

AFRIROCK 2025

PIONEERING PROGRESS : THE FUTURE OF ROCK ENGINEERING

Back Analysis of Ore Pass Designs at Big Gossan Mine, Indonesia

Anwar Sjadat¹, Imran Haque², Yali Irab¹, Dodi Putra¹, Willem de Beer³
¹PT Freeport Indonesia, ²Freeport McMoRan USA, ³ESG Solutions Australia

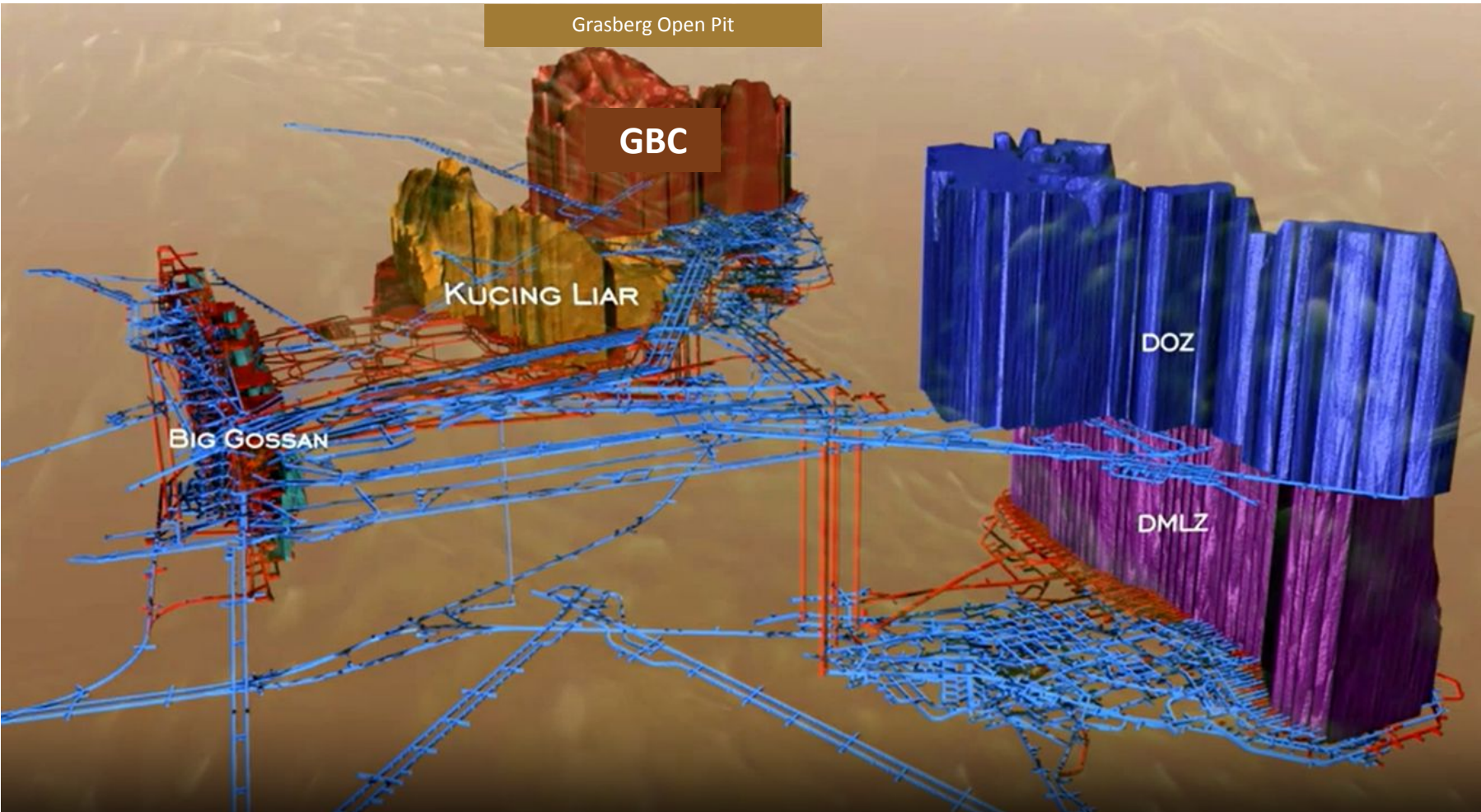
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Background

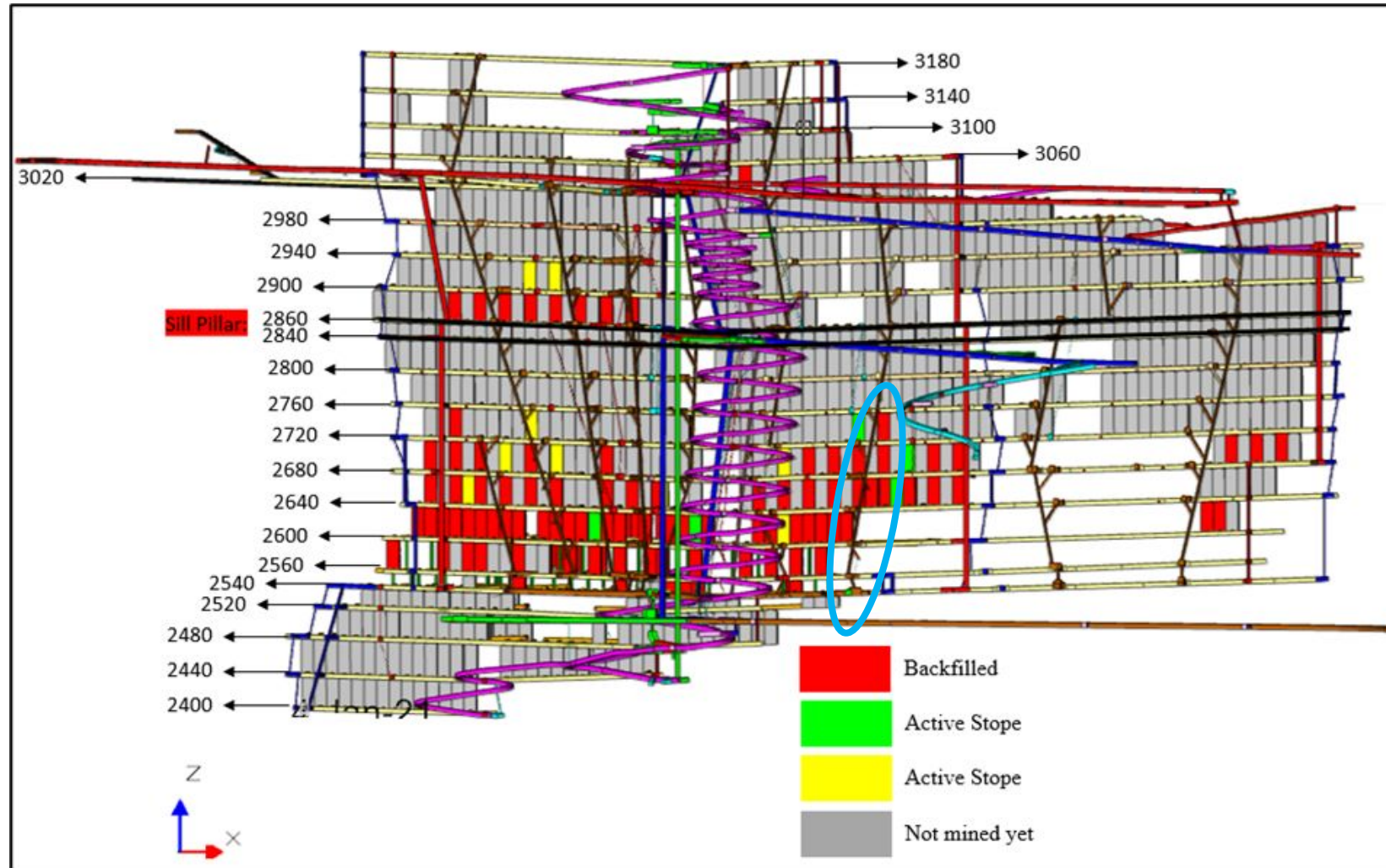


Grasberg UG Mining Complex (Producer Copper 8th ; Gold 2nd)



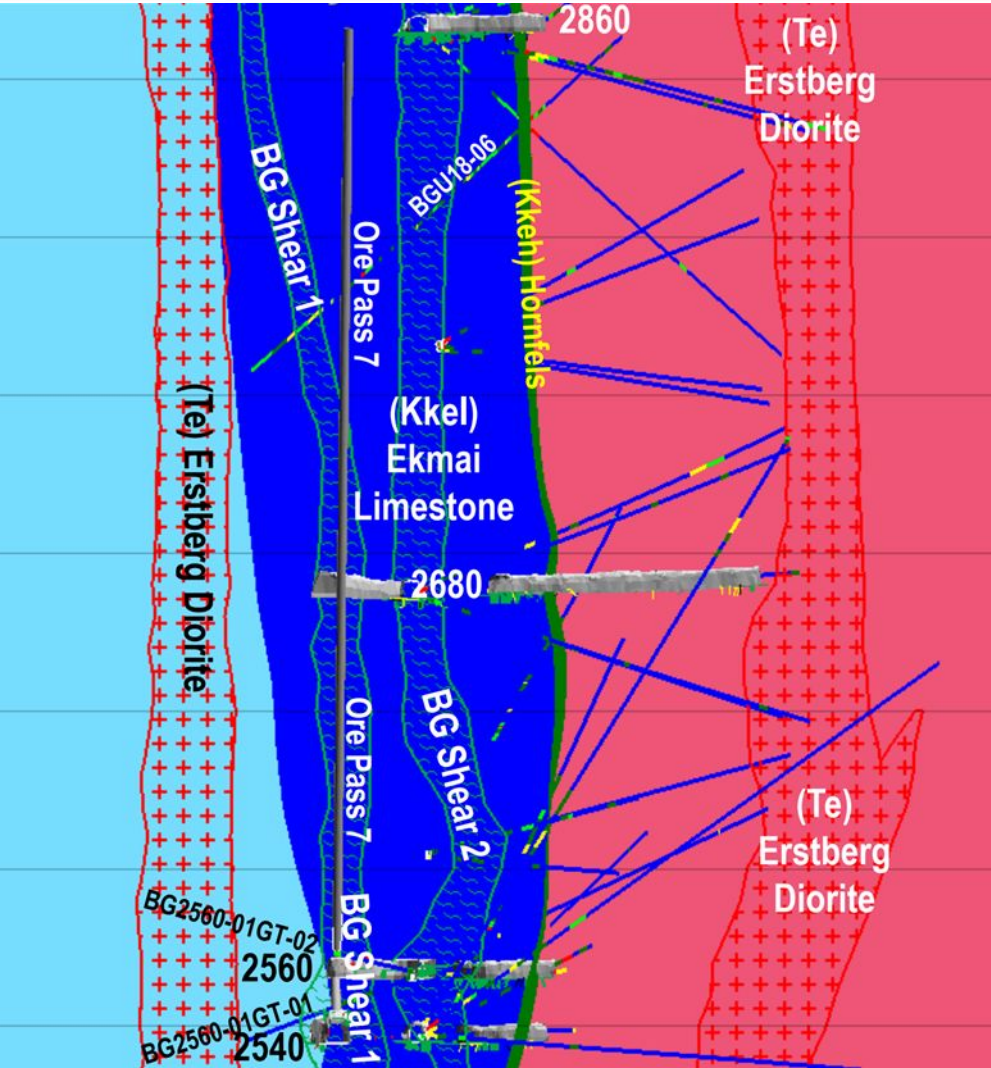
- Grasberg Open Pit
- 2 Producing Cave Mines
GBC and DMLZ
- 1 Developing Cave Mine
KL
- 1 Stope Mine
Big Gossan
- PTFI Production
300 000 Tons / day

Big Gossan Mining Layout



- Mining Method
Sub Level Open Stope with CPF
- Stope Dimension
15m (W) x 40m (H) x up to <60m (L)
- Production Rate
10 000 Tons / day
- Ore Pass 7

Geotechnical Information



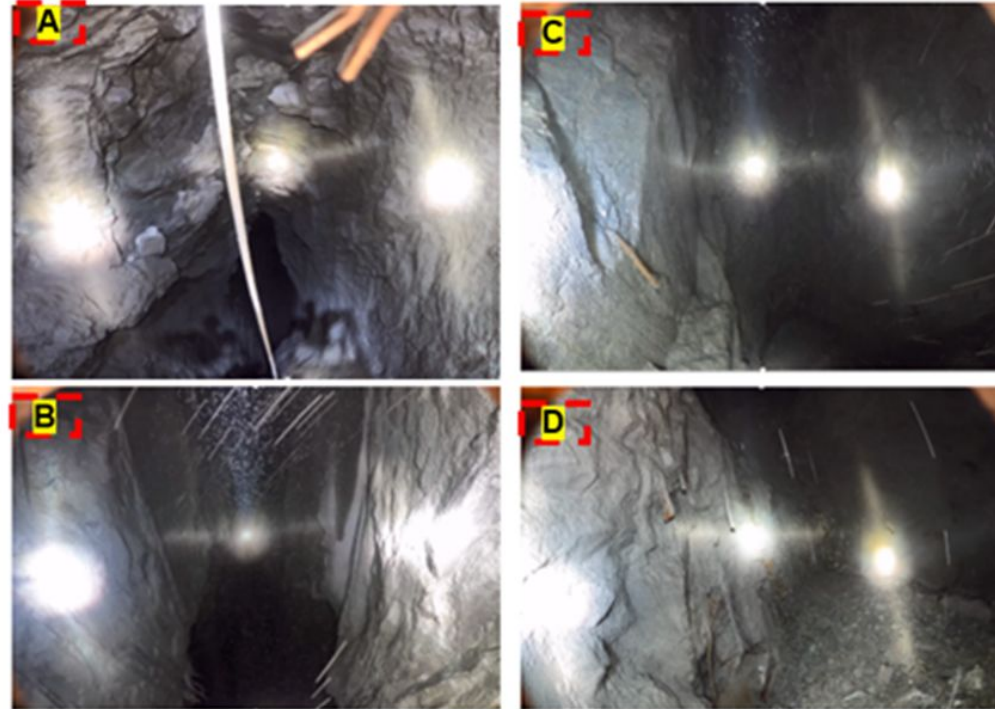
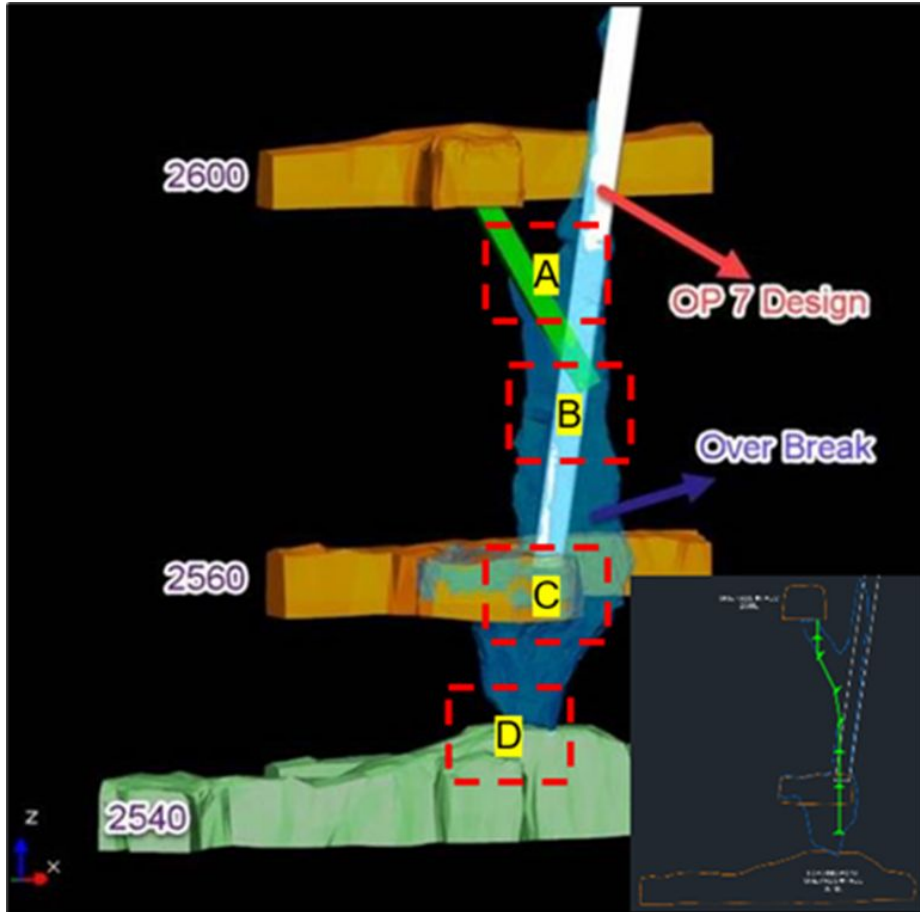
Horizontal Stress Field +/- 40MPa

Magnitude	Orientation	Magnitude	Orientation	Magnitude	Orientation
38 MPa	225°/ 15°	19 MPa	160°/ 64°	18 MPa	135°/ 7°

Limestone : UCS 197MPa ; GSI 74

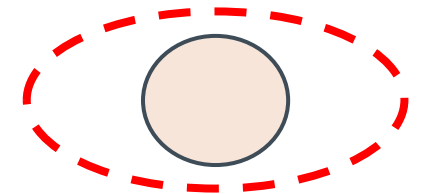
	UCS (MPa) based on PLT					Mean UCS (MPa) from Laboratory (Intact Samples)		Laboratory Rock Properties (Intact Samples)								UCS (MPa) ±20%
	10%	16%	25%	50%	90%	All Data	H-B	E _i (Gpa)	GSI	m _i	E _{rm} (Gpa)	ν	m _b	s	a	
Kkel (2138 Samples)	96	120	144	197	235	83	159 (16 Samples)	72	74	13.8	58	0.22	5.5	0.056	0.501	150
BG SZ ₂ (2204 Samples)	96	120	144	197	235	-	-	-	74	-	58	0.22	5.5	0.056	0.501	150
Kkel / SZ ₂ ¹	96	120	144	197	235	-	-	-	74	-	58	0.22	5.5	0.056	0.501	150
Kkel / SZ ₁	-	-	-	-	-	120	164 (31 Samples)	72	74	12.6	58	0.22	5.0	0.056	0.501	150
SZ ₁ (304 Samples)	139	154	168	206	235	153	178 (15 Samples)	72	74	10.8	58	0.22	4.3	0.056	0.501	150
Kkes (1903 Samples)	154	168	182	211	235	-	177 (9 Samples)	72 ²	75	12.9	58	0.22	5.5	0.056	0.501	175
Te (2356 Samples)	38	67	105	168	235	117	182 (35 Samples)	53	75	21.5	44	0.27	8.8	0.062	0.501	170

Ore Pass 7 Deterioration

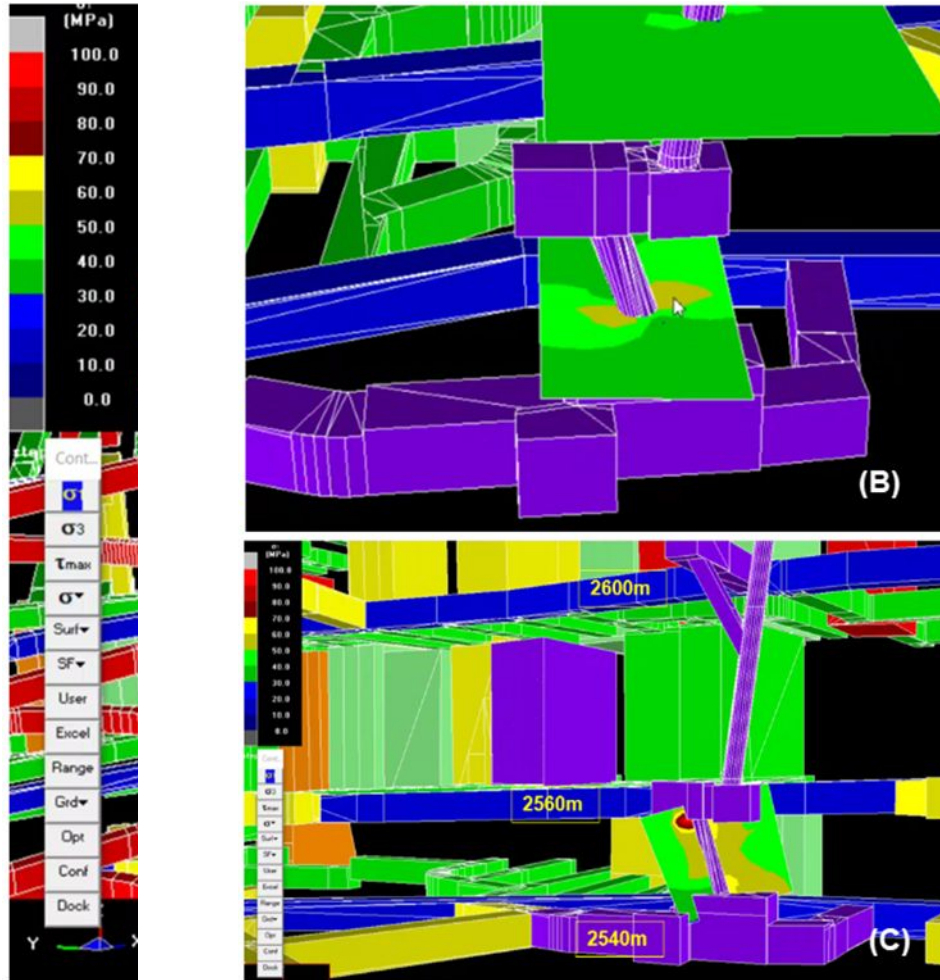


Original Design:
3.6 m Diameter Raise Bore

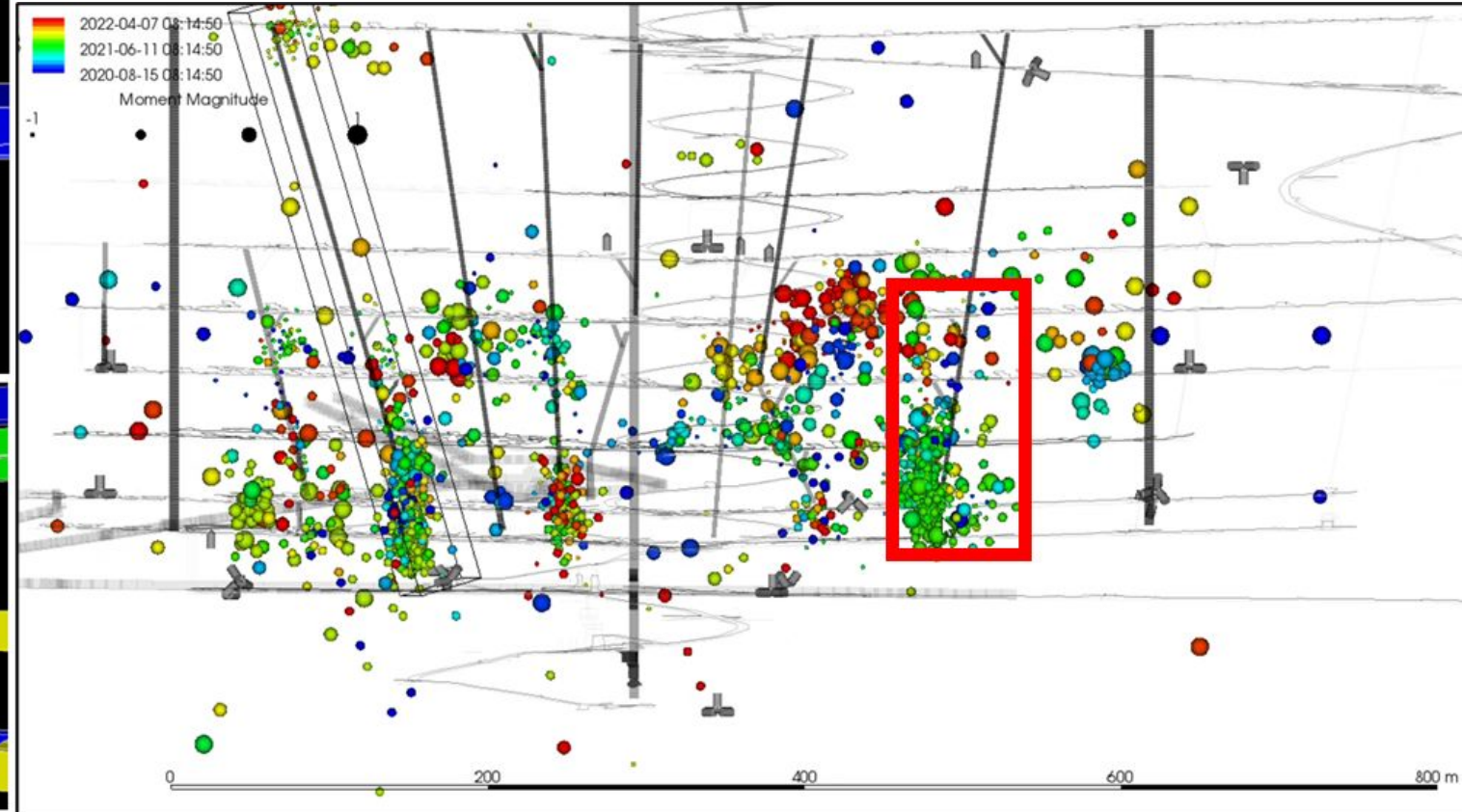
Scaled Out Dimension:
8 m x 5 m



Stress Modelling / Seismicity

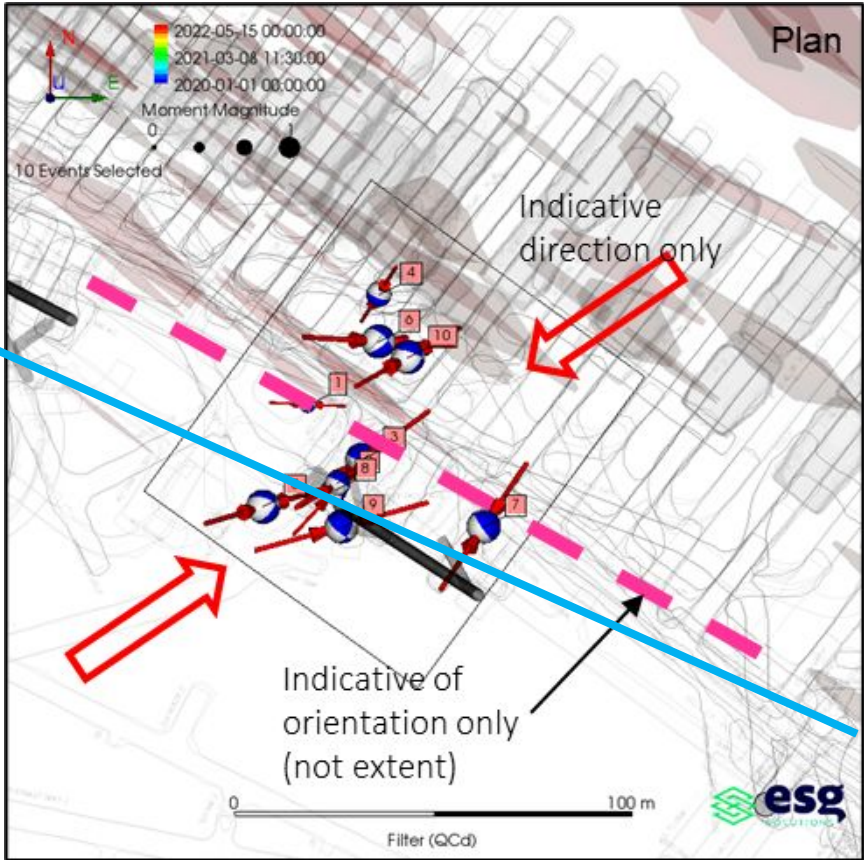
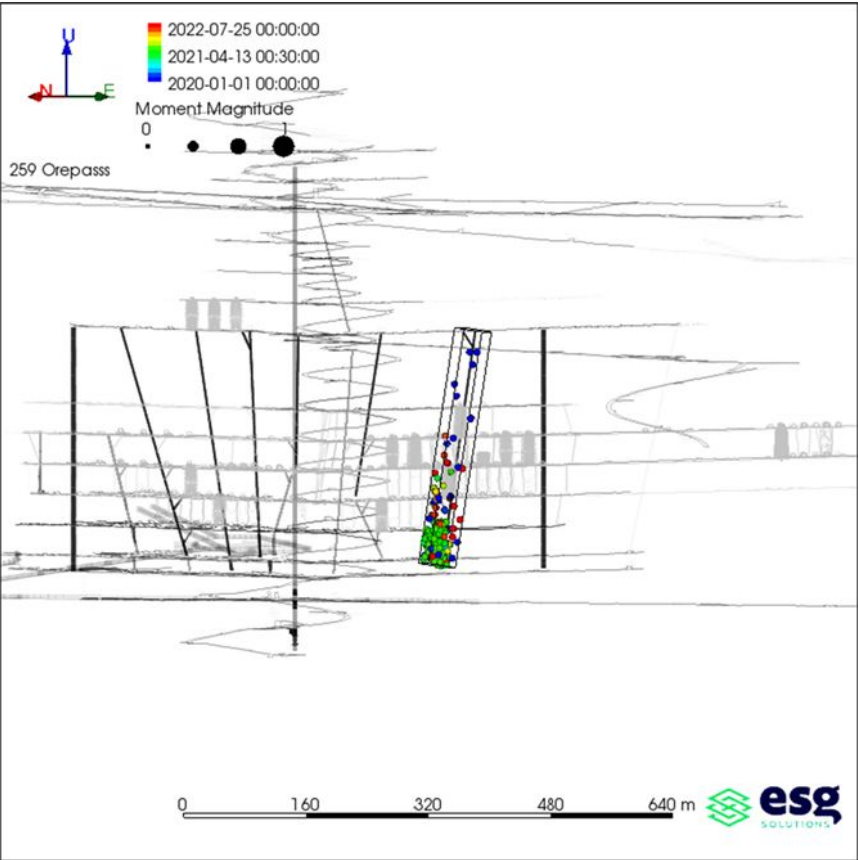


Tangential Stress at Ore Pass +/- 60 - 80MPa

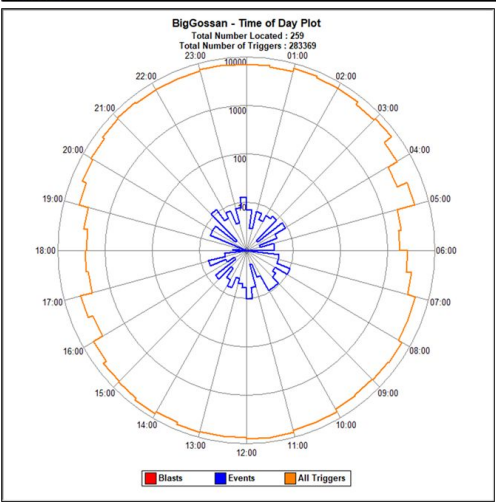
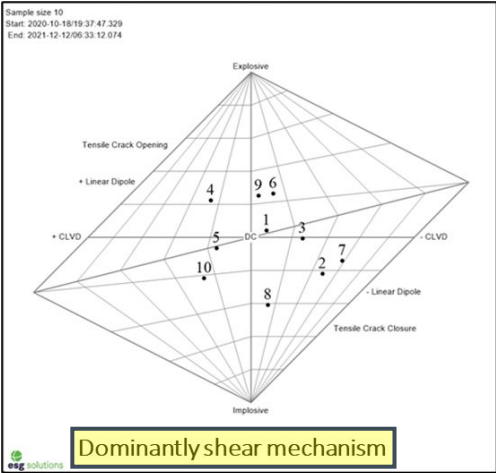


Mostly minor events related to dumping down an empty ore pass

Seismicity

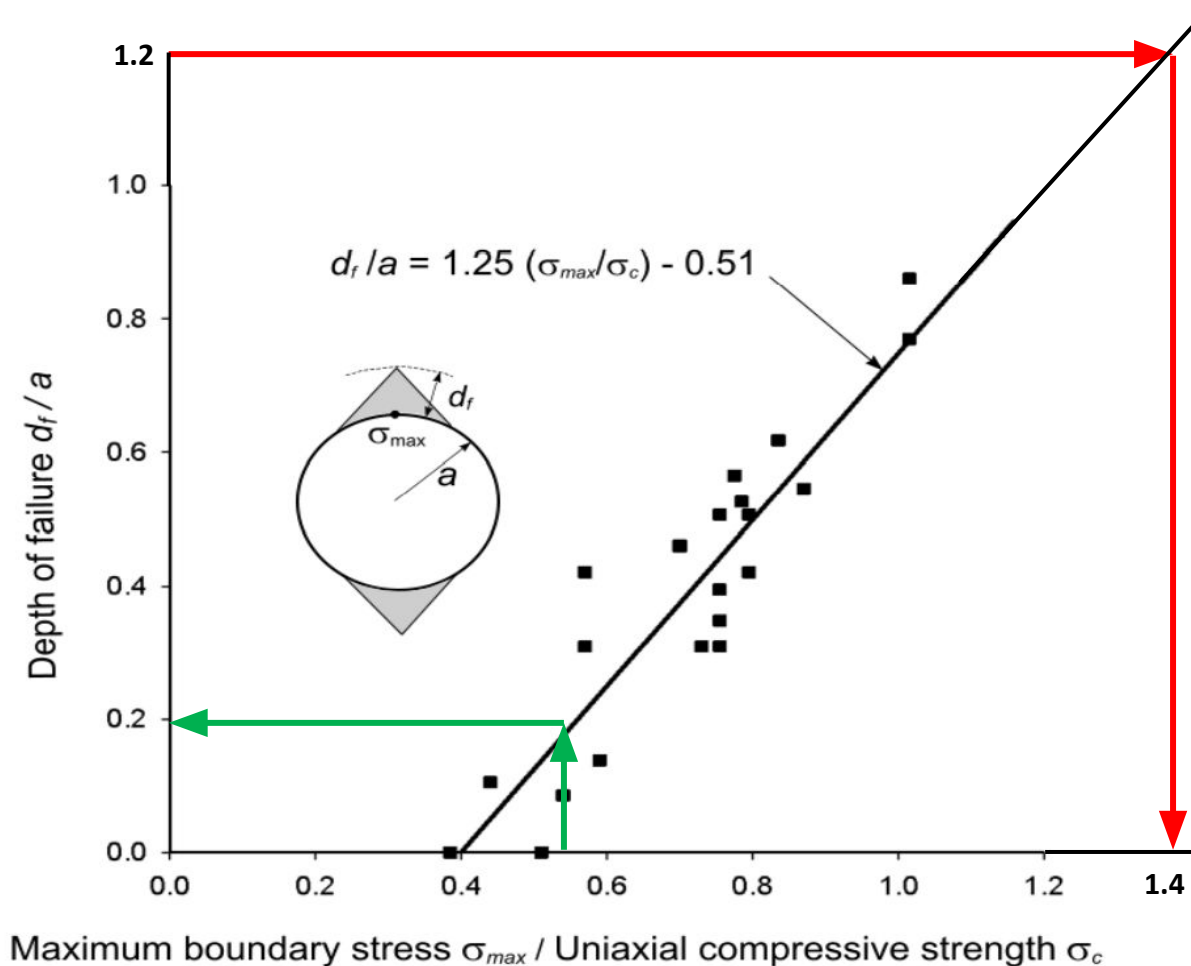


Estimated average orientation of one set seismic failure planes
Shear Zone 1



Minor Events = Dumping in Empty Ore Pass

Quantifying Stress – Spalling



Expected Spalling Depth 0.4m ; Tangential Stress 80 – 100MPa

Actual Spalling Depth 2.2m ; Tangential Stress 280MPa

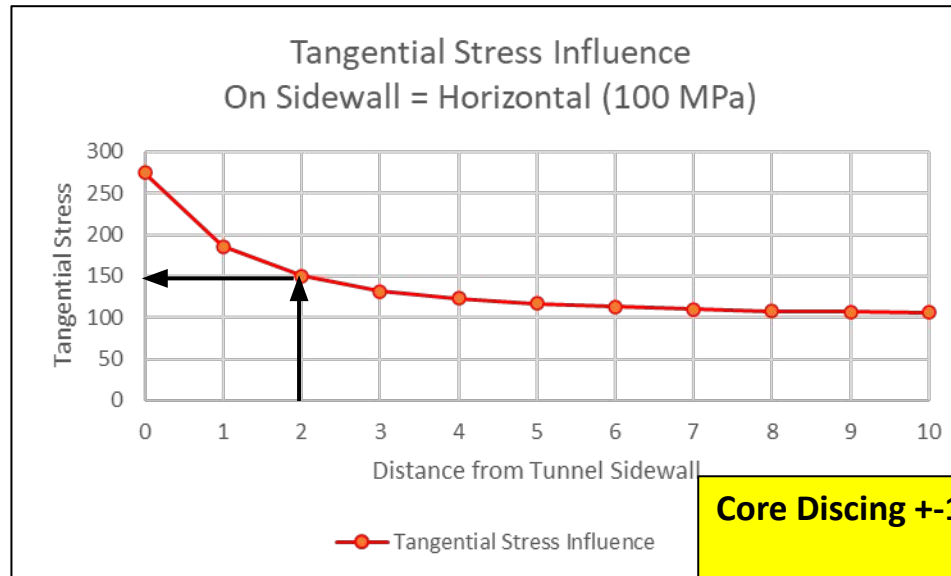
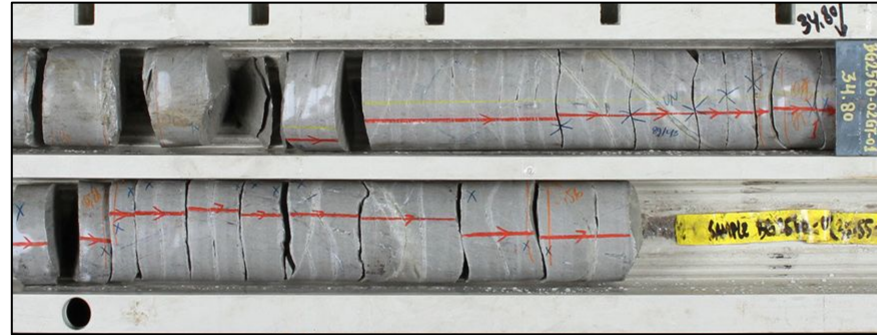
Major Stress +/- 100MPa ; Minor Stress = -20MPa

Back analysis of OP 7

Mining-induced stress alone cannot explain the depth of failure

Quantifying Stress – Core Discing

Term	Core Photo	Description	Disk Thickness	Stress Condition
			t/d	σ_1 /BT
Core Discing		Crushed disking: The disks are crushed due to the extremely high stress.	< 0.05	> 11
		Very thin disking: The majority of the disks are intact but a few are crushed.	0.05 - 0.12	9 - 11
		Thin disking: The shape and spacing of the core disks are uniform.	0.12 - 0.2	8 - 9
		Medium disking: The shape and spacing of the core disks are uniform. Most commonly observed disk thickness.	0.2 - 0.4	7 - 8
		Thick disking: The shape of the core disks is uniform.	0.4 - 2.2	6.5 - 7
Partial Discing		Partially disking: Distinct white lines appear at regular spacings, similar to that observed when the complete disks form, but the core remains intact. Spacing between these lines is similar to that of Medium disking.	0.2 - 0.4	6 - 7
No Discing		No disking: Solid core but the core maybe microcracked which can be seen with the naked eye.	-	-



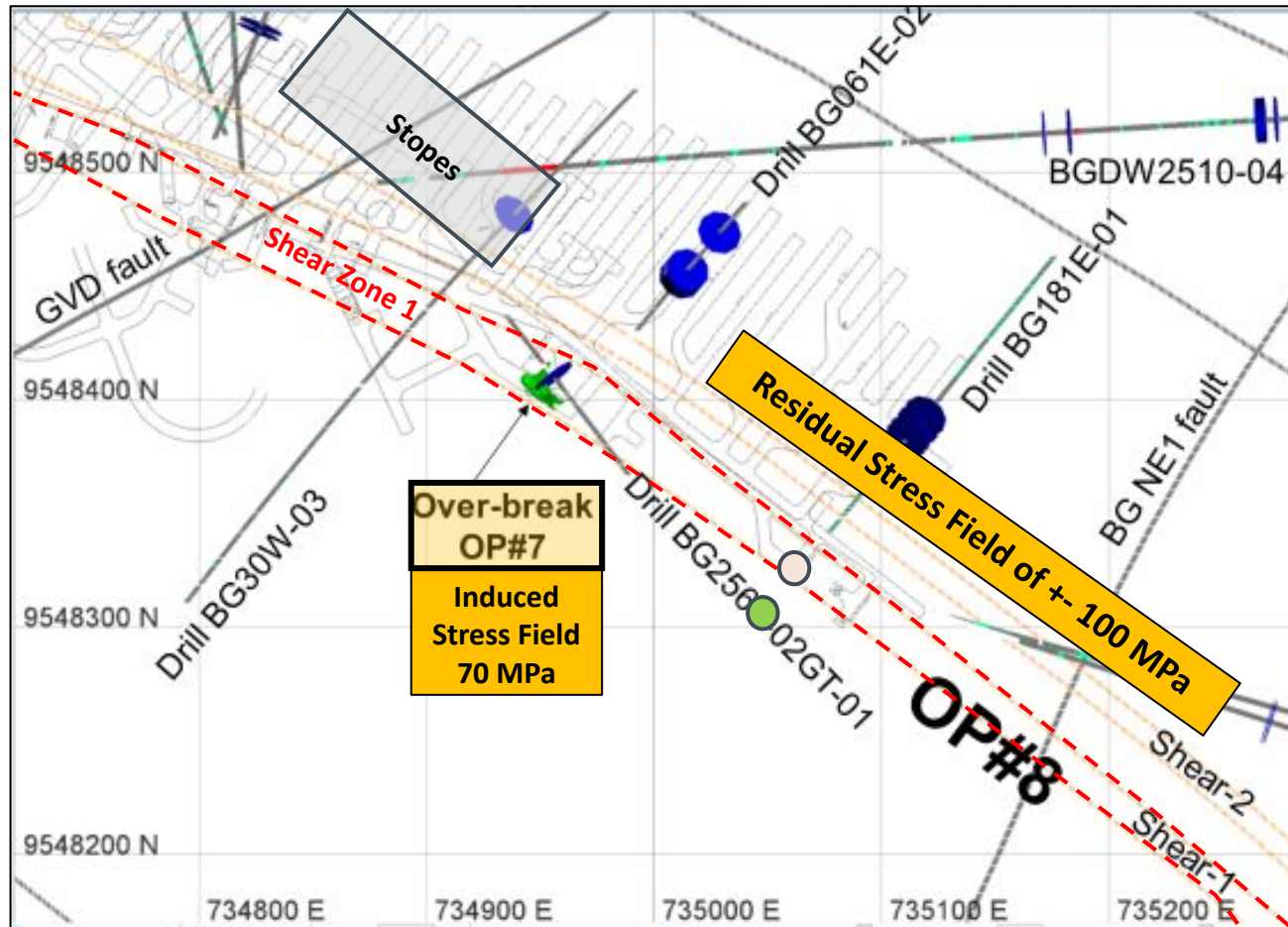
Core Discing 5mm – 40mm; Core Diameter 63.5mm				
UCS			150 MPa	197MPa
mm	t/D	Si/St	UTB 14.0 MPa	UTB 19.0 MPa
5	0.08	9.5	133	181
10	0.16	8.1	113	154
15	0.24	7.2	101	137
20	0.31	6.8	95	129
25	0.39	6.8	95	129
30	0.47	6.8	95	129
35	0.55	6.8	95	129
40	0.63	6.8	95	129
Induced Field Stress BG SZ (Residual Stress)			60 MPa (Map 3D) 80 - 90MPa (Martin et al)	

Core Discing +/-1.8m from the Ore Pass

Core discing is indicative of a Stress of 130 – 150MPa

Indicate a Major Stress of +/- 100MPa.

Conclusion



BG SZ 1 Sensitive to Mining Induced Stress

Multiple contributing factors:

- Mining-induced Stress
- Residual Stress $\approx$ Shear Zone 1 (SZ 1)
- Dumping in empty Ore Pass (Abrasion / Impact Damage)

Evidence :

- Spalling Depth
- Core Discing
- Seismic Events $\approx$ Failure planes // Shear Zone 1
- Minor events indicate dumping in empty ore pass / shift time

Improved Design for Ore Pass 8 :

- Design OP 8 at +75m from stopes
- Design OP 8 at +20m from SZ 1

THANK YOU

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