream sediments.
- Stream surface water.

The study program for the transportation corridor will be conducted as outlined in Section 7.2 of the 2005 and 2006 study plans (NDM, 2005 and 2006). The 2007 season will focus on achieving a second year of sampling in the portion of the transportation corridor east of Summit Lake and will include a minimum of 12 locations (Figure 7.2-1).

7.5 References

- Northern Dynasty Mines Inc. (NDM). In press1. Draft Environmental Baseline Studies; 2007 Field Sampling Plans; Surface Water Quality, Hydrology, and Sediment; Mine Study Area.
- . In press2. Draft Environmental Baseline Studies; 2007 Field Sampling Plans; Naturally Occurring Constituents in Surface Soil, Sediment, and Vegetation.
- . 2006. Draft Environmental Baseline Studies, 2006 Study Plan. July.
- . 2005. Draft Environmental Baseline Studies, 2005 Study Plans. November.

TABLES

TABLE 7.1-1
Pebble Project Environmental Studies
Study Summary for Trace Elements, Mine Study Area, 2004-2007
Consultant: SLR Alaska

Discipline	2004 (completed by CH2M Hill)	2005 Data Collected or Tasks	2006 Data Collected or Tasks	2007 Tasks To Be Completed
Trace Elements	Mine Study Area			
	Information gathering	Information gathering	Information gathering	Information gathering
	Scope, schedule, field sampling plan	Scope, schedule, field sampling plan	Scope, schedule, field sampling plan	Scope, schedule, field sampling plan
	2004 study plan	2005 study plan	2007 study plan summary	2007 study plan summary
	Soil sampling (Aug/Sep)	Soil sampling (July and August)	Soil sampling (July)	Bacteriological soil, lichens and moss sampling (July)
				Surface soil sampling (July)
	Vegetation sampling (Aug/Sep--leaves and berries)	Vegetation sampling (July--leaves; Aug--leaves and berries)	Terrestrial vegetation sampling (July--leaves only; Aug--leaves and berries)	Terrestrial vegetation sampling (July--leaves only; Aug--leaves and berries)
		Aquatic plant sampling (August)	Aquatic plant sampling	Aquatic plant sampling (coordinated with HDR; August)
		Mercury/methylmercury fish-tissue data analysis	Fish-tissue data analysis	Fish-tissue data analysis
			Pond sediment sampling	Pond/lakes sediment sampling (August)
			Stream-sediment and surface-water data analysis	Stream-sediment and surface-water data analysis
			Coordination with HDR and BEESC	Coordination with HDR and BEESC
			Draft environmental baseline document	Draft environmental baseline document
		Coordination with NDM & agencies, monthly reporting	Coordination with NDM, agency meetings, monthly reporting	Coordination with NDM, agency meetings, monthly reporting
		Communication and data management	Communication and data management	Communication and data management
		Data entry and analysis	Data analysis	Data analysis
QAPP review	QAPP update	QAPP update: aquatic species		
	2004 progress report			

Monitoring Site	Year ^a	Period-of-Record by Discipline																								Notes																										
		Vegetation												Soil													Sediment																									
		Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D													
335145	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																													Upland dwarf shrub habitat				
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335233	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																														Subalpine dwarf & low scrub habitat			
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335234	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																															Subalpine dwarf & low scrub habitat		
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335235	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006																		X																															Subalpine dwarf & low scrub habitat		
	2007																		X																																	
335243	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																																Alpine rock & dwarf shrub habitat	
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335242	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																																Alpine rock & dwarf shrub habitat	
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335131	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006							X	X										X																																Alpine rock & dwarf shrub habitat	
	2007							X	X										X																																	
335241	2004																																																			
	2006																																																			
	2007							X	X										X																																Alpine rock & dwarf shrub habitat	
	2006							X	X										X																																	
335133	2004																																																			
	2005																																																			
	2006									X																																			X					Tundra Pond		
	2007									X																																								Tundra Pond		

NOTES:

a. Work for 2007 is shown as planned, but not yet completed. No sampling was done in this area in 2004 or 2005.

TABLE 7.2-1a
Pebble Project Environmental Studies
Study Summary for Trace Elements, Transportation Corridor, 2004-2007
Consultant: SLR Alaska

Discipline	2004 Data Collected or Tasks	2005 Data Collected or Tasks	2006 Data Collected or Tasks	2007 Tasks to be Completed
Trace Elements	Transportation Corridor			
	None	Information Gathering	Information Gathering	Information Gathering
			Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan
		BEESC Study Plan Review	2006 Study Plan Summary	2007 Study Plan Summary
			Coordination with HDR and BEESC	Coordination with HDR and BEESC
		Coordination with NDM & Agencies	Coordination with NDM and Resource Agencies, Monthly Reporting	Coordination with NDM and Resource Agencies, Monthly Reporting
		Data Analysis	Data Entry and Analysis	Data Entry and Analysis
		2004 Progress Report	Prepare Preliminary Environmental Baseline Document	Prepare Preliminary Environmental Baseline Document

TABLE 7.2-1b
Pebble Project Environmental Studies
Study Summary for Trace Elements in Vegetation and Sediment, Transportation Corridor, 2004-2007
Consultant: BEESC

Discipline	2004 Data Collected or Tasks	2005 Data Collected or Tasks	2006 Data Collected or Tasks	2007 Tasks to be Completed
Trace Elements, Vegetation	Transportation Corridor			
	Information Gathering	None	Information Gathering	Information Gathering
	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan		Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan
	Field Sampling--August		Field Sampling--August	Field Sampling--August
	Communication and Data Management		Communication and Data Management	Communication and Data Management
	Coordination with local communities for observers		Coordination with local communities for observers	Coordination with local communities for observers
	Prepared presentation		Data Compilation	Data Compilation
	Report Writing		Report Writing	Report Writing
Trace Elements, Sediment	Transportation Corridor			
	Information Gathering	Information Gathering	Information Gathering	Information Gathering
	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan	Scope, Schedule, Field Sampling Plan
	Field Sampling--July, Sept.	Field Sampling--May, July, Sept.	Field Sampling--August	Field Sampling--August
	Communication and Data Management	Communication and Data Management	Communication and Data Management	Communication and Data Management
	Coordination with NDM	Coordination with NDM	Coordination with NDM	Coordination with NDM
	Coordination with local communities for observers	Coordination with local communities for observers	Coordination with local communities for observers	Coordination with local communities for observers
	Prepared presentation	Data Compilation and Analysis	Data Compilation and Analysis	Data Compilation and Analysis
Report Writing	Report Writing	Report Writing	Report Writing	

**TABLE 7.2-2
Pebble Project
Sample Site Period-of-Record Index
Trace Elements, Transportation Corridor**

Sample Location	Year ^a	Period-of-Record by Discipline																								Comment													
		Sediment												Vegetation													Soil												
		Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
NHRIV	2004									F	F	F																											
	2005					F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS20	2004								F	F																													
	2005							F	F																														
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS20A	2004								F	F																													
	2005								F	F																													
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS18A	2004								F	F																													
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS17A	2004								F	F																													
	2005					F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS14A	2004								F	F																													
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS14B	2004								F	F																													
	2005					F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS12A	2004								F	F																													
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS11A	2004								F	F																													
	2005					F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS8A	2004								F	F																													
	2005					F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						

Sample Location	Year ^a Month	Period-of-Record by Discipline																								Comment													
		Sediment												Vegetation													Soil												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
GS7A	2004																																						
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS6A	2004							F	F																														
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS4A	2004						F	F	F																														
	2005				F	F	F																																
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS4B	2004								F																														
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS3A	2004							F	F	F																													
	2005				F	F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
GS23	2004							F	F																														
	2005																																						
	2006								F																														
	2007																																						
GS22	2004							F	F																														
	2005																																						
	2006								F																														
	2007																																						
GS21	2004								F	F	F																												
	2005				F	F	F	F																															
	2006								F																														
	2007																																						
PSC	2004							F																															
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
PSD	2004							F																															
	2005																																						
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
POND1	2004							F	F	F																													
	2005				F	F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						
POND2	2004							F	F	F																													
	2005				F	F	F	F																															
	2006																																						
	2007																																						

Sample Location	Year ^a	Period-of-Record by Discipline																								Comment												
		Sediment												Vegetation													Soil											
		Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
POND3	2004						F		F																													
	2005					F		F		F																												
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
POND4	2004						F		F																													
	2005					F		F		F																												
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
POND5	2004						F		F																													
	2005					F		F		F																												
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
POND6	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006								F												V																	
	2007								F												V																	
TE01	2004																				V	V										S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE02	2004																				V											S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE03	2004																				V											S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE04	2004																				V											S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE05	2004																				V	V										S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE06	2004																				V											S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE07	2004																				V											S						
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					

Sample Location	Year ^a Month	Period-of-Record by Discipline																								Comment												
		Sediment												Vegetation													Soil											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
TE08	2004																		V	V													S					
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE09	2004																			V													S					
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE10	2004																			V													S					
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE11	2004																			V													S					
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE12	2004																			V	V												S					
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE13	2004																			V														S				
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE14	2004																			V														S				
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE15	2004																			V														S				
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE16	2004																			V														S				
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE17	2004																			V	V													S				
	2005																																					
	2006																																					
	2007																																					
TE18	2004																			V														S				
	2005																																					
	2006																			V														S				
	2007																			V														S				

Sample Location	Year ^a Month	Period-of-Record by Discipline																																				Comment
		Sediment												Vegetation												Soil												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
TE19	2004																			V												S						
	2005																																					
	2006																			V												S						
	2007																			V												S						
TE20	2004																			V											S							
	2005																																					
	2006																			V											S		New Loc: North Head - East					
	2007																			V											S							
TE21	2004																			V											S							
	2005																																					
	2006																			V											S		New Loc: Knoll Head					
	2007																			V											S							
TE22	2004																			V											S							
	2005																																					
	2006																			V											S		New Loc: Just west of Port Site 1					
	2007																			V											S							
TE23	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																			V											S							
	2007																			V											S							
TE24	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																			V											S							
	2007																			V											S							
SWQ1 ^b	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																				F																	
	2007																				F																	
SWQ2 ^b	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																				F																	
	2007																				F																	
SWQ3 ^b	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																				F																	
	2007																				F																	
SWQ4 ^b	2004																																					
	2005																																					
	2006																				F																	
	2007																				F																	

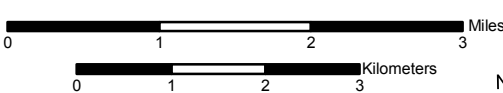
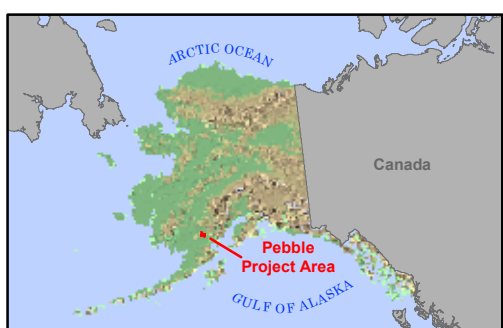
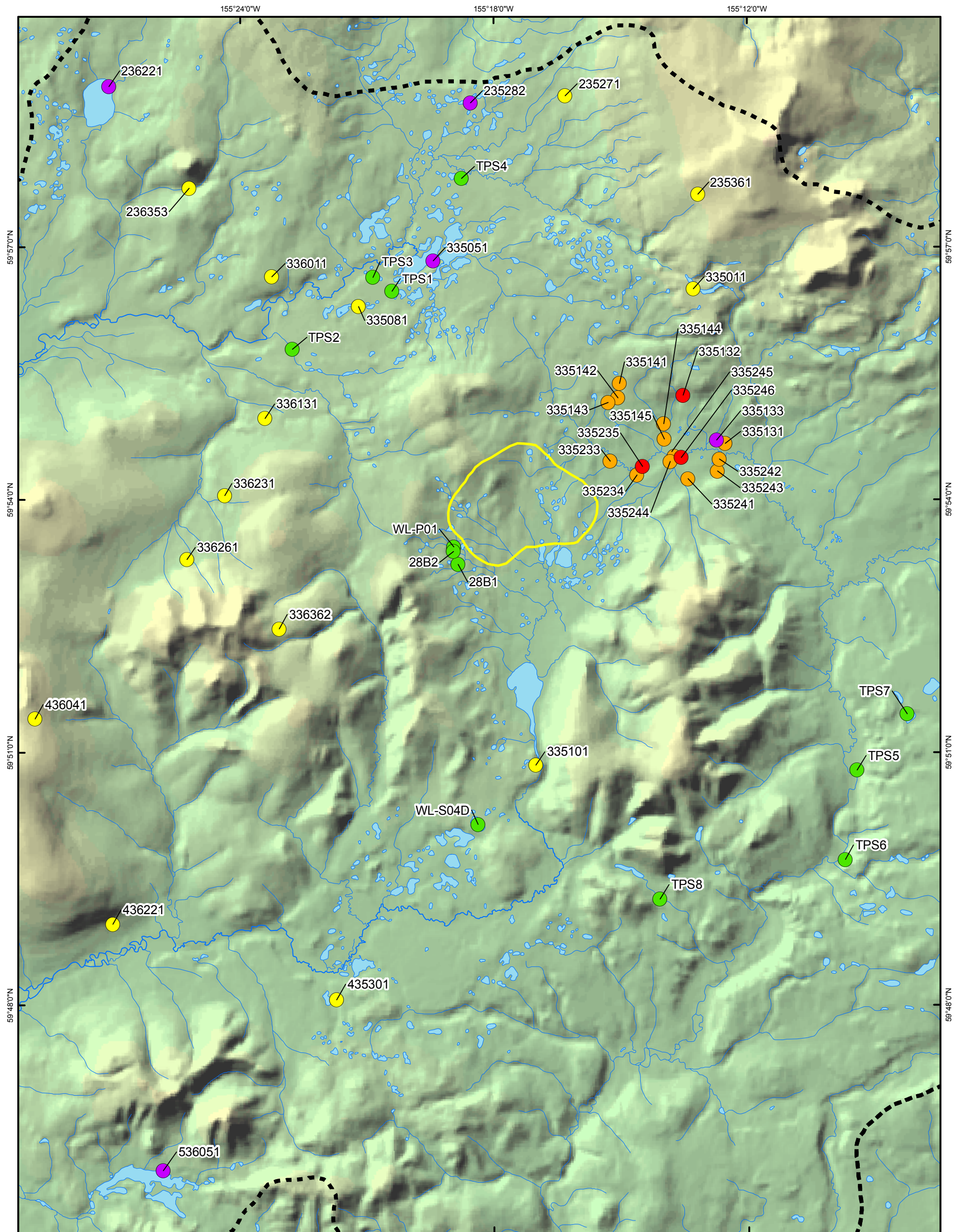
KEY:

- F Sediment samples collected.
- V Vegetation samples collected from various plant species.
- S Soil samples collected.

NOTES:

- a. Work for 2007 is shown as planned, but not yet completed. This work will be conducted by BEESC.
- b. Water-quality samples, as well as sediment, are being collected at these sites.

FIGURES



Scale 1:80,000
 Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

Legend

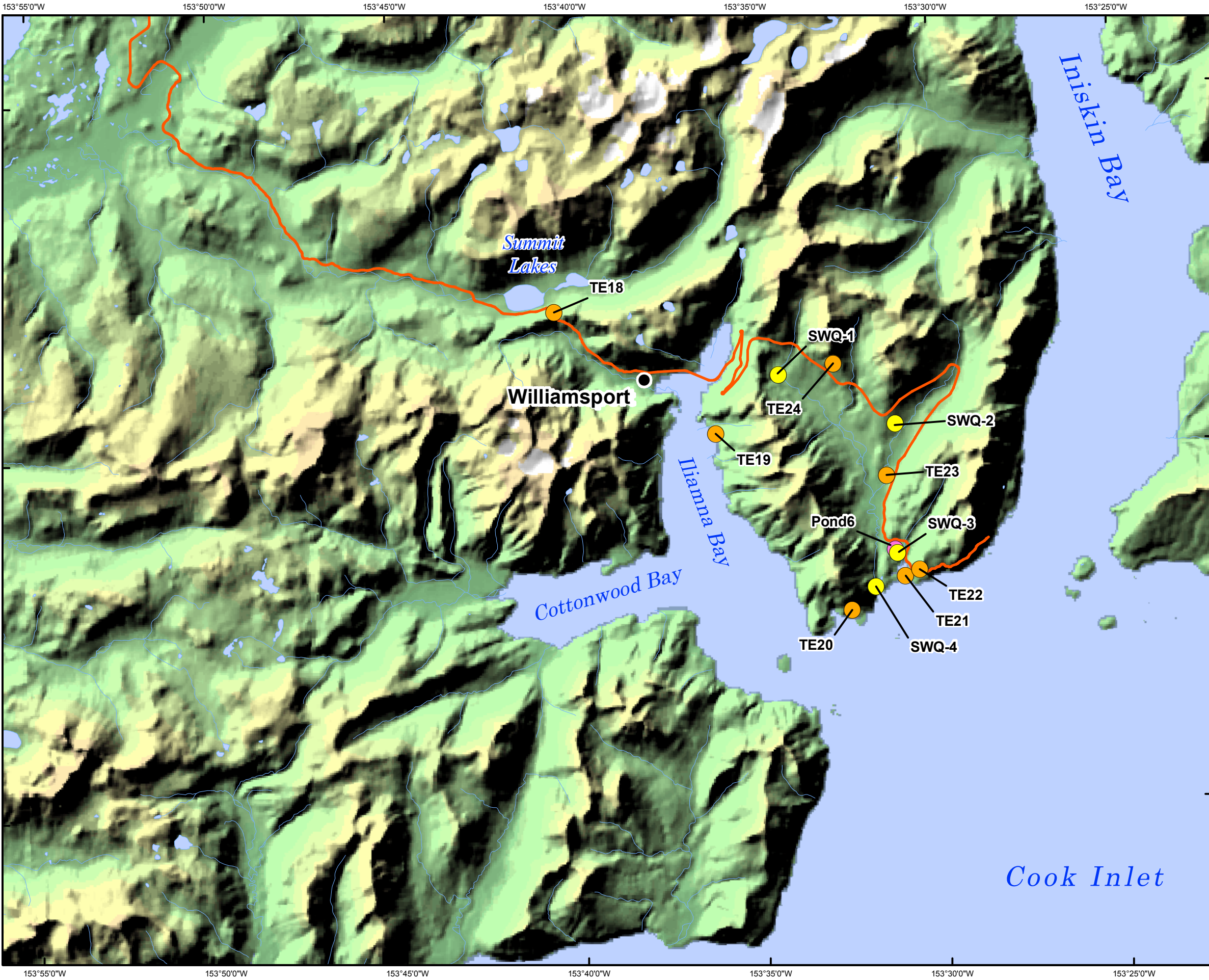
- Bacteriology Soil, Surface Soil, and Terrestrial Vegetation Sample Locations
- Surface Soil and Terrestrial Vegetation Sample Locations
- Surface Soil Sample Locations
- Aquatic Vegetation and Sediment Sample Locations
- Aquatic Vegetation (Small Pond Study) Sample Locations
- Study Boundary
- General Pit Outline

Pebble Project
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**Figure 7.1-1
 2007 Study Plan;
 Naturally Occurring Constituents;
 Proposed 2007 Sampling Locations for Soil,
 Sediment, and Vegetation;
 Mine Study Area**

RDI_SLR_2007_StudyPlan_TE_Fig7.1-1_11x17P_v06.mxd	Date: August 8, 2007
Version: 6	Author: RDI-LS



DRAFT
 Figure 7.2-1
 2007 Study Plan;
 Naturally Occurring Constituents;
 Proposed 2007 Sampling Locations for Soil,
 Sediment, and Vegetation;
 Transportation Corridor

- Legend**
- Surface Soil and Terrestrial Vegetation Sample Locations
 - Sediment Sample Locations
 - Creek Water and Sediment Sample Locations
 - Possible Road Corridor

