

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 7TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 64-86(1)

TABLED ON JUNE 16, 1986

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TABLED ON

JUN 16 1986

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RESULTING FROM THE RAYROCK WORKSHOP

HELD IN YELLOWKNIFE, APRIL 29th and 30th, 1986

HONOURABLE RED PEDERSEN
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SCIENCE
INSTITUTE

JUNE 16, 1986.



Northwest
Territories Minister of Renewable Resources

JUN - 3 '88

Honourable David Crombie,
Minister,
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Crombie:

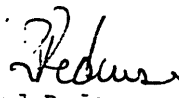
As you are aware, concerns were raised by the people of Fort Franklin and Rae-Edzo regarding the potential danger to health from radioactive tailings left on the mine sites at Rayrock and Port Radium.

This government asked the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories to investigate this matter. A copy of the Science Institute's recommendations is attached for reference.

Please note that the recommendations call for a minimal program of observation and analysis, in addition to site cleanup and posting. It is assumed that your Yellowknife office will be responsible for this, but I would appreciate your confirmation. I must assure the people of Rae-Edzo and the other communities affected that the situation is under control.

I am glad to say that the cleanup at Port Radium is regarded as satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,


Red Pedersen,
Minister.

Attachment

SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

JUN - 4 1986

12 440 961

June 4, 1986

Honourable Red Pedersen
Minister
Department of Renewable Resources
Government of the N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

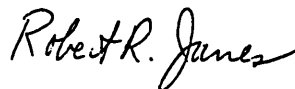
Dear Mr. Pedersen:

I am writing, with sincere apologies, to correct an oversight in Dan Billing's letter of May 14, 1986 to you concerning the results of the recent workshop on the Rayrock Mine site.

Mr. Billing's letter inadvertently omitted recommendations six and seven. I have attached a final and complete list of the recommendations resulting from the workshop. It is most important that this revised list of recommendations is sent to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, as the recommendations for water sampling, site cleanup and posting (nos. 5, 6 and 7) are the responsibility of his department.

Again, my apologies for this unwarrantable confusion.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Janes,
Executive Director.

Attachment

ᐱᓐ 4, 1986

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Robert R. Janes,
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Rayrock Workshop - Yellowknife, N.W.T.
April 29th and 30th, 1986

Findings and Recommendations - Rayrock Tailings

1. The concentrations of radioactive substances and heavy metals in the immediate vicinity of the abandoned Rayrock Mine do not pose a health hazard to the residents of nearby communities or to persons who visit the area from time to time. People who camp in the area for hunting, fishing and trapping should not use the tailings disposal areas for their campsites. The tailings should not be disturbed.
2. There is no evidence of any sickness or deaths due to past or present use of the Rayrock area by the Dene people of nearby communities.
3. The tailings pose no hazard to persons using existing winter roads in the area (see map attached). Care should be taken so that future roads and trails do not cross tailings piles.
4. Increased levels of radioactive substances and heavy metals have been found in those ponds nearest the tailings (see map attached). Similar levels of these substances have not been found downstream from these water bodies or in the Marian River.
5. It is recommended that a water quality sampling program be developed and implemented to monitor the levels of selected radioactive substances and heavy metals in Sherman Lake, Lake B, and Sherman Creek. Additional fish sampling should be carried out in Sherman Lake to complement the existing information base.
6. The mine buildings should be razed and the mine openings permanently closed to prevent accidents. The remaining debris and chemicals at the site should be disposed of in an appropriate manner.
7. The tailings should be posted, warning the visitor to stay away from the tailings and not to disturb them.

Eds D. A. C. D. M. O. F.

The following attended the Workshop:

Den Billing	Chairman	Yellowknife
Edgar Ladouceur	INAC	"
Bill Stephen	"	"
David Sutherland	EPS	"
John Villamere	Hatfield Consultants	Vancouver
Geoffrey Smith	"	"
Wayne Wagner	EMRS	Yellowknife
Dr. Otto Schaefer	SINT	Edmonton
Dave Nutter	NWT Chamber of Mines	Yellowknife
Allen Bouvier	Dene Nation	"
Joe Rabesca	Chief, Rae Band	Rae
Violet Camsell	Rae Dene Band	"
Eddie Erasmus	"	"
Joe Migwi	"	"
Susie Mackenzie	"	"
Eddie Paul Rabesca	"	"
Patrick Beaulieu	"	"
Ernie Camsell	Translator	"
Noel Drybones	"	"
Greg Cook	NAP - NWT	Yellowknife
Martin Barnet	DIAND	Ottawa
Dennis Lawson	Environment Canada	Regina
Emery Paquin	GNWT	Yellowknife
Dr. Margaret Kalin	Boojum Research Ltd.	Toronto
Darcy Arden	NWT Water Board	Yellowknife
Dr. Dan Dimitroff	HWC (MSB)	Ottawa
Dr. Roger Eaton	HWC (EH)	"
Dr. Bernie Zgola	AECB	"
Judy Fitzpatrick	HWC - MSB	Yellowknife
Dr. Rick Mathias	UBC	Vancouver
Dr. Robert R. Janes	SINT	Yellowknife
Dr. Robert Van Everdingen	Hydrologist	Calgary
Ben Hubert	Rapportour	Yellowknife

MAY 28 1986

SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

12 440 961

May 14, 1986

Honourable Red Pedersen
Minister
Department of Renewable Resources
Government of the N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Minister:

As you are no doubt aware, the Institute was assigned by your predecessor to investigate the question of the effect of the tailings deposits at the Rayrock and Port Radium Mines on the health of the people living nearby or using the areas.

This long and difficult project has been brought to a conclusion by a two day Workshop in Yellowknife which was attended not only by all those involved in the investigation, but also by a representative from the Dene Nation and by most of the Tribal Council of Rae.

The Science Institute has endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Workshop which are as follows:

1. The concentrations of radioactive substances and heavy metals in the immediate vicinity of the abandoned Rayrock Mine do not pose a health hazard to the residents of nearby communities or to persons who visit the area from time to time. People who camp in the area for hunting, fishing and trapping should not use the tailings disposal areas for their campsites. The tailings should not be disturbed.
2. There is no evidence of any sickness or deaths due to past or present use of the Rayrock area by the Dene people of nearby communities.
3. The tailings pose no hazard to persons using existing winter roads in the area (see map attached). Care should be taken so that future roads and trails do not cross tailings piles.
4. Increased levels of radioactive substances and heavy metals have been found in those ponds nearest the tailings (see map attached). Similar levels of these substances have not been found downstream from these water bodies or in the Marian River.

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5. It is recommended that a water quality sampling program be developed and implemented to monitor the levels of selected radioactive substances and heavy metals in Sherman Lake, Lake B, and Sherman Creek. Additional fish sampling should be carried out in Sherman Lake to complement the existing information base.

With regard to Fort Radium, it is considered that since the mine was decommissioned recently under modern protocols and since our investigation showed no dangerous levels of radioactive or toxic substances, that the mine site poses no threat.

Please note that the last three recommendations require action by an "appropriate" authority. This authority is Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and we ask that they be passed to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for action.

The following attended the Workshop:

Dan Billing	Chairman	Yellowknife
Edgar Ladouceur	INAC	"
Bill Stephen	"	"
David Sutherland	EPS	"
John Villamere	Hatfield Consultants	Vancouver
Geoffrey Smith	"	"
Wayne Wagner	EMRS	Yellowknife
Dr. Otto Schaefer	SINT	Edmonton
Dave Nutter	NWT Chamber of Mines	Yellowknife
Allen Bouvier	Dene Nation	"
Joe Rabesca	Chief, Rae Band	Rae
Violet Camsell	Rae Dene Band	"
Eddie Erasmus	"	"
Joe Migwi	"	"
Susie Mackenzie	"	"
Eddie Paul Rabesca	"	"
Patrick Beaulieu	"	"
Ernie Camsell	Translator	"
Noel Drybones	"	"
Greg Cook	NAP - NWT	Yellowknife
Martin Barnet	DIAND	Ottawa
Dennis Lawson	Environment Canada	Regina
Emery Paquin	GNWT	Yellowknife
Dr. Margaret Kalin	Boojum Research Ltd.	Toronto
Darcy Arden	NWT Water Board	Yellowknife
Dr. Dan Dimitroff	HWC (MSB)	Ottawa
Dr. Roger Eaton	HWC (EH)	"
Dr. Bernie Zgola	AECB	"
Judy Fitzpatrick	HWC - MSB	Yellowknife
Dr. Rick Mathias	UBC	Vancouver
Dr. Robert R. Janes	SINT	Yellowknife
Dr. Robert Van Everdingen	Hydrologist	Calgary
Ben Hubert	Rapportour	Yellowknife

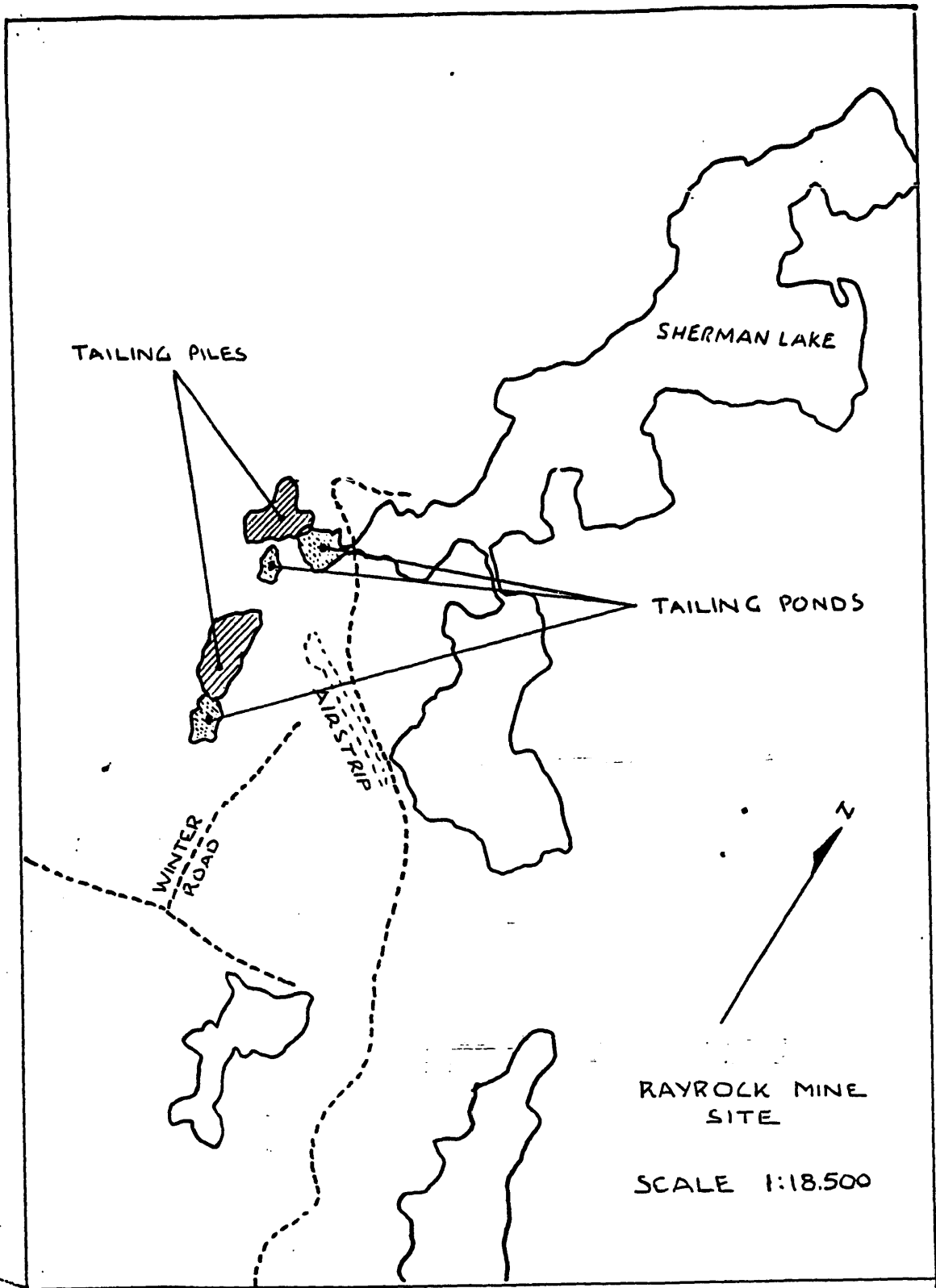
With this report, the research which has taken 18 months and about \$140,000.00 is closed and the Institute wishes to thank the Government of the Northwest Territories for the opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan Billing', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Billing,
Chairman.

Attachment



TAILING PILES

SHERMAN LAKE

TAILING PONDS

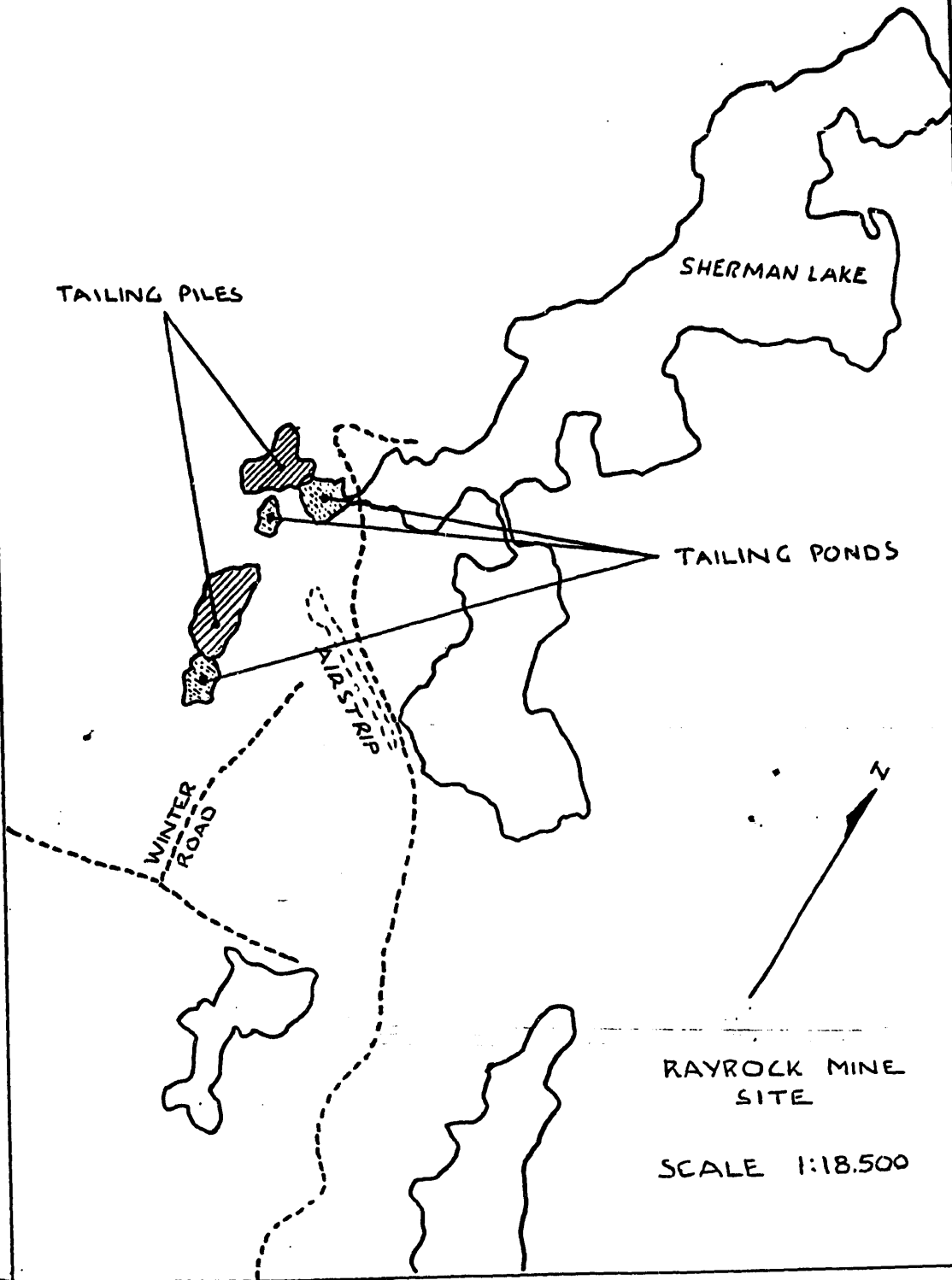
WINTER
ROAD

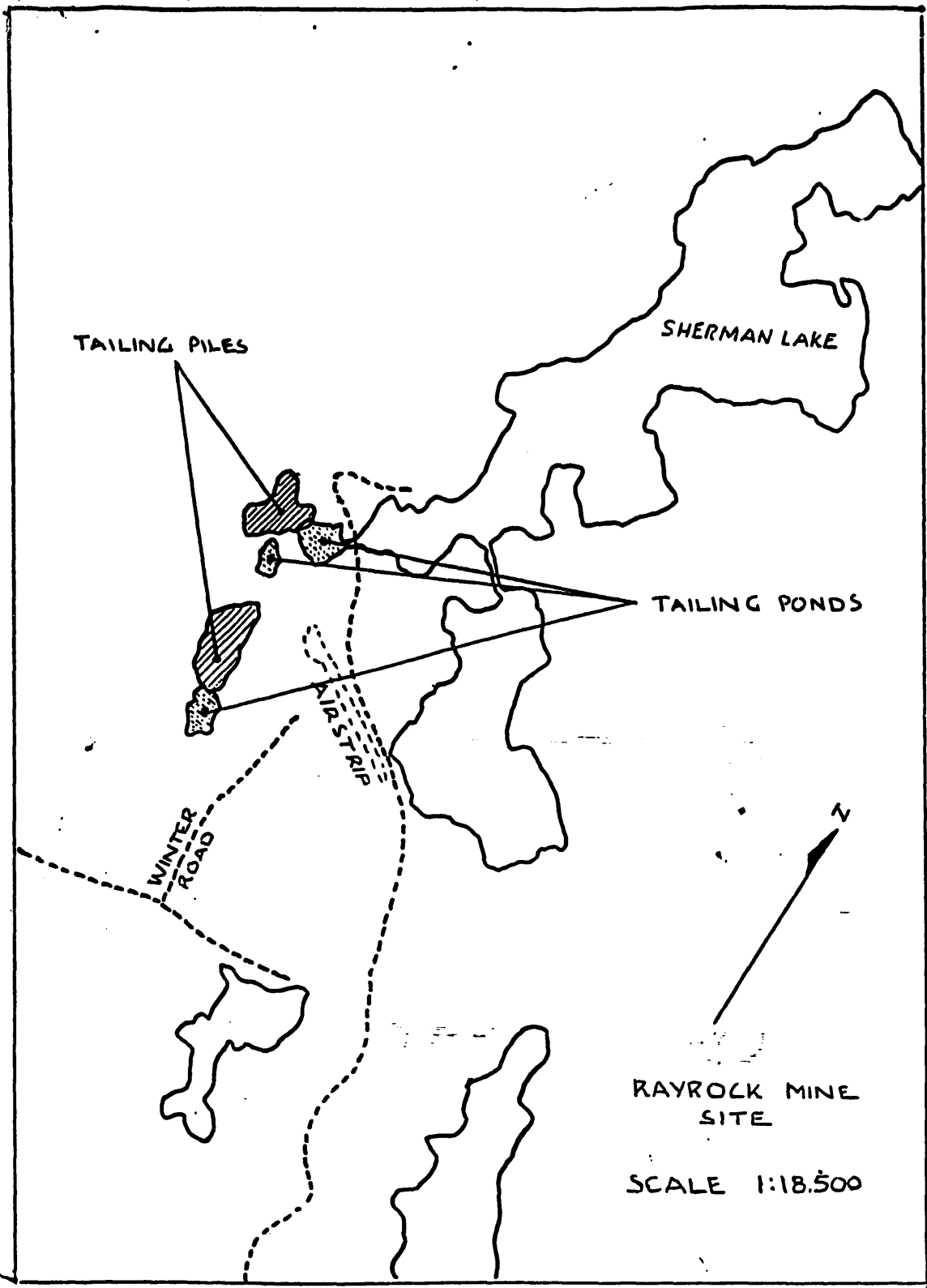
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N

RAYROCK MINE
SITE

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TAILING PILES

SHERMAN LAKE

TAILING PONDS

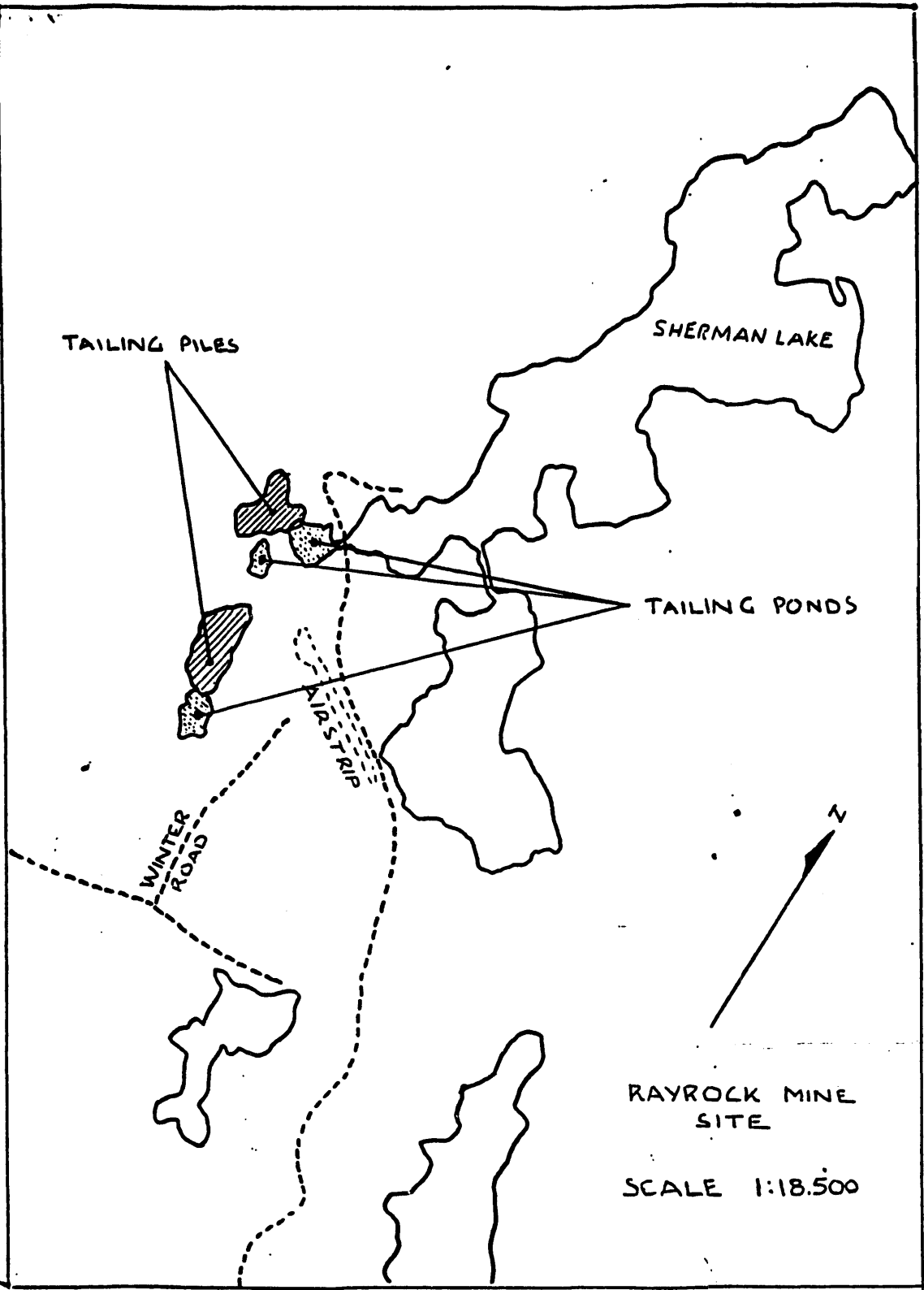
WINTER ROAD

AIR STRIP

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RAYROCK MINE SITE

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TAILING PILES

SHERMAN LAKE

TAILING PONDS

WINTER ROAD

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RAYROCK MINE SITE

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