GSI Job No. 5844 Issued: 14 September 2021



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Table 1. Computation of Consolidated Black Sand Areal Coverage in Study Area Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Cross-Section	Total Length (feet)	Total Length Consolidated Black Sand (feet)	Percentage of Cross- Section Without Consolidated Black Sand
A-A'	20,700	15,500	25.1%
B-B'	19,400	15,200	21.6%
C-C'	25,900	22,000	15.1%
D-D'	20,100	14,900	25.9%
E-E'	23,300	11,500	50.6%
F-F'	23,500	11,400	51.5%
G-G'	25,500	23,000	9.8%
H-H'	7,700	5,900	23.4%
I-I'	17,900	14,600	18.4%
J-J'	11,500	11,500	0.0%
K-K'	26,000	7,800	70.0%
L-L'	25,500	17,000	33.3%
M-M'	22,000	14,300	35.0%
N-N'	15,700	12,700	19.1%
0-0'	13,500	5,800	57.0%
P-P'	21,800	12,400	43.1%
Q-Q'	25,000	16,000	36.0%
R-R'	19,200	11,500	40.1%
S-S'	14,800	11,000	25.7%
T-T'	6,000	3,000	50.0%
U-U'	5,600	5,600	0.0%
V-V'	6,700	6,700	0.0%
W-W'	26,800	22,500	16.0%
X-X'	13,800	10,200	26.1%
Total	437,900	302,000	31.0%



Table 2. Calibration Statistics for Steady-State Simulation

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, St. George

Charlton County, Georgia

Statistic	Model Values
Number of targets	87
Number of observations	87
Range in observed values	63.79
Minimum residual	-6.09
Maximum residual	9.02
Sum of squared residuals	9.05E+02
Root mean square (RMS) error	3.23
Residual mean	0.76
Absolute residual mean	2.39
Standard deviation	3.14
Scaled residual mean	0.012
Scaled absolute residual mean	0.037
Scaled standard deviation	0.049
Scaled RMS error	0.051



Table 3. Pre-Mining Simulation Water Budget

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Water Budget Co	Pre-Mining					
		West ¹	East ²	Total		
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782		
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%		
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.5%	93.5%		
Percent Mass Bal	ance Error		0.0%			

- 1. West refers to the west of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 2. East refers to the east of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 3. Modflow drain packages represents National Hydrography Dataset wetlands and streams as shown on Figures 22 and 23.



Table 4. Pre- and Post-Mining Water Budget Comparisons For Soil Amendment Bentonite Percentages Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Water Budget C		Pre-Mining	ı	No Bentonite Soil Amendment				
	West ¹	East ²	Total	West	East	Total		
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.5%	93.5%	52.0%	41.6%	93.5%	
Percent Mass Ba		0.0%	*	0.0%				

Water Budget Component		5.3% Bentonite Soil Amendment			10.9 % Bentonite Soil Amendment			12.5% Bentonite Soil Amendment		
	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.6%	93.5%	52.1%	41.5%	93.6%	52.0%	41.6%	93.5%
Percent Mass Balance Error		0.0%			0.0%			0.1%		

- 1. West refers to the west of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 2. East refers to the east of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 3. Modflow drain packages represents National Hydrography Dataset wetlands and streams as shown on Figures 22 and 23.



Table 5. Pre- and Post-Mining Water Budget Comparisons For Recharge Rates

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Water Budget Component		Pre-Mining Recharge of 4.13 in/yr			Pre-Mining Recharge of 3.5 in/yr			Pre-Mining Recharge of 4.5 in/yr		
	West ¹	East ²	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,262	1,791	4,052	2,908	2,303	5,210
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.1%	5.8%	7.0%	1.0%	5.2%	6.2%
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.5%	93.5%	51.6%	41.4%	93.0%	52.3%	41.5%	93.8%
Percent Mass Balance Error		0.0%		0.0%			0.0%			

Water Budget C	10.9% Bentonite w/ Recharge of 4.13 in/yr				% Bentonit narge of 3.5		10.9% bentonite w/ Recharge of 4.5 in/yr			
	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,262	1,791	4,052	2,908	2,303	5,210
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.1%	5.8%	7.0%	1.0%	5.2%	6.2%
(as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package	52.1%	41.5%	93.6%	51.7%	41.4%	93.1%	52.2%	41.5%	93.8%
Percent Mass Balance Error		0.0%			0.0%			0.0%		

- 1. West refers to the west of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 2. East refers to the east of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 3. Modflow drain packages represents National Hydrography Dataset wetlands and streams as shown on Figures 22 and 23.



Table 6. Pre- and Post-Mining Water Budget Comparisons For Consolidated Black Sands Hydraulic Conductivity Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Water Budget Component		Calibrate	Pre-Mining w/ Calibrated Hydraulic Conductivity			Pre-Mining ration Valu		Pre-Mining Calibration Value ÷ 5			
	West ¹	East ²	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total		
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.0%	4.9%	5.9%	1.1%	5.7%	6.8%	
(as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.5%	93.5%	52.0%	42.1%	94.1%	52.8%	40.5%	93.2%	
Percent Mass Balance Error			0.0%			0.0%			0.0%		

Water Budget Component			.9% Bentoi d Hydraulic	nite w/ Conductivity		% Bentonit ration Valu		10.9% bentonite w/ Calibration Value ÷ 5			
	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total		
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.0%	4.9%	5.9%	1.1%	5.7%	6.8%	
(as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package	52.1%	41.5%	93.6%	52.1%	42.0%	94.0%	52.6%	40.6%	93.2%	
Percent Mass Balance Error			0.0%			0.0%			0.0%		

- 1. West refers to the west of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 2. East refers to the east of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 3. Modflow drain packages represents National Hydrography Dataset wetlands and streams as shown on Figures 22 and 23.



Table 7. Pre- and Post-Mining Water Budget Comparisons For Unconsolidated & Semi-Consolidated Sands Hydraulic Conductivity Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Water Budget Component		Pre-Mining w/ Calibrated Hydraulic Conductivity			Cali	Pre-Mining bration Valu		Pre-Mining Calibration Value ÷ 5			
	West ¹	East ²	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total		
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	
Outflance	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.8%	7.9%	9.7%	0.7%	4.1%	4.8%	
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package ³	52.0%	41.5%	93.5%	48.4%	41.9%	90.3%	53.5%	41.7%	95.2%	
Percent Mass Balance Error		0.0%				0.0%		0.0%			

Water Budget Component		10.9% Bentonite w/ Calibrated Hydraulic Conductivity			_	9% Bentonite bration Value		10.9% bentonite w/ Calibration Value ÷ 5		
	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	West	East	Total	
Inflows (gallons per minute)	Recharge	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782	2,669	2,113	4,782
Outflows	Lateral Outflows	1.1%	5.4%	6.5%	1.8%	7.9%	9.7%	0.7%	4.1%	4.8%
Outflows (as % of Total Recharge)	Outflow to Modflow Drain Package	52.1%	41.5%	93.6%	48.4%	41.9%	90.3%	53.4%	41.8%	95.2%
Percent Mass Balance Error		0.0%			0.0%			0.0%		

- 1. West refers to the west of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 2. East refers to the east of the Trail Ridge crest as shown on Figure 33.
- 3. Modflow drain packages represents National Hydrography Dataset wetlands and streams as shown on Figures 22 and 23.



Table 8. Model Sensitivity Categorization Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Sensitivity Simulation	Calibration Sensitivity	Predictive Sensitivity	ASTM Sensitivity Type
Recharge Rate	Low	Low	Туре І
Consolidated Black Sands Hydraulic Conductivity	Low	Low	Туре І
Unconsolidated and Semi-Consolidated Sand Hydraulic Conductivity	High	High	Type III

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Figures

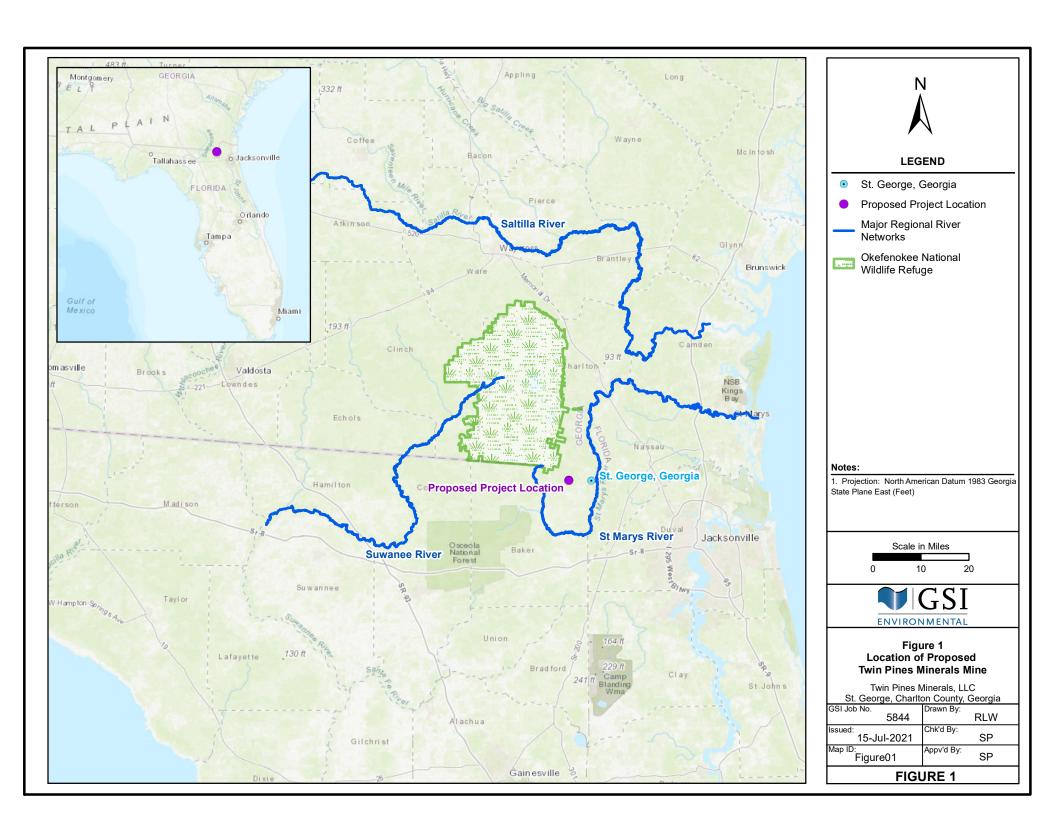
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Figure 38	Simulated Water Level Contours for Post-Mining Conditions with 12.5% Bentonite
Figure 39	Water Table Difference No Bentonite Soil Amendment
-iairo /ii	Water Table Difference 5.3% Rentonite Soil Amendment

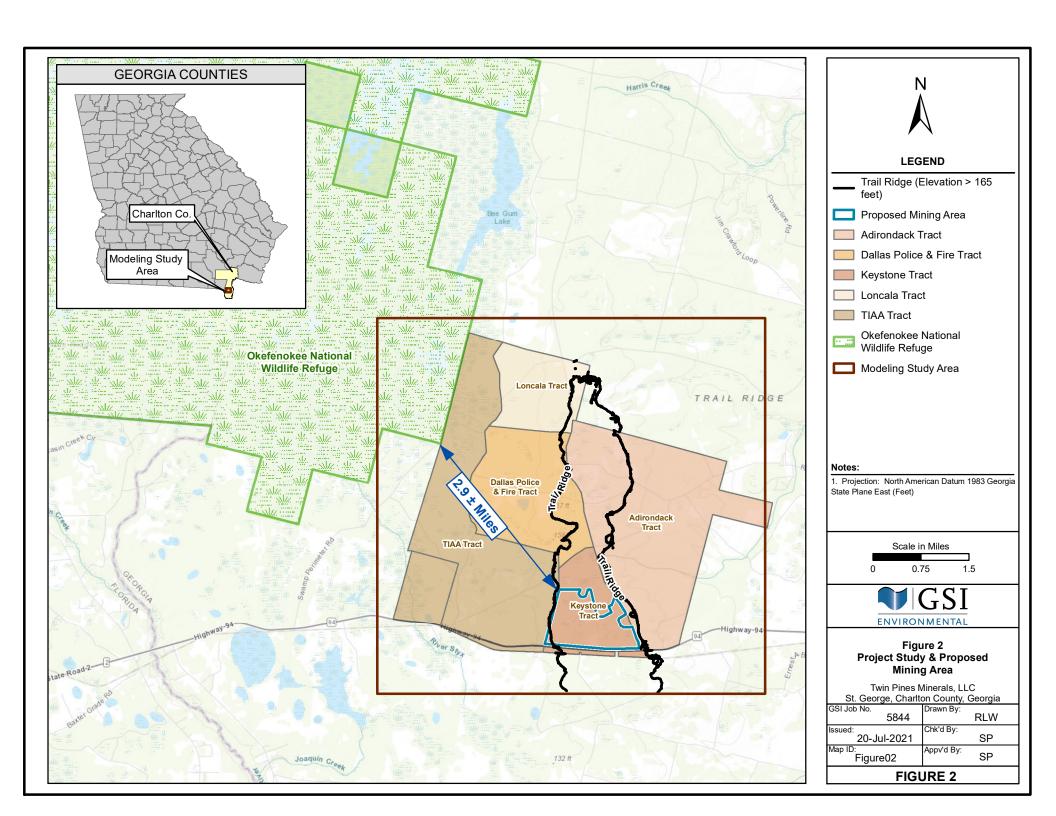
GSI Job No. 5844 Issued: 14 September 2021

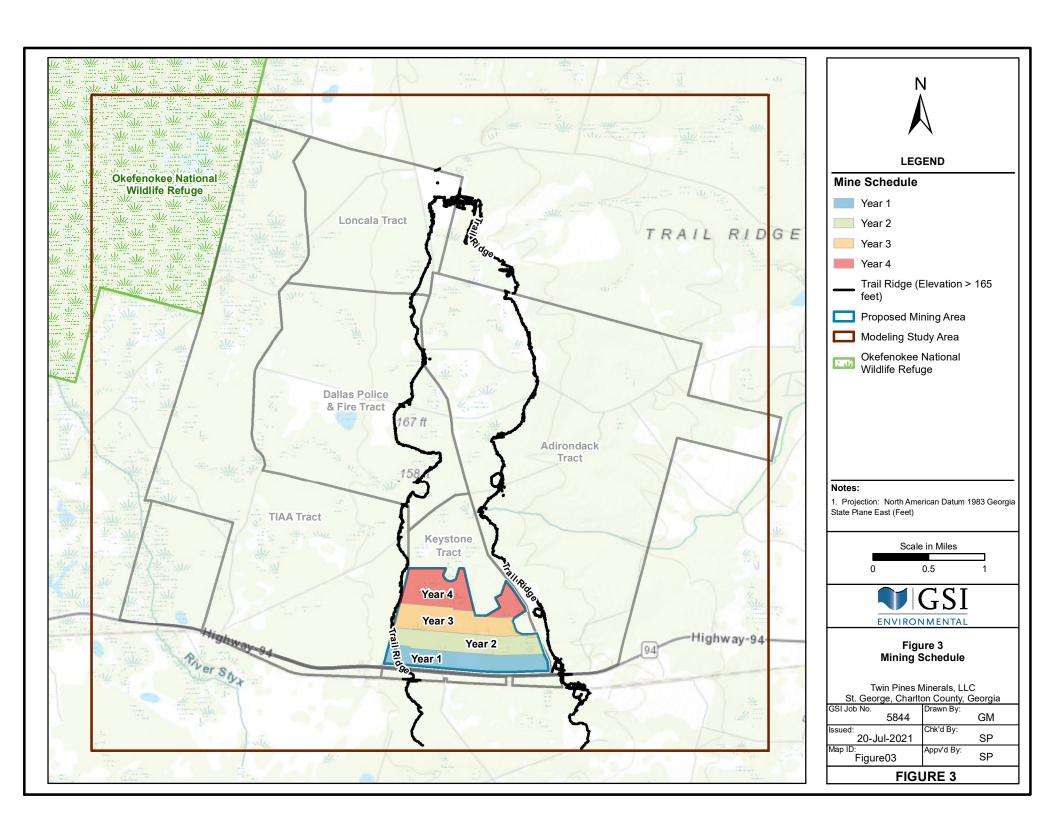


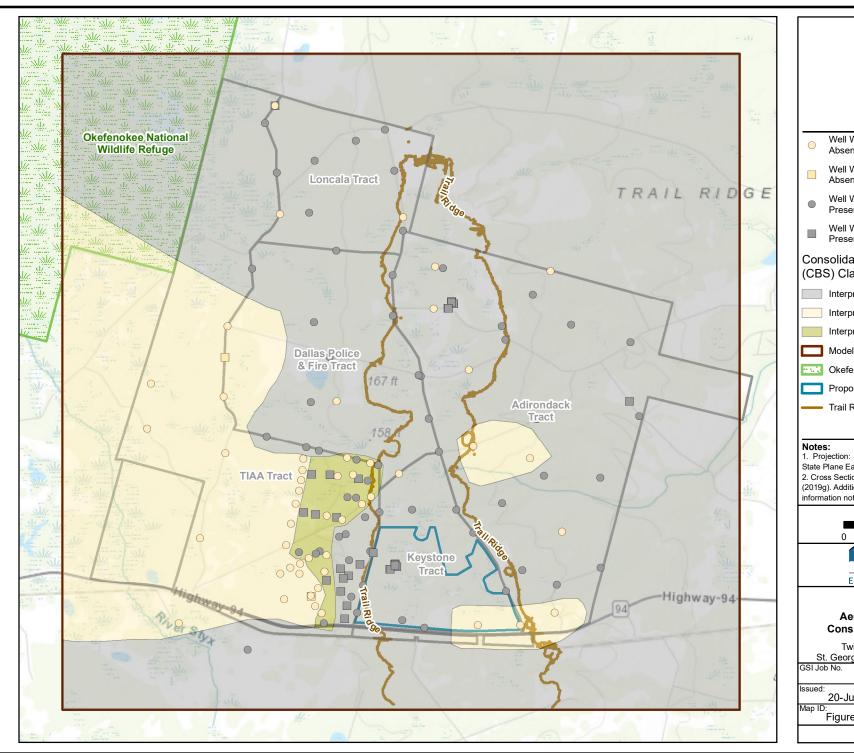
Figures (cont.)

Water Table Difference 10.9% Bentonite Soil Amendment
Water Table Difference 12.5% Bentonite Soil Amendment
Pre-Mining Model Statistics For Recharge Sensitivities
Pre-Mining Model Statistics for Consolidated Black Sand Hydraulic Conductivity
Sensitivities
Pre-Mining Model Statistics for Unconsolidated Sand Layers Hydraulic
Conductivity Sensitivities











LEGEND

- Well With Consolidated Black Sands
 Absent Cross Sections
- Well With Consolidated Black Sands Absent - Additional Wells
- Well With Consolidated Black Sands Present - Cross Sections
- Well With Consolidated Black Sands Present Additional Wells

Consolidated Black Sands (CBS) Classification

- Interpreted Area of Present CBS
- Interpreted Area of Absent
- Interpreted CBS Transition Zone
- Modeling Study Area
- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
 - Proposed Mining Area
 - Trail Ridge (Elevation > 165 feet)
- Projection: North American Datum 1983 Georgia
 State Plane East (Feet)
- 2. Cross Sections refer to those included in Holt et al. (2019g). Additional wells refers to well log information not included in the 2019 cross sections.

Scale in Miles

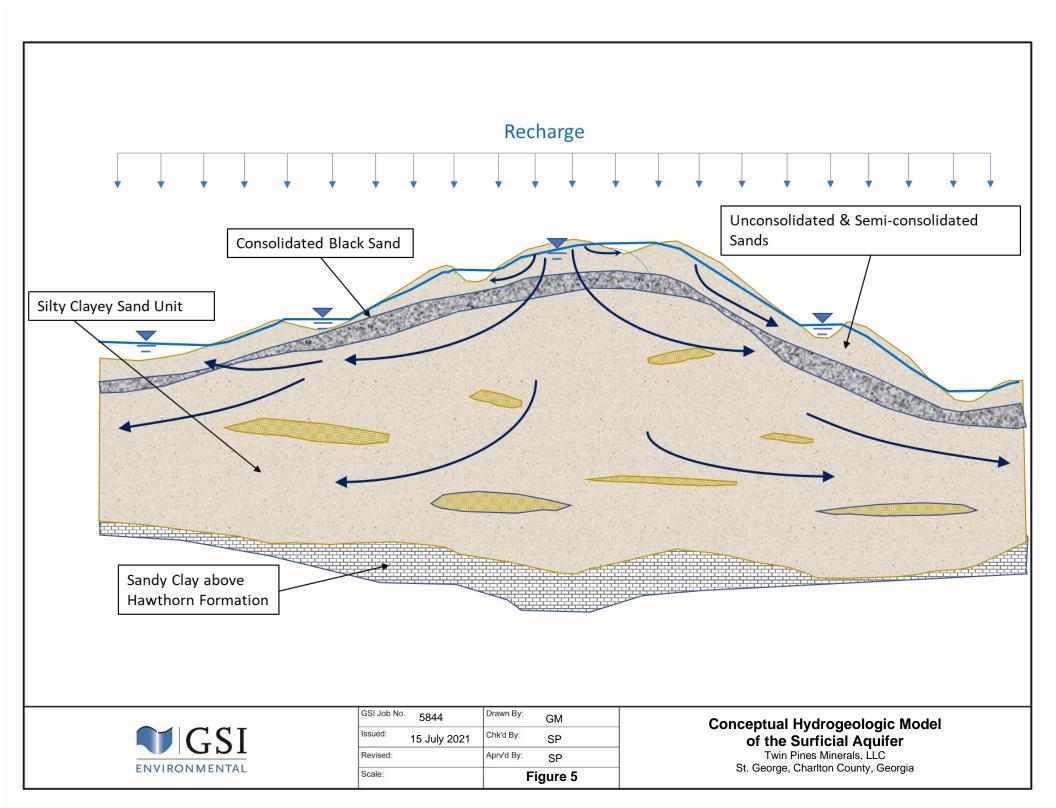
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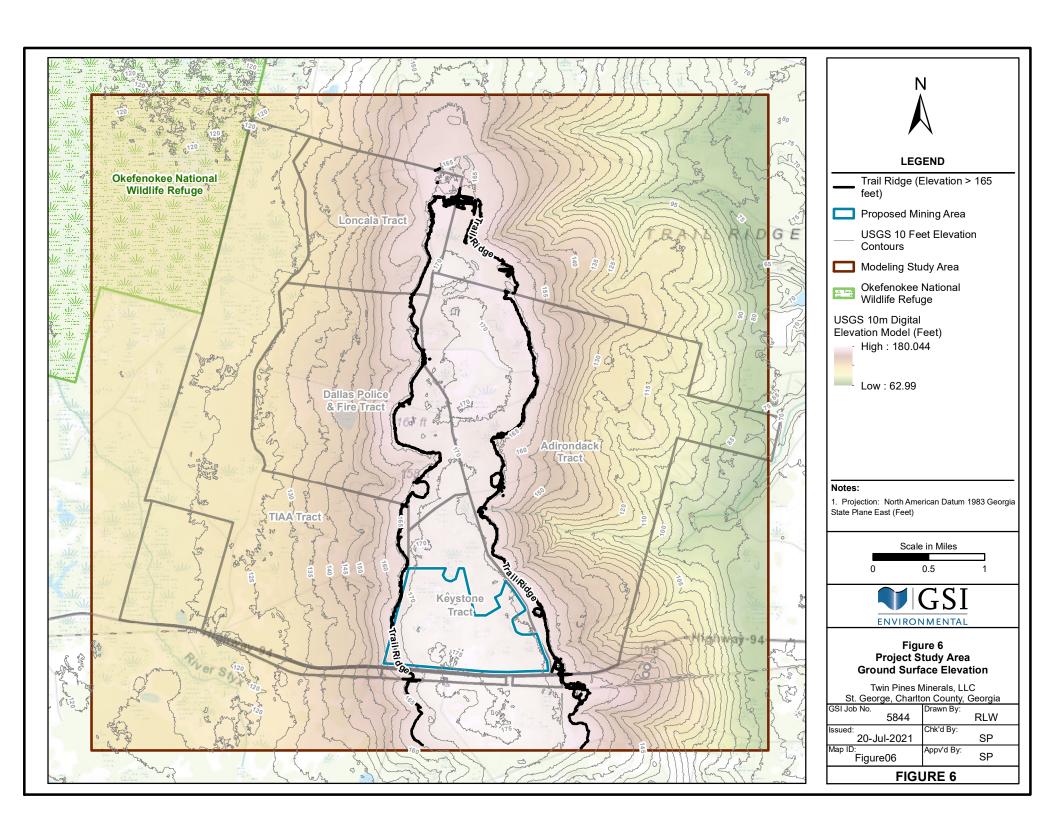


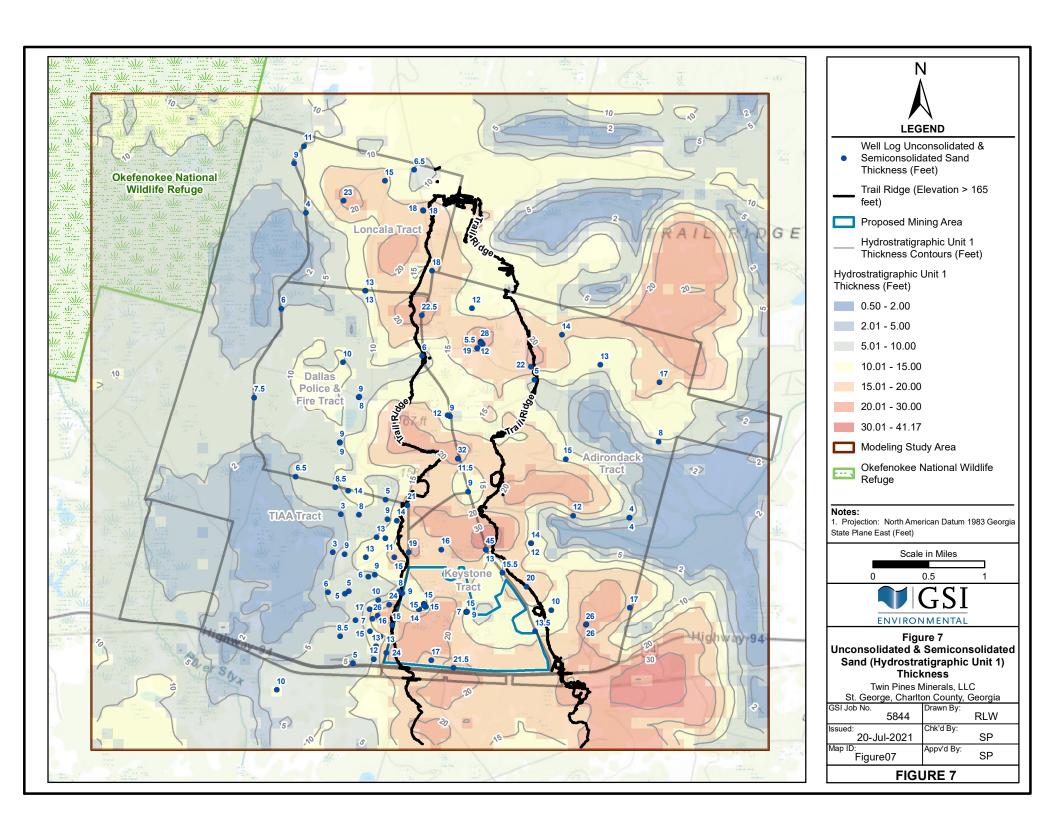
Figure 4 Aerial Distribution of Consolidated Black Sands

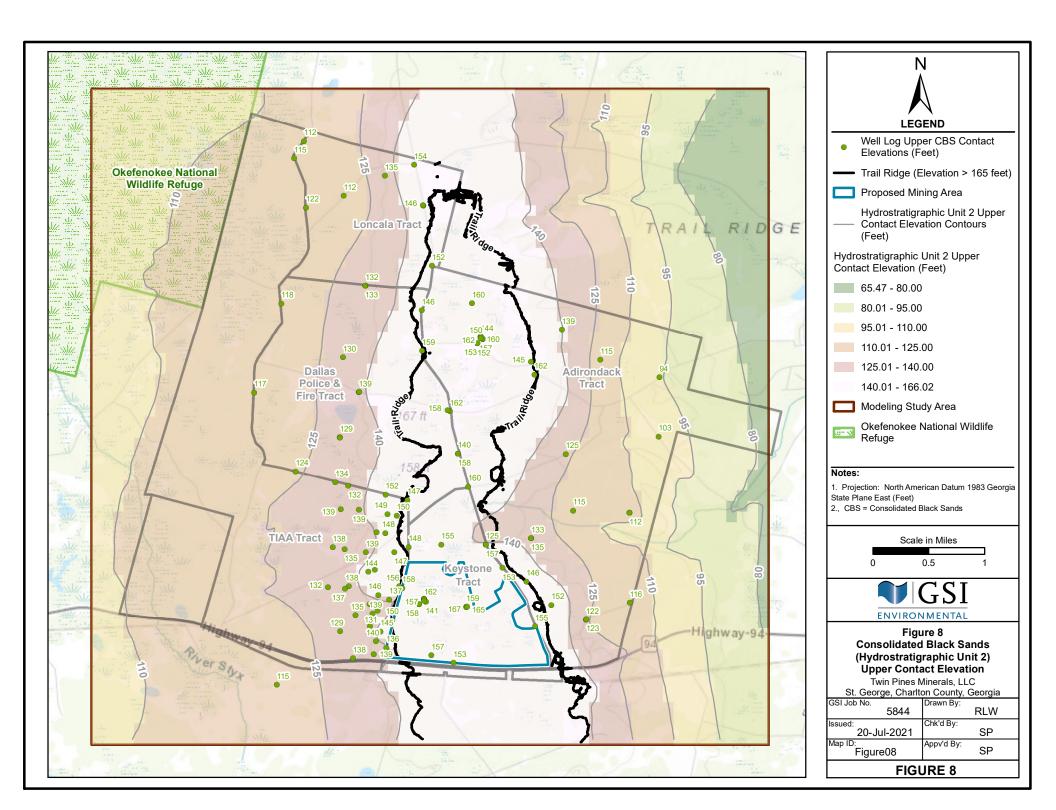
Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

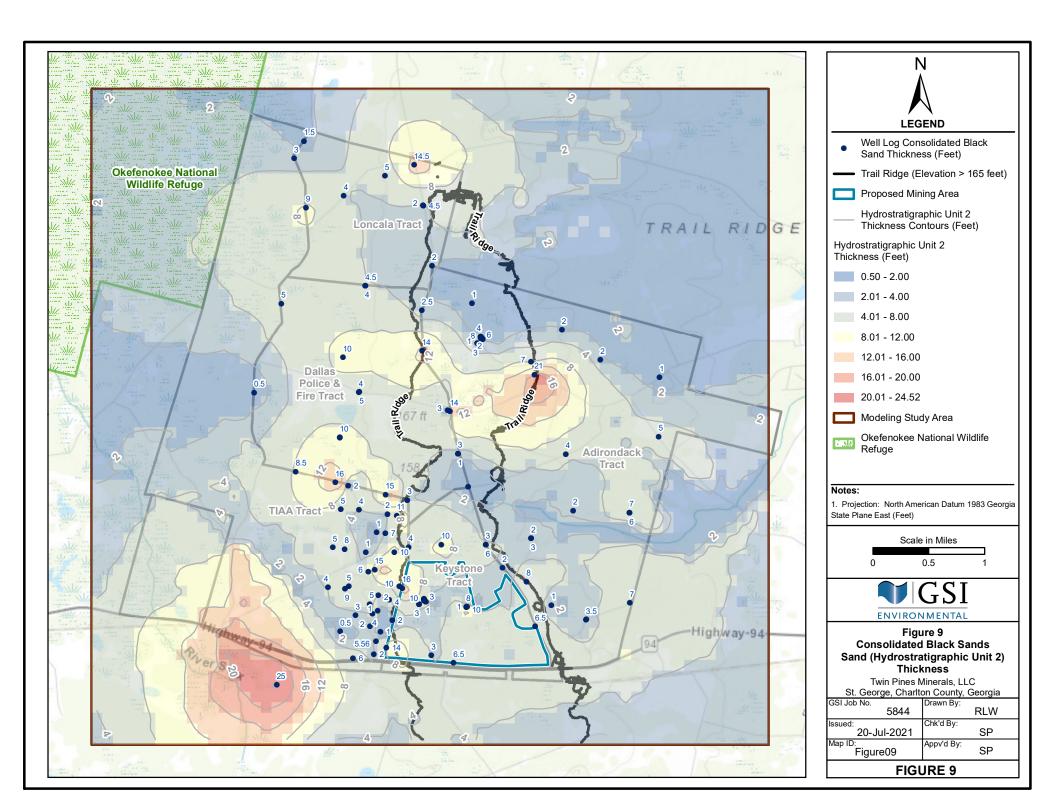
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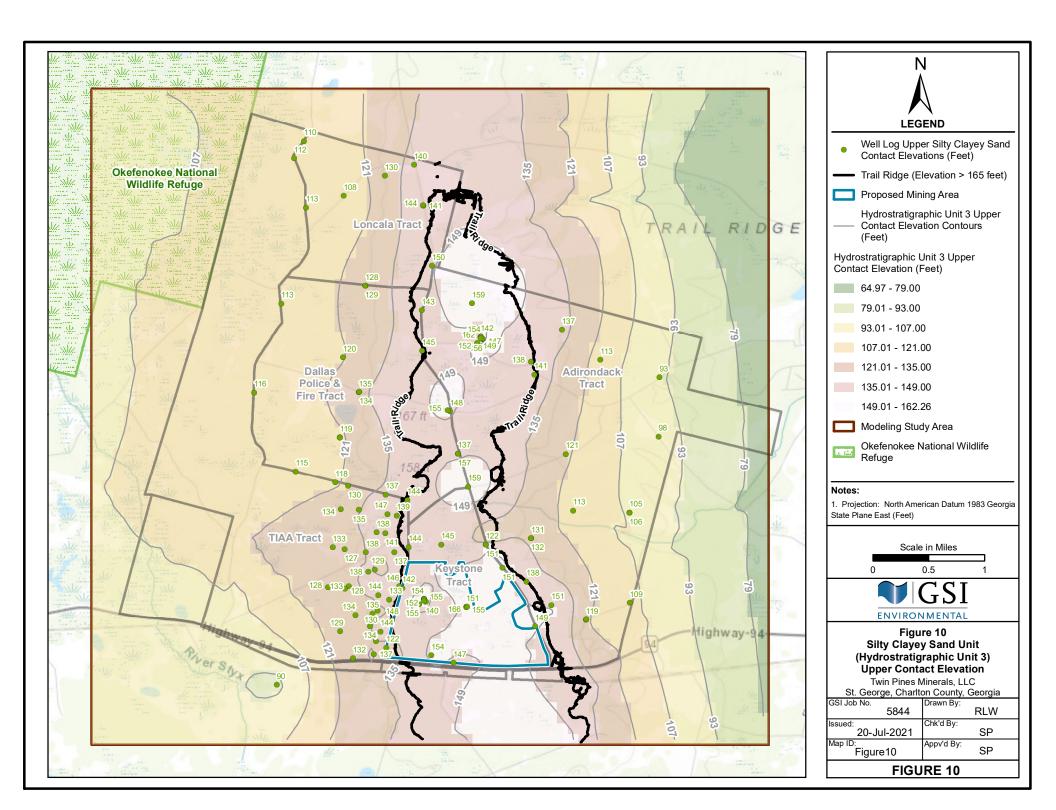


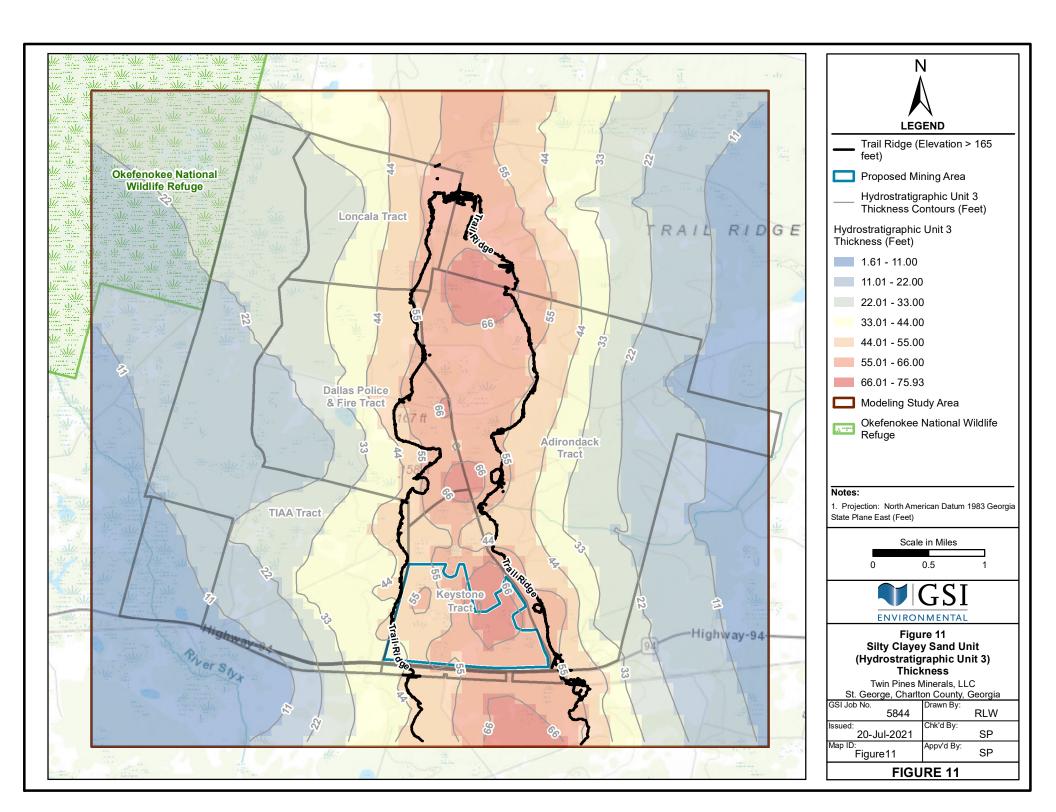


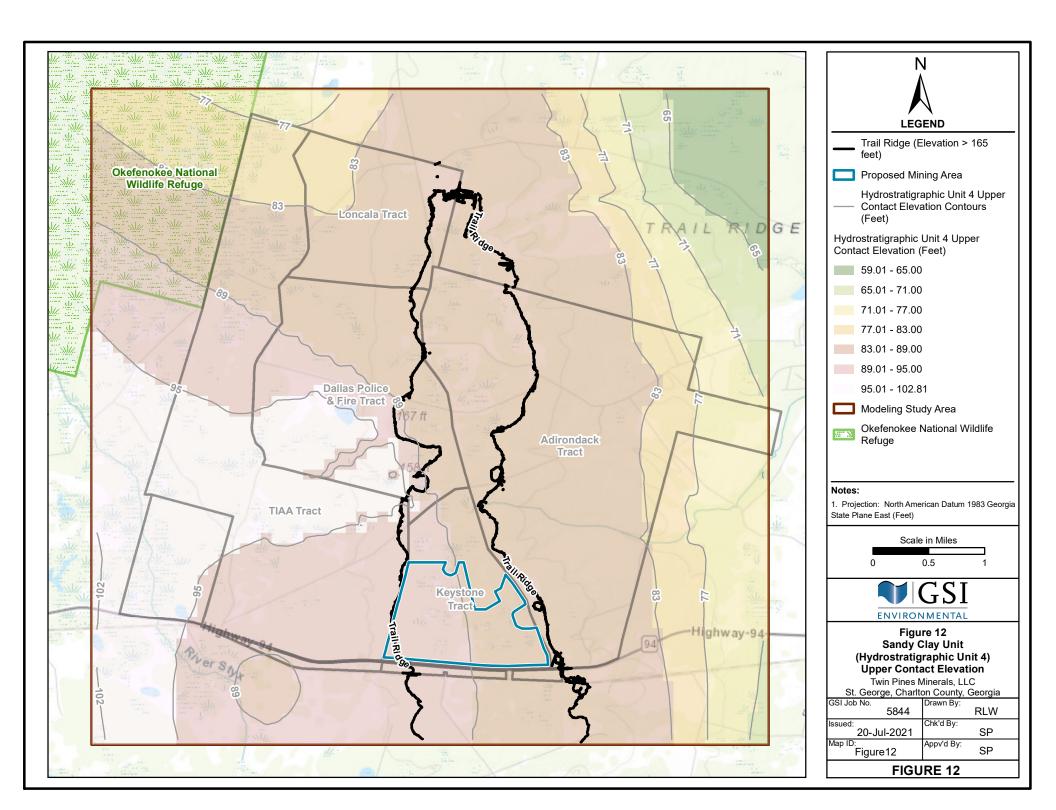


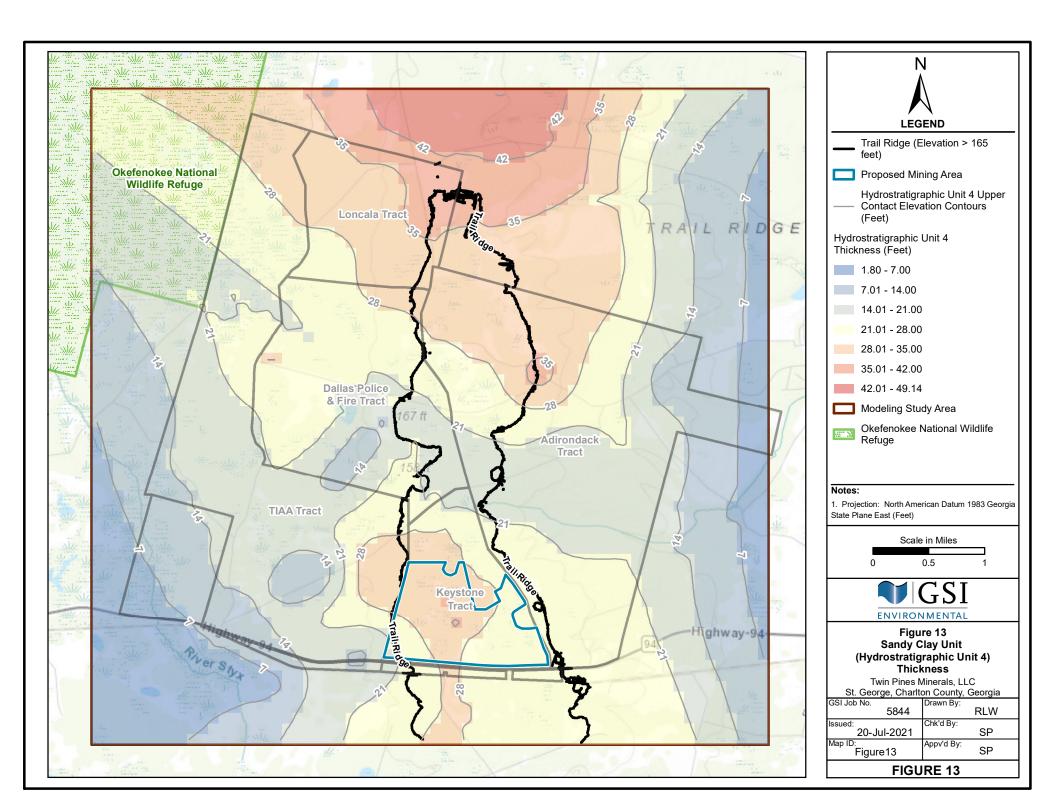


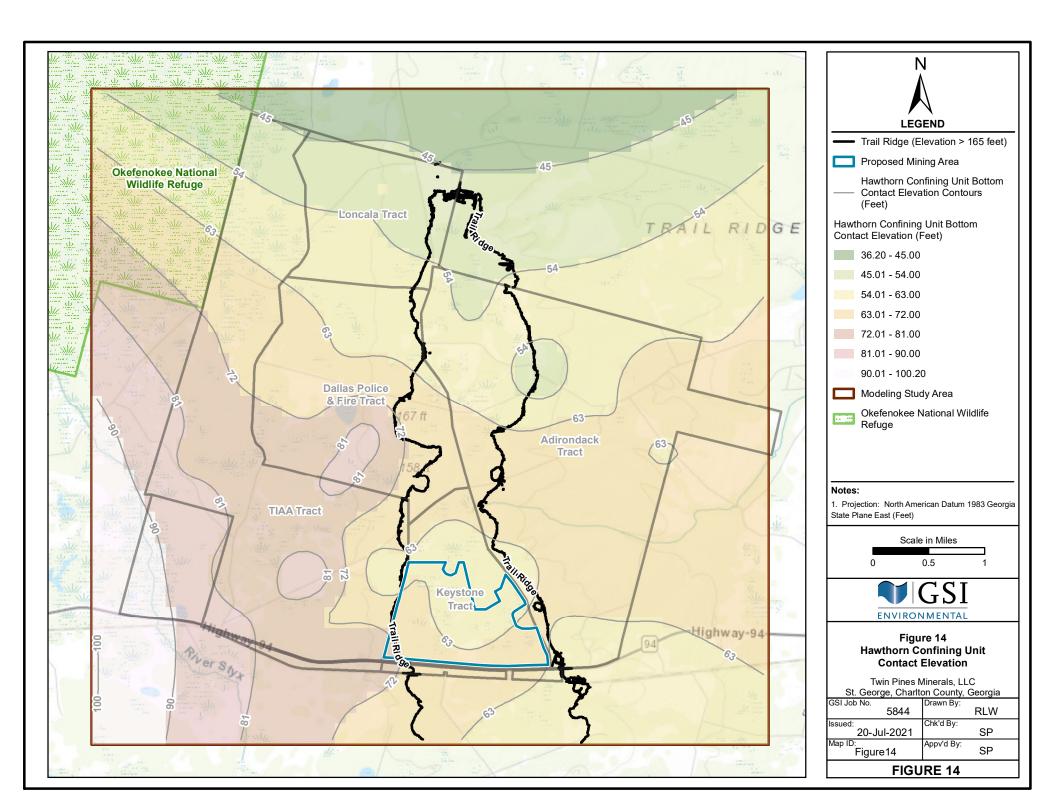


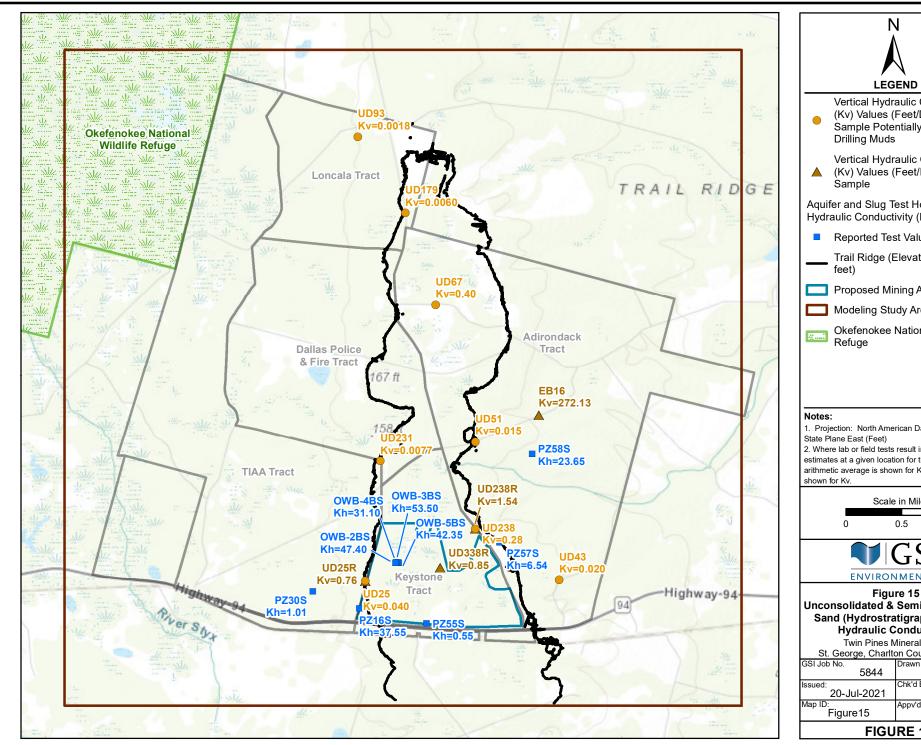














- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (Kv) Values (Feet/Day) - Soil Sample Potentially Affected by
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (Kv) Values (Feet/Day) - Soil

Aquifer and Slug Test Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity (Kh)

- Reported Test Value (Feet/Day)
- Trail Ridge (Elevation > 165
- Proposed Mining Area
- Modeling Study Area
- Okefenokee National Wildlife
- 1. Projection: North American Datum 1983 Georgia
- 2. Where lab or field tests result in multiple K estimates at a given location for the layer, the arithmetic average is shown for Kh; harmonic mean

Scale in Miles 0.5

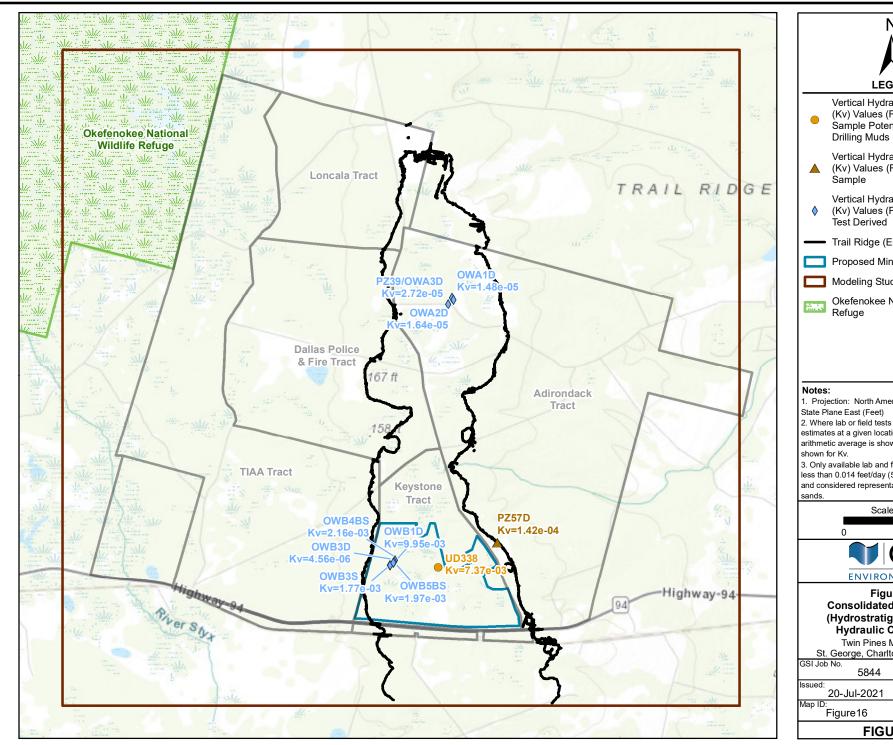


Unconsolidated & Semiconsolidated Sand (Hydrostratigraphic Unit 1) **Hydraulic Conductivity**

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

Figure15	SP SP
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20-Jul-2021	, SP
Issued:	Chk'd By:
5844	RLW
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FIGURE 15





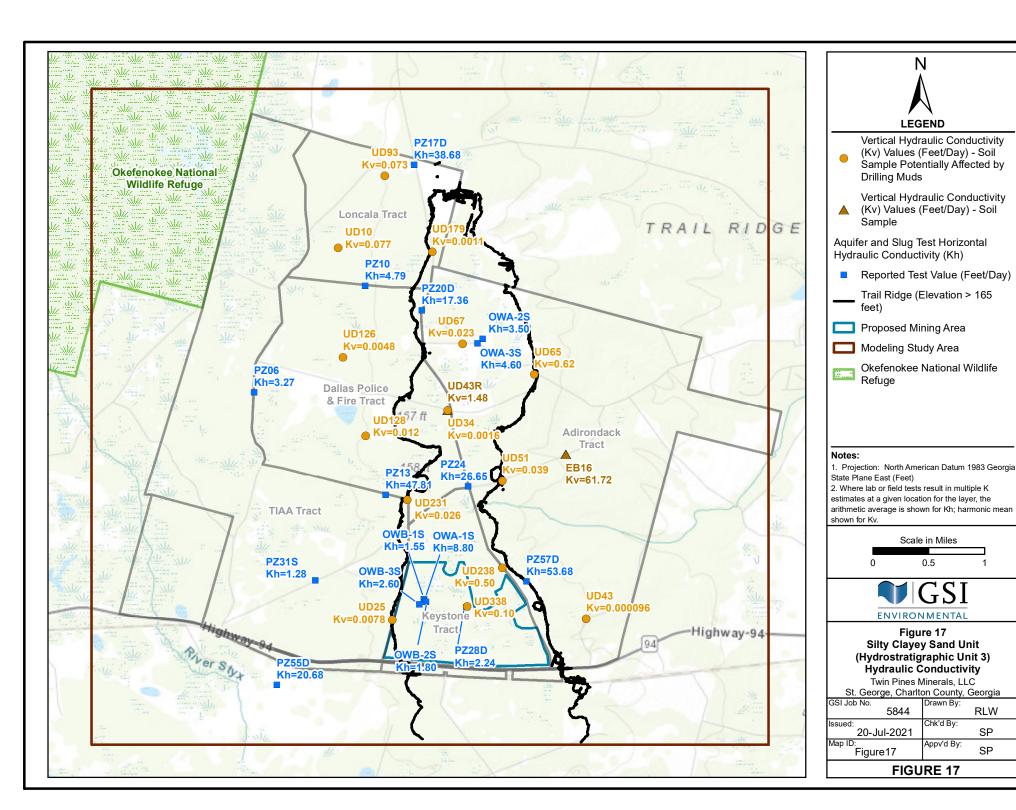
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (Kv) Values (Feet/Day) - Soil Sample Potentially Affected by
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (Kv) Values (Feet/Day) - Soil
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (Kv) Values (Feet/Day) - Aquifer
- Trail Ridge (Elevation > 165 feet)
- Proposed Mining Area
- Modeling Study Area
- Okefenokee National Wildlife
- 1. Projection: North American Datum 1983 Georgia State Plane East (Feet)
- 2. Where lab or field tests result in multiple K estimates at a given location for the layer, the arithmetic average is shown for Kh; harmonic mean
- 3. Only available lab and field data with K values of less than 0.014 feet/day (5e-6 cm/sec) are shown and considered representative of consolidated black

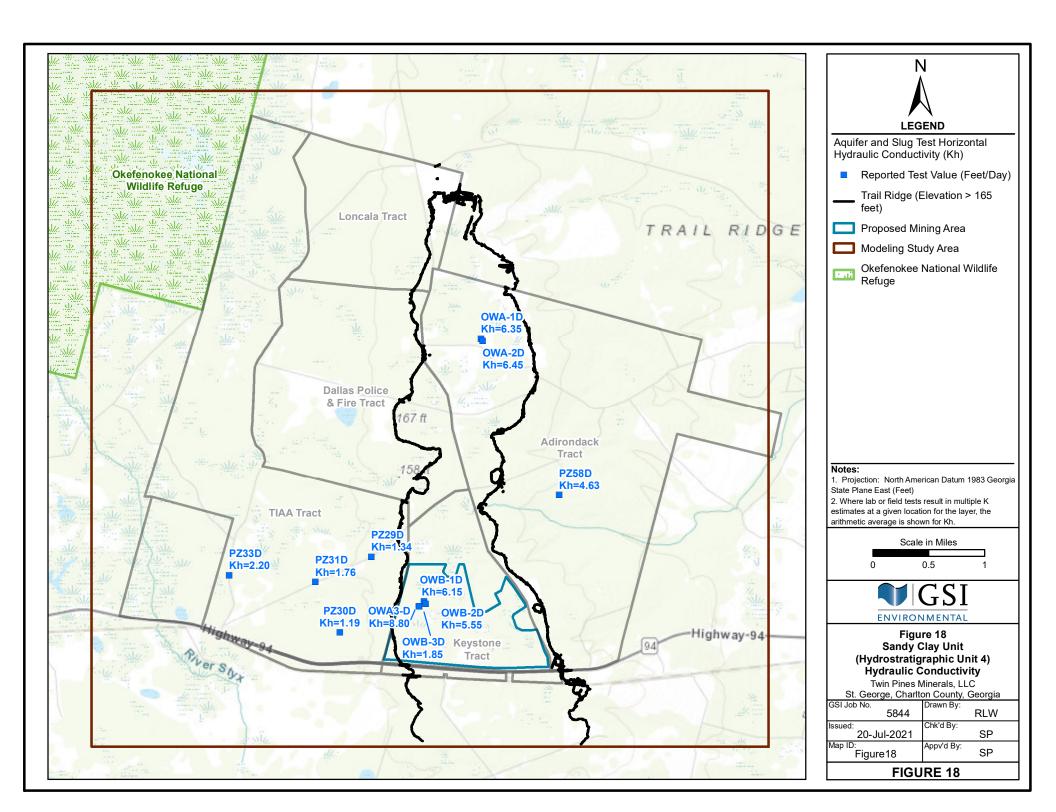


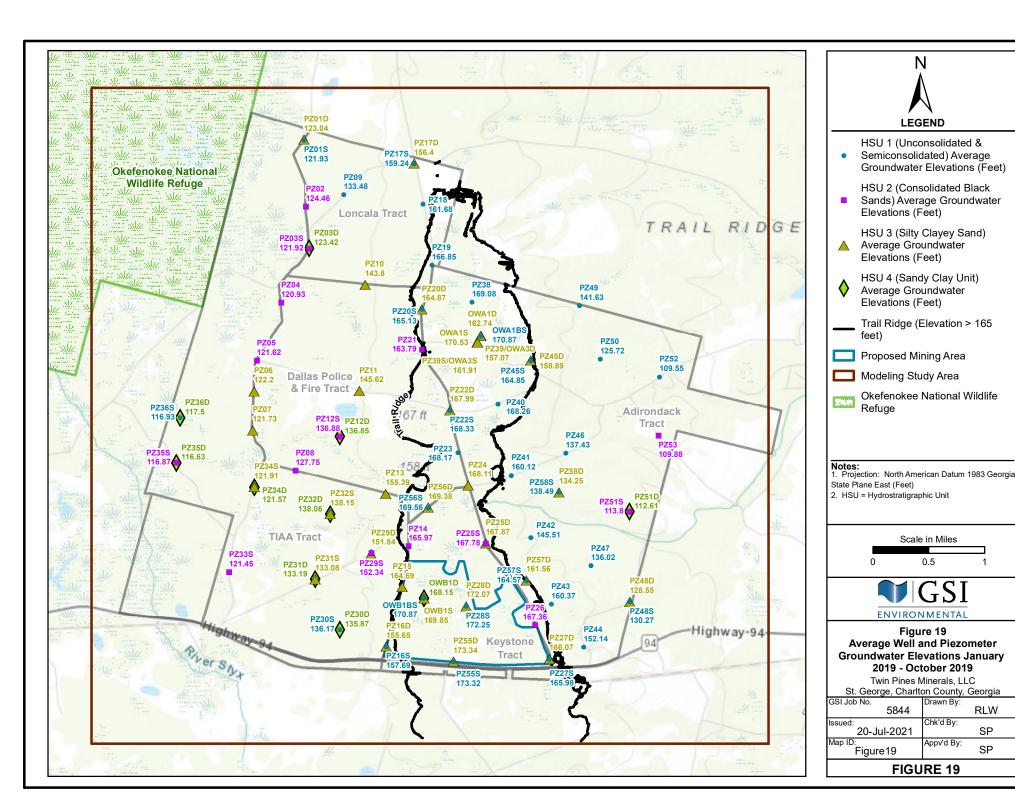
Figure 16 **Consolidated Black Sands** (Hydrostratigraphic Unit 2) **Hydraulic Conductivity**

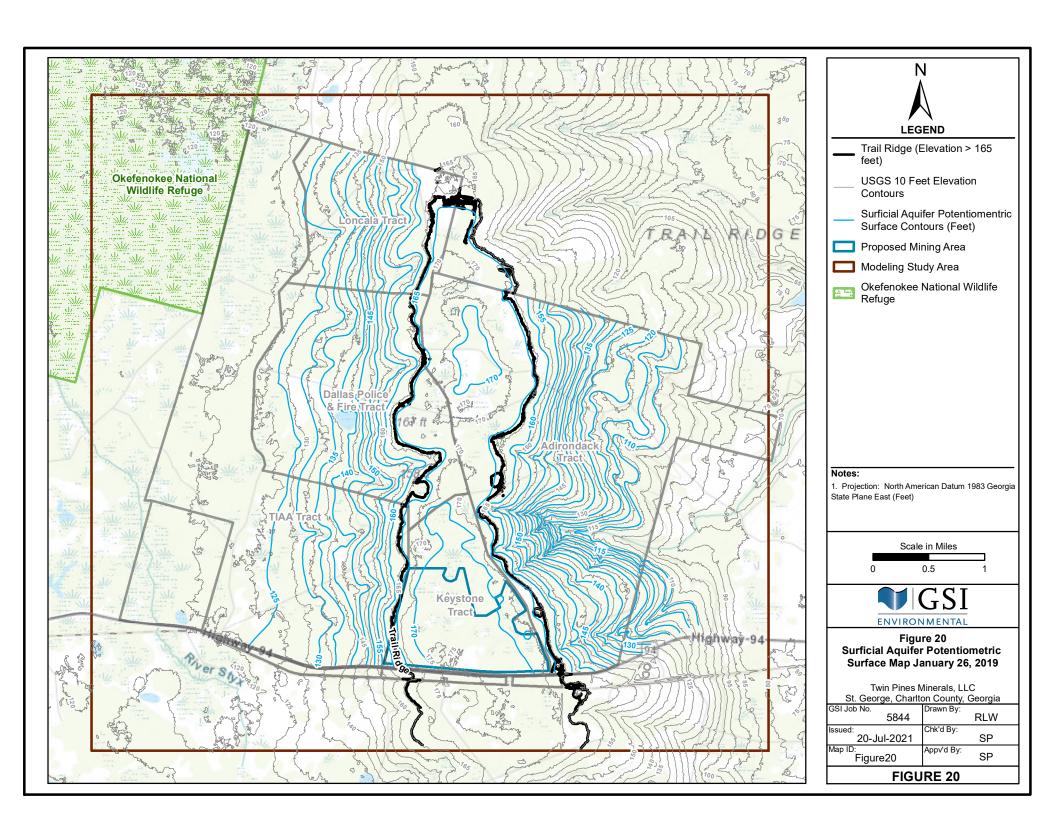
Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

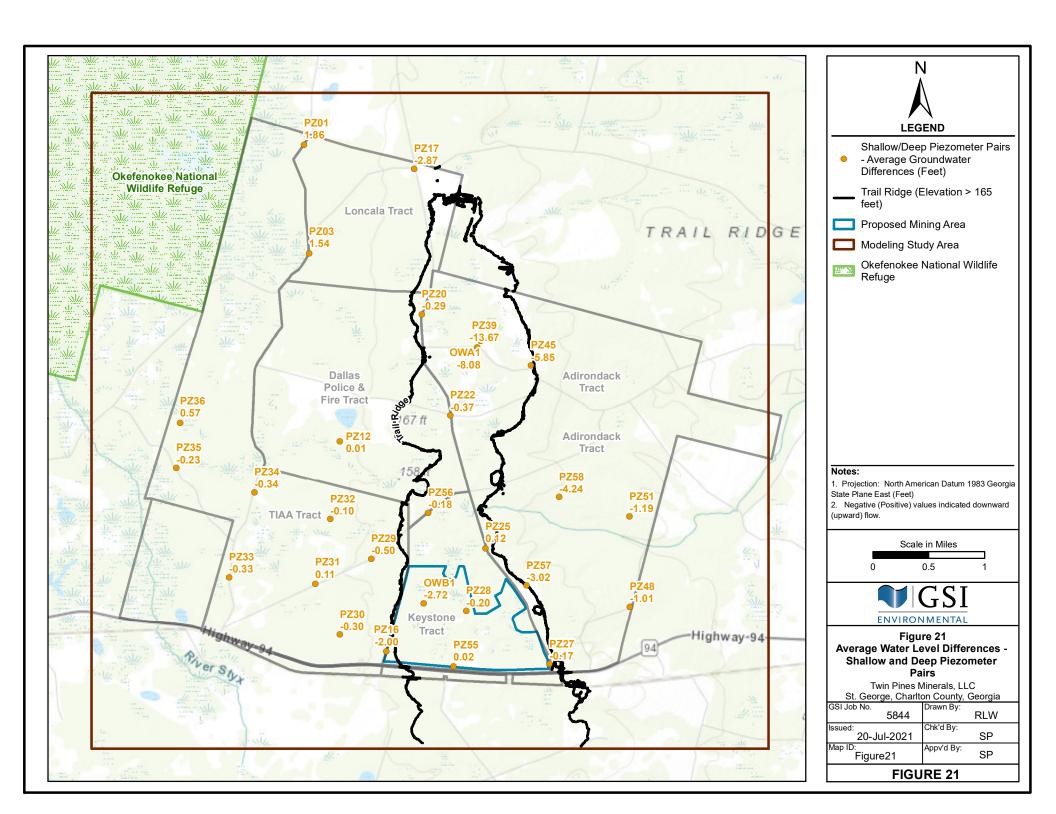
FIGURE 16		
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5844	RLW	

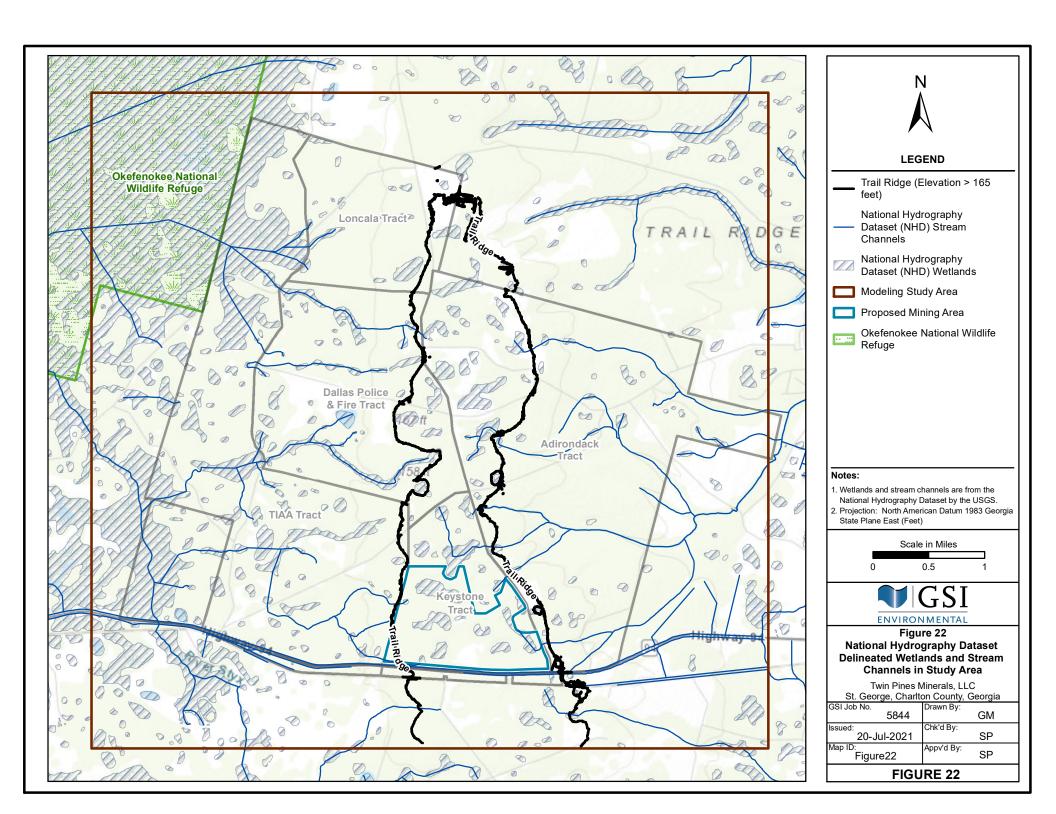


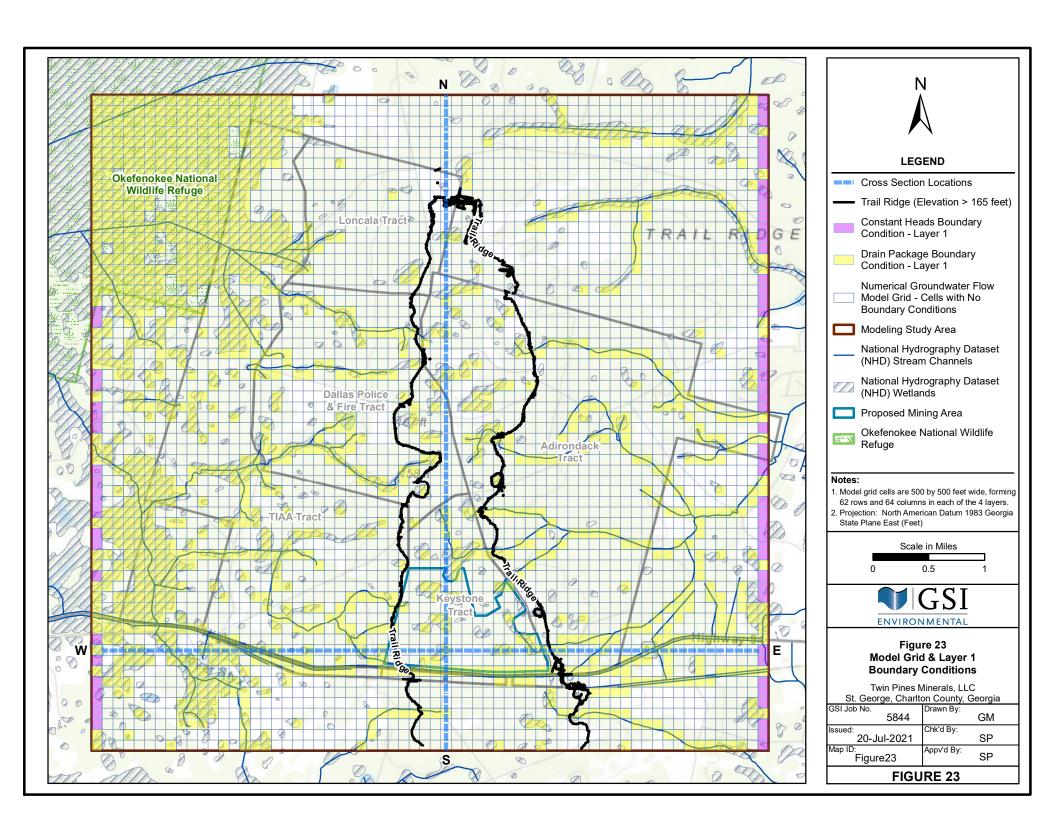










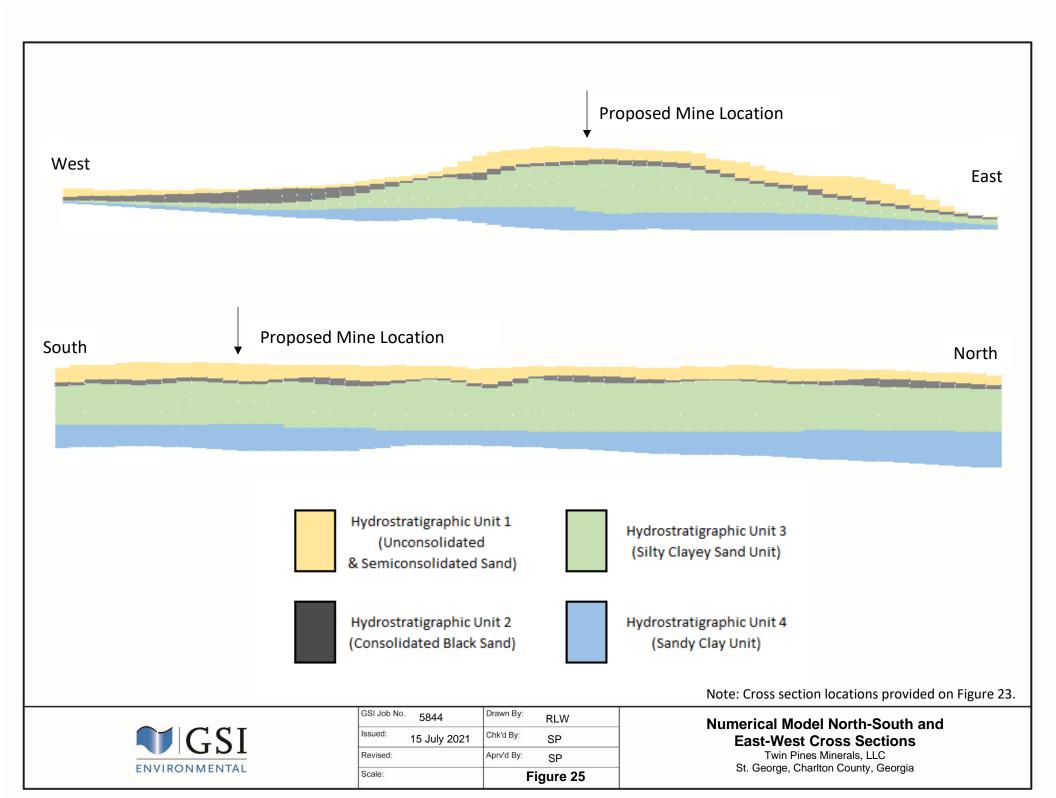


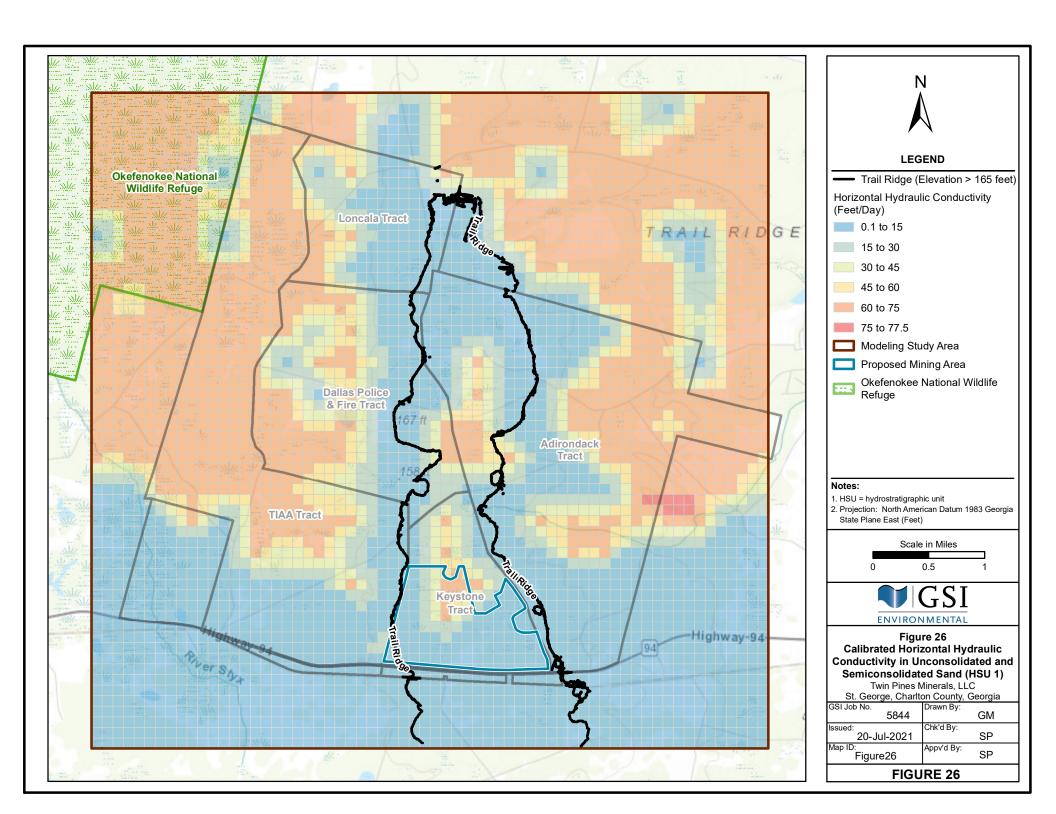
Hydrostratigraphic Unit 1 (Unconsolidated and Semiconsolidated Sand)	Model Layer 1
Hydrostratigraphic Unit 2 (Consolidated Black Sand)	Model Layer 2
	Model Layer 3
Hydrostratigraphic Unit 3 (Silty Clayey Sand Unit)	Model Layer 4
	Model Layer 5
	Model Layer 6
Hydrostratigraphic Unit 4 (Sandy Clay Unit)	Model Layer 7

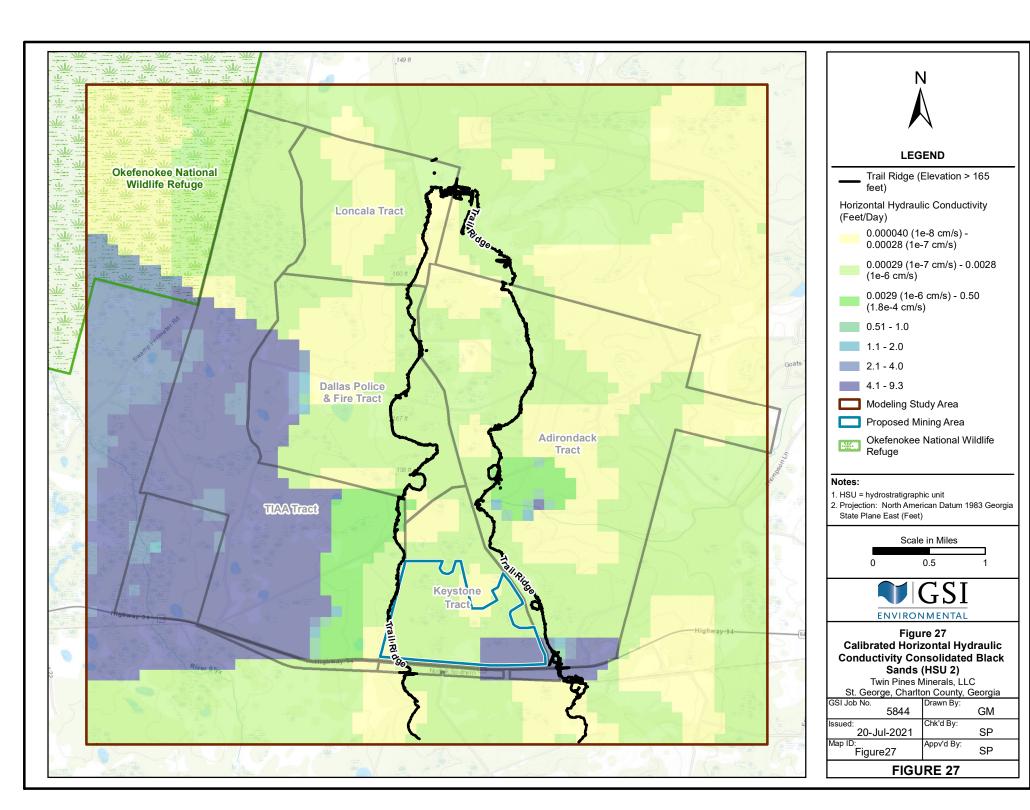


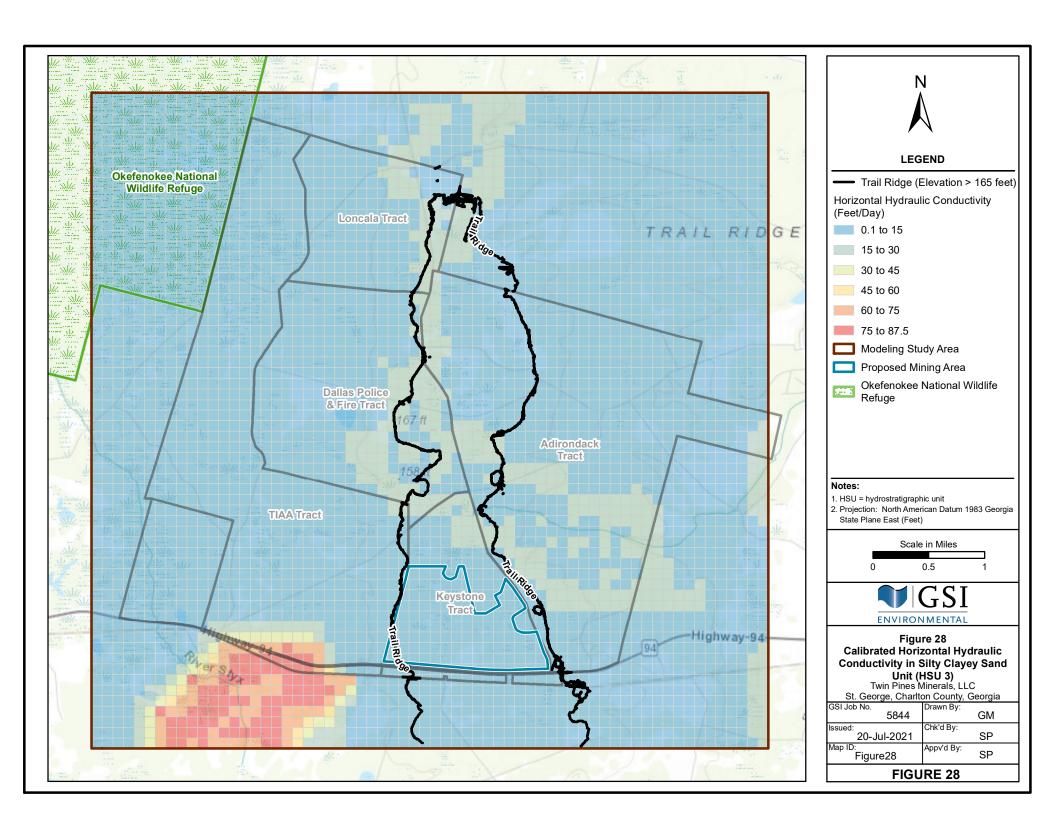
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Revised:		Aprv'd By:	SP	
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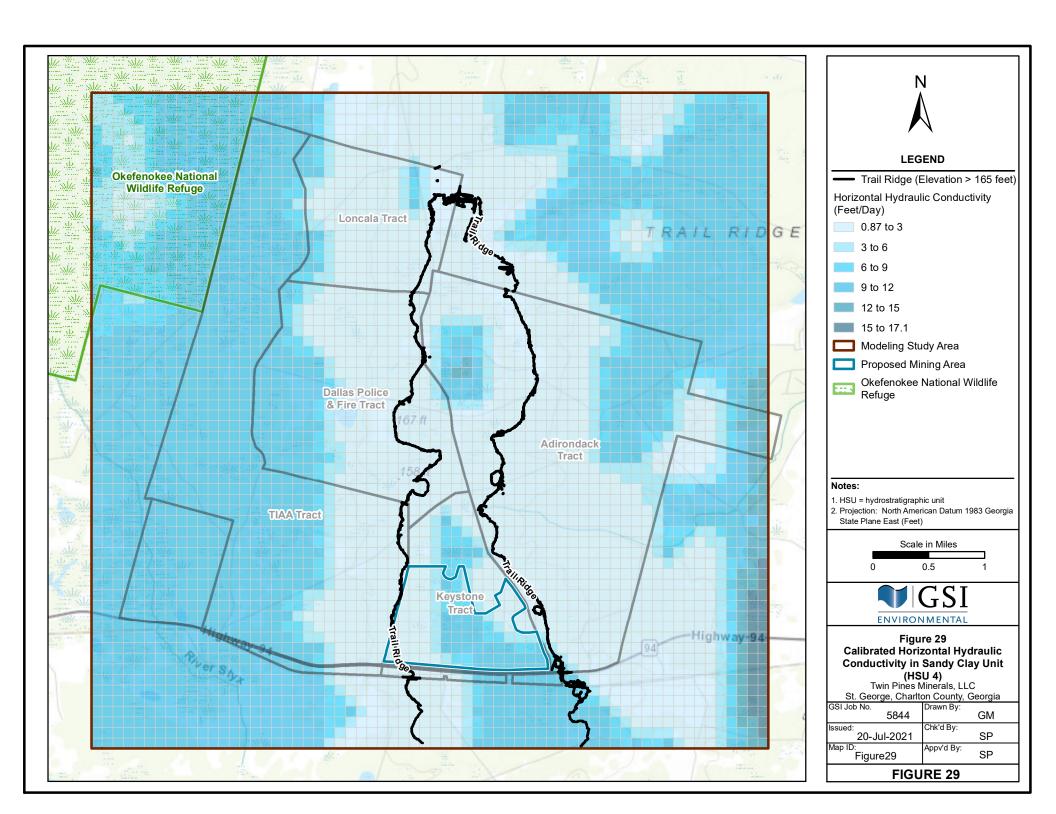
Correlation Between Hydrostratigraphy and Numerical Model Layers Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

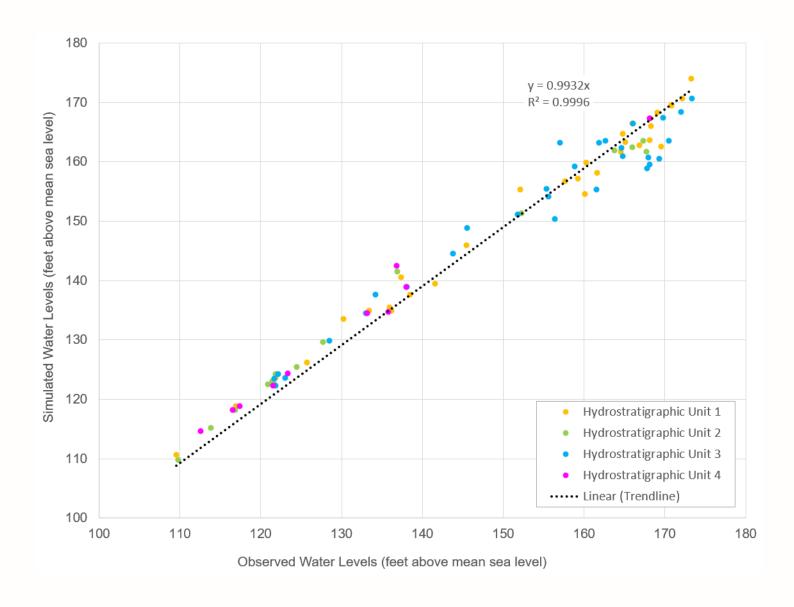










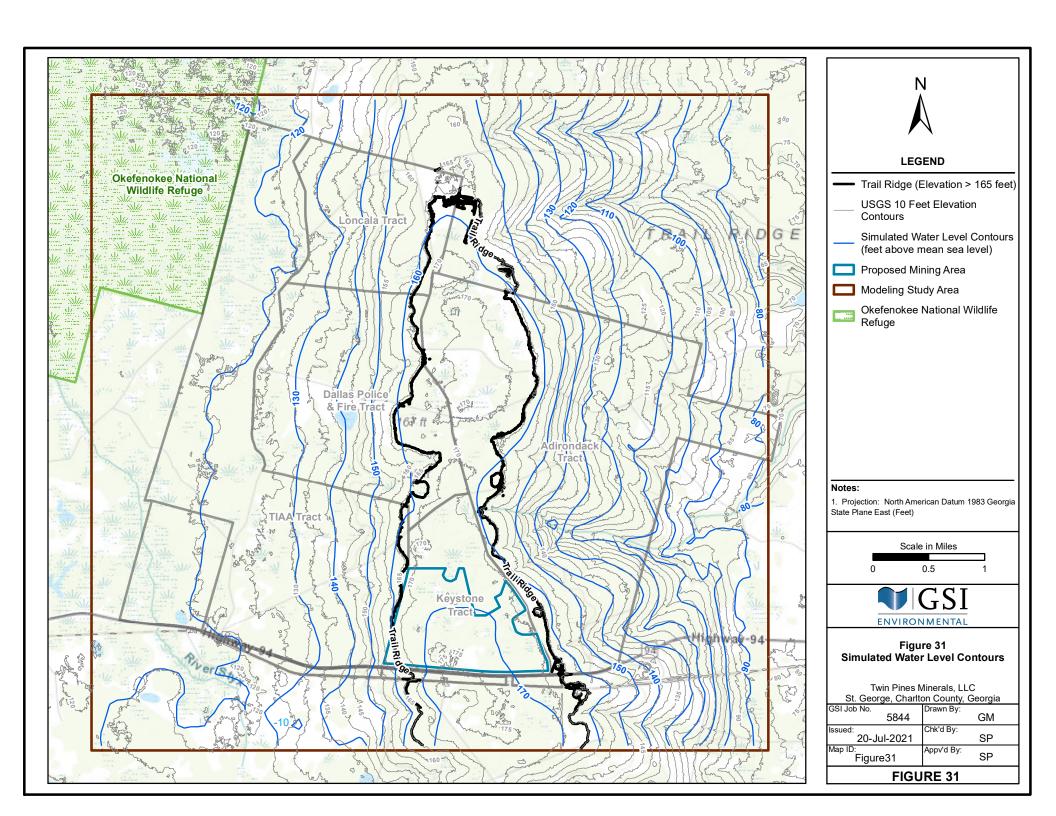


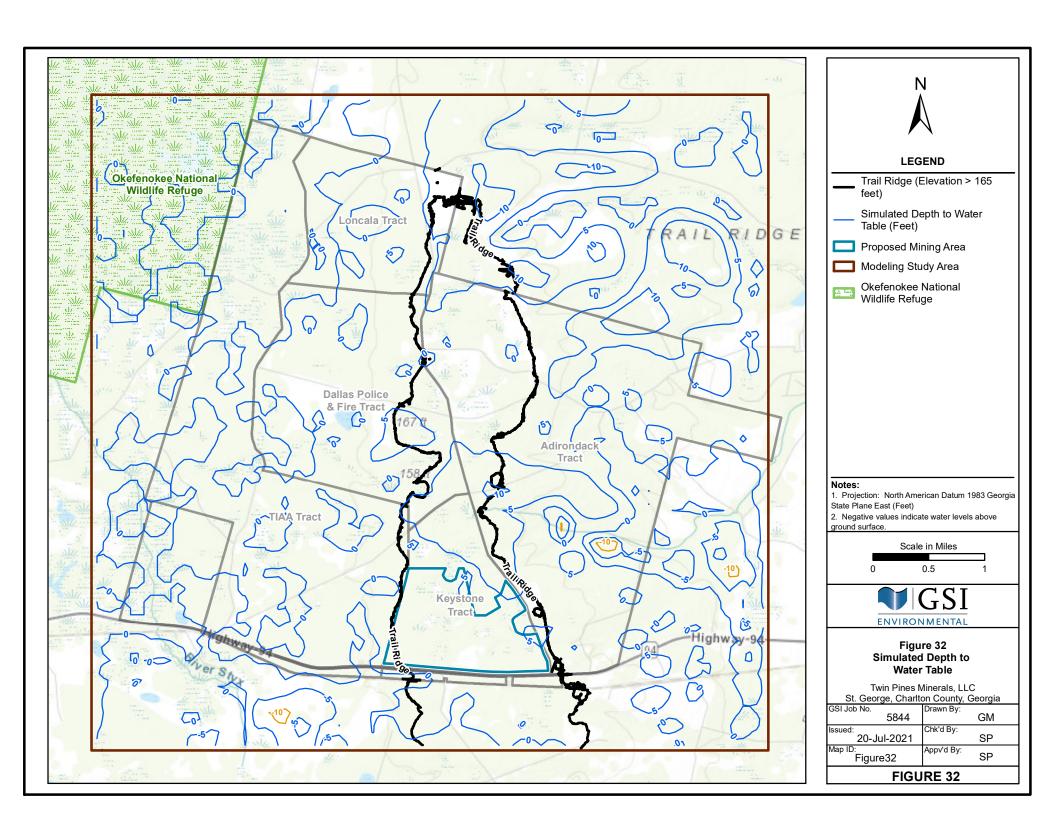


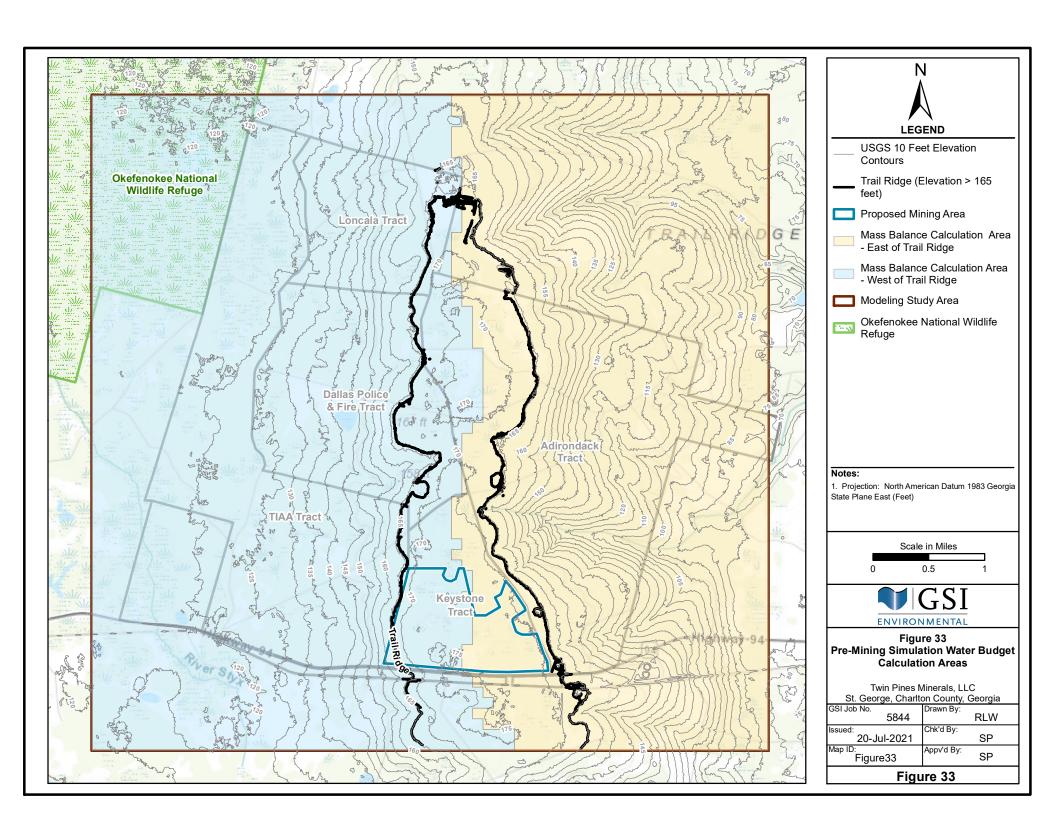
GSI Job No. 5844	Drawn By: GM	
Issued: 15 July 2021	Chk'd By: SP	
Revised:	Aprv'd By: SP	
Scale:	Figure 30	

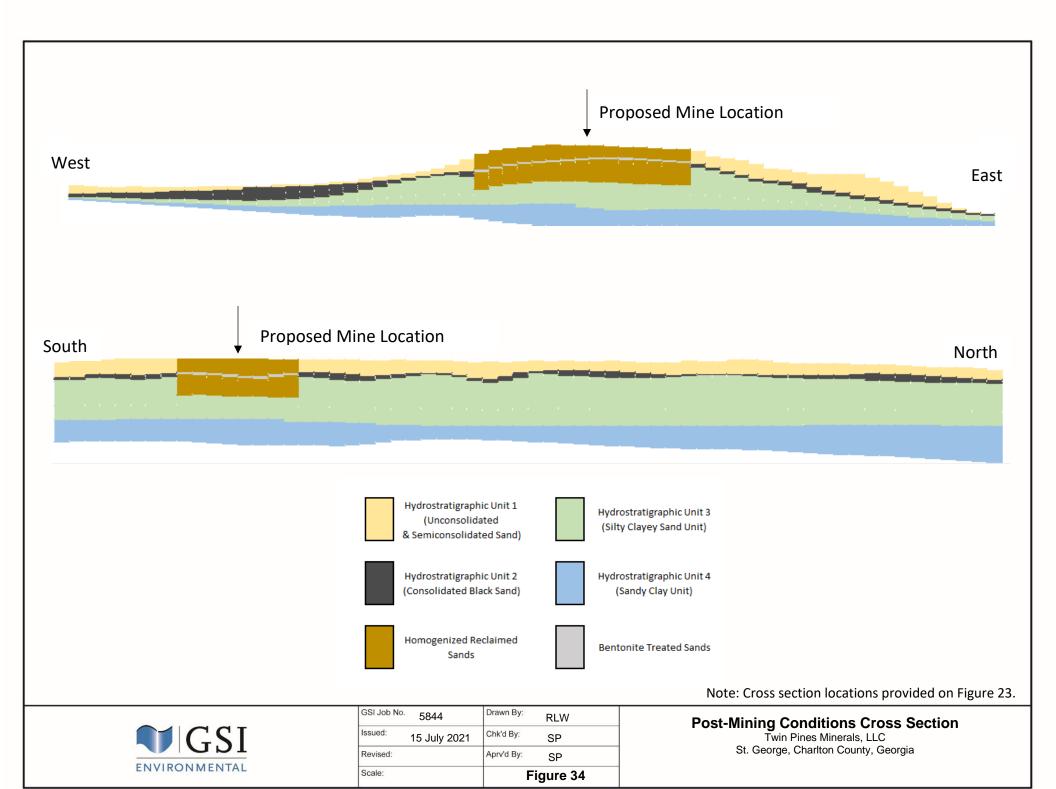
Observed vs. Simulated Water Levels for Calibrated Simulation

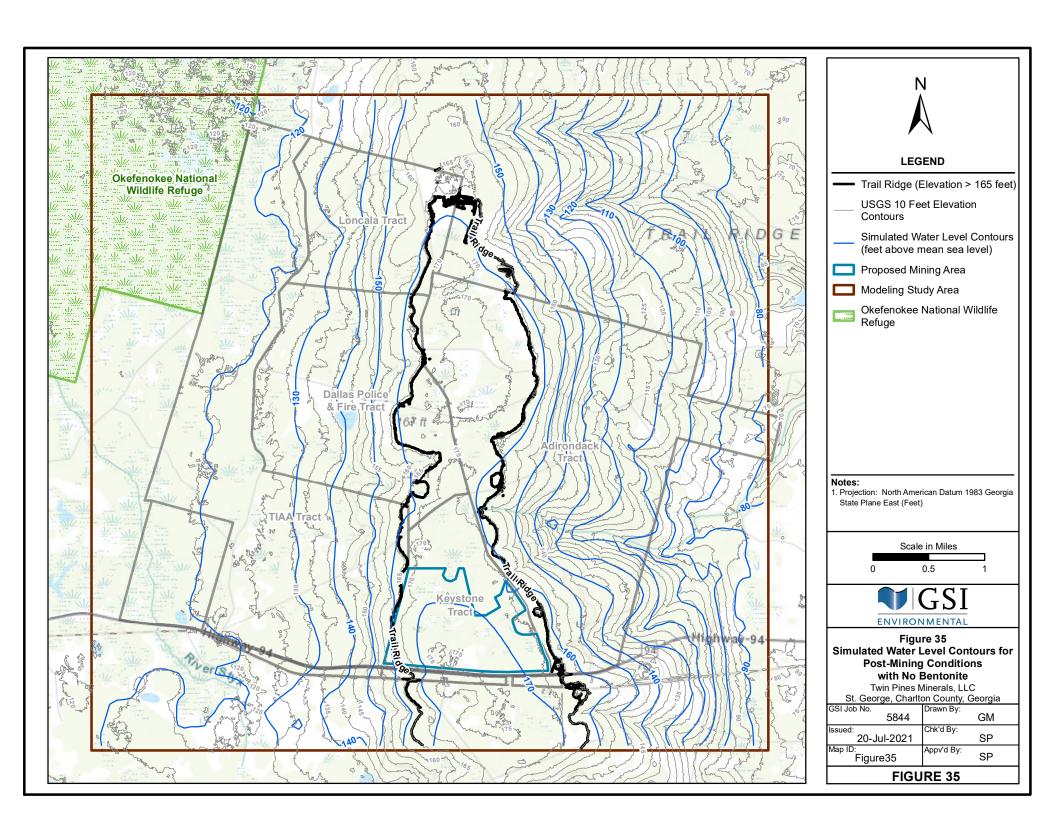
Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

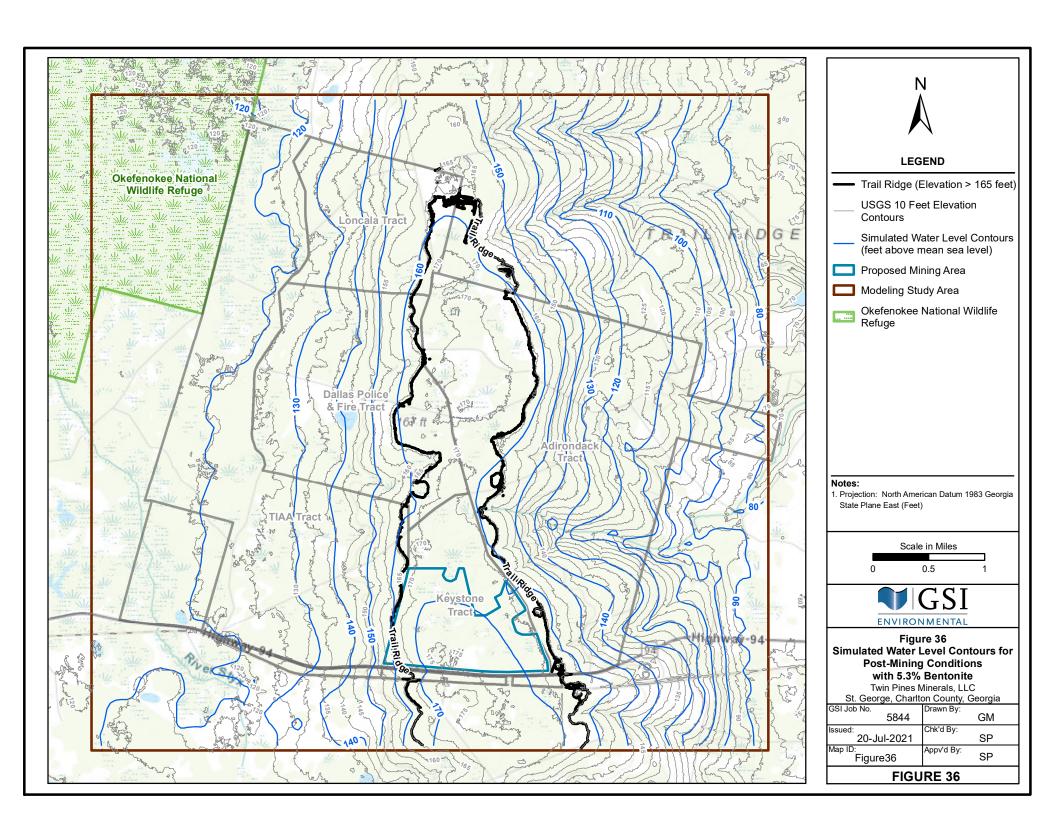


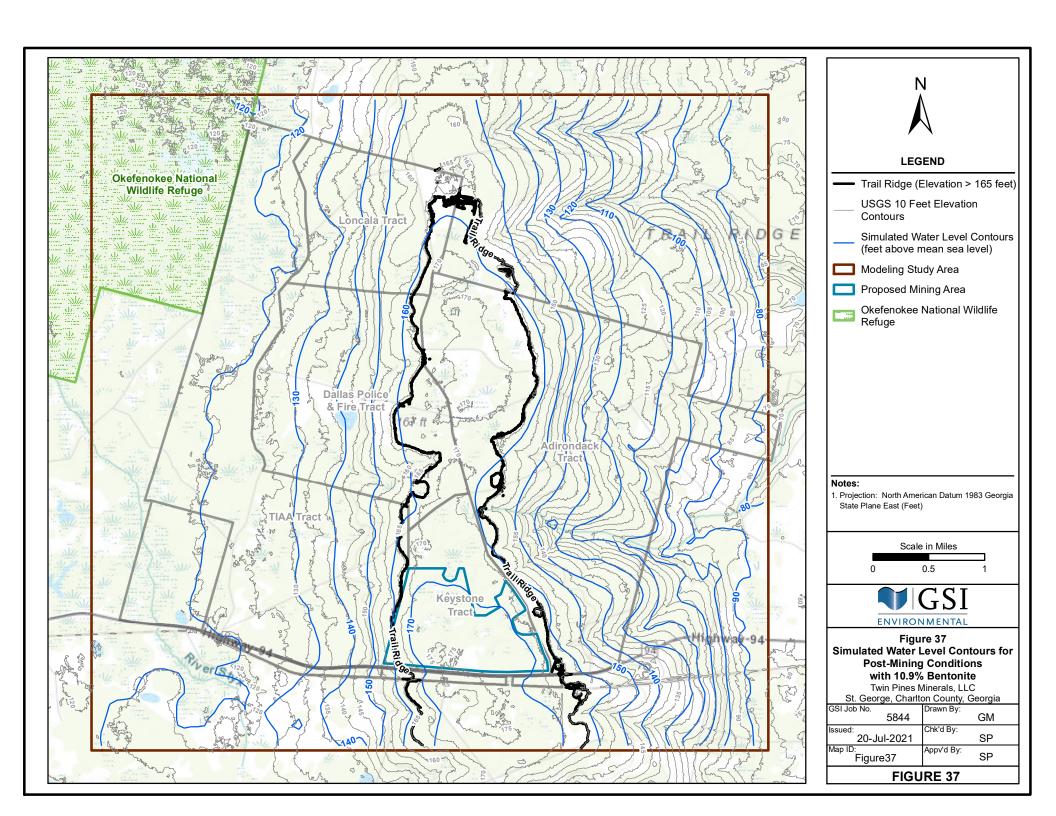


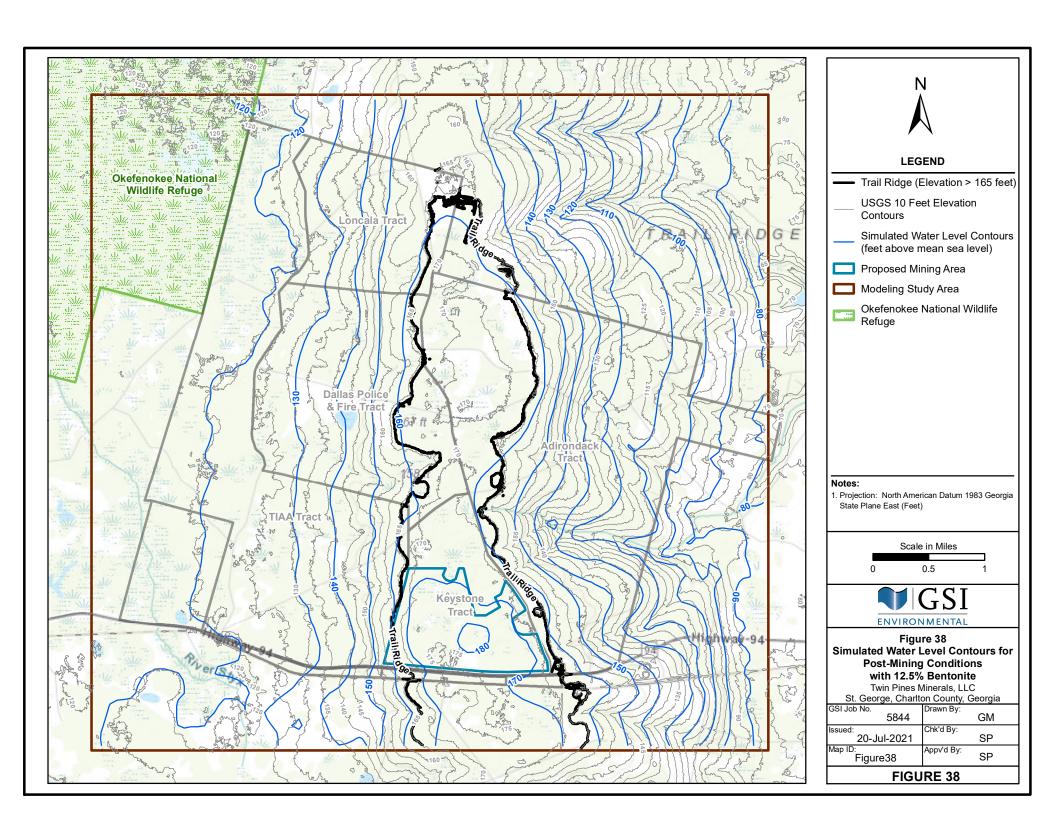


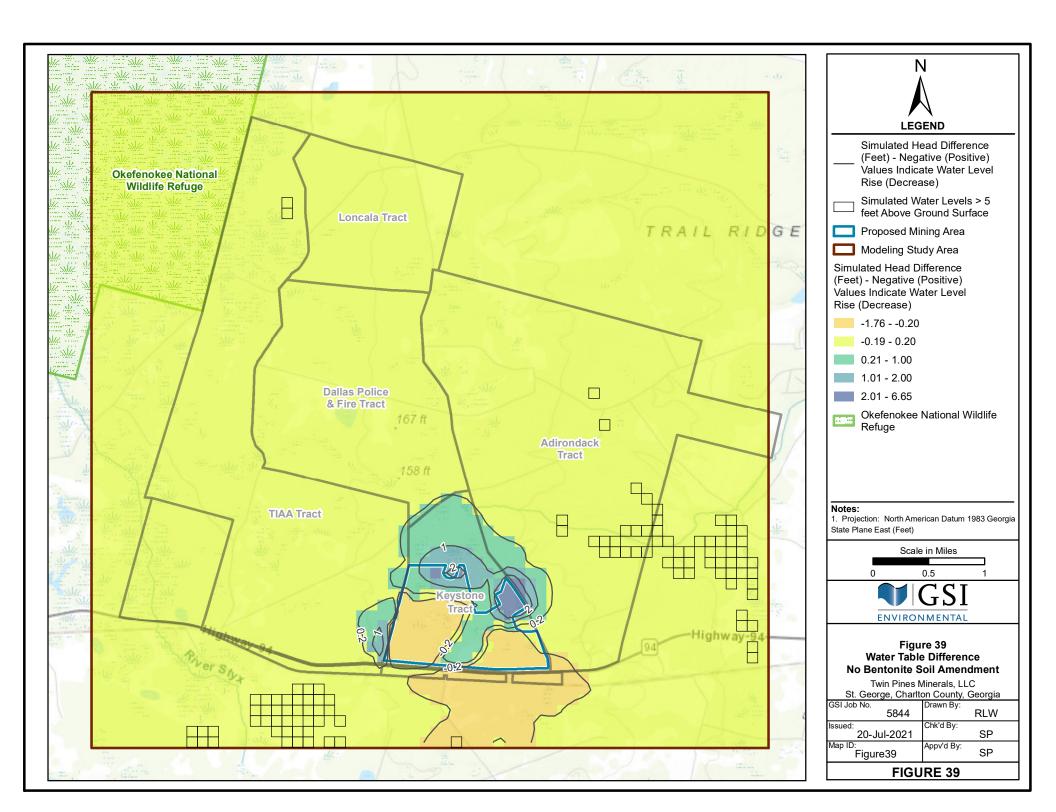


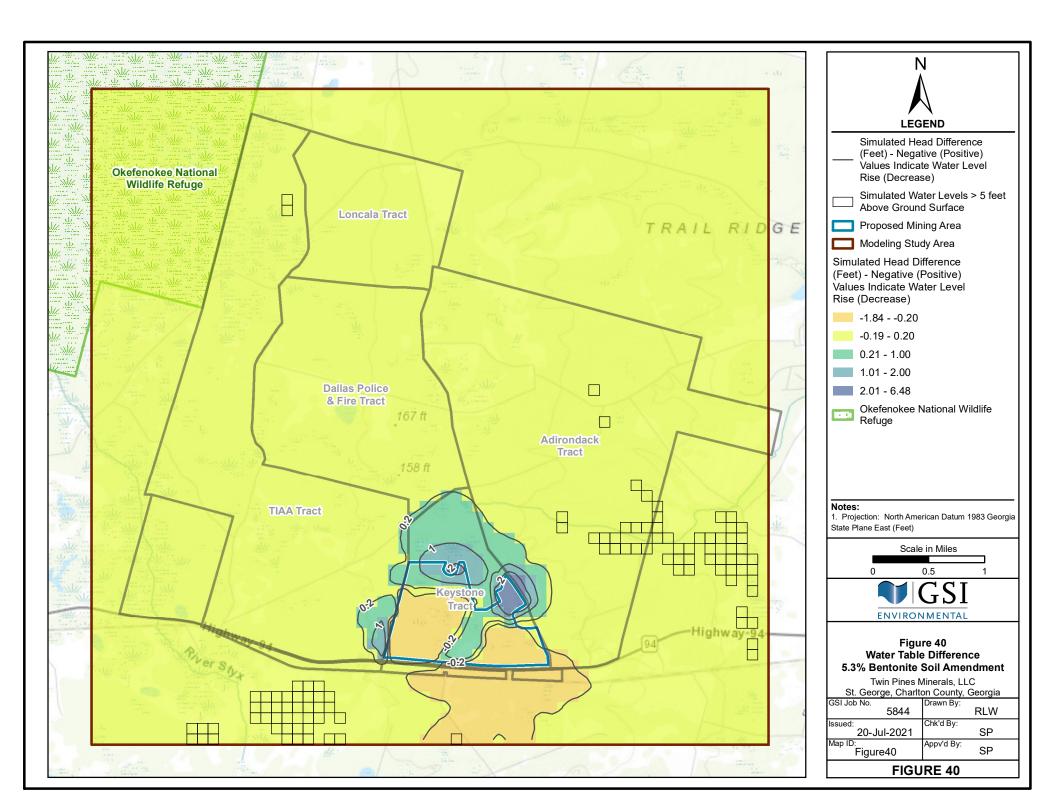


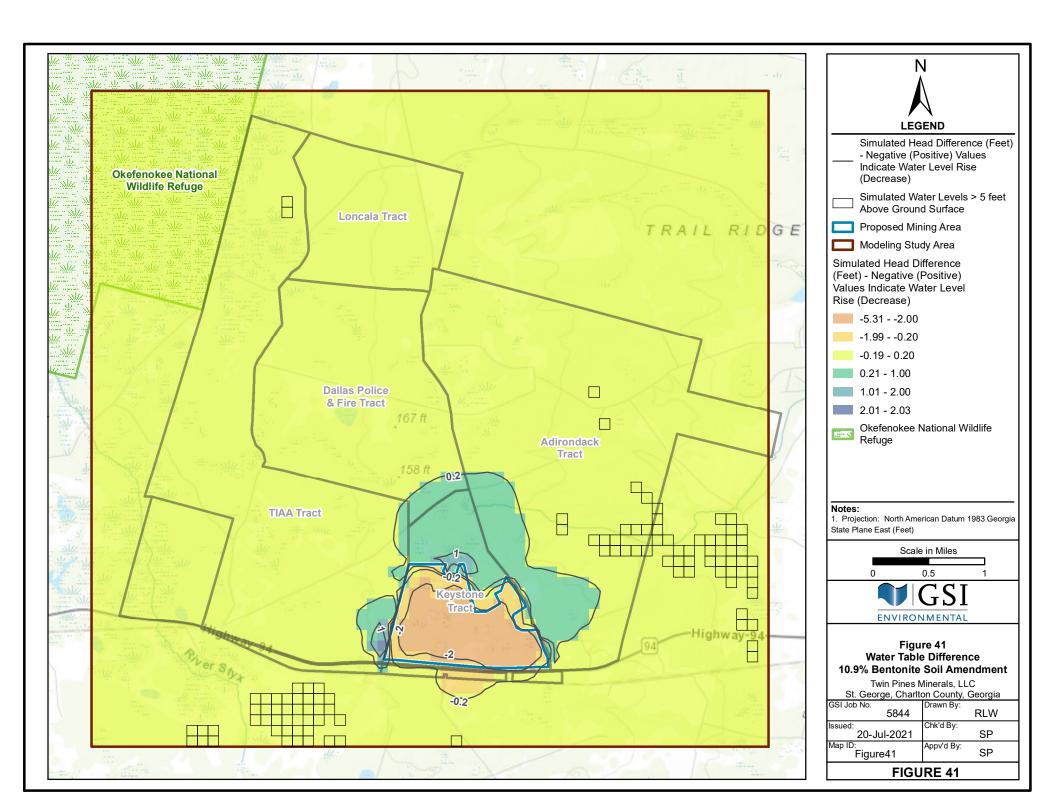


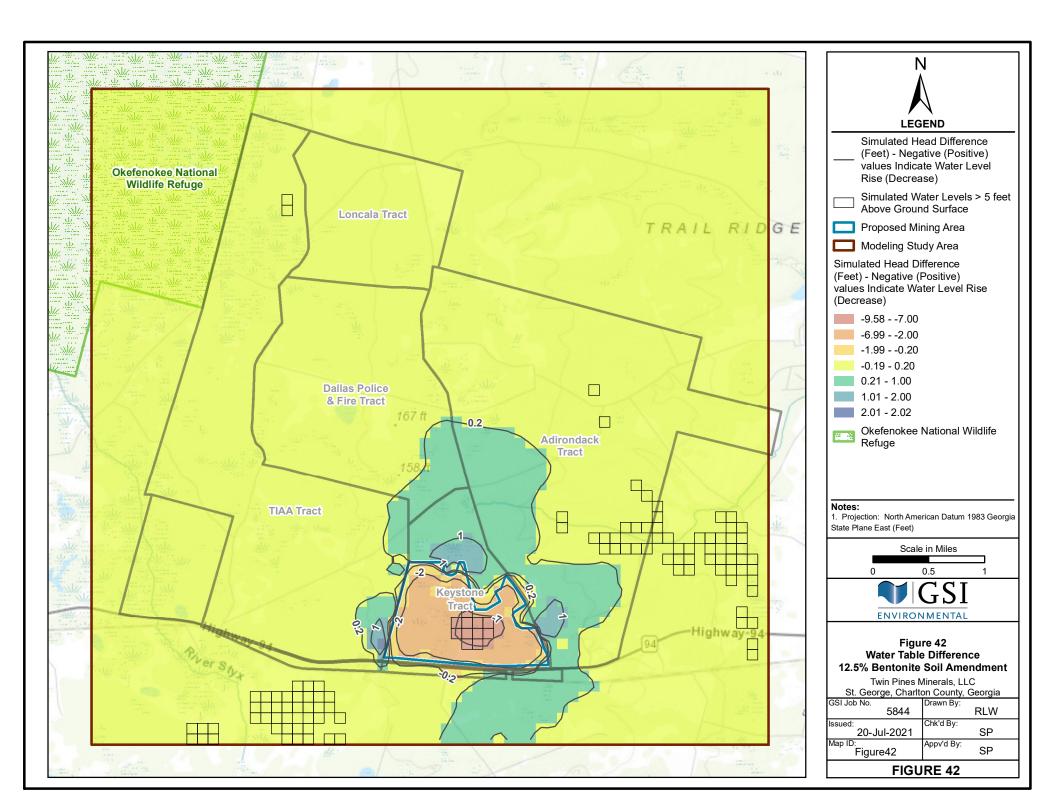


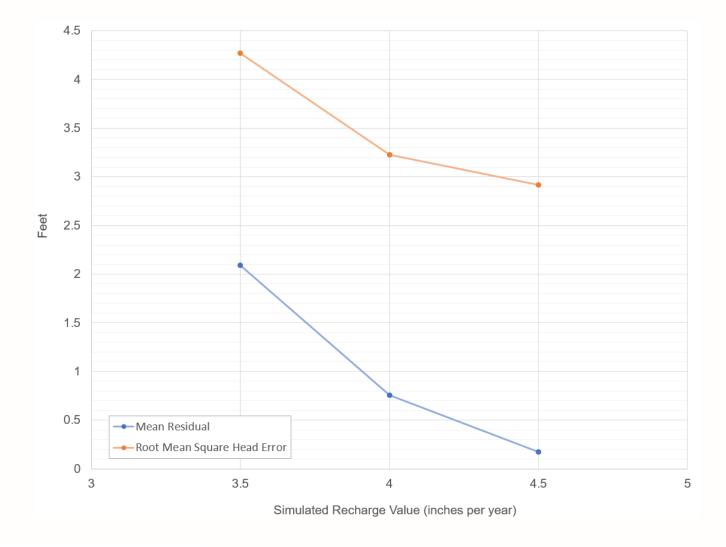












Note:

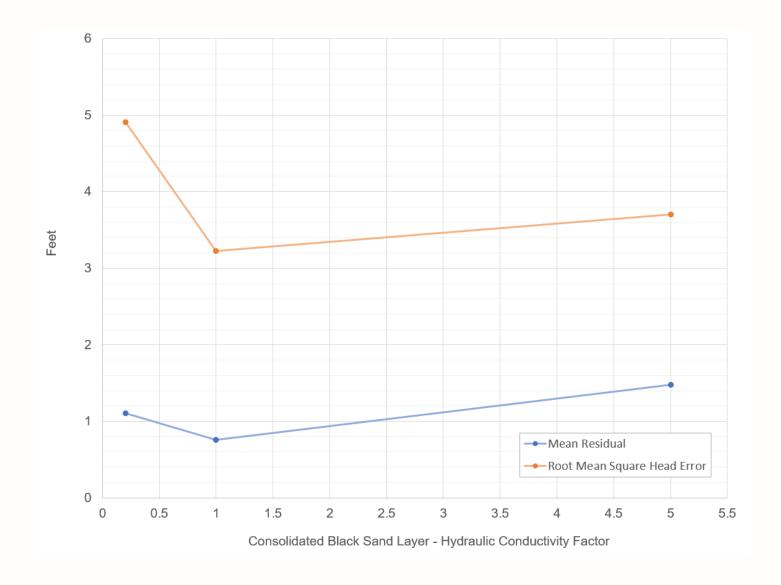
The calibrated model recharge value was 4 inches per year.



Scale:	Figure 43	
Revised:	Aprv'd By: SP	
Issued: 15 July 2021	Chk'd By: SP	
GSI Job No. 5844	Drawn By: GM	

Pre-Mining Model Statistics

For Recharge Sensitivities
Twin Pines Minerals, LLC
St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

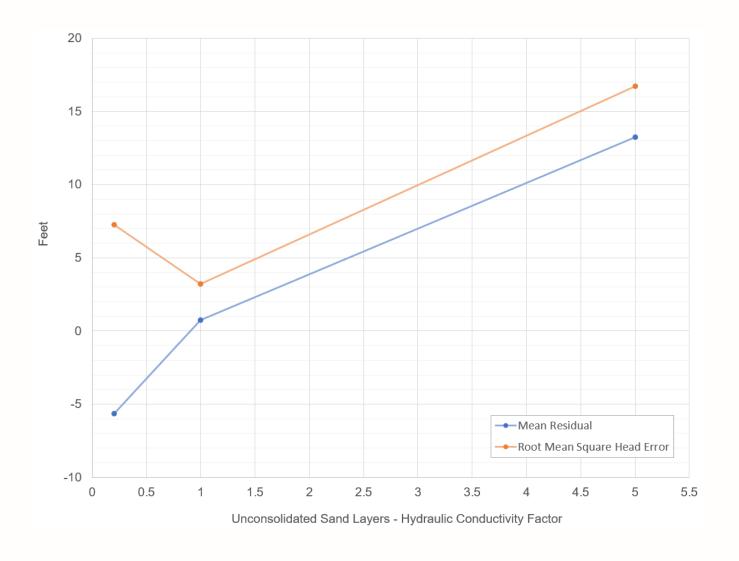




	Scale:		Figure 44	
	Revised:		Aprv'd By:	SP
	Issued:	15 July 2021	Chk'd By:	SP
	GSI Job No. 5844		Drawn By: GM	

Pre-Mining Model Statistics for Consolidated Black Sand Hydraulic Conductivity Sensitivities Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC St. George, Charlton County, Georgia





	Scale:		Figure 45	
	Revised:		Aprv'd By:	SP
	Issued:	15 July 2021	Chk'd By:	SP
	GSI Job No. 5844		Drawn By: GM	

Pre-Mining Model Statistics for Unconsolidated Sand Layers Hydraulic Conductivity Sensitivities Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

St. George, Charlton County, Georgia

GSI Job No. 5844

Issued: 14 September 2021



APPENDICES

GSI Job No. 5844

Issued: 14 September 2021



Appendix A

Response to Comments Provided to TTL on 4/14/21

APPENDIX A RESPONSE TO COMMENTS PROVIDED TO TTL ON APRIL 14, 2021 BY DR. JAMES KENNEDY (KENNEDY, 2021) AS PART OF A TWIN PINES PERMIT COORDINATION DOCUMENT

Permit application documents have been submitted by Twin Pines Minerals (TPM) to develop a heavy mineral sand mine along Trail Ridge in Charlton County, Georgia. These include site studies and modeling studies which were summarized in the permit application document (TTL, 2020). The documents have gone through several rounds of review and comments from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) by the State Geologist, Dr. Kennedy. This document is a response to comments by GA EPD on the impact of mining, on the hydrogeology of the region, as part of the Twin Pines Permit Coordination Document for Charlton County (Kennedy (2021)). In general, a new numerical model was developed that addresses the major concerns of the previous modeling efforts. The model development and results are reported in GSI (2021).

The entire comment from Dr. Kennedy will not be repeated here since he has done detailed examinations and reported them as part of his comments. Instead, the comment number will be noted, and the comment will be summarized for the response.

Comment 5a: Attach documents to the MLUP.

Response: Not model related.

Comment 5b: Initial groundwater recharge rate at the site was estimated as 4.54 inches/year, however, the model applied 2.8 inches/year. Calculations using USGS Open File Report (OFR) 2003-311 data show an average of 4.13 inches/year. The comment essentially requests justification for the use of 2.8 inches/year.

Response: A recharge value of 4.13 inches/year was used for the steady-state groundwater flow model. This is the value estimated for the study area from the USGS data cited above.

An evaluation of recharge over the study area was conducted and it was noted that recharge could vary between 4.5 inches/year and 3.5 inches/year as noted in GSI (2021). The USGS data was examined further and was noted to be a reasonable approach to estimating long-term recharge for the model. Also, a sensitivity analysis was conducted on the range of recharge values to note the impact on calibration to pre-mining conditions and on post-mining conditions.

Comment 5c: The comment requests clarification on requirement of soil amendments.

Response: Soil amendments were modeled in different amounts to note the most effective bentonite mix for the soil amendment layer. A mix using 10.9 % bentonite over the entire mined area was simulated to be the best amendment for minimizing hydrogeologic impacts at and around the mine site.

Comment 5d: The comment indicates that the groundwater flow modeling of soil amendments should be done and that will help to determine how hydrology changes from pre-mining conditions.

Response: We have conducted groundwater flow modeling with various mixtures of bentonite in the amendments and noted how and where the amendments impact the pre-mining hydrogeology. Larger amounts of bentonite in the amendment cause water levels to rise higher to where they may be intercepted by wetlands and stream channels. It was determined that minimal impacts occurred with a 10.9% mixture of bentonite.

Comment 5e: The comment requests clarification on continuity of black sands.

Response: We have conducted similar computations to those conducted by Dr. Kennedy regarding continuity of black sands and have come to a similar conclusion that about 69% of the area contains consolidated black sands.

Comment 5f: The comment requests further analyses of consolidated black sands if it is not conceptualized to be continuous enough to affect the presence of the shallow water table along Trail Ridge.

Response: We have conducted similar computations to Dr. Kennedy regarding continuity of black sands and have come to a similar conclusion that about 69% of the area contains consolidated black sands.

Comment 5g: The comment requests that a hydrogeologic layer of consolidated black sands be included in the model for several reasons listed.

Response: We agree with the reasons and have a layer of consolidated black sands included in the model.

Comment 5h: The comment requests clarification on how rainwater interacting with the reclaimed mine may affect the chemistry of the groundwater discharge to surface waters.

Response: Not model related.

Comment 6a: Attach documents to the MLUP.

Response: Not model related.

Comment 6b: This comment requests use of data to determine presence or absence of consolidated black sands.

Response: We have mapped the logs with presence and absence of consolidated black sands and used that information to delineate locations where consolidated black sands are present and where they may be absent. This is detailed in GSI (2021). This data indicated that the study area was mostly covered with continuous black sands with small areas where they did not exist, and a small zone showing a transition between where the continuous black sands exist and where they do not.

Comment 6c: This comment requests use of hydraulic conductivity values for consolidated black sands that are in line with data from the site. Also, the comment indicates that slug test data that show higher values may not be appropriate for consolidated black sands.

Response: We have mapped the hydraulic conductivity estimates from laboratory and field experiments in GSI (2021). They are low in the range of 10^{-6} to 10^{-8} cm/sec as noted by GA EPD and that higher values in the range of 5×10^{-5} to 10^{-2} cm/sec may indicate composite conductivities with overlying and underlying materials. The model developed in GSI (2021) also uses values in the range of 10^{-6} to 10^{-8} cm/sec for the consolidated black sands.

REFERENCES

- GSI (2021). Modeling the Groundwater Flow System at the Proposed Twin Pines Mine on Trail Ridge, July 16, 2021.
- Kennedy (2021), Twin Pines Permit Coordination Document Charlton County: Saunders Demonstration Mine, Comments from April 14, 2021.
- TTL (2020), Individual Permit Application for Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, Saunders Demonstration Mine Saint George, Charlton County, Georgia (SAS-2018-00554), March 4, 2020.

GSI Job No. 5844 Issued: 14 September 2021



Appendix B

Response to Comments Provided to Twin Pines Minerals, LLC on 9/10/21

APPENDIX B

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS PROVIDED TO TWIN PINES MINERALS, LLC ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2021, BY GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION AND DR. JAMES KENNEDY (EPD, 2021)

Permit application documents have been submitted by Twin Pines Minerals (TPM) to develop a heavy mineral sand mine along Trail Ridge in Charlton County, Georgia. This document is a response to comments by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regarding the development of a groundwater model to assess the impact of mining, on the hydrogeology of the region, as part of an Application for a Surface Mining Permit and Mining Land Use Plan (MLUP) Twin Pines Permit Coordination Document for Charlton County (TTL, 2021).

The entire comment from EPD will not be repeated here but does include the EPD comments specific to development of the groundwater model.

2. Exhibit I Modeling the GW Flow System Comments James L. Kennedy Ph.D., P.G.

Page 1: The description of the method to be used to place the bentonite-enhanced layer of soil will not work given that the mine pit will not be dewatered. It was noted that placement of the bentonite-enhanced soil layer is not a modeling issue, which is correct, but the description of the process on Page 1 must say placement of the bentonite-enhanced soil layer cannot be simulated by the model.

Response: The modeling report text has been updated as requested in Section 1.0 that provides the Executive Summary (page 1) as well as in Section 7.0 on Post-Mining Analysis section (page 11).

Page 8: Explicitly explain what use of the drains versus rivers means in the model. In MODFLOW drains can receive water from the modeled aquifer but cannot recharge the modeled aquifer. A river can both receive water from the modeled aquifer and discharge water to the modeled aquifer. Explain that the drains were modeled based on the surface water courses shown on Figures 22 and 23. Explain that no rivers were modeled because there are no rivers within the model domain.

Response: The modeling report text (Section 4.3 Model Boundary Conditions – page 9) has been updated as requested.

Page 8: Say how many grids there are in the mining area (there are enough grids).

Response: The modeling report text has been updated as requested, in Section 4.1 on Model Discretization (page 8).

Page 12: Please say explicitly if the addition of bentonite was simulated in the mining area shown on Figure 3 (and later figures) or if it was simulated for the entire are (it was simulated in the mining area shown on Figure 3 but that needs to be clarified in the report).

Response: The modeling report text has been updated as requested in Section 7.0 on Post-Mining Analysis section (page 12).

Does the software used for the model include an LGR (Local Grid Refinement) capability? If it does LGR should be used to model the mine area. LGR could be used to model the mine area at a grid size of 250 ft. x 250 ft. LGR is not needed to make the model acceptable, but it would be helpful to see a more detailed numerical analysis of the mining area.

Response: Local grid refinement (LGR) capability can be directly implemented for models built using MODFLOW-2005 but not with the MODFLOW-NWT code that was used for simulation of the proposed Twin Pines Minerals project.

Revising the code to MODFLOW-USG would allow grid refinement specific to the proposed mine area; however, this would also introduce unnecessary complexity to the modeling effort and, therefore, no changes to the modeling code have been implemented.

REFERENCES

GSI (2021). Modeling the Groundwater Flow System at the Proposed Twin Pines Mine on Trail Ridge, September 14, 2021.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) (2021), Twin Pines Permit Coordination Document Charlton County: Saunders Demonstration Mine, Comments from September 10, 2021.

TTL (2021). Part 2 Response to EPD Permit Coordination Comments, July 16, 2021.