

Appendix 56

Whale Tail Landfill Design and Management Plan Version 5



AGNICO EAGLE

WHALE TAIL MINE

Landfill Design and Management Plan

In Accordance with Water License 2AM-WTP1830

Prepared by:
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex

Version 5
March 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Landfill and Waste Management Plan outlines the design of the current operational and a conceptual closure industrial waste landfill as part of the Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) Whale Tail Mine in Nunavut.

The current landfill is required for the disposal of non-salvageable, non-hazardous, non-putrescible solid wastes from mining activities. It may also be used for the disposal of incinerator ash and compost. The landfill is located within the Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility (WRSF) located to the northwest of the mine site and will consist of several sub-landfills that evolve with the placement of waste rock. All of the sub-landfills will be identified and mapped. The landfill will be used for the remaining life of mine, for progressive closure and for closure.

The leachate from the landfill is very weak (diluted) or simply no existent due to the controls on materials placed in the landfill, and therefore specific leachate management is not considered. In the event that there is any leachate, it will be collected in the WRSF Pond and pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond for further management

At the end of mine life, the landfill waste will be covered by 0.3 to 1 m thickness of rock fill, with an additional 2 m minimum of coarse NPAG waste rock material. The final landfill slopes will be up to 50%. Drainage water will be managed under the current Water Management plan.

To meet NWB guidelines, an environmental overview effects assessment was conducted to characterize environmental resources and determine the anticipated environmental effects of the landfills. The primary potential environmental effects from landfill activities included leachate generation, windblown debris and habitat (vegetation) loss. Operation of the landfill has not shown any such environmental effects.

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IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

This plan will be immediately implemented (March 2024) and is subject to any modifications proposed by the NWB as a result of the review and approval process.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Agnico Eagle – General Mine Manager

Agnico Eagle – Environment & Critical Infrastructures Superintendent

Agnico Eagle – Environmental General Supervisor

Agnico Eagle – Environmental Coordinator

Agnico Eagle – Engineering Superintendent

Agnico Eagle – Mine Superintendent

Agnico Eagle – Energy and Infrastructure Superintendent

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Section	Page	Revision
1	January 2017			Landfill and Waste Management Plan as Supporting Document for Type A Water License Application, submitted to Nunavut Water Board for review and approval
2	December 2018			For WT expansion permitting process
2	May 2019			For WT expansion permitting process
2	March 2020	All	All	Comprehensive update to reflect the current landfill operation
3	July 2020	All	All	Updated following issuance of Type A Water License Amendment 2AM-WTP1830 and Project Certificate No. 008 Amendment 1 for one comprehensive management plan
4	March 2021	All	All	Comprehensive Update to reflect the current landfill operation
		1.1 Project Overview	1	
		1.2 Landfill Siting	2	
		3.1 Approach	4	
		3.4 Total Volume of Waste	8	
5	March 2024	5.2.1 Estimate of Total Waste Volumes, Tonnage and Life of Landfill	11	Updated sections / Added details regarding progressive closure and closure
		5.2.2 Final Cover Design	12	

Approved by

Eric Haley
Superintendent – Environment & Critical Infrastructures

ACRONYMS

Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex
GN	Government of Nunavut
NPAG	Non-Potentially Acid Generating
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
PAG	Potentially Acid Generating
WRSF	Waste Rock Storage Facility
VEC	Valued Environmental Components

UNITS

km	kilometre
km ²	squared kilometre
m	metre
m ³	cubic meter
Mt	million metric tonnes
t	metric tonnes

SECTION 1 • INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

The Landfill and Waste Management Plan outlines the design, operations, and closure of a solid waste landfill as part of Agnico Eagle's Whale Tail Mine.

The objectives of this Plan are summarized as follows:

1. To define the location, design, and operating procedures to be used in the landfill disposal of non-salvageable, non-hazardous waste generated at the Whale Tail Mine.
2. To define acceptable/non-acceptable types of solid waste to be placed in the Whale Tail landfill;
3. To define monitoring requirements for the proposed landfill.

The landfill is required for the disposal of non-salvageable, non-hazardous, non-putrescible solid industrial wastes from standard mining activities that cannot be composted. The Project operated totally independent of, and will not use, any municipal facilities or services for waste management.

Hazardous waste will not be placed in the landfills. Management procedures for hazardous wastes are provided under a separate management plan – Hazardous Materials Management Plan. All other materials considered unsuitable for landfill deposition are packaged for shipment and disposal off site at a licensed facility.

To meet NWB guidelines, an environmental overview effects assessment was conducted to characterize environmental resources and determine the anticipated environmental effects of the landfills. Other applicable regulatory guidelines and criteria were also incorporated into this Plan, as discussed in Section 2.

The overall Whale Tail Mine description, landfill siting options and descriptions, and corresponding environmental overview approach are described in the sections below. The Whale Tail Mine site facility layout is shown in Figure 1.

The landfill will be in use for the remaining life of mine, for progressive closure and for closure.

1.2 Landfill Siting

The landfills were positioned considering the following criteria:

- Drainage – sites that will drain into areas where water will be collected and monitored as part of the overall site plan were preferred.
- Avoid Ice Rich Soil Excavation – sites where bedrock is at relatively shallow depth

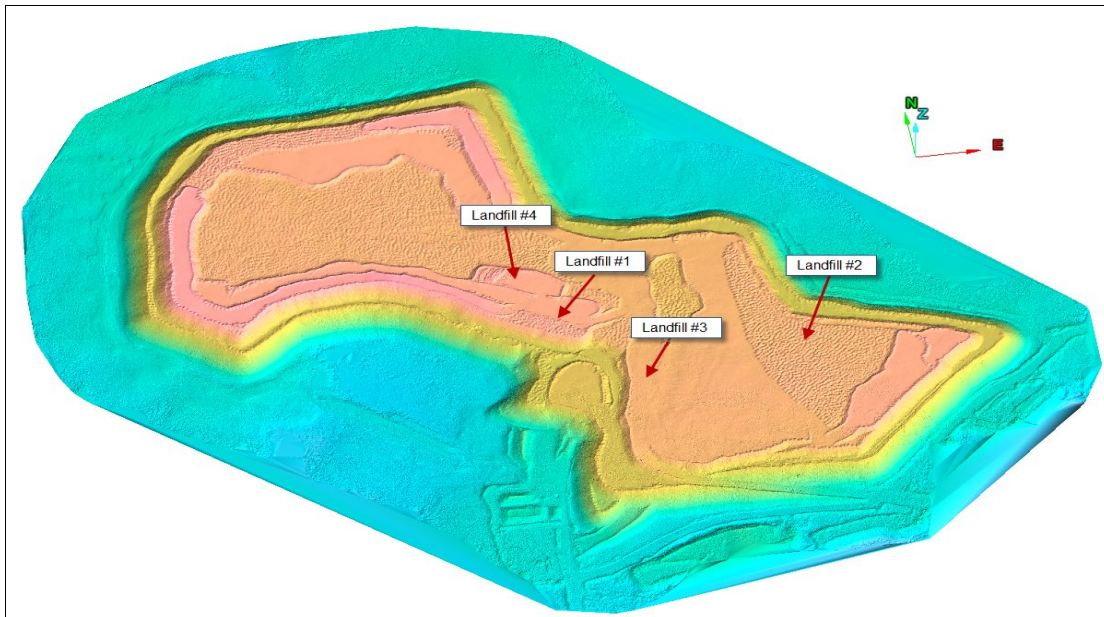
are preferred.

- Disturbed Areas – sites that will be within or near areas that will be disturbed as part of the overall mine plan are preferred.
- Access – sites located close to existing service or haul roads are preferred.

The first three criteria are recommendations from the *Mine Site Reclamation Guidelines for the Northwest Territories* (INAC 2007).

Based on the above criteria, the landfill is developed within the Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility (WRSF), which is located north of the Kangislulik Lake therefore, minimizing the disturbed area. As presented in Figure 1, the landfill consists of multiple sub landfills that are built and buried according to the evolution of the RSF. As the RSF evolves, the elevation and location of the sub landfills change. The specific locations and number of sub landfills could vary based on waste capacity requirements for operation, progressive closure and closure. The landfill incorporation schematic is in Appendix A.

Figure 1.0 Landfill Location for Whale Tail Site



SECTION 2 • REGULATORY SETTING

Waste management in Nunavut is regulated under the *Nunavut Public Health Act*, the *Nunavut Environmental Protection Act*, the federal *Environmental Protection Act*, and the federal *Transport of Dangerous Goods Act*. Agnico Eagle is also bound by the terms and conditions of its production lease with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and its Water License from the NWB.

In addition to mandatory requirements, several waste management guidelines are commonly used in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The most recent of these was developed for municipal solid waste and is titled: “*Guidelines for the Planning, Design, Operations and Maintenance of Modified Solid Waste Sites in the NWT*” (Ferguson Simek Clark, April 2003, on behalf of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Government of Northwest Territories). *Environmental Guideline for Industrial Waste Discharge into Municipal Solid Waste and Sewage Treatment Facilities* (GN 2011c) were also used. While not all the recommendations provided in these guidelines are appropriate for the management of industrial waste such as those generated at a gold mine, those principles that are considered applicable have been adopted in the Plan.

In addition, the NWB *Mine Site Reclamation Guidelines for the Northwest Territories* (INAC 2006) were followed in this current document regarding specific landfill design and mitigation for impacts pertaining to waste. The recommendations from *Implications of Global Warming and the Precautionary Principle in Northern Mine Design and Closure* (BGC 2003) were also incorporated into this document, where appropriate.

SECTION 3 • PLAN FOR THE ON-SITE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

3.1 Approach

The strategy for the disposal of solid waste is to first identify and segregate acceptable disposal items from non-acceptable items. Acceptable items that can be disposed of at the on-site facility are those that are non-hazardous, non-organic, with low leachate and heat generation potential. All other materials are either incinerated, composted prior to landfilling, or hauled off site. This strategy for limiting the materials that can be placed in the landfills greatly reduces the potential for leachate.

All solid waste that may contain food waste or other organic waste that could attract wildlife is collected in sea cans and composted at the composter located at the Meadowbank Complex. This includes all organic waste from the camp, camp kitchen, site lunchrooms and offices as well as organic waste from the Whale Tail Mine site. The compost output is then sent to the Meadowbank Mine landfill. Wood and food packaging waste that could attract wildlife compacted and placed in a sea can for shipment off site. This includes all food packaging waste from the camp, camp kitchen, site lunchrooms and offices.

Waste from operations in truck shops, explosive magazines, warehouses, and underground operations is segregated based on the type of waste (i.e. Hazardous, domestic, medical etc.). Each work area has specially marked bins for segregating waste for incineration, recycling, or disposal. Special bins or areas are set aside for hazardous waste. Large bulky items that cannot be incinerated are prepared for shipment south for recycling or be cleaned of any hydrocarbon contamination and have the electronics removed before disposal in the landfill.

Due to the nature of underground operations and milling limitations scrap metal is created when ground support material is removed from underground ore at the Whale Tail Mine by a tramp metal segregation system. The scrap metal produced by this process is approved for disposal at the landfill. All other scrap metal generated on site is generally disposed of in c-cans for shipment down south during barge season for recycling.

All solid wastes that may contain medical waste from the Medical Clinic, are segregated. They are stored on site in closed bins and are sent to the Meadowbank mine site for shipment off site or incineration as required. This waste is not allowed to remain unattended in trucks at any time. The Energy and Infrastructure Department are responsible for the collection, transport, and incinerator processing of waste.

Wastewater from the accommodation complex is treated in the Sewage Treatment Plant before being directed to IVR Whale Tail Attenuation Pond. Sewage sludge removed from the Sewage Treatment Plant is transported and added to the Whale Tail landfarm as nutrient amendment on an as needed basis. Excess sludge produced from the Whale Tail Camp is disposed of in the Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility and buried right away as per procedure.

Hazardous waste and materials that can be recycled are appropriately packaged (as per

regulations under the *Transport of Dangerous Goods Act*) to be sent off-site to a licensed hazardous waste management facility or recycling facility, respectively. Management of hazardous materials is covered in detail in the Hazardous Materials Management Plan.

The development of the landfill minimizes the area required for waste storage and re-handling of waste. Acceptable items that are disposed of in the landfill are those that are solid, non-salvageable, non-hazardous, non-putrescible, with a low leachate and low heat generation potential. Controlling the materials that can be placed in the landfill is a strategy aimed at reducing the concentration of constituents in potential leachate. The proposed landfill conforms to best management practices allowing for orderly landfill development, including covering debris with waste rock, which reduces the potential for windblown debris.

The Type A Water License requires the following landfill related monitoring:

- Part I, Item 8 stipulates that the monthly runoff/seepage flow from the Landfill, in cubic meters, must be measured, recorded, and reported to the Water Board;
- Part I, Item 10 stipulates that the annual geotechnical inspection to be carried out by a geotechnical engineer between the months of July and September should include all earth works including the two landfill sites with the results being included in the report to the Water Board;
- Part I, Item 13 stipulates that seepage and runoff from the landfills is to be observed at a minimum of once per quarter; and
- Part I, Item 14 stipulates that the results and interpretation of the Seepage monitoring required in Part I, Item 13 in the Annual Report required under Part B, Item 2.

3.2 Acceptable Waste for Landfilling

3.2.1 Acceptable Waste

The following materials are acceptable for disposal in the proposed landfill:

- Plastic (except expanded polystyrene);
- Steel, copper, aluminum, iron (most of this metal is recycled);
- Wood;
- Fiberglass insulation;
- Fiberglass;
- Roofing;
- Cardboard;

- Concrete;
- Carpet;
- Bricks;
- Ceramics;
- Rubber;
- Empty caulking tubes;
- Hardened caulk;
- Clothing;
- Glass;
- Wire;
- Small appliances (with batteries removed);
- Gyproc;
- Vehicles and machinery provided all liquids, grease, batteries, and electronics have been removed.

3.2.2 Waste Asbestos

Asbestos being present naturally in rock formations, asbestos related waste will be generated within the production processes. As such, this type of waste will be disposed of according to the MBK-HSS- IH-PRO Asbestos Waste Management procedure. Once ready for disposal, asbestos waste will be capped quickly to minimize exposure, using mini-landfill type of disposal within the existing Landfills.

3.3 Unacceptable Waste for Landfilling

Materials that are not listed above in Section 3.2.1 are unacceptable for placement at the landfills, unless approved in writing by the Meadowbank Complex Environment and Critical Infrastructures Superintendent or General Supervisor Environment. These materials include:

- Organic matter including food, septic tank pumping or sludge from wastewater treatment, dead animals, paper;
- Food containers and wrappings, unless cleaned;
- Whole tires;
- Hazardous waste including mercury, medical waste, batteries, solvents, glues, ethylene glycol antifreeze, adhesives (except empty caulking tubes);
- Electronics;
- Light bulbs or Fluorescent Lamp Tube;
- Petroleum products, including materials contaminated with petroleum products; and
- Expanded polystyrene.

Organic matter is not accepted in the landfill, thus eliminating the attraction to carnivores and/or raptors. This is accomplished by requiring all personnel to dispose domestic waste in designated receptacles and by sending all collected domestic waste (e.g., from kitchens and living quarters) to the site incinerator, composter or compacted for shipment down south.

3.3.1 Fluorescent Lamp Tubes

Fluorescent tubes contain mercury phosphorus powder and traces of lead and cadmium, which are considered environmental contaminants under the Nunavut *Environmental Protection Act* (GN 2010b). The only disposal method for fluorescent tubes is through an approved hazardous waste recycling or disposal facility (Government of Nunavut, Environmental Protection Service, 2003) and as per the *Disposal Guidelines for Fluorescent Lamp Tubes*.

3.3.2 Ozone Depleting Substances

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or halons; common sources include refrigeration equipment, air conditioning equipment, motor vehicle air conditioners, and fire extinguishing equipment (GN 2011b). These materials are hazardous in nature; consequently, all disposal of ODS take place at an approved facility.

3.4 Total Volume of Waste

An estimate of waste volume is required to determine the approximate size of the landfill; however, an exact waste volume is not a critical parameter in the design because of the flexibility of design to accommodate extensions (larger to accept more waste) or contractions (smaller to accept less waste) of the landfill.

The volume of waste landfilled since 2019 is 30,551 m³. This is based on the survey done at each landfill. From that amount, Agnico Eagle landfilled 12,592 m³ in 2023. The increase in landfilled material is due to the start-up of underground operations and the decommissioning of temporary work areas. Landfill #4 is currently in use.

The expected volume of waste produced in closure and required disposal capacity will be presented in the Closure and Reclamation Plan. The required landfill capacity will be calculated based on the estimated amount of demolition material and decommissioned equipment that will need to be landfilled at the end of the mine life, in addition to general waste generated during active closure.

SECTION 4 • LANDFILL LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION

4.1 Landfill and protocol for placement of material

The location of Landfill is shown on Figure 1 within the Whale Tail WRSF limits. This landfill will serve as the solid waste disposal facility for the next 2 years of mine life. The design of Landfill does not require imported materials or exacting survey data or measurement. This is due to the restriction on materials that can be landfilled and the location of the landfill within the catchment of the Whale Tail WRSF. These factors reduce the need for leachate collection or control or mitigation measures against vectors such as carnivores or raptors. Thus, the main environmental mitigation measure required is a wind screen to reduce windblown debris.

The Landfill will evolve into sub landfills that will be built and buried according to the evolution of the RSF. As the RSF evolves, the elevation and location of the sub landfills will change. Each landfill will respect the same specifications as the one in Appendix A. The landfill incorporation schematic is presented in Appendix B.

The area to receive waste is bounded by a rock fill berm. The purpose of the rockfill berm is to act as a wind shield for the waste. The sub landfills have a rectangular shape with the length perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction so that much of the waste could be protected from wind by the rockfill berm.

4.2 Leachate Management

The leachate from the landfills has a very low strength (dilute) or is simply absent due to controls on materials placed in the landfills, and thus site-specific landfill leachate management is not required. In the event that any leachate is generated due to periods of heavy rainfall or spring freshet, the runoff will be collected in the WRSF Pond and pumped to the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond for further management. Since the Whale Tail WRSF will cover the Landfill, it is not proposed to have a separate water quality monitoring point for leachate.

4.3 Landfill encapsulation within the Whale Tail WRSF

The Whale Tail Rock Storage Facility contains surplus quantities of waste rock from the Whale Tail and IVR open pits. A classification system is used to identify the use and storage for all mine rock¹. Specifically, this system identifies potentially acid generating (PAG) or non-acid generating (NPAG) rock types, as well as those with the potential to leach metals.

The Whale Tail WRSF is constructed as a cell, or series of cells, such that the interior of each cell is composed of PAG and/or ML waste rock, and the exterior of each cell is composed of NPAG waste rock. Thus, PAG and/or ML waste rock within the RSF is encapsulated within NPAG waste rock, thereby limiting its exposure to oxidizing agents such as air and water; and providing a buffer for any drainage from the interiors of the cells. The material within the Whale

¹ See Operational ARD/ML Testing and Sampling Plan

Tail WRSF freezes, which limits internal drainage as infiltrating water becomes frozen. As a further ARD control measure, the Whale Tail WRSF will be capped with a minimum 2 m thick layer of coarse acid-buffering ultramafic rock at closure.

Owing to their placement within the Whale Tail WRSF, the landfills are/will also become encapsulated within waste rock. Specifically, the slopes of the sub landfills are covered with an advancing waste rock layer during operations such that the sub landfills are covered by a minimum 0.3 to 1 m thickness of waste rock by the end of each sub landfill operations, prior to the final NPAG cover. Agnico Eagle plans to use NPAG waste rock to surround and cover the landfills wherever practical. As noted above, a minimum 2 m thick layer of NPAG coarse acid-buffering ultramafic rock would also be placed over the landfill cover as part of planned closure activities for the Whale Tail WRSF.

SECTION 5 • LANDFILL OPERATION

5.1 Conceptual Operations Plan

The following is a conceptual plan for operating the landfills.

5.1.1 Materials Acceptable for Disposal

See Section 3.2.

5.1.2 Materials Not Acceptable for Disposal

See Section 3.3.

5.1.3 Site Development and Landfilling Method

The sub landfills are filled progressively in an orderly manner. Specifically, waste will be placed at one end of the sub landfill at full height and then the active waste area progressively advances. Areas where the waste has been placed to full height and leveled, are progressively covered by placement of a minimum 0.3 m thickness of waste rock fill on top of the waste.

5.1.4 Staffing and Equipment

The landfills do not require a full-time attendant. Roll off trucks haul waste to the landfills and a dozer is used to spread, compact and level the waste.

5.1.6 Surface Water and Erosion Control

The slopes of the landfills will be covered with rockfill, thus protecting them from erosion. Any water that may run off from the Whale Tail WRSF will flow to the WRSF Pond.

5.1.7 Inspections

The environmental department is conducting periodic inspections to ensure compliance with the permit and operational plan.

5.2 Conceptual Closure Plan

After the landfill is no longer required, the wastes will be covered with a 2 m NPAG cover and integrated into the overall contours of the Whale Tail WRSF.

5.2.1 Estimate of Total Waste Volumes, Tonnage and Life of Landfill

It is expected with the latest life of mine assessment to have sufficient space within the existing planned landfills.

The expected volume of waste produced in closure and required disposal capacity will be presented in the Closure and Reclamation Plan, as mentioned in Section 3.4.

5.2.2 Final Cover Design

Subsequent detailed engineering analysis determined that transition layers would not be required to prevent seepage from the landfill and were therefore removed from the original design. When finalizing the design for the cover, the need for thermistors will be evaluated. The cover surface will be left irregular to capture snow, windblown sediment, and plant seeds. Drainage water if present will be naturally directed to the WRSF Pond, monitored, and discharged.

The waste in the landfills will be covered by 0.3 to 1 m thickness of rockfill following waste placement.

As per the Whale Tail Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (2020), the landfill will be covered with a minimum of 2 m of NPAG waste rock at closure. The surface runoff from the landfill will be managed as part of the contact water system for the Whale Tail WRSF.

The final landfill slopes will be up to 50%.

5.2.3 End use of Landfill after Closure

There is no planned end use of the landfill post-closure because it will be part of the Whale Tail WRSF.

5.2.4 Water Management

Contact water from the landfill in closure will continue to be managed under the current Water Management Plan.

SECTION 6 • POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The landfills are designed and built as part of the Whale Tail WRSF. The access road to the Waste Rock Storage Facility is used to access the sub landfills.

Landfill activities that were identified to have potential effects on VECs include site preparation and construction, operations and closure.

Potential effects from the landfills on VECs were assessed as follows:

- Degradation of permafrost;
- Change in surface water and groundwater drainage patterns due to proposed landfill footprint (altered landscape);
- Change in groundwater and surface water quality from leachate percolation, leading to degradation of aquatic habitat;

- Change in air quality from dust and windblown debris;
- Loss of vegetation cover and terrestrial mammal habitat due to proposed landfill footprint;
- Attraction of predatory and small mammals to waste; and
- Loss of sites of heritage significance or traditional ways of life.

Several mitigation measures, including management and monitoring plans were implemented as part of the overall Whale Tail Mine and are also incorporated into landfill construction, operations, and closure. The plans that set out detailed site-specific protection measures and procedures that serve to protect the VECs include:

- Water Management Plan;
- Air Quality and Dustfall Monitoring Plan;
- Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan;
- Hazardous Materials Management Plan;
- Closure and Reclamation Plan; and
- Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Plan.

6.1 Effects Summary

The primary potential environmental effects from landfill activities included leachate generation, windblown debris and habitat (vegetation) loss. Given the effective implementation of mitigation plans, no residual environmental effects to VECs from construction, operation or closure of the landfills are anticipated. See summary below:

- The leachate that will be generated by the landfills is of very low strength (dilute) or simply absent due to restrictions on the materials that is placed in the landfills. Water drainage from the landfill area would be collected in WRSF Pond and would be managed under the Water Management Plan during operations and closure.
- Rockfill berm acts as a wind shield to reduce amount of windblown debris.
- Habitat loss is minimized because the landfills is designed and built within the footprint of the Whale Tail WRSF. With the implementation of terrestrial habitat reclamation strategies, the final surfaces of the landfills are graded to blend into the existing

topography and enhance conditions for wildlife. Terrestrial habitat reclamation strategies will be incorporated as part of the Closure and Reclamation Plan.

SECTION 7 • PLAN REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

The Landfill Design and Management Plan will be reviewed regularly by the Meadowbank Environmental Department in consultation with the engineering department and updated if necessary. Improvements suggested through these reviews would be implemented in consultation with the Nunavut Water Board.

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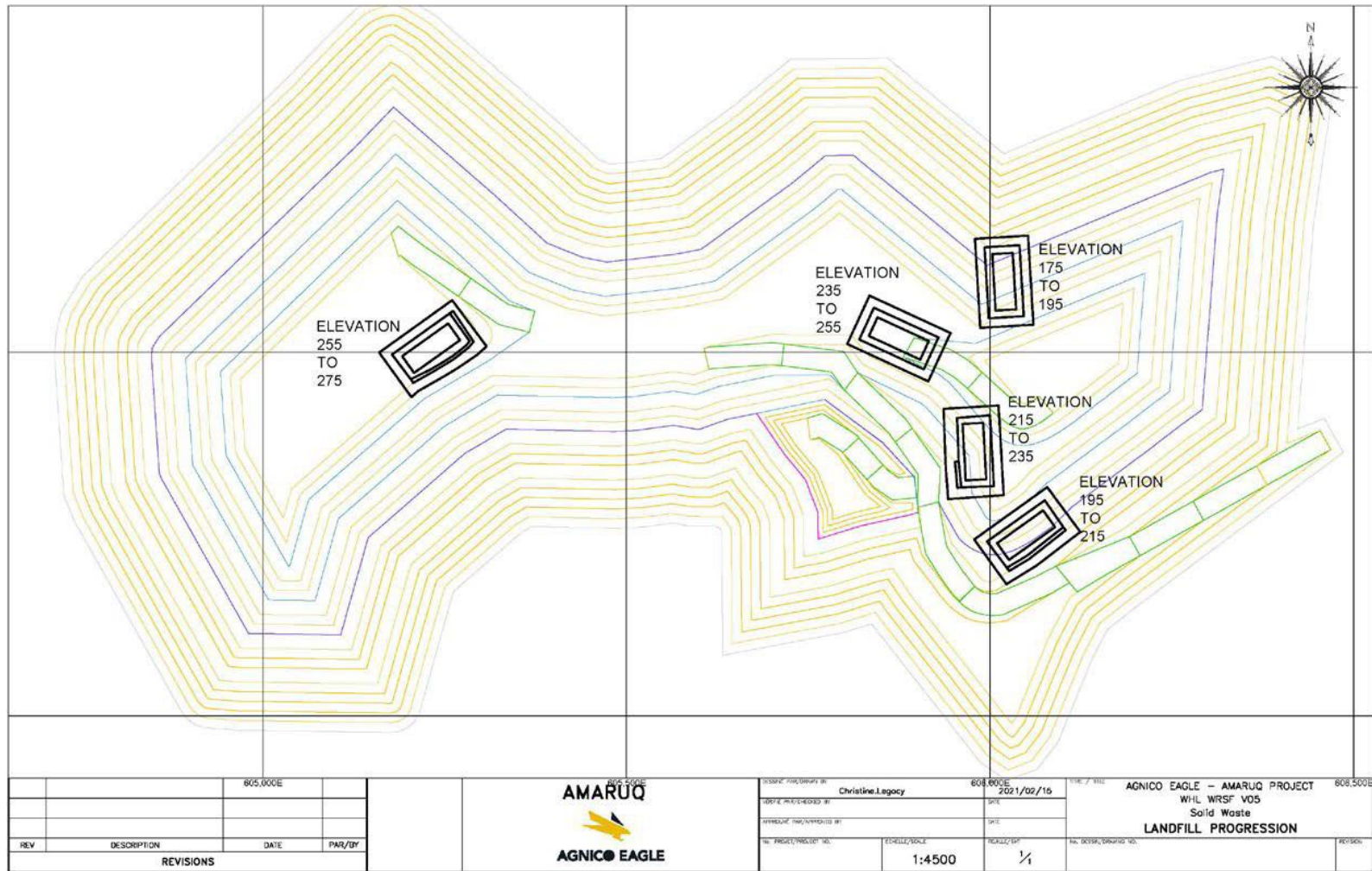
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APPENDIX A • LANDFILL INCORPORATION SCHEMATIC



Note: Specific locations and number of sub-landfill could vary based on waste capacity requirements for operation, progressive closure and closure.