

Appendix 24

Meadowbank 2020 Thermal Report



MEADOWBANK PROJECT

Thermal Report

Prepared by:
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division

Version 2
February 2021

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date (YMD)	Section	Revision
1	2020-03-31	All	All
2	2021-02-23	All	All

INTRODUCTION

To observe the freezeback of the Tailing Storage Facility (TSF) and the Rockfill Storage Facilities (RSF's) at the Meadowbank Mine Project, a series of subsurface thermistors have been installed at strategic locations.

The purposes of the TSF thermistors are to monitor the talik temperatures underneath the TSF as freezing progresses and to monitor the freezing of the tailings. The purpose of the thermistors in the RSF is to monitor the RSF temperature as freezing progresses. See Figure 1 for the locations of the thermistors installed. Appendix A of this Plan contains the updated data from each thermistor for 2020.

The thermistors are monitored periodically and as-needed, and this will continue throughout the operational period as well as during closure and post closure. The results collected are to be used to evaluate the predicted thermal response of the facilities with the actual thermal response. This will allow adjustments to the tailings deposition plan, the Waste Rock deposition plan and the final Closure Plan.

INSTRUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Each thermistor installed as part of the thermal monitoring plan must comply with the general specifications presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Thermistor Specifications

Items	Specifications
Accuracy	1 degree Celsius
Thermistor temperature range	-40 to 40 degree Celsius
Method of cable termination	Amphenol connector and DAS direct connection
Cable termination enclosures	Weatherproof Animal resistant
Readout and data logger	Manual and DAS

THERMAL MONITORING OF THE TSF

The monitoring program objective for the TSF is to provide the data required to validate the predictions of freezeback within the tailings and support the cover design. The goals of the TSF North and South Cell cover systems and landforms are to ensure long-term landform stability, encourage TSF freeze-back into the surrounding permafrost, and maintain either subzero temperature or a high degree of saturation (>85%) in the tailings at all times. If it is determined

by monitoring during operations that the tailings are freezing at lower rates than predicted, then mitigation procedures would be implemented.

An instrumentation plan for the TSF is planned to be developed to define the required instrumentation at closure once capping of the TSF is completed. The purpose of the performance monitoring system is to ensure that the cover performs as per its design intent.

The instruments installed in the North Cell TSF were done in locations where tailings deposition was not planned to resume. No instruments are currently installed within the tailings of the South Cell but it is planned to install some in 2021.

As the TSF is reaching its final elevation, thermistors will be installed from the final tailings surface, and directly into the underlying bedrock.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE TSF

The thermistors are indicating that freezeback is occurring within the North Cell TSF.

Instruments located near the pond of water of the North Cell are showing a portion of unfrozen tailings at depth with frozen tailings in surface (with a 4-5 m active layer) and a progression of the freezing front advancing at depth. This is represented by yellow dot on Figure 1 (NC-16-1, NC-16-2, NC17-3, NC-17-2, NC-17-6). Instruments located away from the water pond show that the tailings and its foundation are entirely frozen with an active depth of 4-5 m. This is represented by red, green and orange dot on Figure 1 (NC-17-1, NC17-4, NC-17-6, NC-17-7, NCIS-01 to NCIS-04).

Instruments installed in the capping or rockfill structure above tailings show that the active layer remained confined in the waste rock showing the effectiveness of the capping concept. This is represented by green and red dot on Figure 1 (NC-17-5, SWD-16-01).

SWD-01 shows a stable unfrozen situation in the foundation below the frozen tailings and capping.

The thermal prediction of the tailings freezeback made by Golder in 2008 indicated that for the more conservative scenario the entire tailings body would be completely frozen within a period of about 40 years after the end of operations with the freezing front advancing into the foundation beneath the tailings in the long term. The results are aligned with this modelling with most data showing a quicker freezeback than anticipated.

THERMAL MONITORING PLAN OF THE RSF

Thermistors are installed within the Portage RSF. No instruments are installed within the Vault RSF.

Additional thermistors are planned to be installed within the Portage and Vault RSF at closure. An instrumentation plan will be developed to define the required instrumentation at closure.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE RSF

In 2019 AEM initiated with O’Kane a mandate to review the thermal model of the Portage RSF with the objective of evaluating the accuracy of the thermal model by comparing the simulated results with field data collected from the thermistor data.

The study done by O’Kane came to the following conclusion:

- Decreasing trends in active zone depth are recorded at most thermistor locations
- The thermal model predicted colder temperatures near surface compared to recorded near surface temperatures
- Temperature trends are becoming more consistent with simulated temperatures over time
- The observed active zone is generally thicker on the north slope compared to the south slope which is the opposite of the conceptual model.

The numerical modelling undertaken in 2016 tended to predict colder temperature than the thermistors during the observed period at all locations. However, the difference between the modelled and observed temperature is becoming less over time and the overall trend in the observed data is becoming more consistent with the model. The timing and amplitude of seasonal trends already show a good match between observed and modelled results, but the model results are shifted lower due to the predicted colder temperature. It is expected that the trend towards consistency will continue, further increasing confidence.

In 2020 a similar trend was observed with most of the active layer located within the upper 4 meters of material, corresponding to the NAG cover layer. A slow cooling trend is observed in most instruments, showing that permafrost is progressing in the WRSF.

As per O’Kane recommendation two new TH were installed in the Portage WRSF in 2020. The data so far seem to suggest that the waste material directly below the NAG cover layer is marginally frozen, while the NAG layer and the deeper portion of the WRSF are frozen. These instruments only have a few months of data, and the thermal trend will be confirmed over the next year.

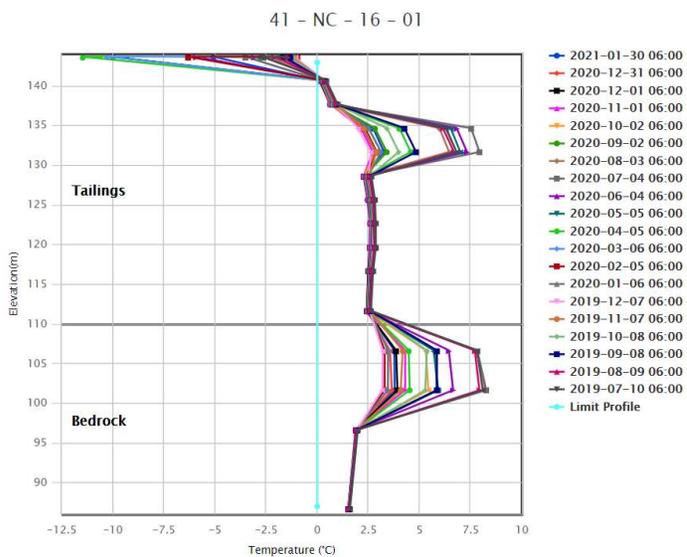
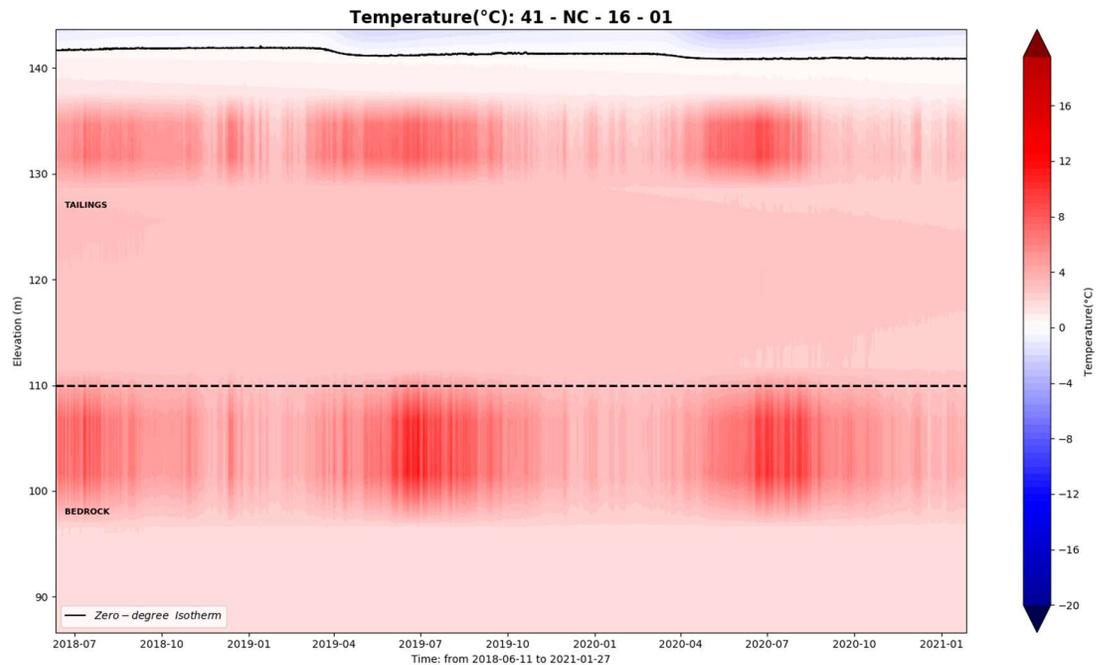
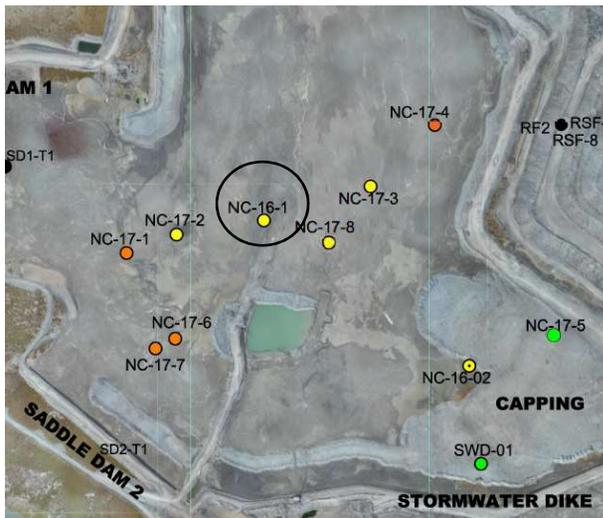


Figure 1: Thermistor Location in Portage RSF, TSF North Cell, and TSF South Cell

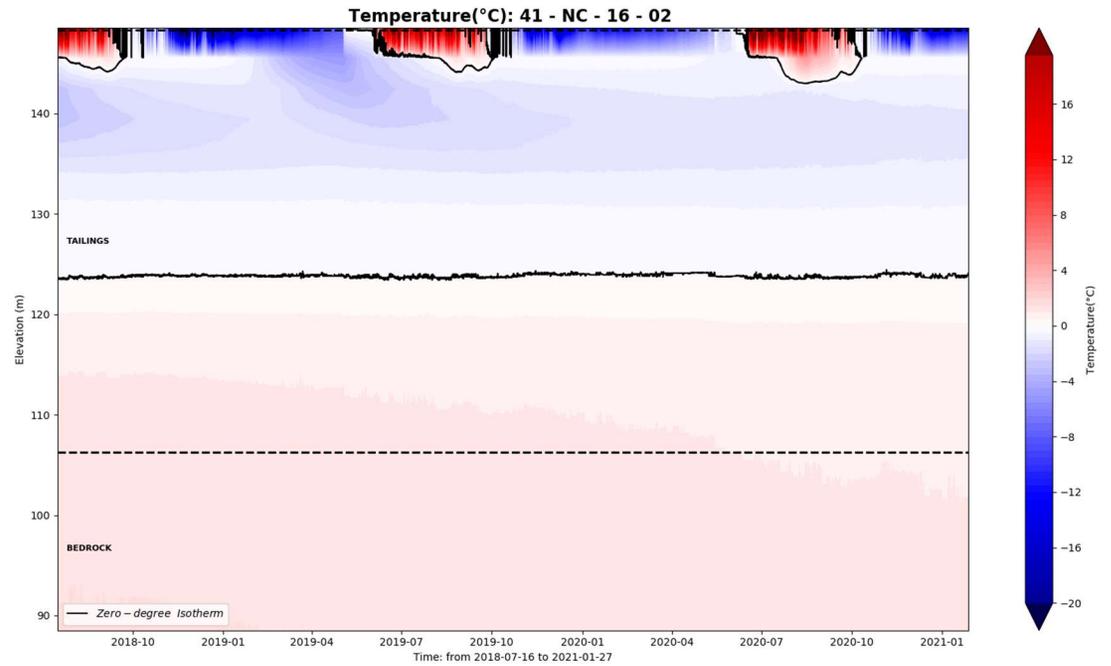
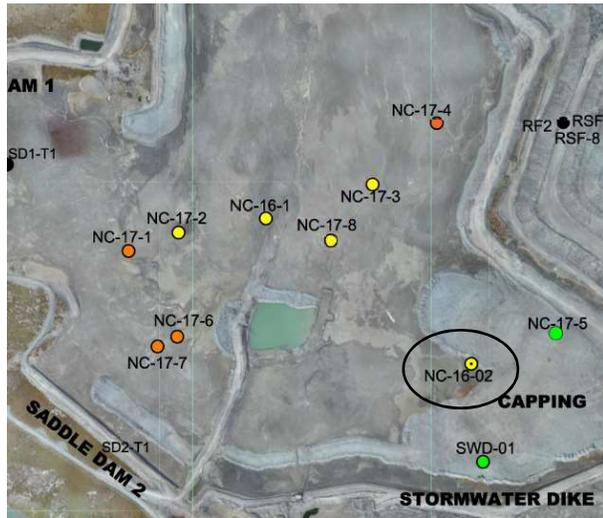
Meadowbank Thermal Report 2020 – Appendix A

<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Easting (X)</i>	<i>Northing (Y)</i>	<i>Elevation (Z)</i>	<i>Azimuth</i>	<i>Dip</i>	<i>Installed</i>	<i>Active (Y) or (N)</i>
NC-16-01	NC	637562.77	7215849.33	147.63	--	-90	2016	Y
NC-16-02	NC	637969.22	7215561.87	148.33	--	-90	2016	Y
NC-17-1	NC	637290.00	7215823.00	148.10	--	-90	2018	Y
NC-17-2	NC	637391.00	7215823.00	147.61	--	-90	2017	Y
NC-17-3	NC	637775.00	7215917.00	147.65	--	-90	2015	Y
NC-17-4	NC	637901.00	7216038.00	148.48	--	-90	2015	Y
NC-17-5	NC	638134.34	7215623.68	152.00	--	-90	2015	Y
NC-17-6	NC	637389.00	7215623.00	147.78	--	-90	2015	Y
NC-17-7	NC	637348.00	7215598.00	147.89	--	-90	2015	Y
NC-17-8	NC	637668.00	7215778.00	146.45	--	-90	2015	Y
NCIS-01	NC	637412.84	7216395.10	152.43	--	-90	2018	Y
NCIS-02	NC	637377.24	7216398.61	151.63	--	-90	2018	Y
NCIS-03	NC	637432.58	7216636.35	154.74	--	-90	2018	Y
NCIS-04	NC	637405.47	7216293.32	152.15	--	-90	2018	Y
SWD-01	NC	606778.00	7256254.00	162.00	--	-90	2014	Y
SD1-1	SD1	637030.50	7215957.68	150.00	--	Liner	2009	Y
SD2-1	SD2	637290.00	7215420.00	150.00	--	Liner	2012	Y
SD4-1	SD4	638253.95	7214479.72	144.00	--	Liner	2017	N
CD-US 0+650	CD	638626.00	7214639.00	126.40	--	Liner	2015	Y
RSF-3	RSF	607078.00	7256522.00	155.00	--	-90	2013	Y
RSF-5	RSF	638629.81	7216014.00	193.02	--	-90	2013	Y
RSF-6	RSF	638845.40	7215647.00	197.79	--	-90	2013	Y
RSF-7	RSF	638153.00	7216039.00	173.50	--	-55	2015	Y
RSF-8	RSF	638156.00	7216038.00	173.85	--	-70	2015	Y
RSF-9	RSF	638290.00	7215707.00	171.26	--	-55	2015	Y
RSF-10	RSF	638293.00	7215711.00	171.70	--	-70	2015	Y
RSF-11	RSF	639071.00	7215787.00	193.13	--	-55	2015	Y
RSF-12	RSF	639066.00	7215791.00	193.51	--	-70	2015	Y
RSF-13	RSF	638916.00	7215943.00	191.69	--	-55	2015	N
RSF-14	RSF	638917.00	7215939.00	191.81	--	-80	2015	N
RSF-15	RSF	638612.00	7216038.00	192.10	--	-55	2015	Y
RSF-16	RSF	638610.00	7216033.00	192.39	--	-70	2015	Y
RSF-17	RSF	638570.442	7215935.4	233.183	----	-90	2021	Y
RSF-18	RSF	638495.212	7216111.896	172.605	-	-90	2021	Y

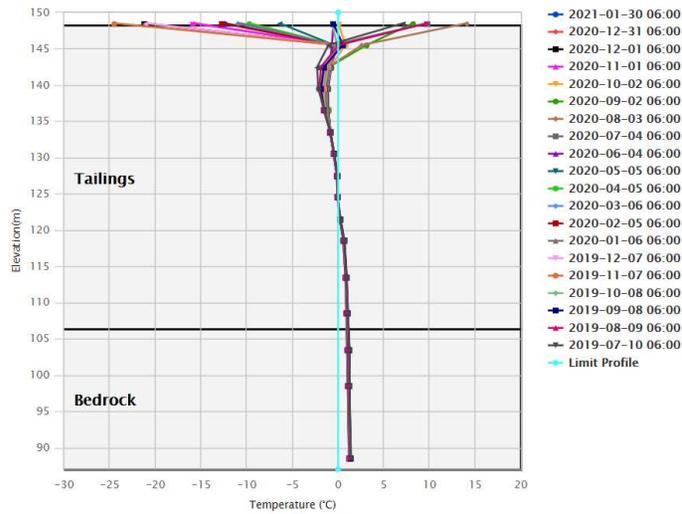
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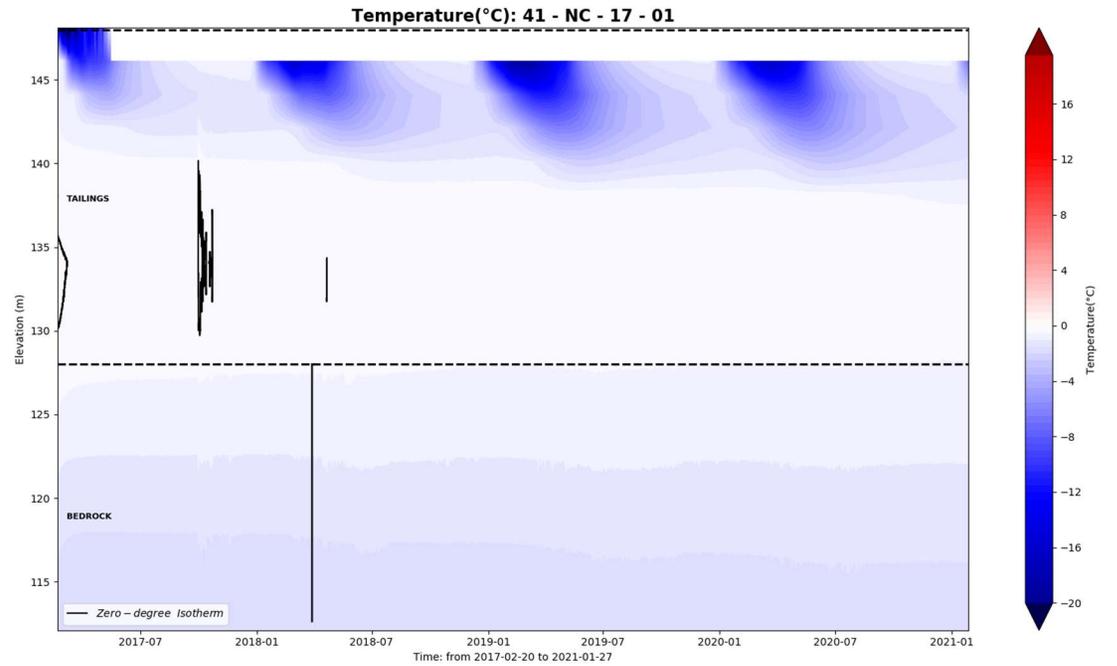
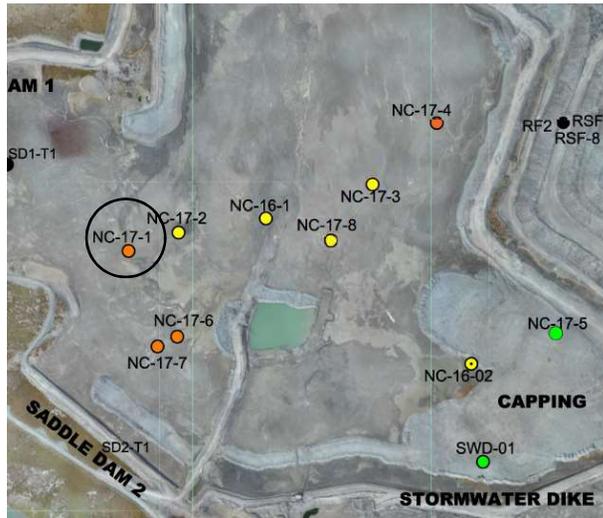
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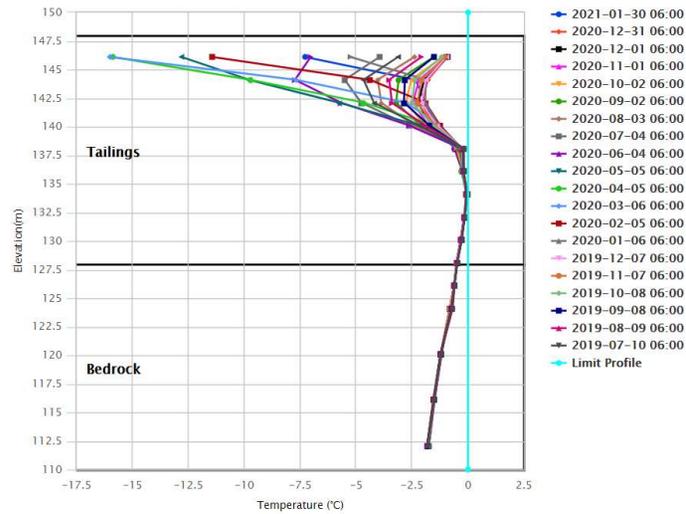
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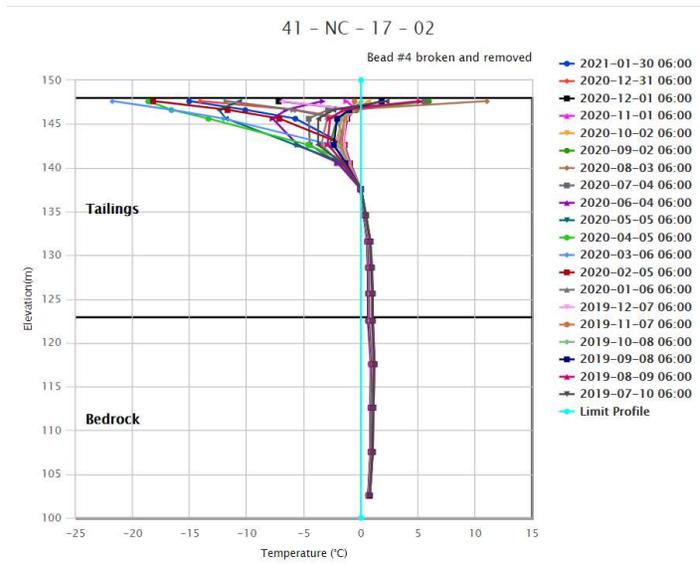
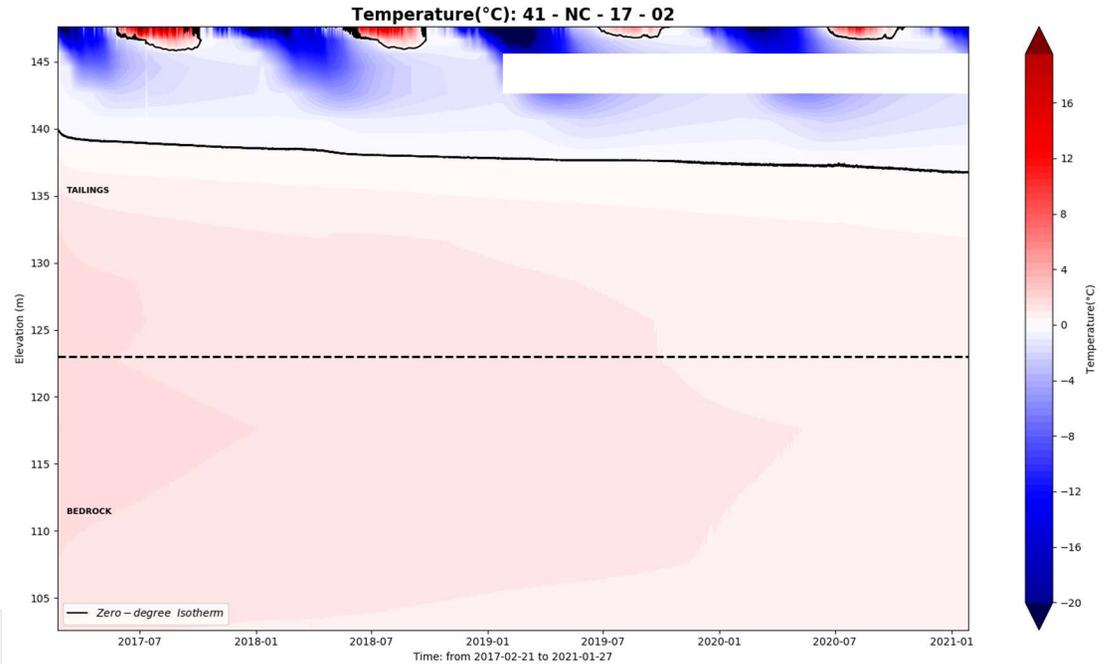
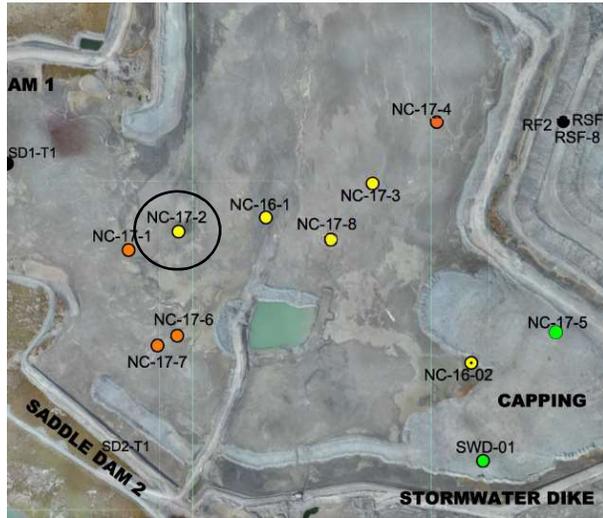
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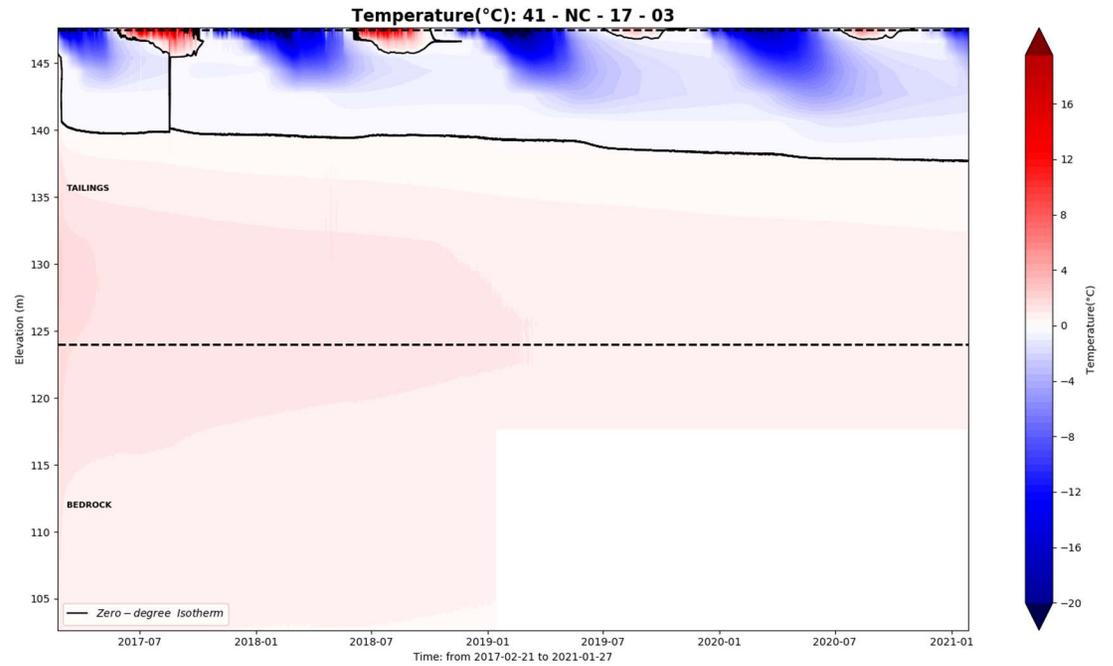
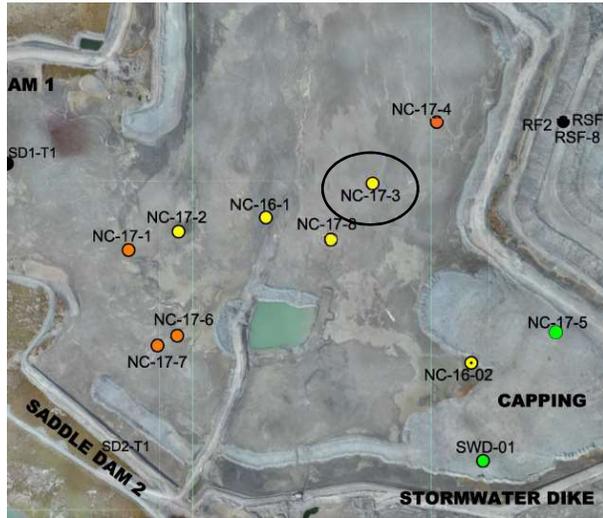
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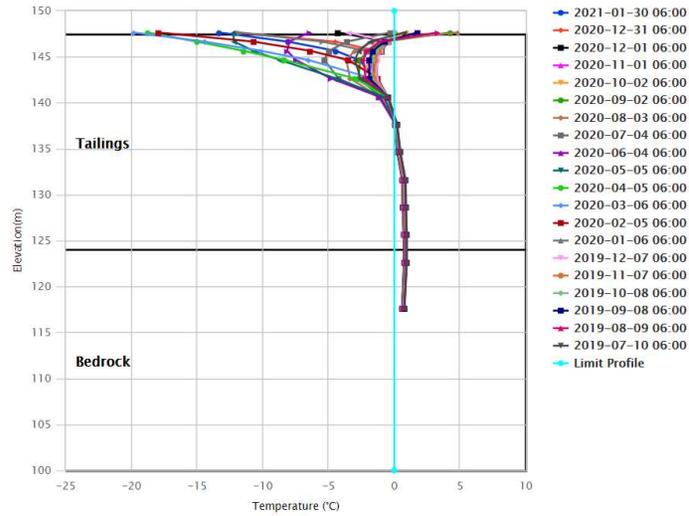
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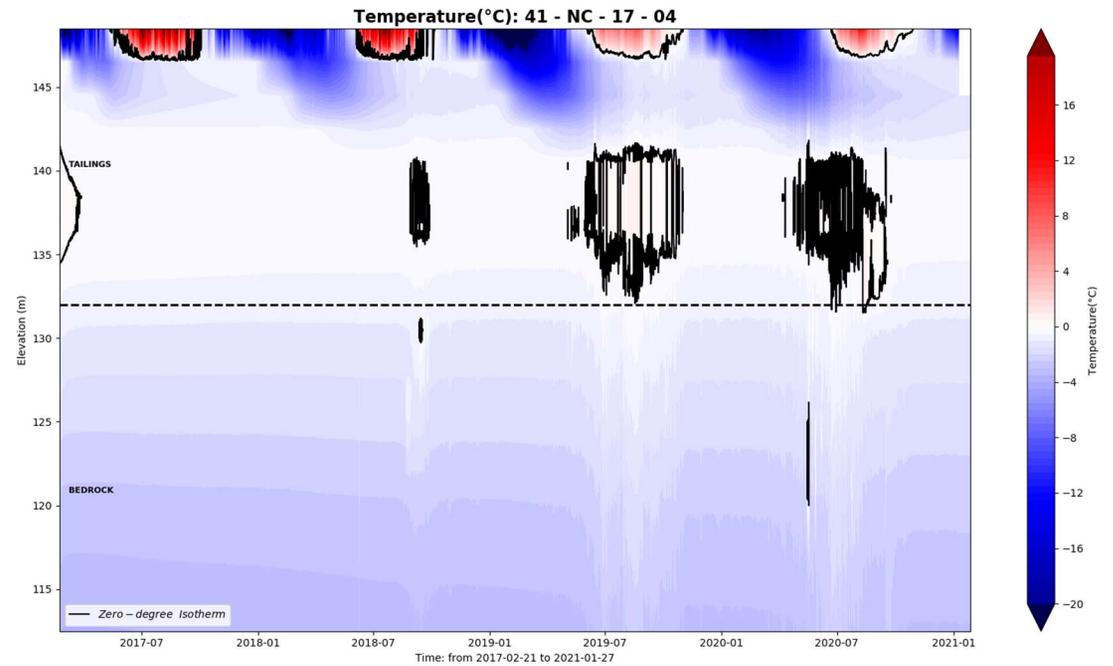
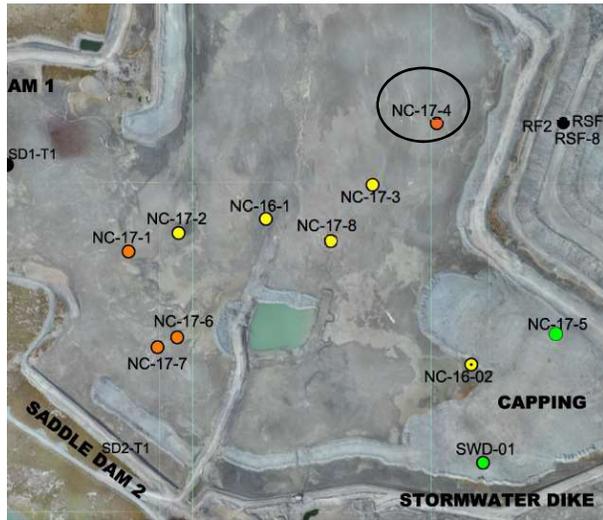
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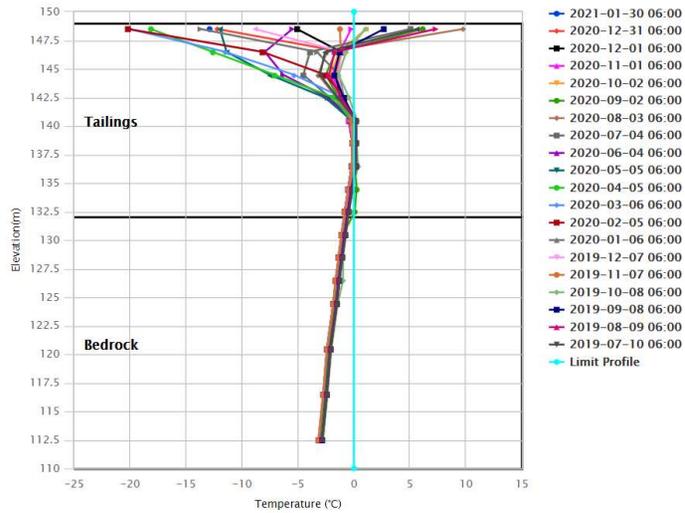
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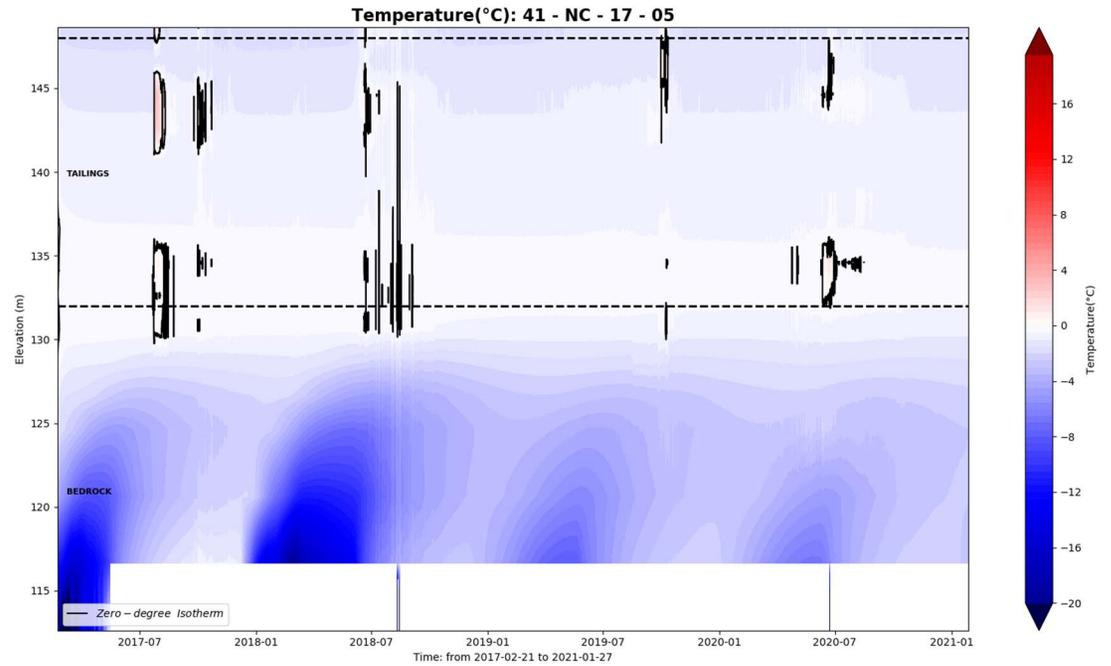
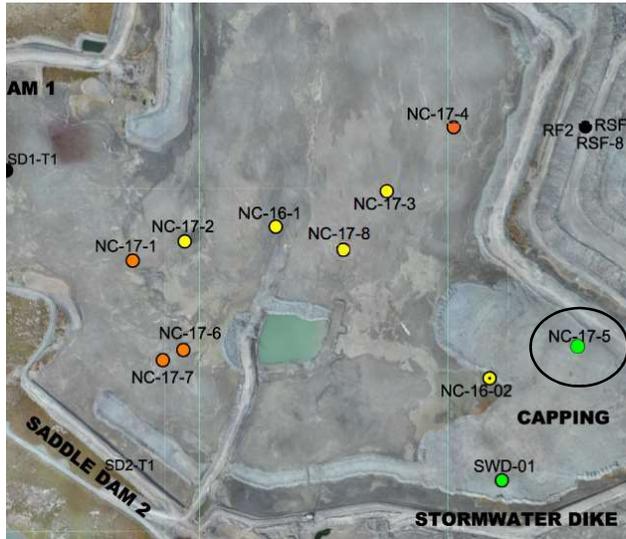
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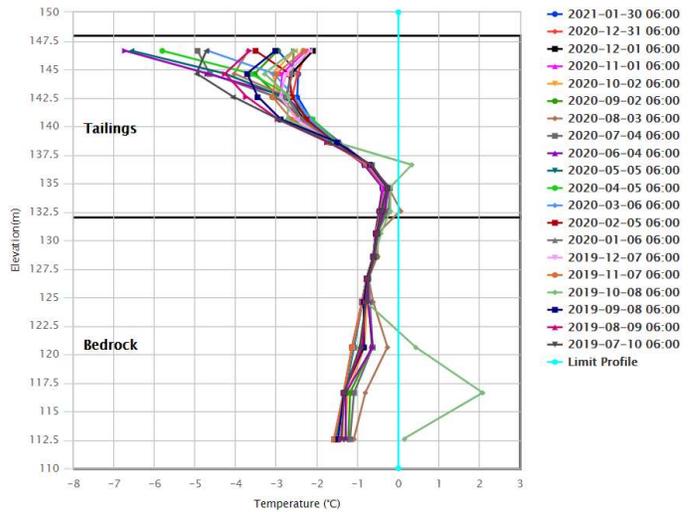
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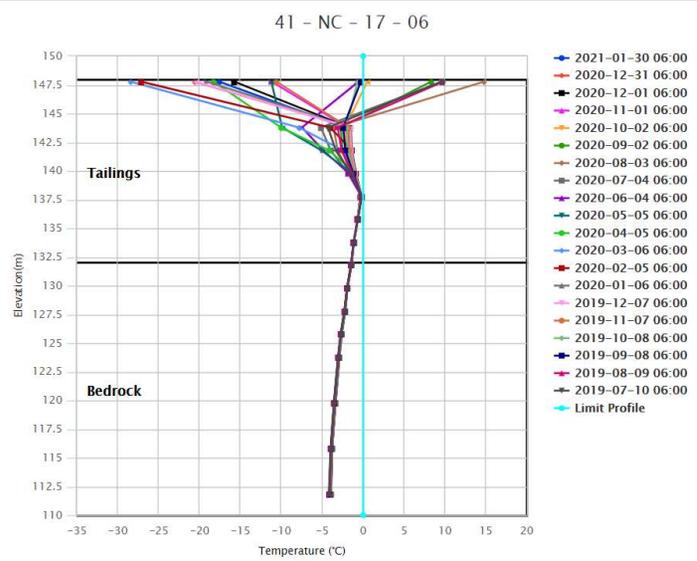
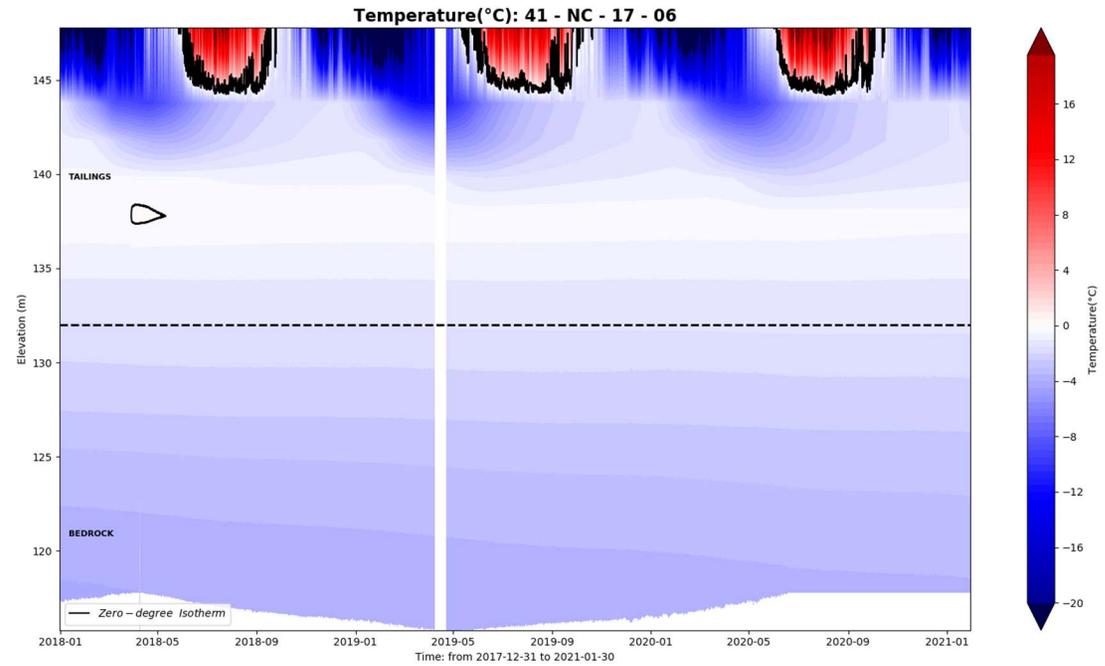
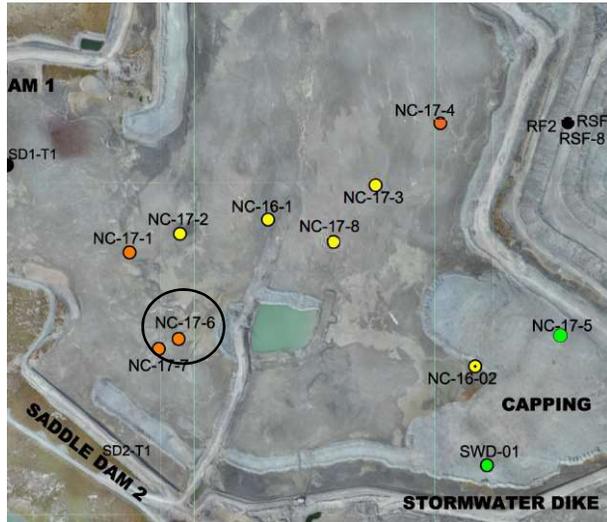
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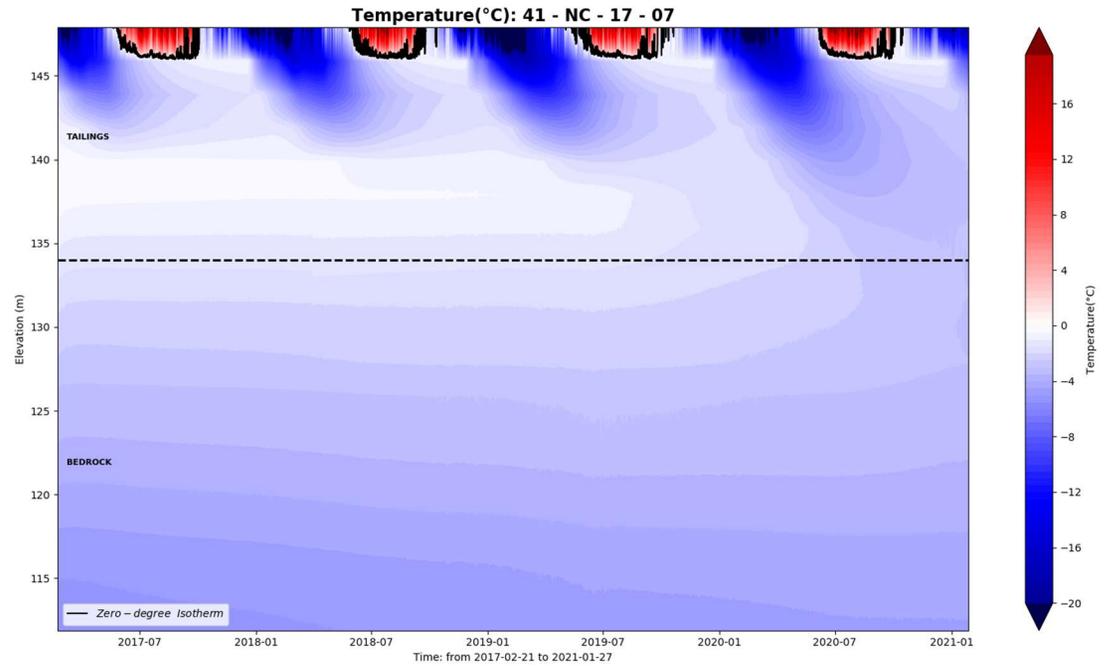
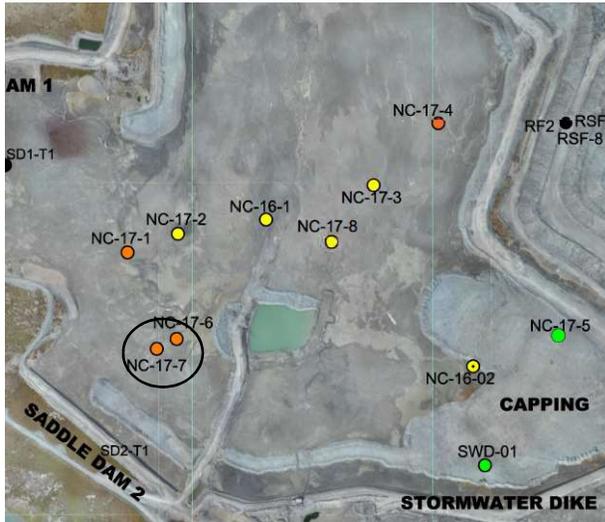
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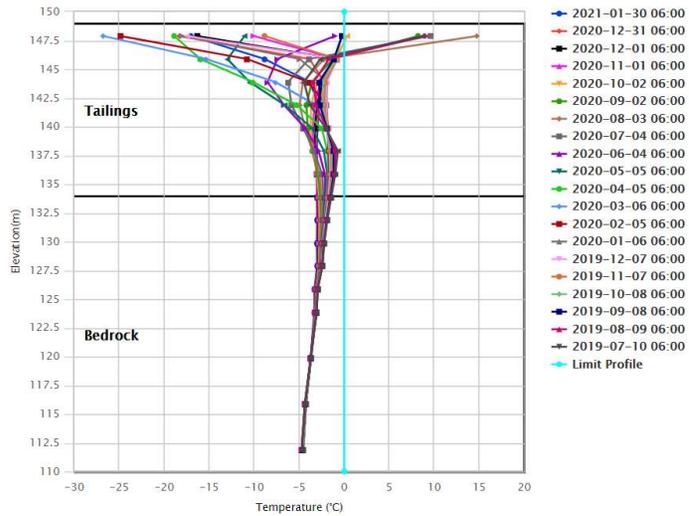
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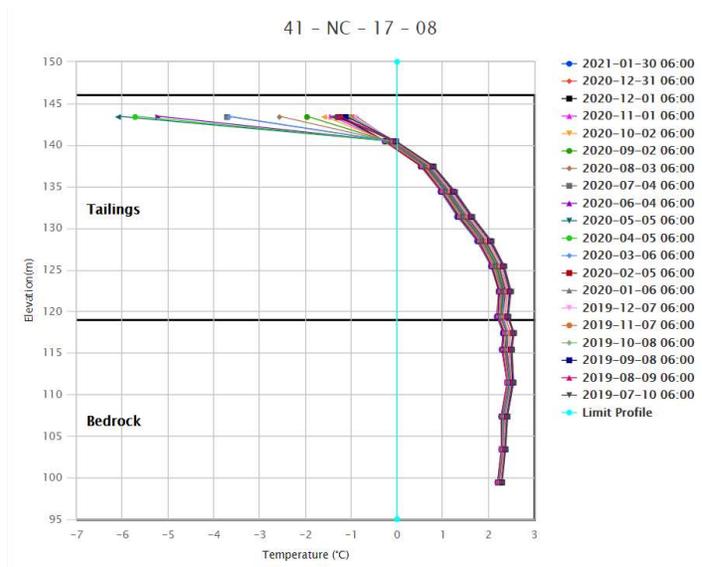
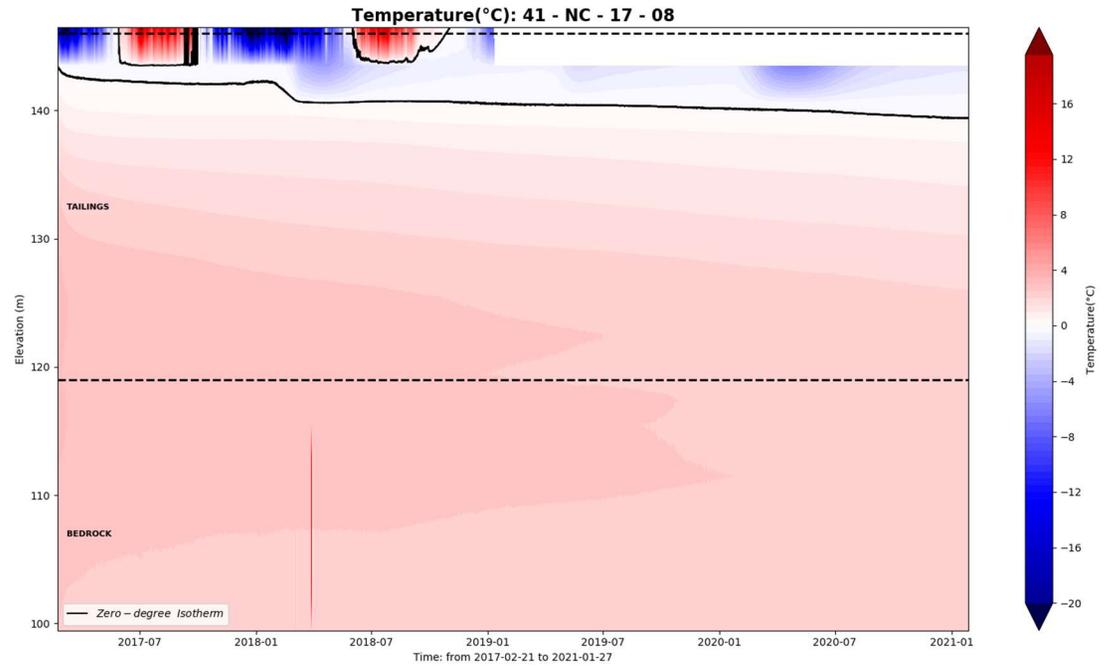
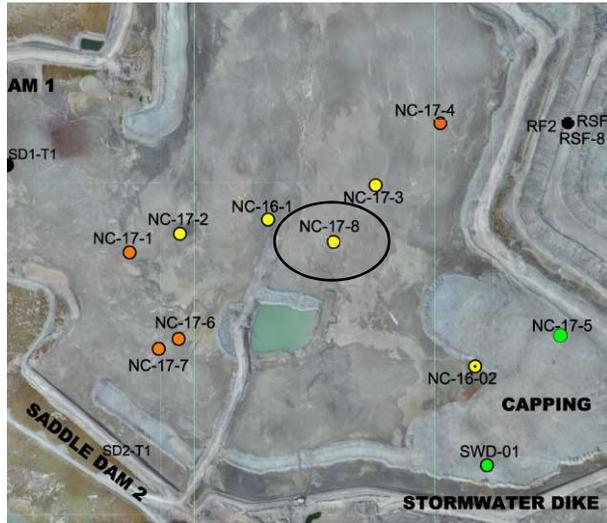
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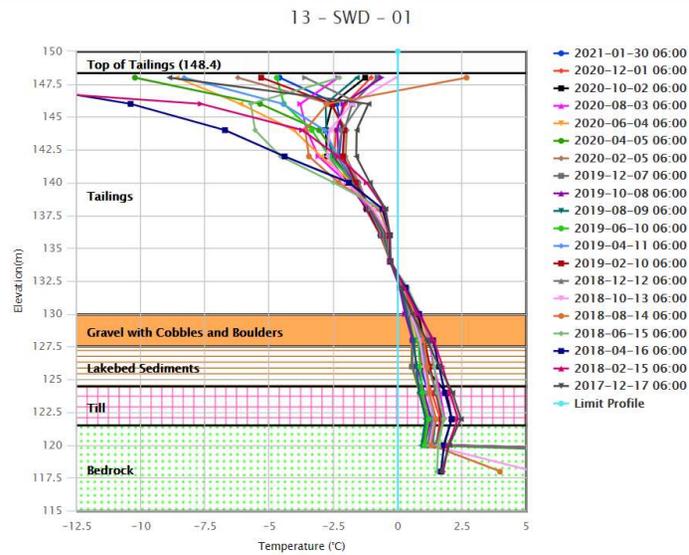
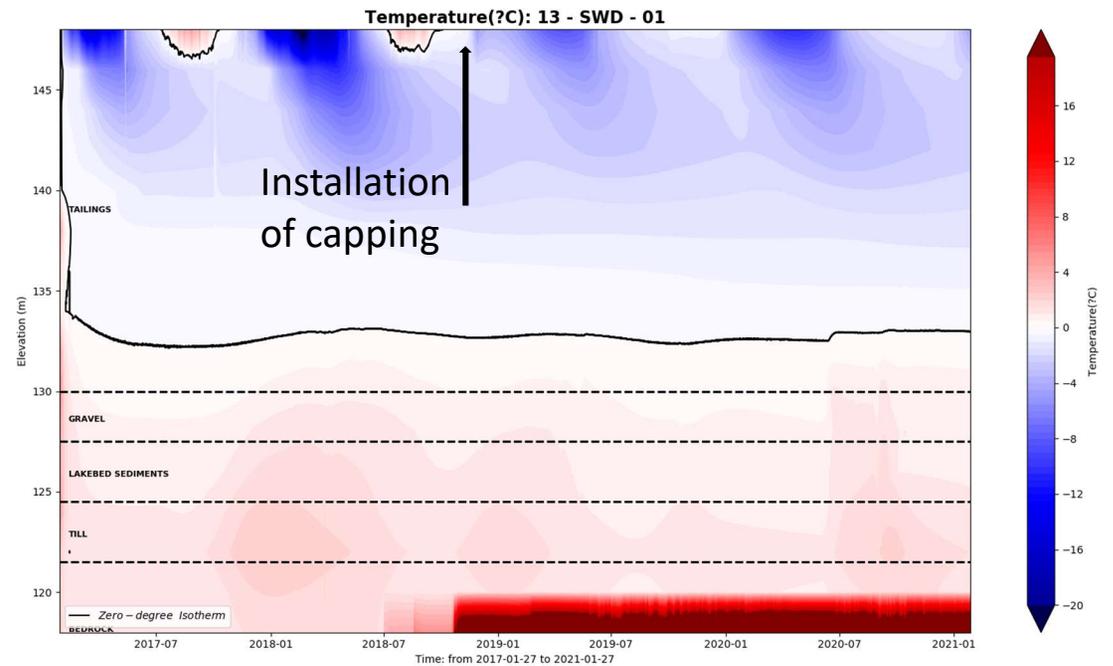
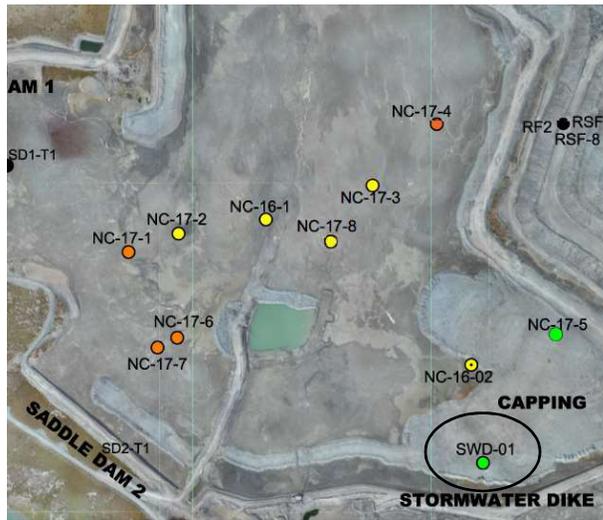
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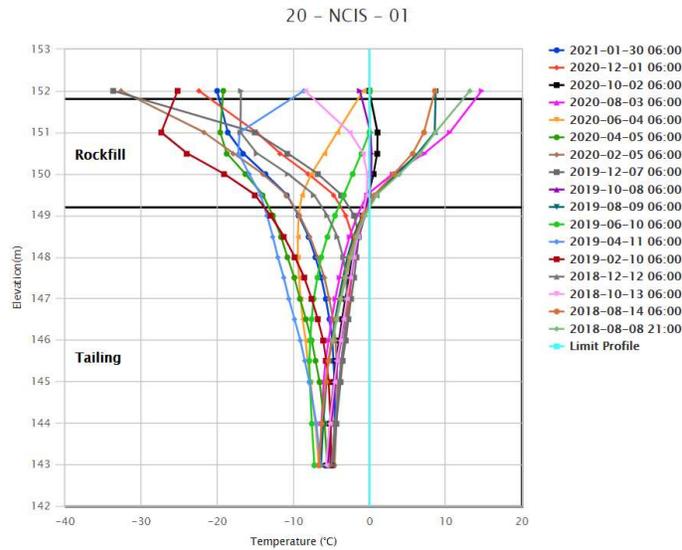
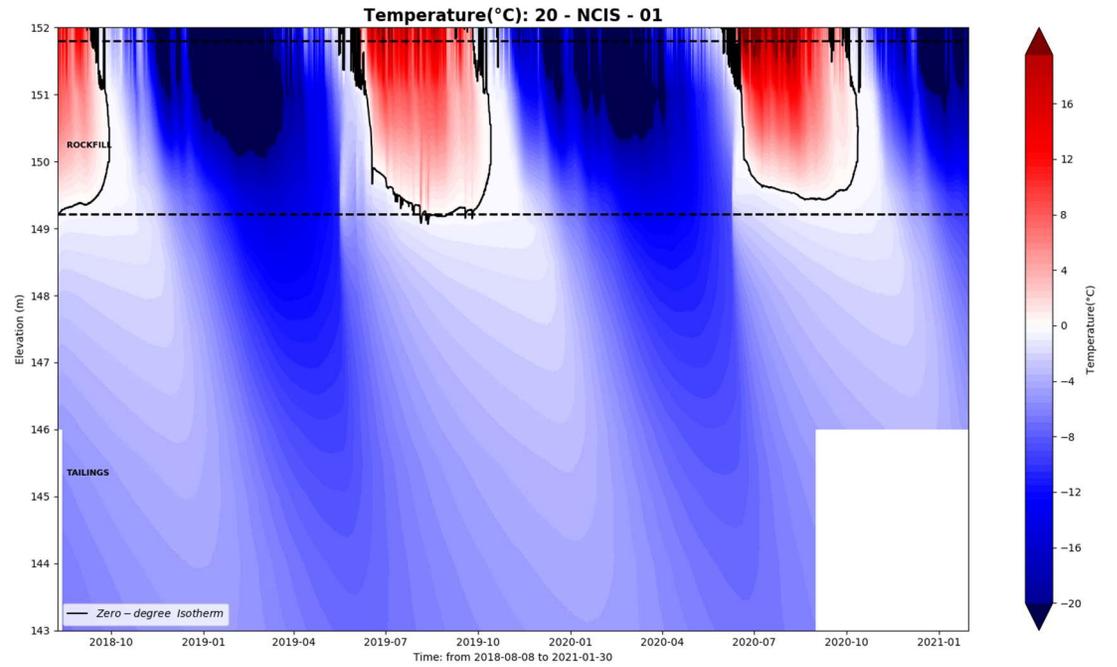
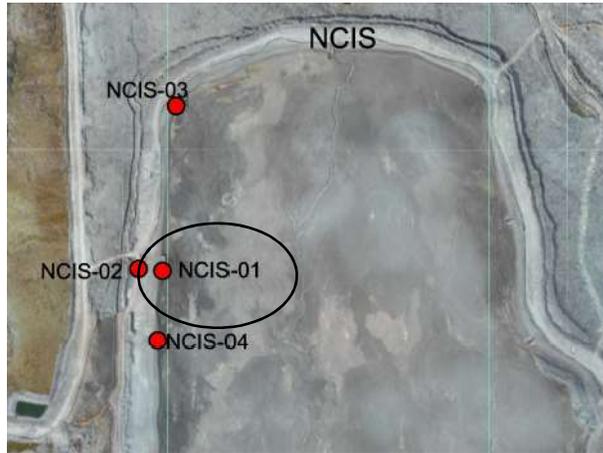
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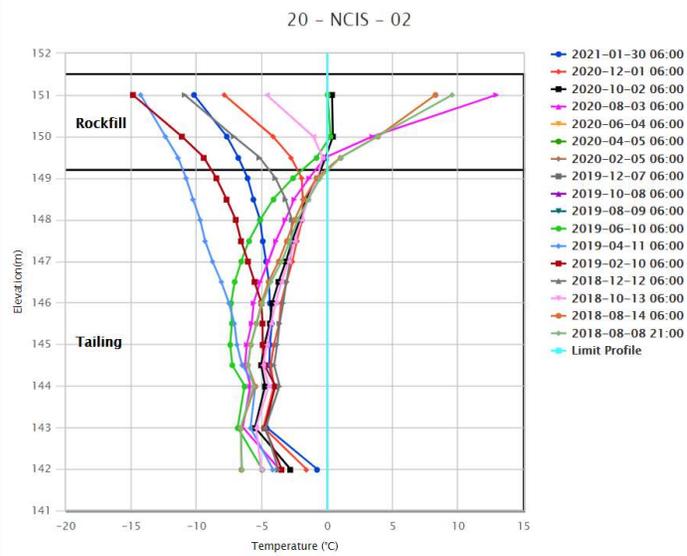
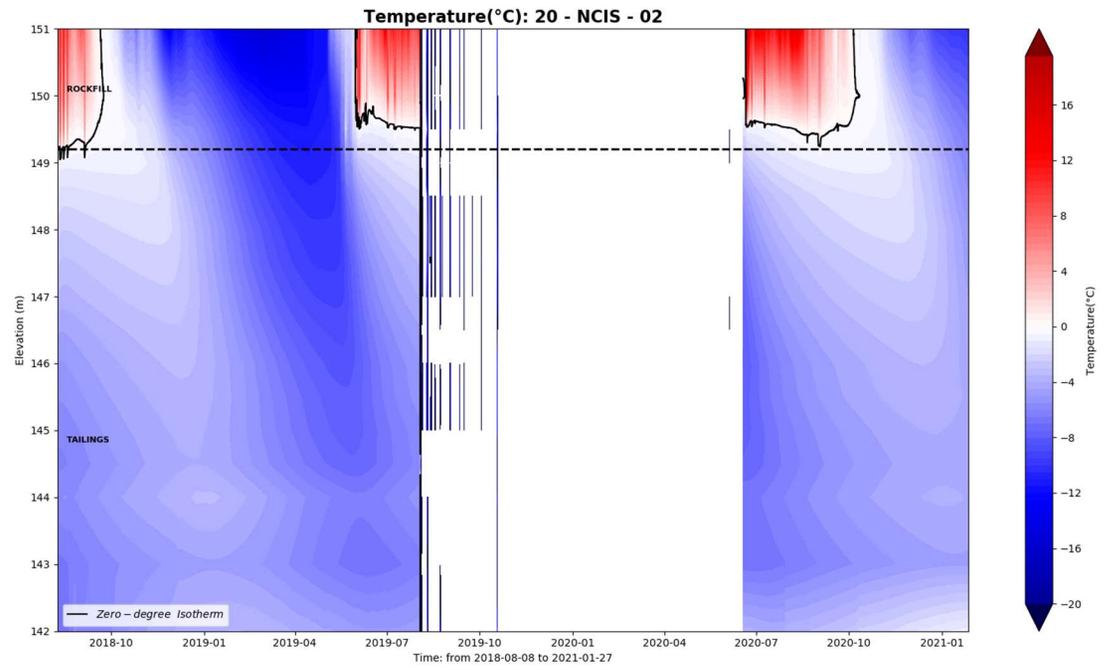
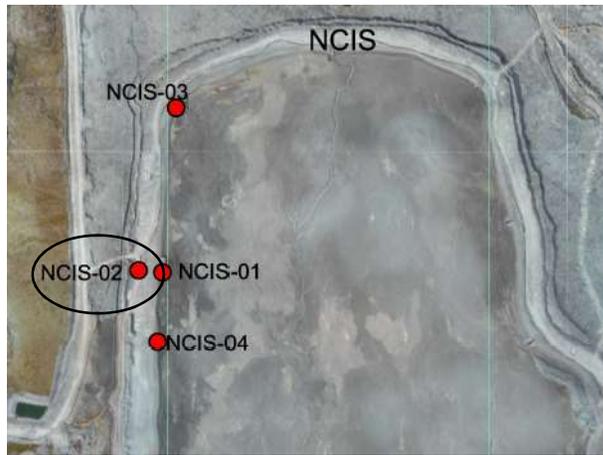
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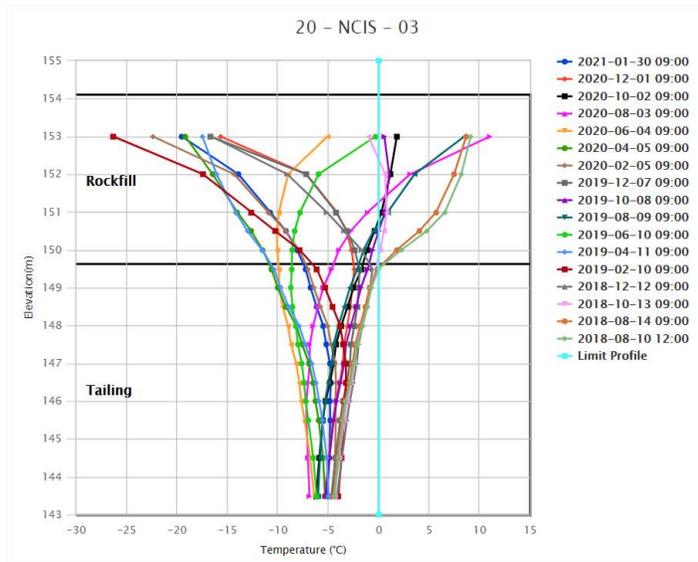
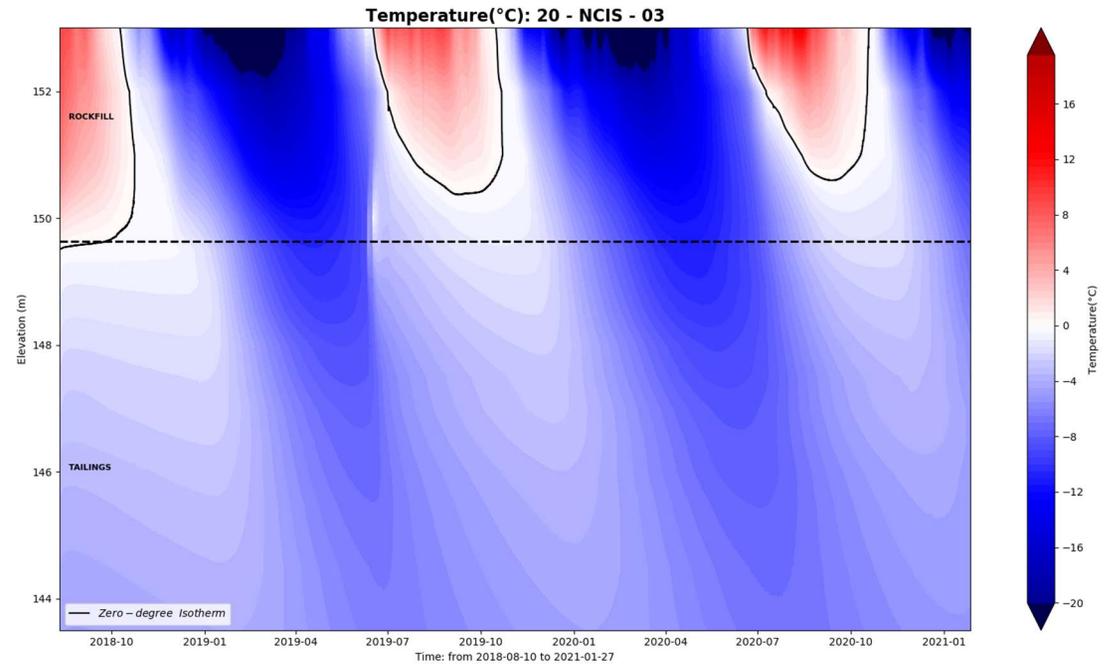
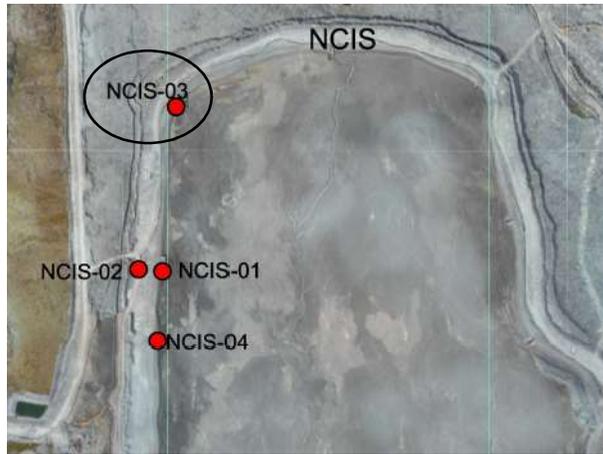
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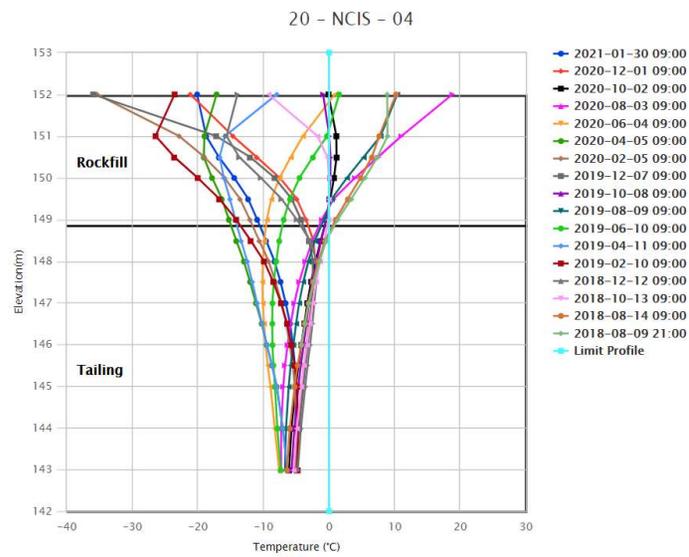
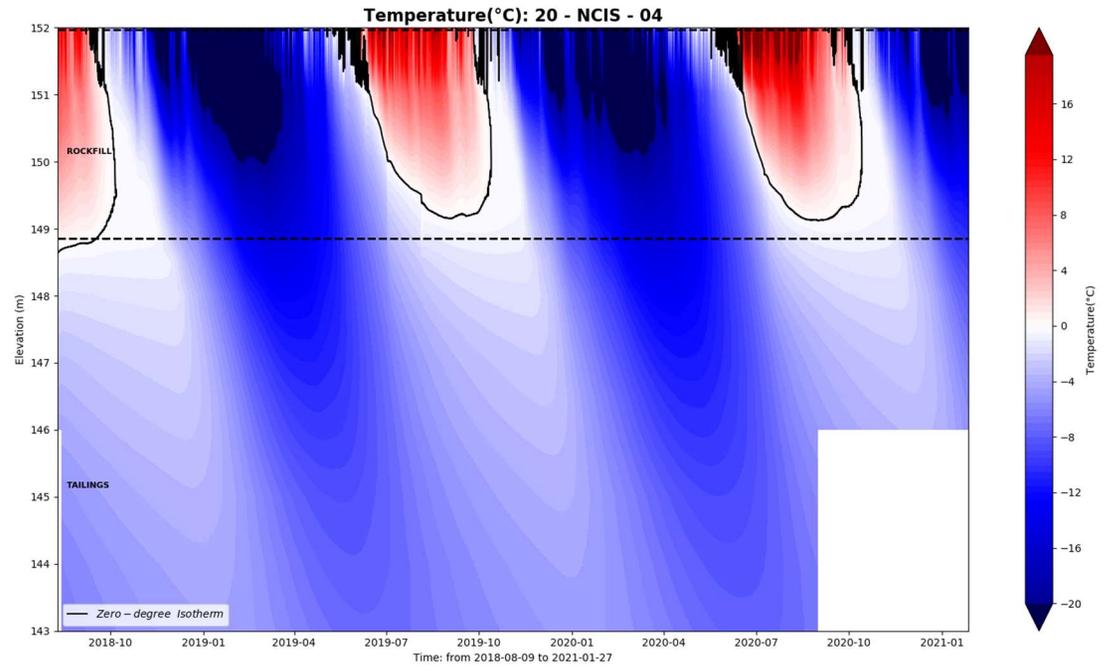
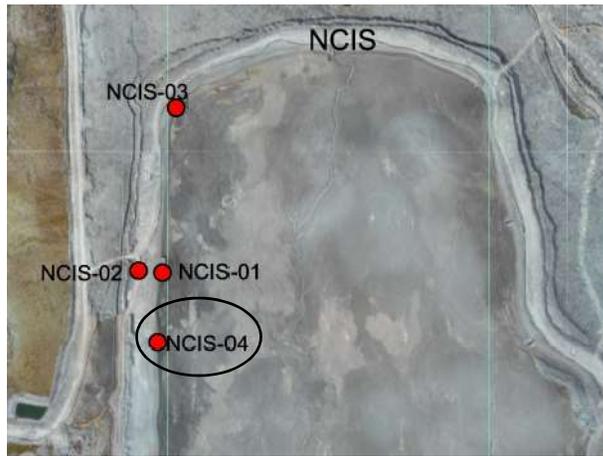
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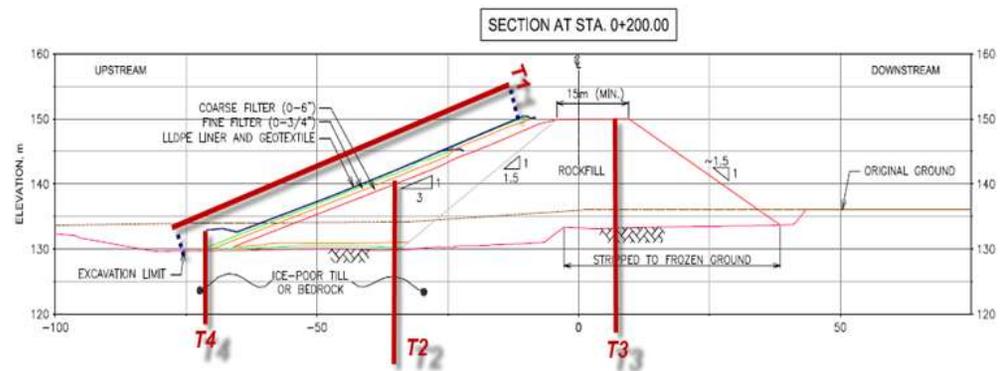
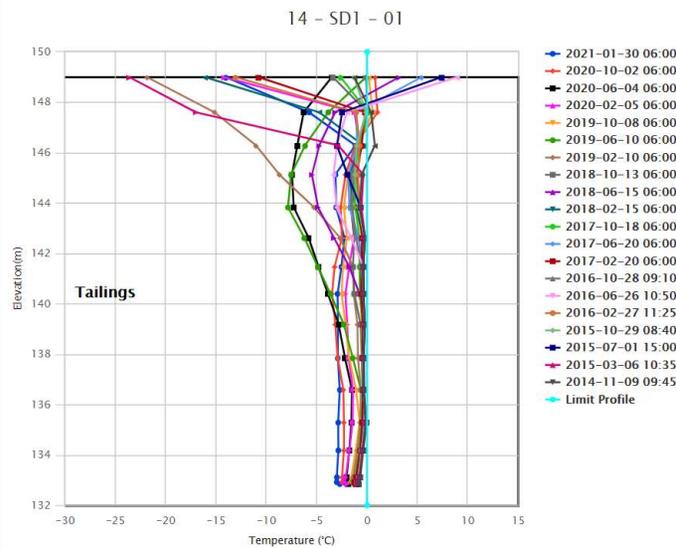
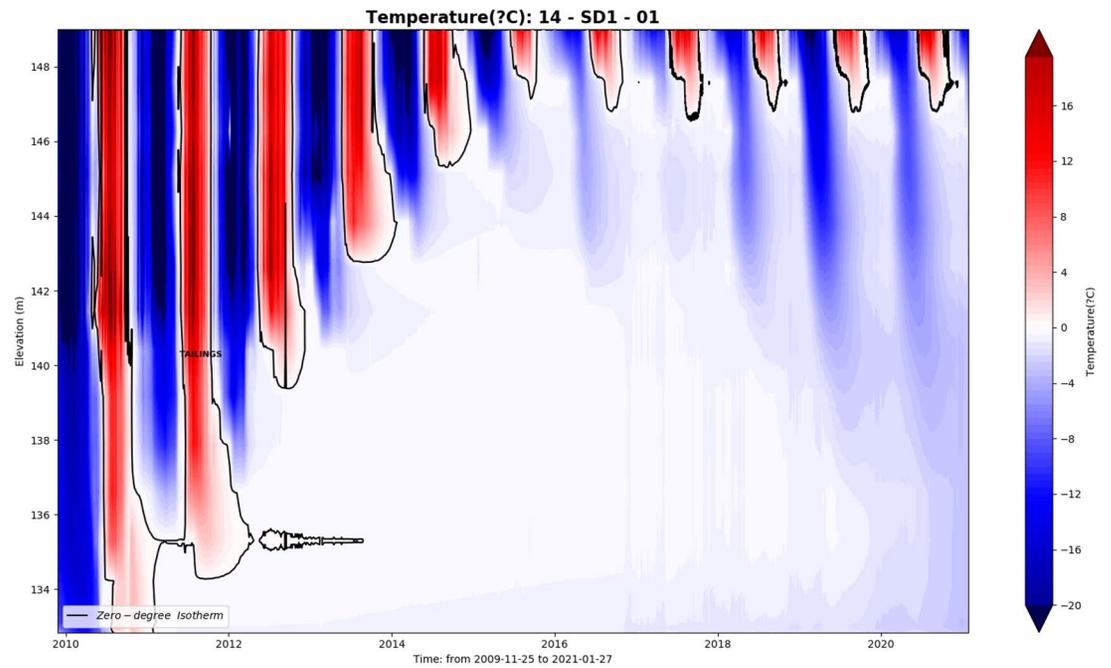
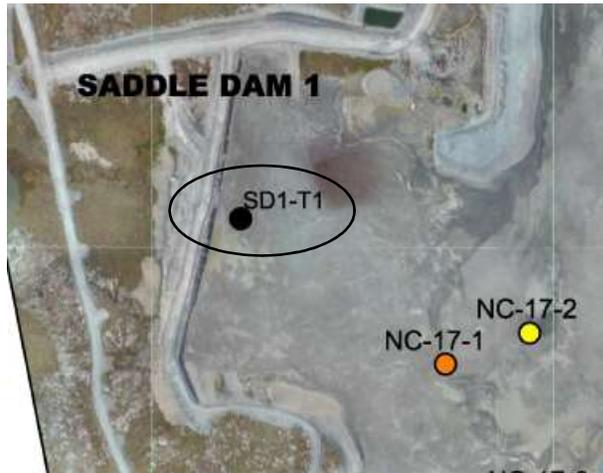
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NCIS-04



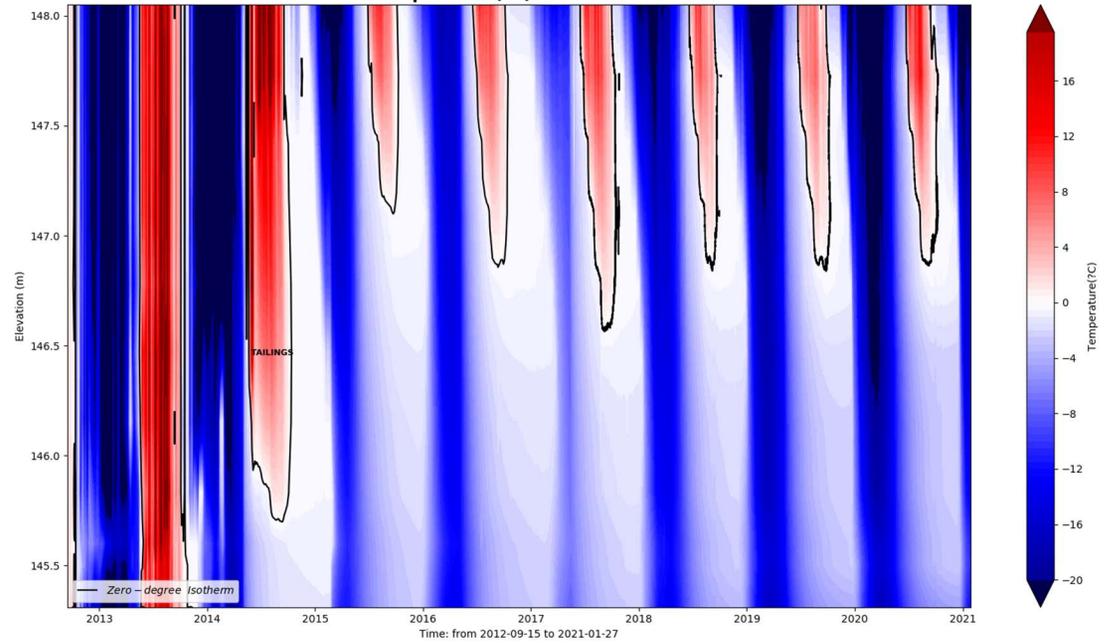
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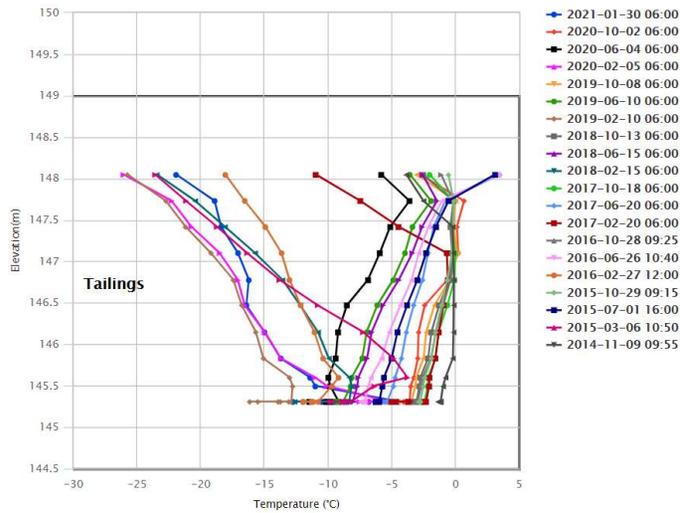
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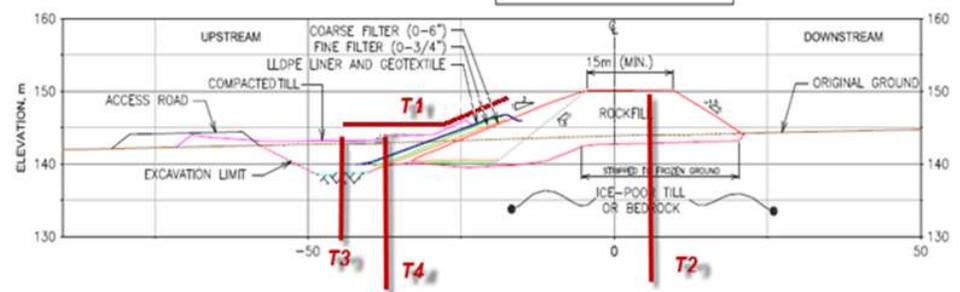
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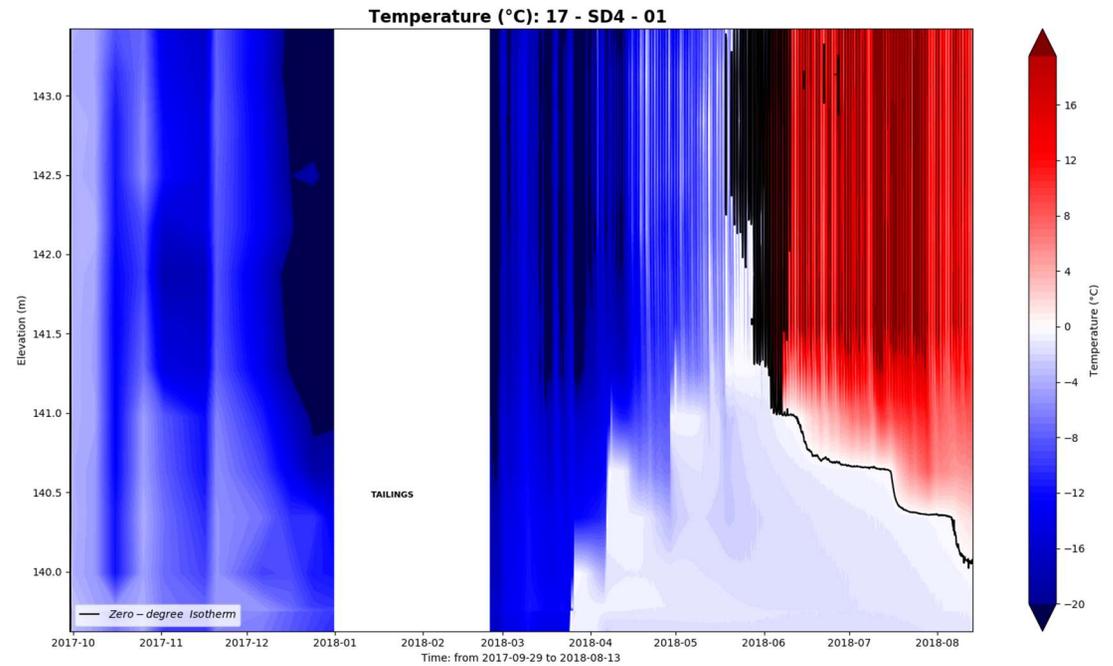
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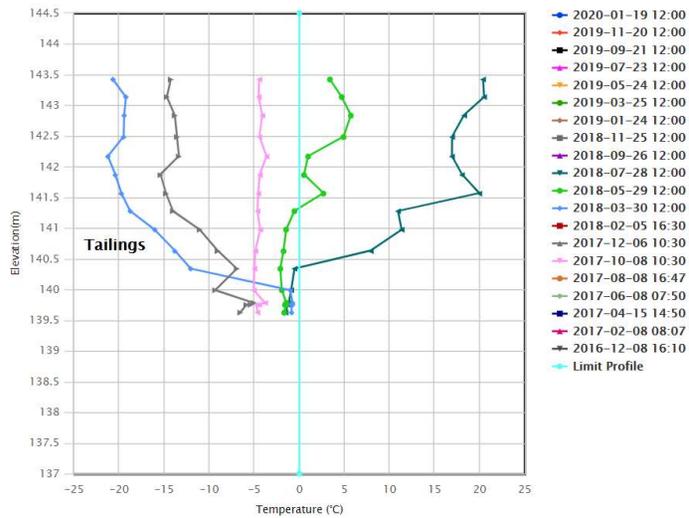
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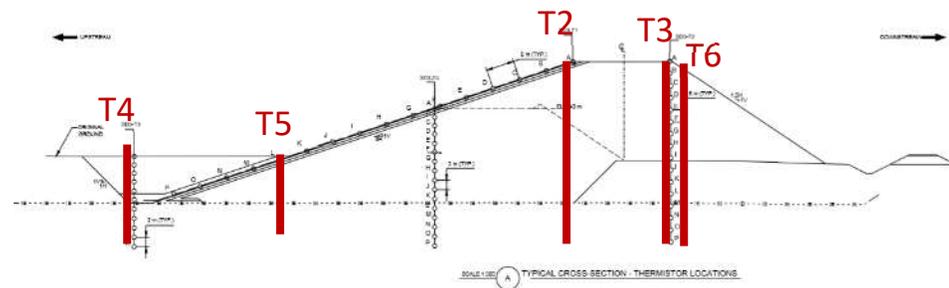
SD4-1



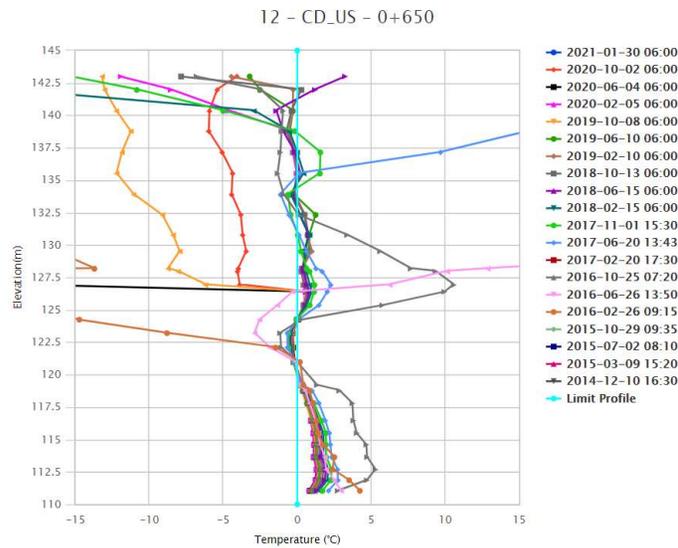
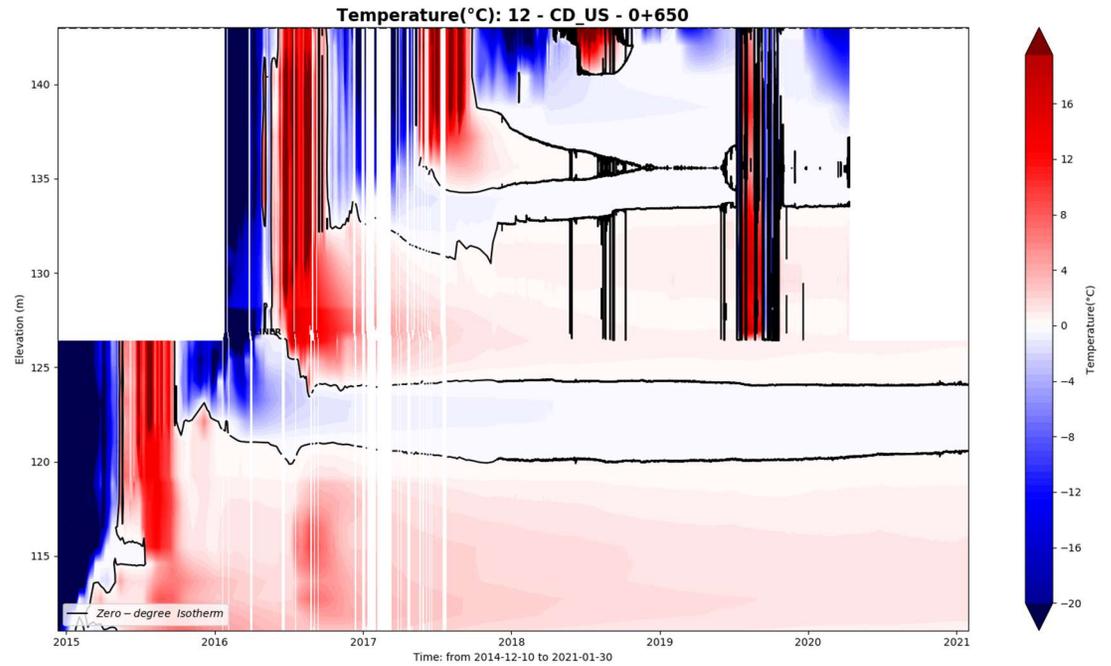
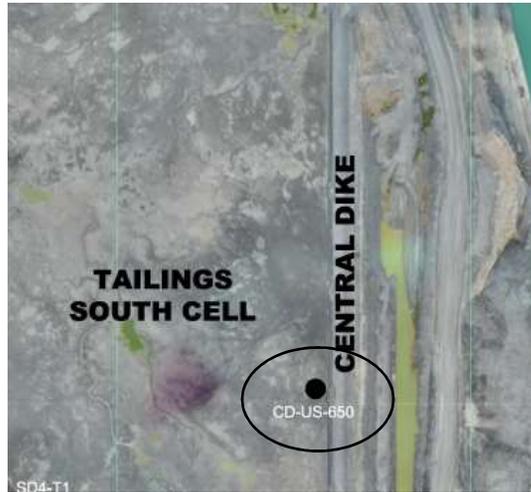
17 - SD4 - 01



This instrument is broken and not sending anymore data.

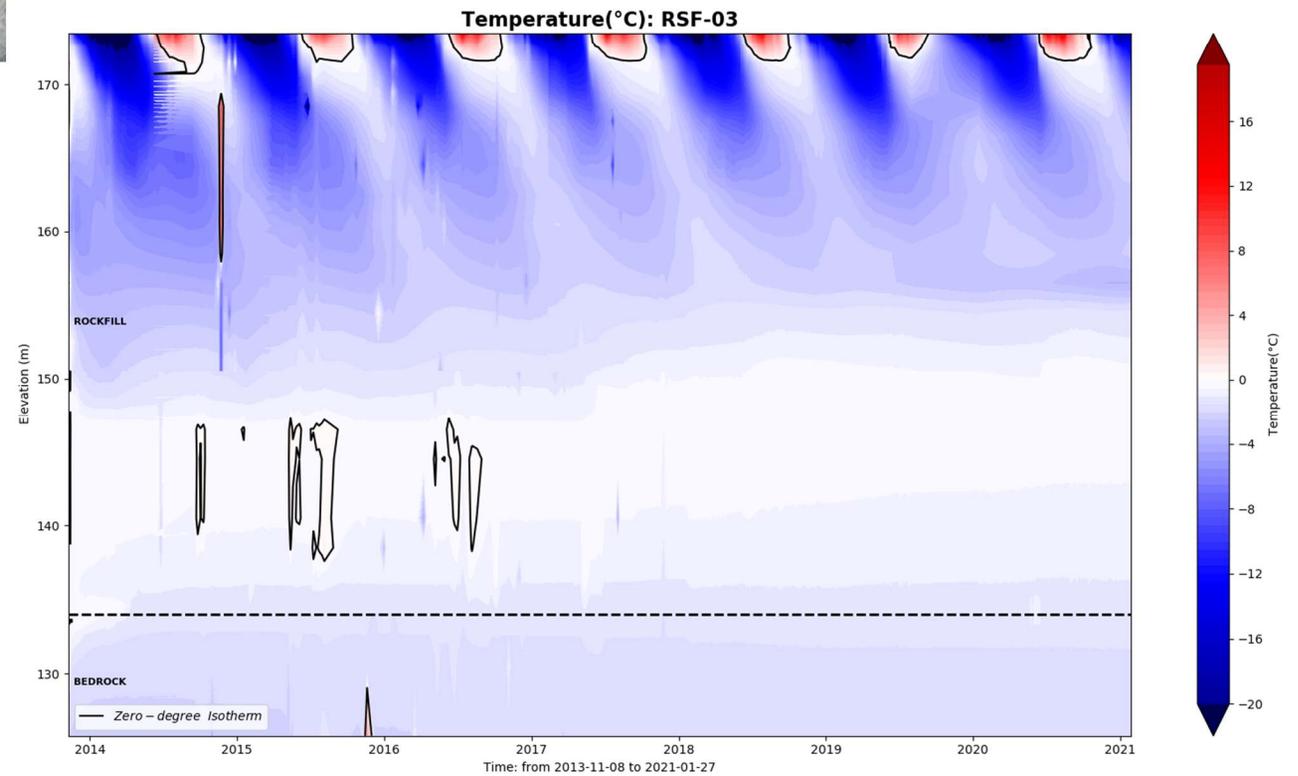


CD-US-0+650

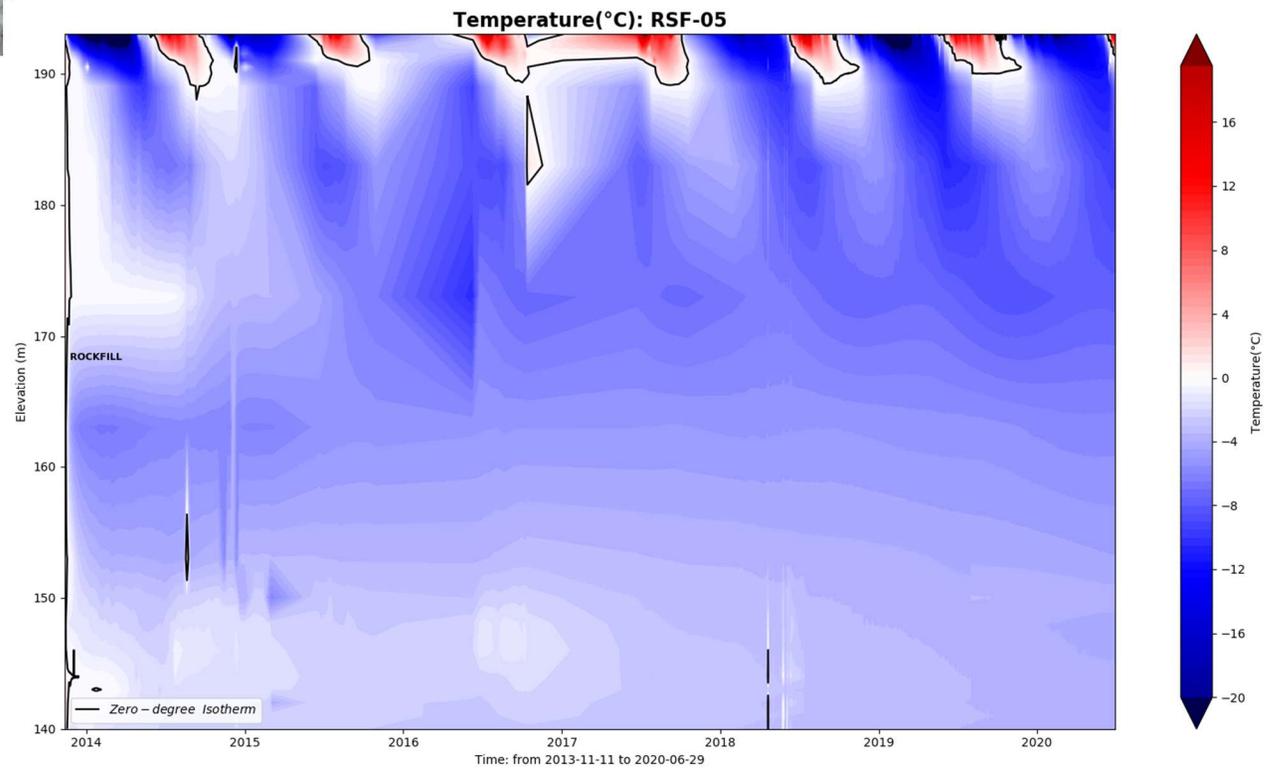


This instrument is along the liner.

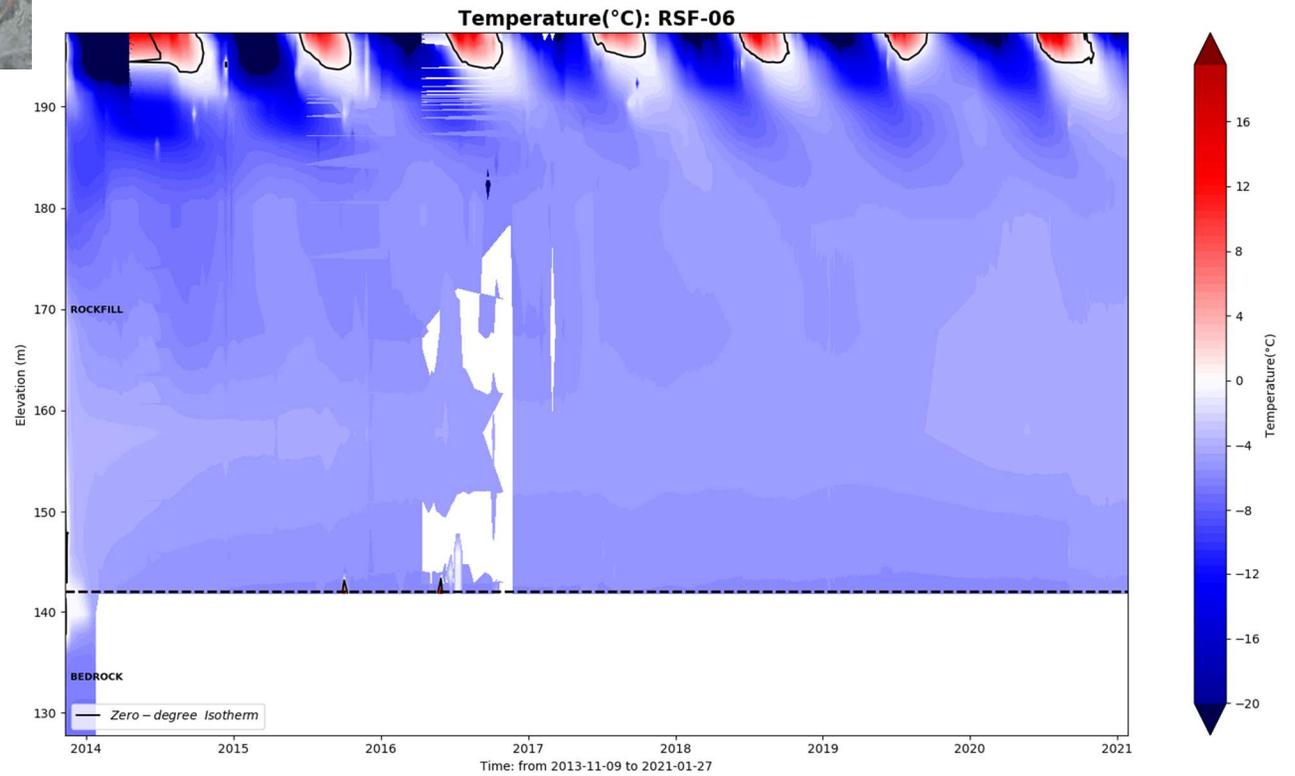
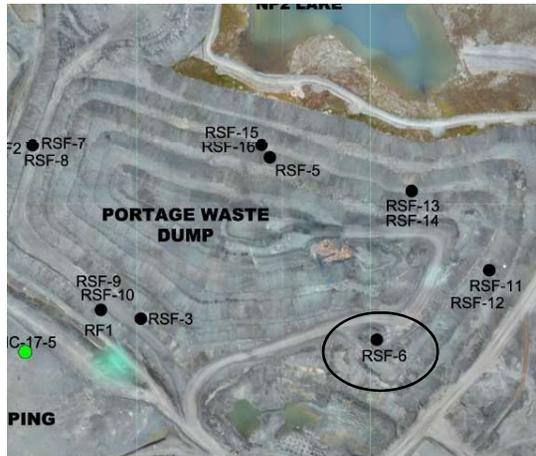
RSF-3



RSF-5



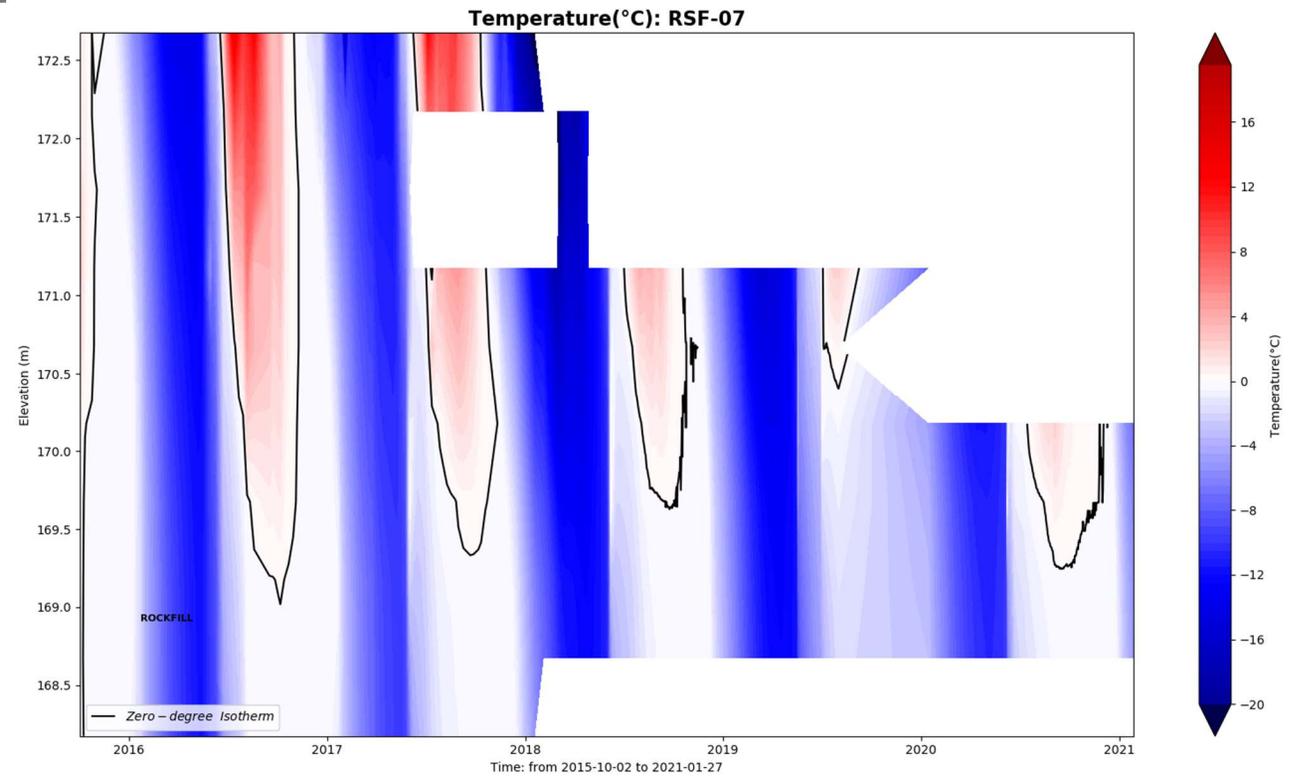
RSF-6



RSF-7 & RSF-8



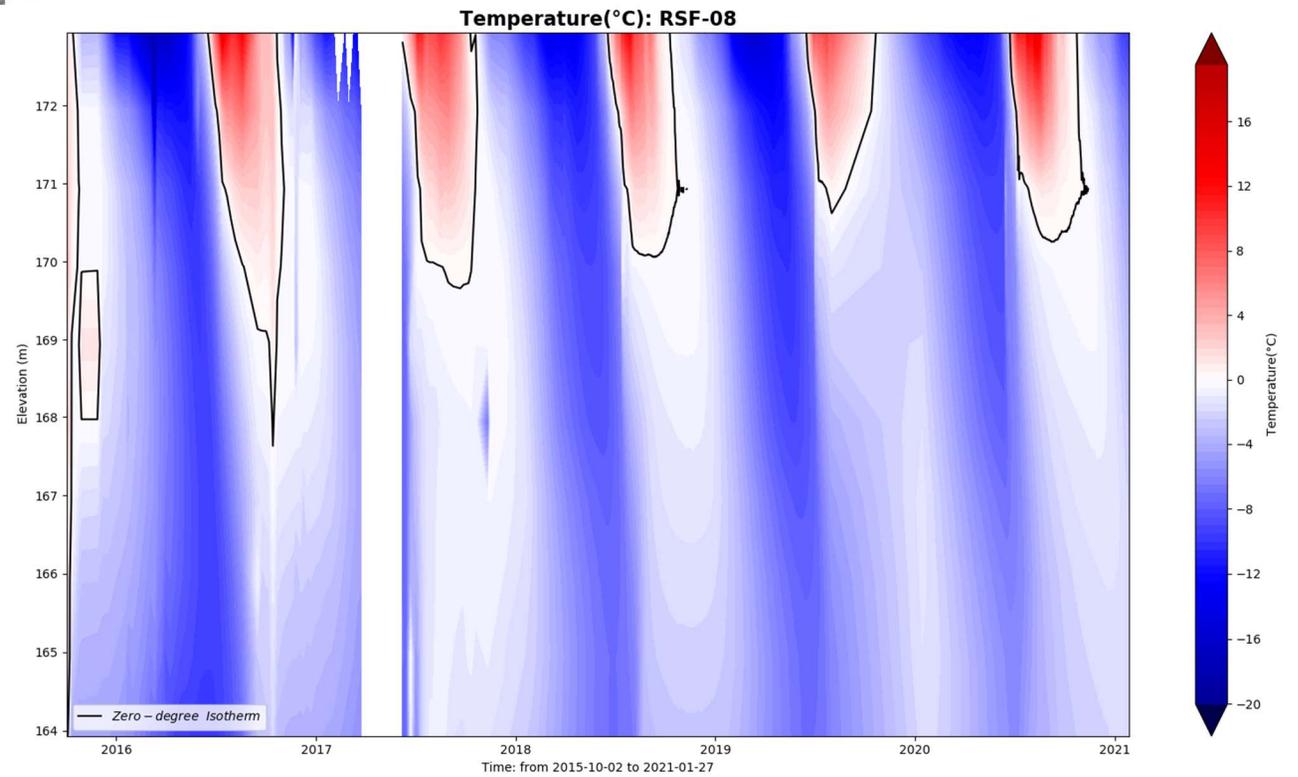
RSF-7 installed at a dip of -55°



RSF-8



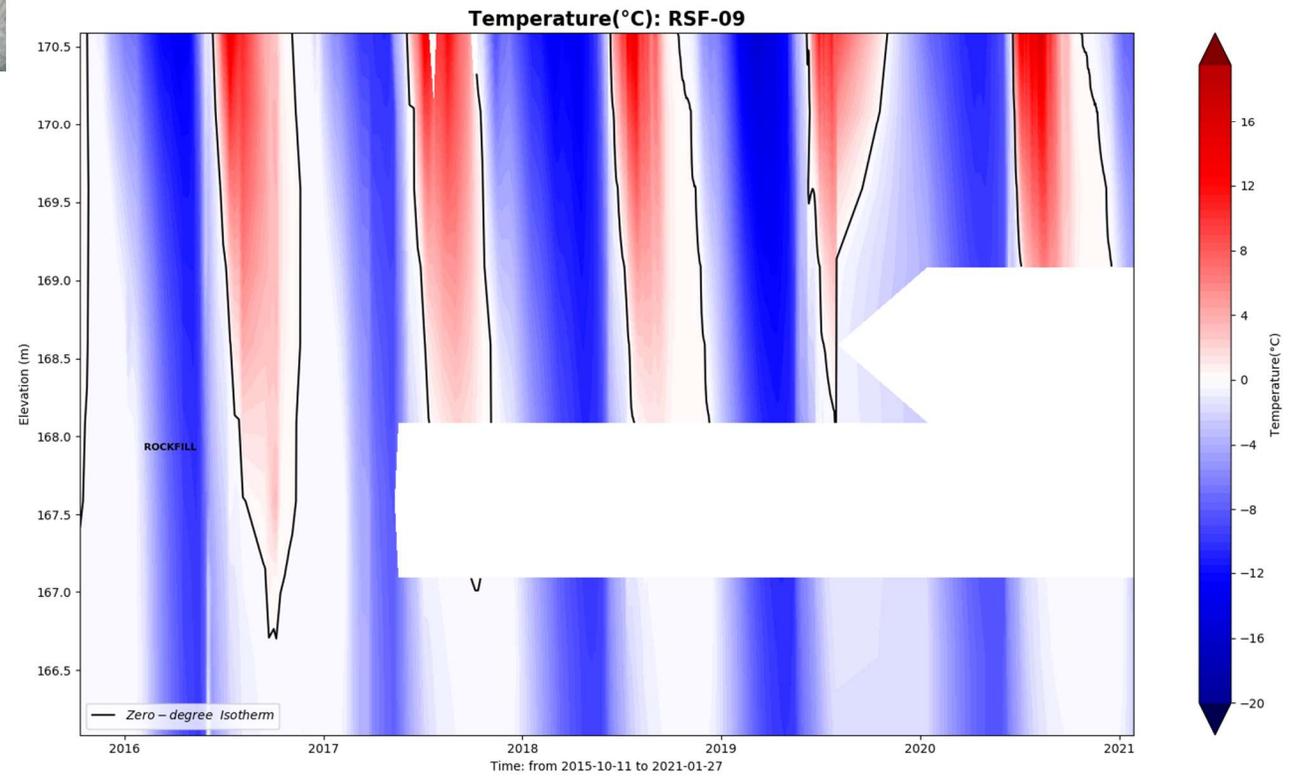
RSF-8 installed at a dip of -70°



RSF-9



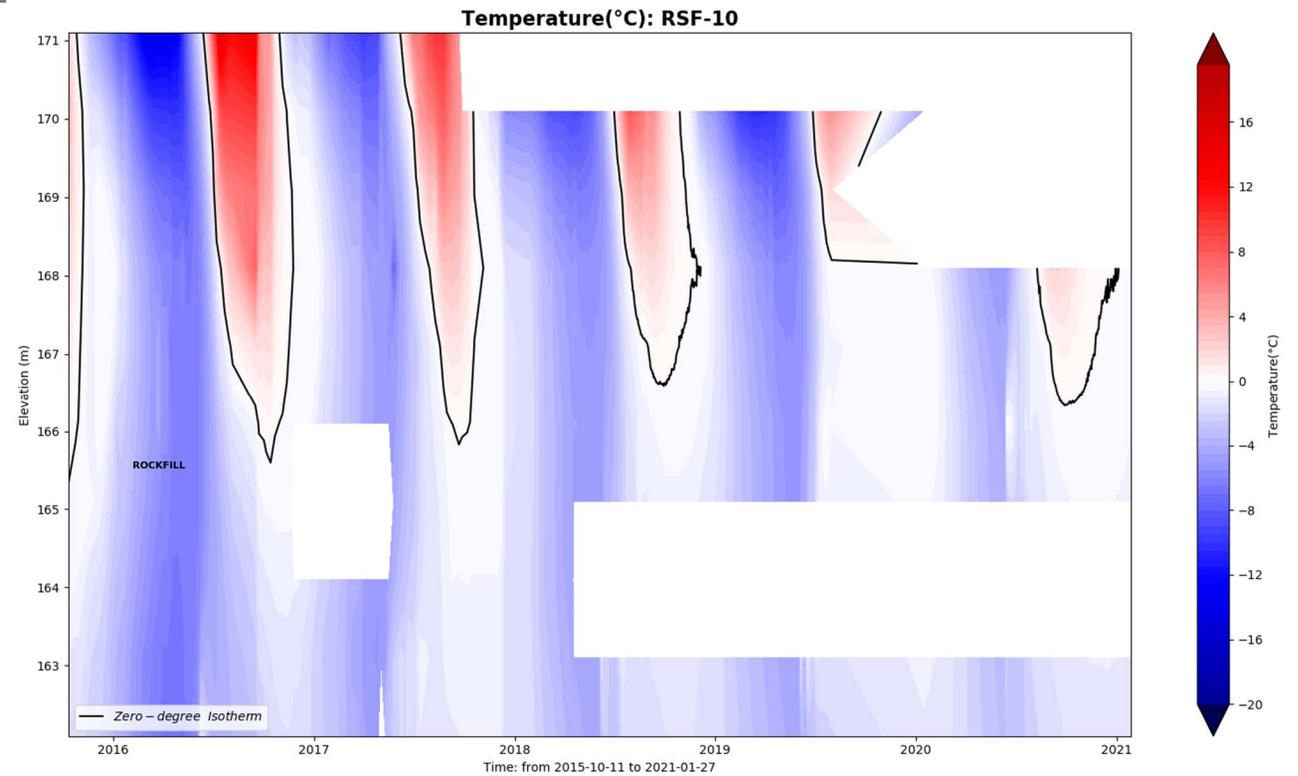
RSF-9 installed at a dip of -55°



RSF-10



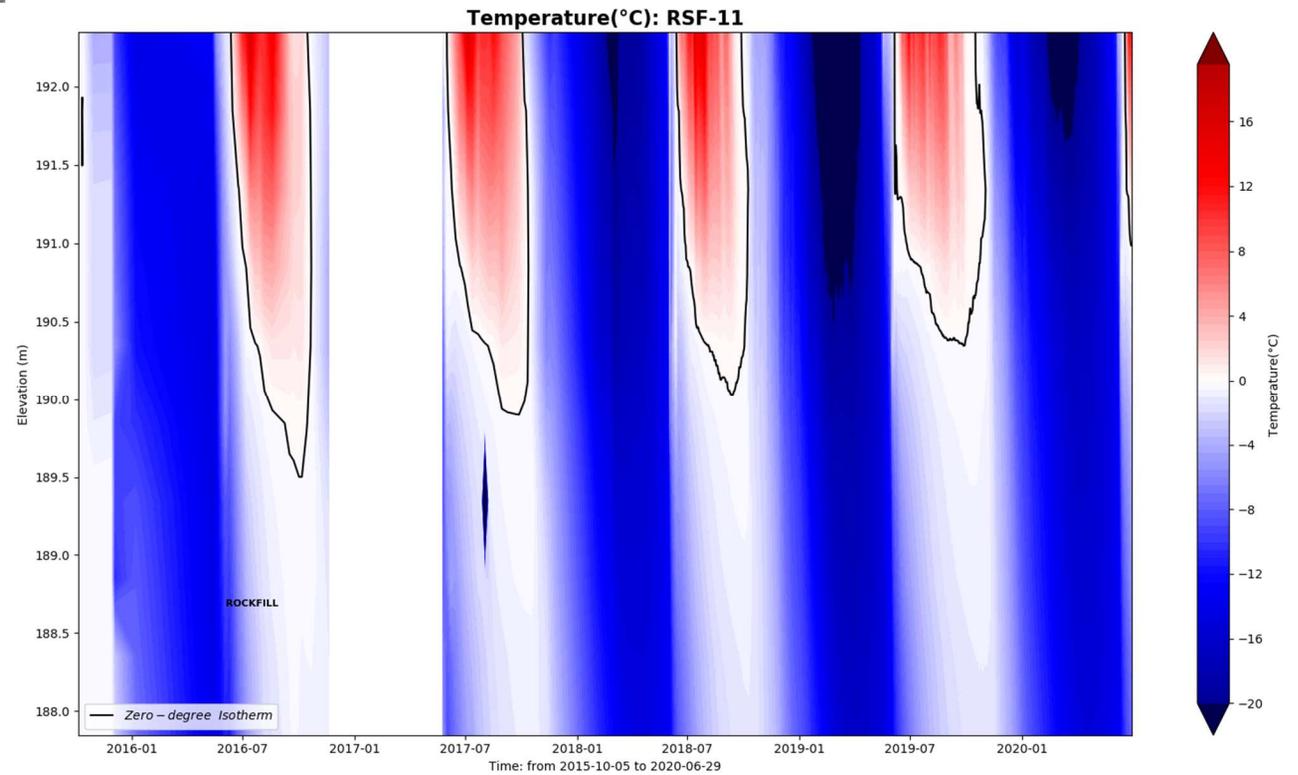
RSF-10 installed at a dip of -70°



RSF-11



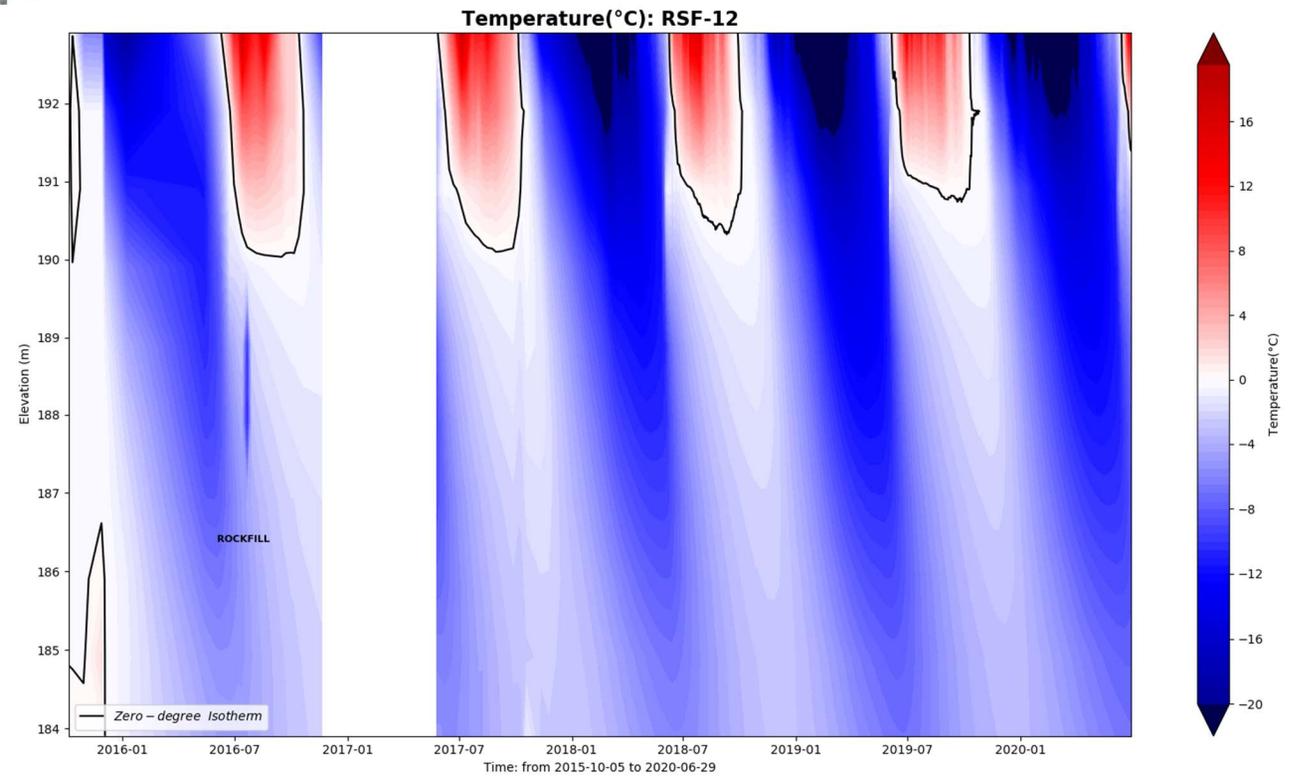
RSF-11 installed at a dip of -55°



RSF-12



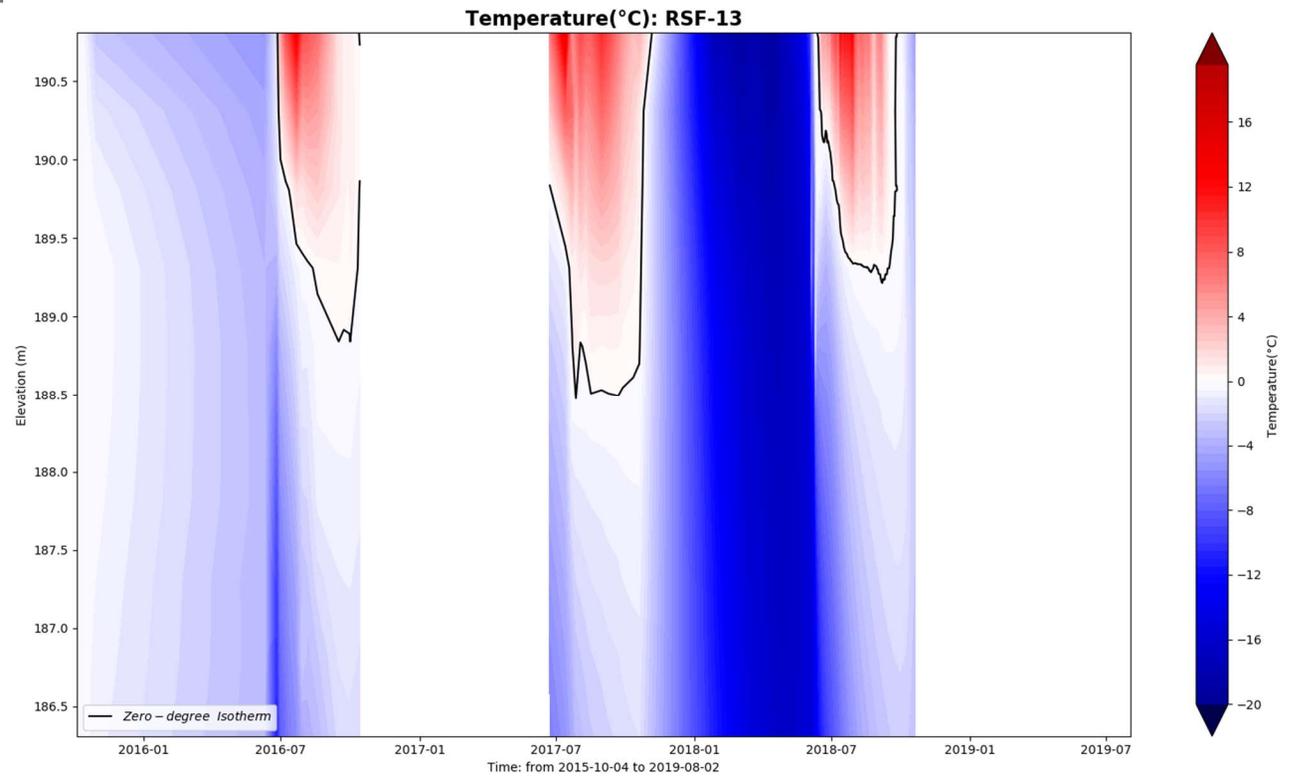
RSF-12 installed at a dip of -70°



RSF-13



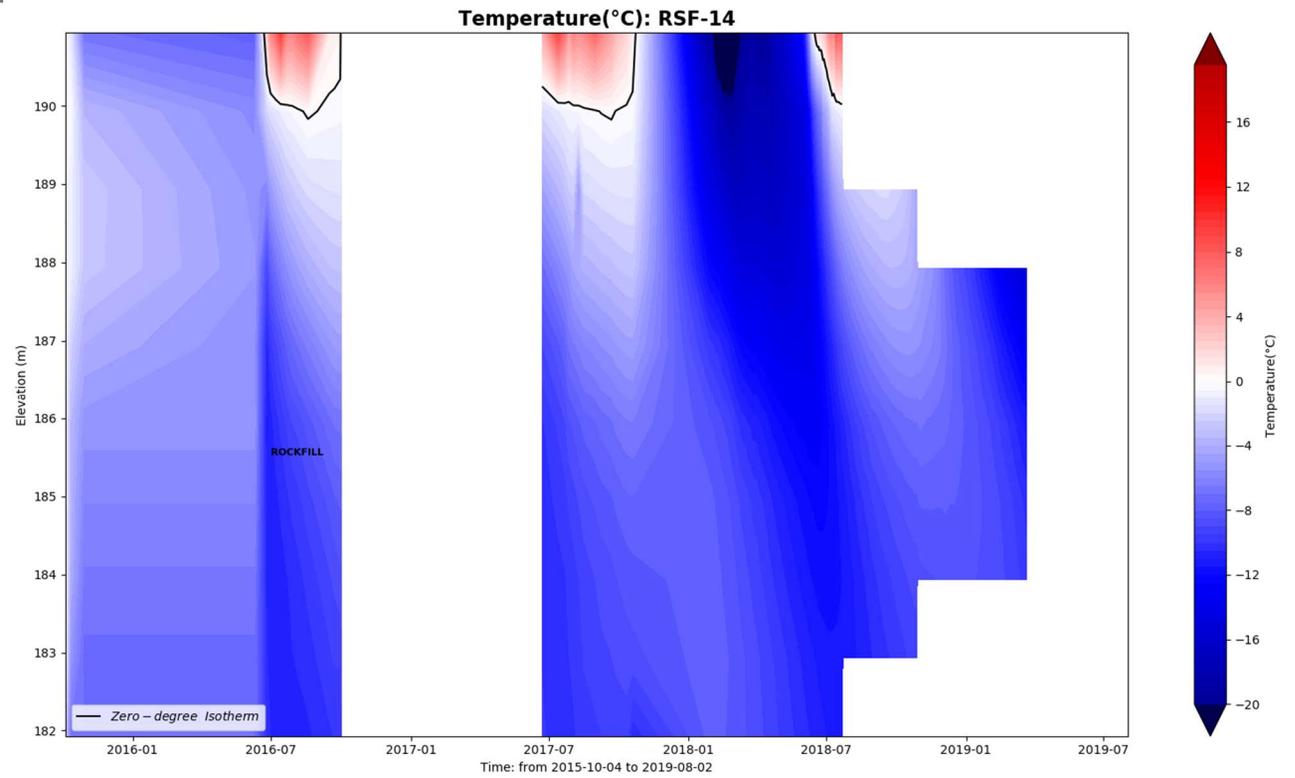
RSF-13 installed at a dip of -55° . No longer active as the cable was cut by wildlife. Planned to repair.



RSF-14



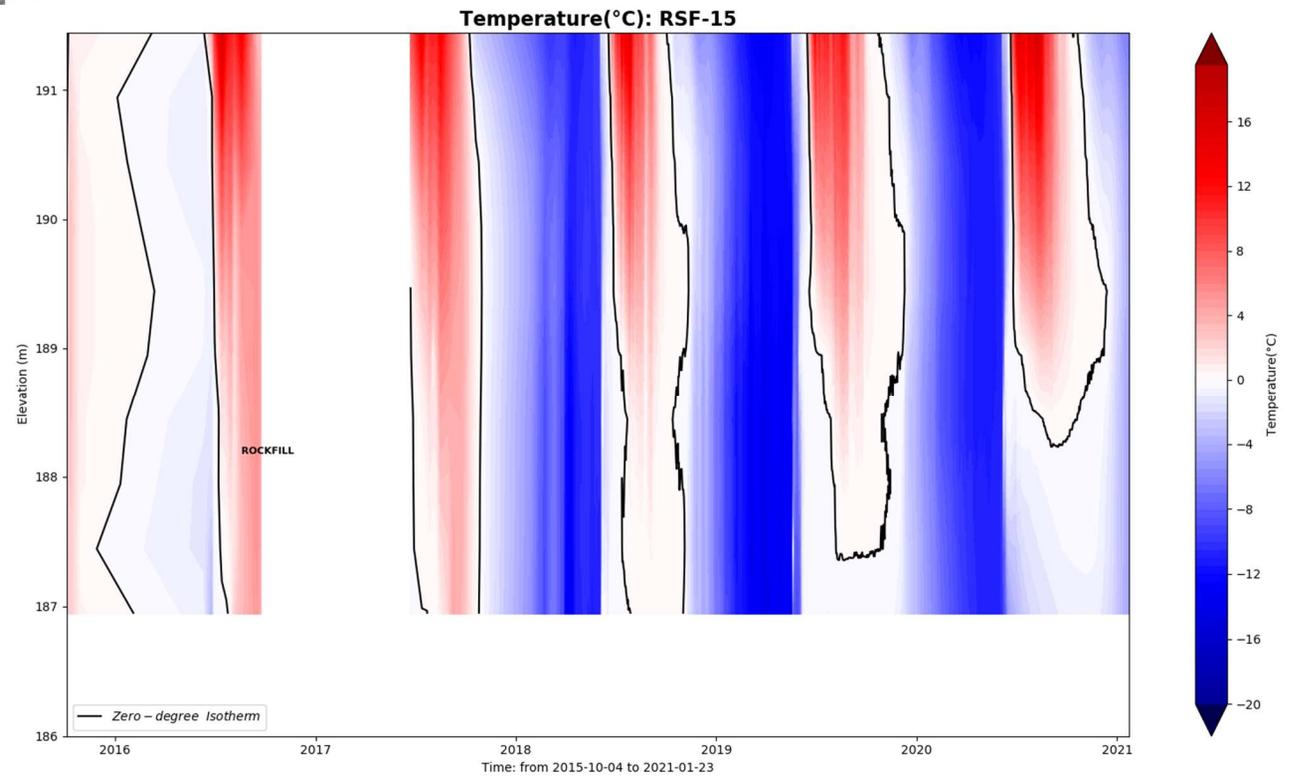
RSF-14 installed at a dip of -80° . No longer active as the cable was cut by wildlife.



RSF-15



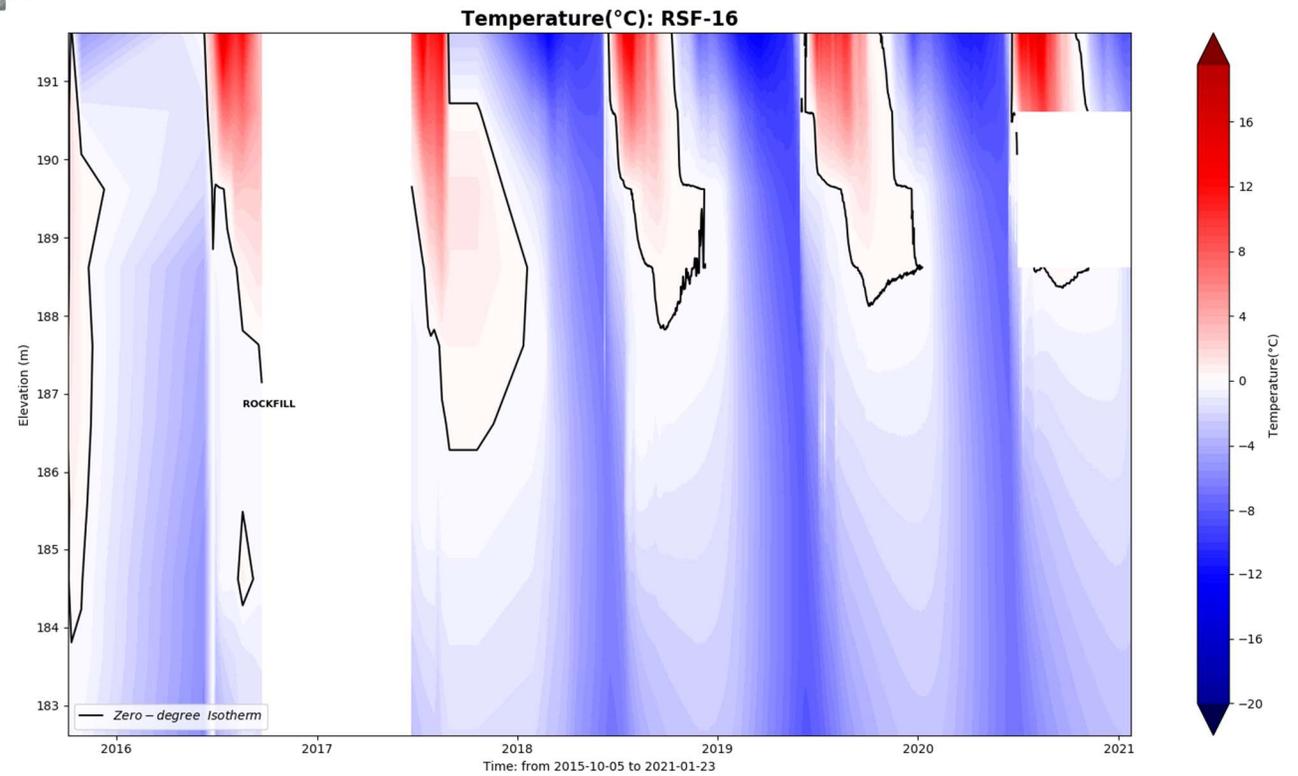
RSF-15 installed at a dip of -55°



RSF-16



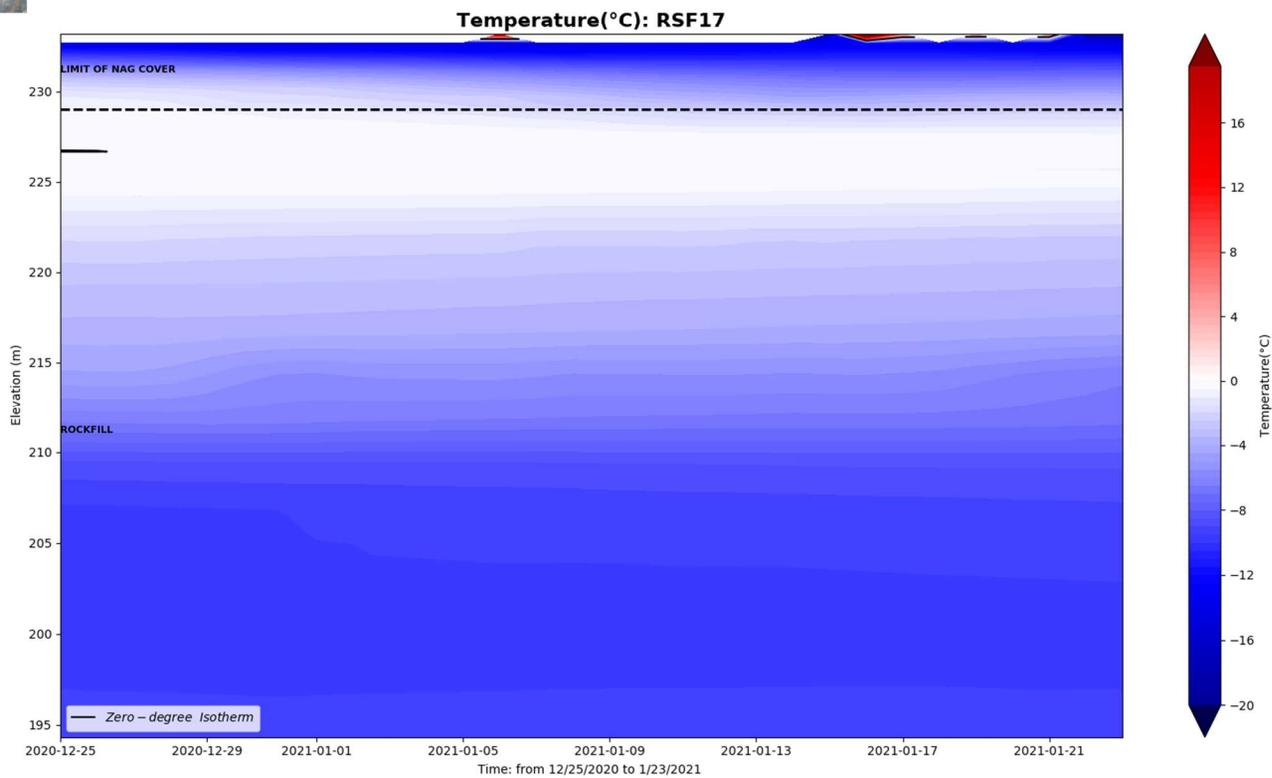
RSF-16 installed at a dip of -70°



RSF-17



RSF-17 installed at a dip of -90°



RSF-18



RSF-18 installed at a dip of -90°

