

**June 10, 2022**

**TECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE  
INCAHUASI SALAR LITHIUM CONCESSION,  
SALTA PROVINCE, ARGENTINA**

**Prepared for:**

**SPEY RESOURCES CORP.**

**Prepared by:**

**MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES CONSULTORES LIMITADA**

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**EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2022**

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**Date & Signature Page**

This NI 43-101 report titled “**Technical Report for the Incahuasi Salar Lithium Concession, Salta Province, Argentina**” with effective day of June 10, 2022, was prepared and signed by the following author:

*signed "Michael Rosko"*

**(Signed & Sealed) Michael J. Rosko**

Michael J. Rosko, MS, PG

Dated at Santiago de Chile

June 10, 2022

## Certificate of Qualified Person

### Michael J. Rosko

I, Michael J. Rosko, MS, PG, as the author of this report entitled “**Technical Report for the Incahuasi Salar Lithium Concession, Salta Province, Argentina**” prepared for Spey Resources Corp. (the “Issuer”) with an effective date of June 10, 2022, do hereby certify that:

- a. My name is Mr. Michael J. Rosko, of Avda. Vitacura 2777, Of. 404, Santiago de Chile, a senior consulting hydrogeologist.
- b. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from University of Illinois in 1983. I graduated with a Master of Science in Geology (Sedimentary Petrology focus) from University of Arizona in 1986. I am a registered professional geologist in the states of Arizona (25065), California (5236), and Texas (6359). I am a member of the National Ground Water Association, Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Arizona Hydrological Society, and the International Association of Hydrogeologists. I have practiced hydrogeology for 36 years, with much of this time working in salar basins.
- c. I am a Registered Member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc. (“SME”), registered member #4064687.
- d. I started working in brine salar systems in the Andes in the early 1990s. Starting in 2009, I began working as a QP and CP for the following projects: Lithium One – Salar del Hombre Muerto, Eramine – Salar de Centenario and Ratones, Galaxy Lithium – continued work in S. de Hombre Muerto, Millennial Lithium – Salar de Pastos Grandes, Posco – Sal de Oro project, Alpha Lithium in Salar de Tolillar, Ganfeng Lithium - Salar de Llullaillaco, and Lithium Americas Corp – Salar de Cauchari, and SQM – Salar de Atacama.
- e. I have read the definition of “qualified person” set out in National Instrument 43-101 (“NI 43-101”) and certify that by reason of my education and past relevant work experience, I fulfill the requirements to be a “qualified person” for the purposes of NI 43-101.
- f. I visited the Incahuasi Salar concession for one day on March 22, 2022.
- g. I am responsible for all chapters of this technical report.
- h. I am independent of the Issuer applying the test set out in Section 1.5 of NI 43-101.
- i. I have had no prior involvement with the subject property.

- j. I have read the definition of "qualified person" set out in NI 43-101 and have read this technical report and confirm this technical report has been prepared in compliance with NI 43-101 and Form 43-101F1 guidelines.
- k. At the effective date of this technical report, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the technical report contains all scientific and technical information that is required to be disclosed to make the technical report not misleading.

Dated this 10th day of June 2022,

*signed "Michael Rosko"*

Signed

Michael J. Rosko, MS, PG

Avenida Vitacura 4222, Of. 404, Santiago de Chile



## Glossary

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| %                 | percent                          |
| °C                | degrees Celsius                  |
| CAD\$             | Canadian dollars                 |
| cm                | centimeter                       |
| EID               | environmental impact declaration |
| EIS               | environmental impact statement   |
| FOB               | free on board                    |
| g/cm <sup>3</sup> | grams per cubic centimeter       |
| K/Ar              | potassium/argon                  |
| km                | kilometer                        |
| km/h              | kilometer per hour               |
| km <sup>2</sup>   | square kilometer                 |
| L                 | liter                            |
| Li                | lithium                          |
| m                 | meter                            |
| masl              | meters above sea level           |
| m,bls             | meters below land surface        |
| mg/L              | milligrams per liter             |
| mm                | millimeter                       |
| NI                | national instrument              |
| Ohm-m             | Ohm-meters                       |
| ppm               | part per million                 |
| PVC               | polyvinyl chloride               |
| TDS               | total dissolved solids           |
| TEM               | transient electromagnetic method |
| USD\$             | US dollars                       |

## 1 Summary

This report has been prepared for Spey Resources Corp. (the “Issuer”) by Michael J. Rosko (the “Author”) to conform to the regulatory requirements of Canadian National Instrument 43-101 using the Form 43-101F1 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects. The Candela II mining concession (the “Project”) area is located in the Salar de Incahuasi basin (the “Salar”) in the Salta province in the Puna Region of northwest Argentina, about 36 km from the township of Tolar Grande on the southern end of the Incahuasi Salar. It is approximately 3,500 meters above sea level (masl) and is 120 kilometers (km) from the town of Pocitos and about 245 km to San Antonio de los Cobres. The Project is not yet considered to be an advanced project. The Salar is an evaporite basin with demonstrated brine in the subsurface that is enriched with lithium. Salar de Incahuasi is in the Central Andes of Argentina and within the so-called “Lithium Triangle” of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

### Description and Ownership

The Candela II Mina concession is a license for exploration of lithium and borates with a claim number Expediente No. 23,262. The Candela II concession is in the Los Andes department in Salta Province, Argentina. The concession is described in file 23,262; the table below summarizes the Gauss Posgar UTM system coordinates.

| Point Corner | X Coordinate | Y Coordinate |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1            | 2,637,500    | 7,313,400    |
| 2            | 2,645,600    | 7,313,400    |
| 3            | 2,645,600    | 7,309,671.61 |
| 4            | 2,637,500    | 7,309,671.61 |

Candela II Mina covers approximately 29.6 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) being about 8 km long and 3.7 km wide.

Regarding mineral tenure and ownership, the following groups are represented:

- Spey Resources Corp. - Issuer
- Mr. Ignacio Frezze Durrand – Vendor
- A.I.S. Resources Limited – Initial Optioner

The Vendor had provided an option to AIS Resources to acquire the Candela II concession by making a payment of USD\$1million (about CAD\$1,282,000). Prior to completing the option agreement, the Vendor was the sole legal and beneficial owner of mining tenements identified as File No. 23,262 – Mina Candela II. The option holders AIS Resources and the Issuer also had the right to explore and the option to acquire, via an option agreement the mining tenement identified as File No. 23,262 located in Incahuasi Salar, Salta province. AIS Resources paid a consideration to option the Candela II concession to the Vendor to acquire a 100% interest, and then optioned its interest in the concession to the Issuer. The surface rights belong to the concession holder and have been acquired via the option agreement by the Issuer. There are no encumbrances on the property by the Issuer. The option agreement between AIS Resources and the Vendor was signed on 18 February 2021.

A.I.S. Resources Limited (“AIS”) acquired an option over the property Candela II from the vendor Mr. I. Durrand in an agreement that is subject to a confidentiality deed. AIS then optioned the property to the Issuer with a number of terms being:

- An initial payment of US\$100,000.
- A payment six months from the option grant date being Sept 2021 of US\$100,000.
- A final payment at the end of 12 months of US\$1,000,000 if they elect to exercise their option.
- After a further 12 months if a resource estimate of 45,000 tonnes or more is defined, then the Issuer has the right to buy the AIS carried interest of 20% for \$6m USD and in the event, it exceeds 45,000 tonnes of contained metal, then a fee of US\$250,000 is payable for each 5,000 tonnes over 45,000 tonnes.

The Issuer has subsequently exercised the option and purchased the property from AIS Resources. When AIS Resources received notice, it in turn exercised its option and acquired the property from the Vendor. The money transfer went from AIS Resources to the Vendor, and from the Issuer to AIS Resources.

## **Geological Setting and Mineralization**

The Salar Incahuasi is located in the Geological Province of La Puna (Turner, 1972) and within the Puna Austral Geological Sub-province (Alonso et al., 1984). One of the most important characteristics that define the Geological Province of La Puna is the presence of evaporite basins or "salares" where deposits of borates, sodium sulfate and lithium are concentrated. The Salar Incahuasi occupies one of these endorheic (internal drainage) basins.

The oldest rocks in the area crop out to the southwest of the Incahuasi salt flat forming the Taca Taca mountain range, which correspond to the Taca Taca Formation. This unit is of Ordovician age, composed essentially of a granodiorite with coarse-grained facies and fine-grained facies.

The sedimentary outcrops located between the Incahuasi and Arizaro salt flats correspond to the Vizcachera Formation of Oligocene to Middle Miocene age, consisting of sandy-conglomerate, sandy-clayey and sandy-chalky, poorly consolidated rocks. The other rocks that dominate the area are of volcanic origin. Volcanic rocks consist mostly of basalts, andesites, dacites and rhyolites of upper Tertiary age.

The deposit type is a lithium-enriched, saline brine aquifer occurring in a high altitude, hydraulically closed basin. The mineralization for the project consists of a lithium-enriched brine that is contained within the pore spaces of the sedimentary strata in the salar basin. In addition to lithium, boron and potassium enrichment are considered as potential future economic elements. The boundaries of the mineralization are suspected to be the basin boundary, although some lithium-enriched brine may be contained in the fractures and/or pores of the rocks that form the basin boundary.

## **Near-Surface Brine Sampling**

In May 2021, 27 samples of near-surface brine were obtained. The samples were collected using a bailer, put into 1-liter bottles, labelled and securely taped closed, and put into a secure box for transport to the SGS laboratory. Of the 27 auger holes they all had brine at less than 1 m in depth. Lithium concentrations ranged from 25 – 173 mg/L. The lowest values of lithium and total dissolved solids ("TDS") occur in the southwest part of the basin near the boundary. The Author

believes that this area may be a freshwater recharge area and there may be some dilution of the brine occurring in this area.

### **TEM Geophysics Study**

In 2021, following the surface sampling, Quantec (2021) was contracted to conduct a Transient Electro Magnetic (“TEM”) survey of the property. A total of 50 soundings were taken along three, east-west lines. The goal of the survey was to identify locations for five exploration boreholes. Interpreted sections for the survey identify bedrock, halite, and fine and coarse-grained units. In general, the sediment thickness increases to the east and north within the concession boundaries.

### **Drilling**

Drilling activities were conducted for the Salar de Incahuasi Project area during year 2021. A total of five wells were drilled using normal rotary mud circulation method. Drilling activities started on September 18<sup>th</sup> of 2021, and were finished during December 12<sup>th</sup> of 2021. The drilling contractor used for the program was Amaru Mining Services, based in Salta, Argentina. Depth of the wells ranged from 44 to 209 meters below land surface.

During drilling, chip and brine samples were collected from the cyclone at 1-m intervals using a packer system which isolated specific zones of the aquifer. A total of nine brine samples were collected from the boreholes and submitted for SGS laboratory chemical analyses; three samples were obtained via airlift in the completed wells. For each brine sample, field measurements were conducted on regular basis for electrical conductivity, pH and temperature. Lithium concentrations ranged from 75 to 161 mg/L; most of the samples were above 130 mg/L of lithium.

The laboratory results support the concept that the deeper brine contains a larger lithium content than the brine located in the upper part of the aquifer. The smallest lithium concentration for the samples occurs in those samples obtained above about 50 meters below land surface. This is likely due to freshwater with a lower lithium content and lower density entering the basin and mixing with the older brine in the upper part of the aquifer.

## **Interpretation and Conclusions**

Based on the recent results from exploration drilling and geophysical surveys, the aquifer underlying the Candela II concession is saturated with a concentrated lithium brine. The upper part of the aquifer consists of halite and the lower part of the aquifer is mostly clastic sands and gravels. In the southern part of the concession close to the edges of the basin, the aquifer may be thinner, and the brine chemistry contains less lithium. It appears that there is some dilution of the brine with fresh water towards the edges of the basin in the upper part of the aquifer where freshwater recharge occurs. Larger lithium concentrations occur in the northern part of the concession and with increasing depth. The majority of the samples obtained had lithium concentrations consistently in excess of about 130 mg/L below a depth of about 50 meters below land surface; largest reported lithium concentration was 161 mg/L at well INCA-21-05R. In the opinion of the Author, sample preparation, security, and analytical procedures were acceptable and results from the laboratory analyses, especially with respect to lithium, are considered adequate and acceptable.

In the northern part of the concession where well INCA-21-05R is located, there is a deeper sequence of clastic sediments below the halite as compared to the southern part of the Candela II concession. The geophysical surveys show that the aquifer gets thicker to the north and to the east; drilling at well INCA-21-05R confirms this. It is important to note that, although bedrock was not reported to be encountered during exploration drilling, there is some uncertainty regarding this issue at the wells located in the south part of the concession. The geophysics supports the idea that relatively shallow bedrock likely occurs in the south part of the concession, whether or not it was truly encountered during drilling or not.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the initial results of exploration to date, additional exploration activities are justified to better characterize the subsurface brine in the concession. To date, the upper part of the aquifer has been drilled and tested. Additional drilling and testing will allow for expansion of the resource laterally throughout the entire concession area, and deeper until bedrock. Because well INCA-21-05R was terminated in permeable sediments, it is recommended that the proposed diamond coreholes be drilled to at least 250 m, from surface, and more if favorable aquifer conditions are

still encountered. We recommend additional diamond drill holes with depth-specific sampling at regular intervals to better define the brine chemistry throughout the entire aquifer. Additional drilling and testing will allow for estimation of an initial lithium resource and will support estimation of a future reserve.

We recommend three coreholes (drilled to a maximum of about 250 m,bls), and two pumpable wells drilled and constructed to depths to be determined based on the results of the deep coreholes. The coreholes will include depth-specific brine sampling using an inflatable packer, and laboratory analysis of core for drainable porosity values.

If the results of the proposed exploration program are favorable and support feasibility of a lithium extraction project, additional studies should include the following:

- Fresh water study to identify a potential sustainable freshwater supply
- Development of a geologic reserve model to allow estimation of an initial reserve estimation
- Additional studies in support of a preliminary economic assessment (“PEA”) study

## **Budget**

For the proposed three corehole program, and two well program, costs (excluding tax, in USD) can be summarized as follows:

- Roads and drilling platforms - \$170,000
- Environmental studies - \$40,000
- Drilling and testing - \$1,900,000
- Field monitoring and supervision - \$240,000
- Development of a resource block model - \$80,000
- Reporting - \$70,000

Total estimated cost of about USD \$2,500,000 (plus taxes) (CAD \$3,200,00 plus taxes) for the proposed three corehole and two pumpable well exploration program.

## 2 Introduction

The Project is located in the Puna region of Argentina (**Figure 2-1**), about 36 km from the township of Tolar Grande on the southern end of the Incahuasi Salar. It is approximately 3,500 meters above sea level (masl) and is 120 kilometers (km) from the town of Pocitos and about 245 km to San Antonio de los Cobres. **Figure 2-2** shows the location of the Salar.

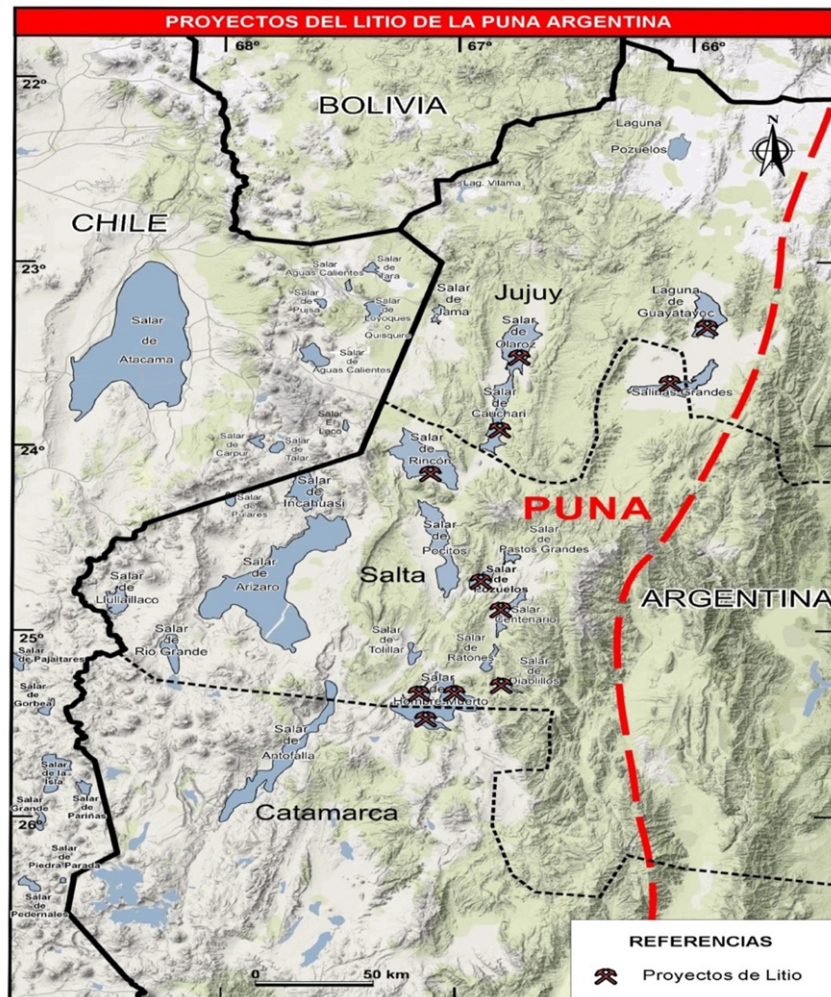


Figure 2-1. Map of Argentina Puna Region





Figure 2-2. Satellite Image Showing the Incahuasi Salar

## 2.1 Terms of Reference

This report was prepared at the request of the Issuer, a company existing pursuant to the laws of British Columbia, Canada, and with its head office located at 3500-1055 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver BC, V7X 1H7, Canada. The terms of reference were to describe the Property, surface sampling, geophysics and drilling that has taken place on the concession known as Candela II on the Incahuasi Salar being File No. 23,262, and to prepare a report consistent with NI 43-101 guidelines. The purpose of this report is to provide shareholders of the Issuer with a summary of material information about the Incahuasi lithium brine prospect property on which the Issuer is exploring.

The Author was engaged by the Issuer to prepare this report, and to function as a Qualified Person (“QP”). The Author visited the site on March 22, 2022 for the purpose of obtaining water levels and an independent brine sample from well INCA-21-05R. This effort is detailed later in this report. The Author is not an officer or director of the Issuer. The Author does not own shares of the Issuer and is being paid normal consulting fees for his effort.

## **2.2 Sources of Information**

The information provided in the report was taken from the following sources:

Nigel Unger from Quantec Geoscience (2021) in Salta Argentina provided the geophysics survey and initial interpretation. The report was dated June 18, 2021. Interpretation for this work were relied on for Chapter 9.

David Carabanti, a geologist employed by AIS Resources SA in Salta arranged for the sampling at site, and for delivery of the samples to SGS Laboratories in Salta, Argentina. Mr. Carabanti was onsite during drilling and sampling of the year 2021 exploration boreholes. This work was relied on for Chapter 10.

Carlos Enrique Ganam, a registered Argentine geologist, prepared and signed the Environmental Impact Report (Ganam, 2021). This report was dated March 5, 2021. This work was used for completing Chapter 24 of this report.

## **2.3 Current personal inspection**

The Author visited the site on March 22, 2022, with Mr. David Carabanti (Senior Geologist, AIS Resources SA) and Mr. Martin Valle (Exploration Geologist, AIS Resources SA). During the site visit, water levels were measured at the wells and a brine sample was obtained at well INCA-21-05R.

## **2.4 Language currency and measurement standards**

Some technical reports and references have been written in Spanish and been translated to English. The currencies used are United States dollars (USD) and Canadian dollars (CAD). The measurements used are the metric system.

## **2.5 Statement for Brine Mineral Prospects and Related Terms**

Brine Mineral Resource and Reserve estimates are not “solid mineral deposits” as defined under the Canada Institute of Mining (“CIM”) (2003, 2010, and 2012) standards. However, there are sufficient similarities to mineral deposits that the guidelines published by the CIM are followed for

this Report. Brine is a fluid and hosted in an aquifer and thus has the ability to move and mix with adjacent fluids once extraction starts using production wells as a mining method. Resource estimation of a brine is based on knowledge of the geometry of the aquifer, and the variation in drainable porosity and brine grade within the aquifer. In order to assess the potential reserve, further information on the permeability and flow regime in the aquifer, and its surroundings are necessary in order to predict how the resource will change over the life of mine.

### **3 Reliance on other Experts**

The Author has relied on the entirety of a legal audit report regarding ownership for the Candela II mining concession titled ***“Legal Audit Report for Mining License Candela II, File 23,262”***, and dated May 19, 2022. This document was prepared for the Issuer by Dr. Rodrigo Castaneda-Nordmann (2022), a lawyer practicing mining law in Argentina. This audit report is relied on for the purpose of the entire technical report.

The Author also relied on the entirety of a preliminary Environmental Impact Report needed to obtain the exploration drilling permits titled ***“Informe de Impacto Ambiental - Perforación de Pozos Exploratorios Mina Candela II-Expediente N°23.262”*** prepared by Mr. Carlos Ganam (2021) for the Vendor and submitted and stamped March 23, 2021, by the Department of Mining in Salta. This audit report is relied on for the purpose of the entire technical report.

## 4 Property Description and Location

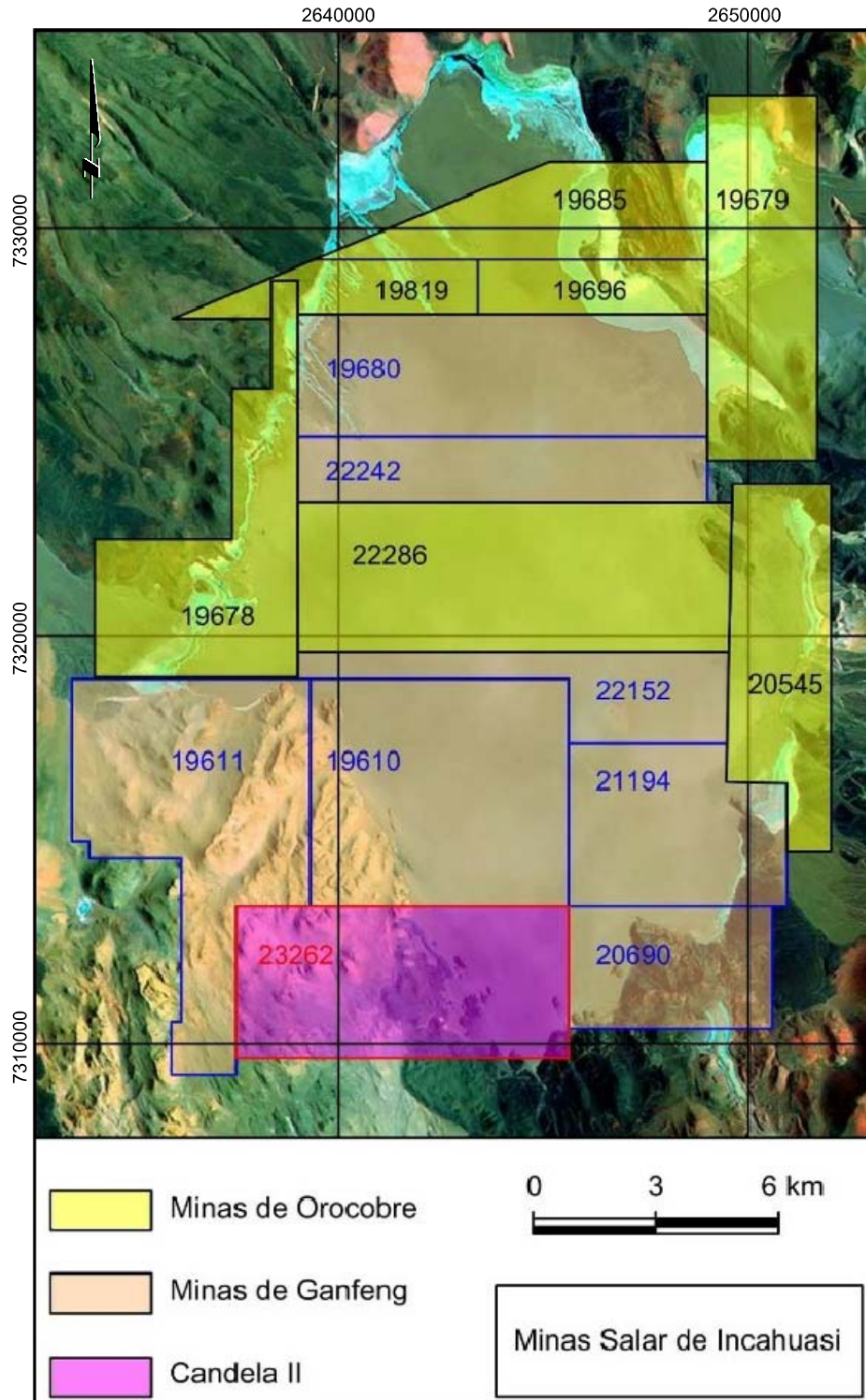
### 4.1 Description and Location

The Project is a license for exploration of lithium and borates with a claim number Expediente No. 23,262. The Project is in the Los Andes department in Salta Province, Argentina. The concession is described in file 23,262 and **Table 4-1** summarizes the Gauss Kruger - Posgar coordinates.

Table 4-1. Summary of Candela II Coordinates

| Point Corner | X Coordinate | Y Coordinate |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1            | 2,637,500    | 7,313,400    |
| 2            | 2,645,600    | 7,313,400    |
| 3            | 2,645,600    | 7,309,671.61 |
| 4            | 2,637,500    | 7,309,671.61 |

The Project covers approximately 29.6 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) being about 8 km long and 3.7 km wide. **Figure 4-1** shows the location of the Project.



Note: Candela II in red

Figure 4-1. Map Showing the Incahuasi Salar and the Candela II Mining Concession

#### **4.2 Mineral Tenure**

Mr. Frezze Durand (the “Vendor”) had provided an option to AIS Resources Limited (“AIS”) to acquire the Project by making a payment of USD\$1million (about CAD\$1,282,000). The Issuer and AIS have contractual obligations to keep the Project in good standing, including rehabilitation and/or other requirements.

Argentinean Mining law provides for the granting of two types of mining rights: exploration permits (“cateos”) which are limited in duration and which allow for the exploration of a mineral property, and mining permits (minas), which allow for the exploitation of the minerals in the subject property. The designations of the permits in respect of the Project are mining permits. Mining permits are unlimited in duration and remain the holder’s property as long as the holder meets their obligations under the Argentinean National Mining Code, including biennial canon payments and minimum investment commitments.

Prior to completing the option agreement, the Vendor was the sole legal and beneficial owner of mining tenements identified as File No. 23,262 – Mina Candela II. The option holders, AIS and the Issuer, also had the right to explore and the option to acquire, via an option agreement the mining tenement identified as File No. 23,262 located in Incahuasi Salar, Salta province. AIS paid a consideration to option the Project to the Vendor to acquire a 100% interest, and then optioned its interest in the Project to the Issuer.

#### **4.3 Surface Rights**

The surface rights belong to the concession holder and have been acquired via the option agreement by the Issuer.

#### **4.4 Agreements and Encumbrances**

There are no encumbrances on the Project by the Issuer. The option agreement between AIS and New Tech Lithium Resources (currently a wholly owned subsidiary of the Issuer) was signed on March 18, 2021. The option agreement between AIS and the Vendor was signed on February 18, 2021.

The Issuer had a USD \$500,000 exploration expenditure commitment to explore the Project in the first year of the option; the exploration commitment work was completed and is documented in this report.

#### **4.5 Mining Royalties and Taxes**

The royalties imposed on lithium producers by the province of Salta and the federal government are 4.5% of the Free On Board (“FOB”) export value of lithium. From a historical perspective, Law No. 27,541 (Economic Emergency Law), which was adopted by the National Congress in 2019 enabled the federal government to impose export duties on mining activities until December 31, 2021. These cannot exceed 8% of the dutiable value of the official FOB price. Most provinces including Salta, have their own Mining Procedural Codes, which generally follow the standards and guidelines of the national Mining Code. The provincial Mining Procedural Codes include the following elements:

- Relevant procedure for requests for the granting of mineral rights.
- Available mechanisms to challenge decisions of mining enforcement authorities.

#### **4.6 Environmental Liabilities**

All persons or entities engaged in prospecting, exploration and exploitation activities are responsible for any environmental damage that may occur due to non-compliance with rules of environmental protection that apply to mining activities, whether the damage is caused directly or by contractors or subcontractors (*section 248, Argentine Mining Code*).

The titleholder (currently the Issuer) is jointly and severally liable for damage caused by persons or entities conducting surface activities with the consent of the titleholder. Environmental requirements are set out in the Environmental General Protection Act No. 25,675, which also applies to the mining industry, and Law No. 24,585, which has been incorporated into the Mining Code. Law No. 24,585 outlines the most important rules of environmental protection specific to mining activities, including the following:



- Individuals or entities seeking to conduct prospecting, exploration, or exploitation activities must first file an environmental impact statement (“EIS”) with the enforcement authority.
- If the EIS meets the standards of Law No. 24,585 and its complementary rules, the enforcement authority issues an environmental impact declaration (“EID”) that allows the applicant to carry out the proposed activities.
- The EID is issued for 2 years with a set of conditions and requirements that the interested party must comply with to maintain the validity of the EID.
- Companies must submit updates of the EIS every 2 years from its initial approval.

The Federal Congress sets the minimum environmental standards, and the provincial and municipal governments can impose higher protections. Higher provincial and municipal requirements will apply if they are not manifestly incompatible with federal standards (this is the interjurisdictional co-ordination criteria established by the Federal Supreme Court) (section 41, Constitution).

#### **4.7 Permitting**

All permitting for the proposed drill program had been submitted and accepted. An application for an exploration concession must include the following details:

- The geographic coordinates of the requested area.
- The purpose of the exploration.
- The name of the individual or company requesting the permit.
- The name of the owner of the surface land.
- A description of the work to be done, including the estimated investment and equipment.
- A sworn statement affirming that the request does not violate the Mining Code.

The exploration permit applicant must pay an exploration fee on filing of the application (approx. CAD \$100 per hectare, or USD \$78 per hectare). The fee is reimbursed (totally or partially) if the permit is denied or granted for a smaller area. The mining authority will automatically deny the request if the applicant does not submit evidence of payment of the fee.

To obtain an exploitation concession, the applicant must comply with the following requirements/steps:

- The discoverer must file a discovery claim with the mining enforcement authority. The discovery claim must be submitted together with a sample of the mineral.
- If the requested area is available, the mining authority must register the discovery claim. The registration request is published in the provincial Official Gazette.
- Within 100 days following the registration of the discovery claim, the discoverer must perform and declare legal works over the area to prove the existence of the deposit.
- The discoverer must file a petition requesting the measurement and demarcation of the units of exploitation corresponding to the area (pertenencia). The number of areas that a miner can request varies depending on the type of mineral deposit (lithium or secondary minerals such as borates) and on the type of applicant (for example, an entity or an individual).
- The mining authority registers the measurement and grants a copy to the applicant as proof of title to the exploitation concession.

#### **4.8 Other Significant Factors**

No other significant factors are known by the Author as of the date of this report.

## 5 Accessibility, Climate, Local Resource, Infrastructure & Physiography

### 5.1 Access

**Figure 5-1** shows the location of the Project and the road access to get there from Salta. The Project is located approximately 36 km north-northwest of the town of Tolar Grande. Access from Salta city on the west motorway and driving about 35.5 km along National Route N°51 to Campo Quijano town. From there continue along approximately 129 km going past villages Ing. Mauri, Alfarcito, Santa Rosa de Tastil, reaching the town of San Antonio de los Cobres. A further 61 km is driven towards Cauchari salar. Then Provincial route N° 27 is taken, driving about 70 km until reaching Pocitos Salar. From that point, 80km are driven until reaching the town of Tolar Grande. From Tolar Grande to Incahuasi Salar access is through a mining road (Huella Minera) of approximately 65 km. **Figure 5-2** shows the condition of the mining road in the Salar.

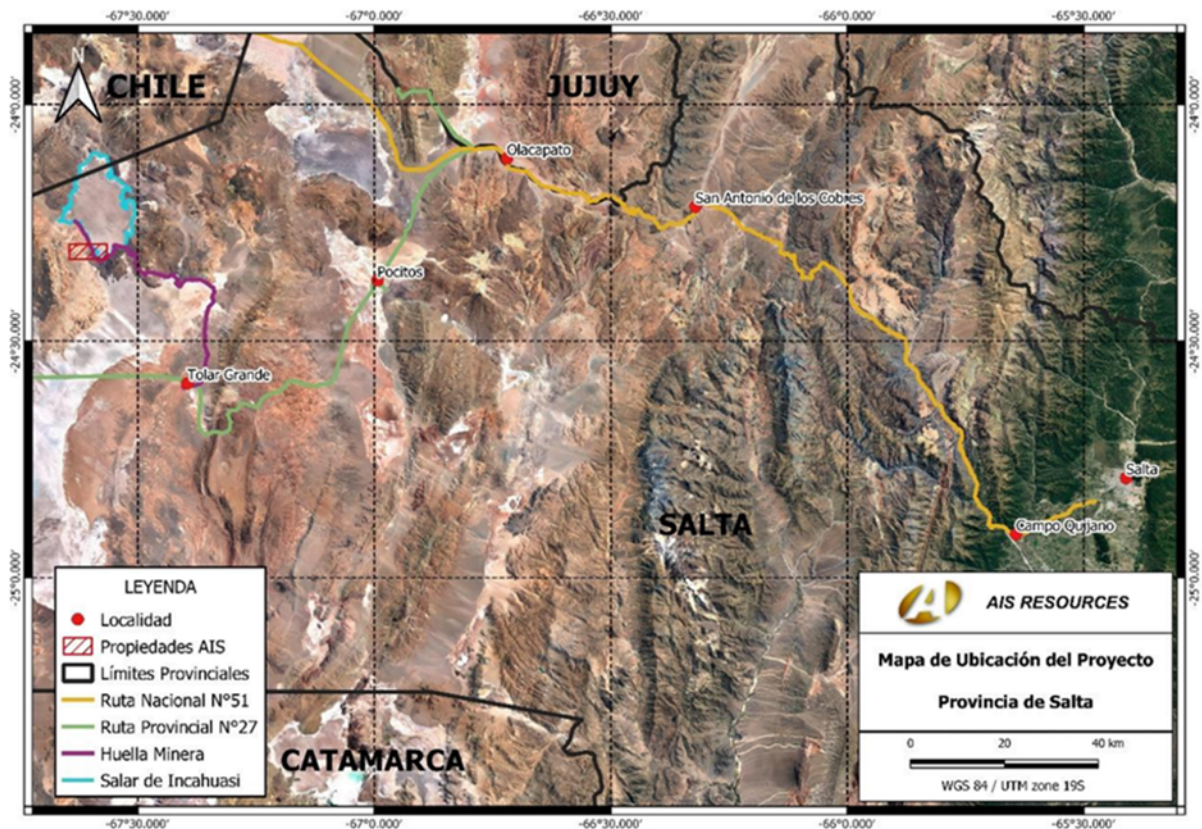


Figure 5-1. Location map Showing the Prospect and Road Access from Salta



Figure 5-2. View of Mining Road on the Candela II Property, Incahuasi Salar

## 5.2 Climate

The Incahuasi Salar is located in a high altitude, cold desert climate (Puna environment) which is characterized by extremes temperature ranging from  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the winter and from  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the summer. The main rainy season is between October through March and average precipitation is between 50 to 100 mm per year. **Table 5-1** shows monthly average temperature and precipitation records for Tolar Grande (located 36 km south of the Incahuasi Salar).

Table 5-1. Average Monthly Weather Conditions in Tolar Grande

**Climate table of Tolar Grande**

|                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Day temp. (°C)     | 24  | 23  | 21  | 20  | 18  | 17  | 16  | 19  | 21  | 23  | 23  | 24  |
| Night temp. (°C)   | 14  | 14  | 12  | 10  | 8   | 6   | 5   | 7   | 9   | 12  | 13  | 15  |
|                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Precipitation (mm) | 79  | 80  | 50  | 33  | 9   | 4   | 2   | 2   | 13  | 38  | 50  | 73  |
| Days with rain     | 20  | 20  | 22  | 18  | 9   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 5   | 17  | 19  | 21  |
| Dry days           | 11  | 8   | 9   | 12  | 22  | 27  | 29  | 29  | 25  | 14  | 11  | 10  |
|                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sun hours per day  | 9   | 9   | 8   | 9   | 9   | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 9   | 9   | 9   |
| Wind force (Bft)   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   |
| UV-index           | 5   | 5   | 5   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 4   | 5   | 5   | 5   | 5   | 6   |

Strong winds are common at the prospect site, as is common in many deserts and the Puna regions. Wind speeds during winter commonly range from 15 kilometers per hour (km/h) to 40 km/h. The velocity is lower during the summer months, and much lower at night than during the day.

### 5.3 Local Resources & Infrastructure

The nearest population center is the village of Tolar Grande (reported population of 240 inhabitants) with services such as a health center, lodging facilities, and a school. The nearest large city is Salta, (population 704,000) located about 240 km to the east-southeast of the prospect area. Resources in the local area are basic, with most supplies being brought from Salta or San Antonio de los Cobres.

There are no power lines or gas lines near Incahuasi Salar. Roads are unmaintained dirt, but generally in good condition due to the low rainfall during the winter months, and are usable all year round.

#### 5.4 Physiography

The Project is located in the Puna (Altiplano) region of western Salta province at an altitude of about 3,200 masl. The region is dominated by ancient volcanos. The Puna Plateau is an uplifted crustal block of the old crystalline basement raised by the Tertiary orogeny, and includes evaporite basins or "salars" like Incahuasi that may contain elevated lithium concentrations. The Incahuasi Salar is an internally drained (endorheic) basin where evaporation is the only outflow for precipitation that flows into the basin. **Figure 5-3** shows a photo of the Salar and surrounding hills. Volcanic complexes dominate the relief to the west, including the Aracar Volcano (altitude of 6,092 masl).



Figure 5-3. Photo of the Incahuasi Salar from the West Showing the Aracar Volcano

## **6 History**

### **6.1 Ownership and Development History**

The Vendor had acquired the concession prior to 2007, and had not developed the Project prior to entering into an option agreement with AIS. AIS did surface sampling of brine in April 2021 after building the road infrastructure onto the salar.

### **6.2 Exploration**

Except for the year 2021 exploration drilling and sampling program, no other exploration on the Project is known to have occurred.

### **6.3 Historical Mineral Resource and Reserve Statements**

There are no historical published resource or reserve statements.

### **6.4 Production History**

There has been no lithium production at the Project to date.

## 7 Geological Setting and Mineralization

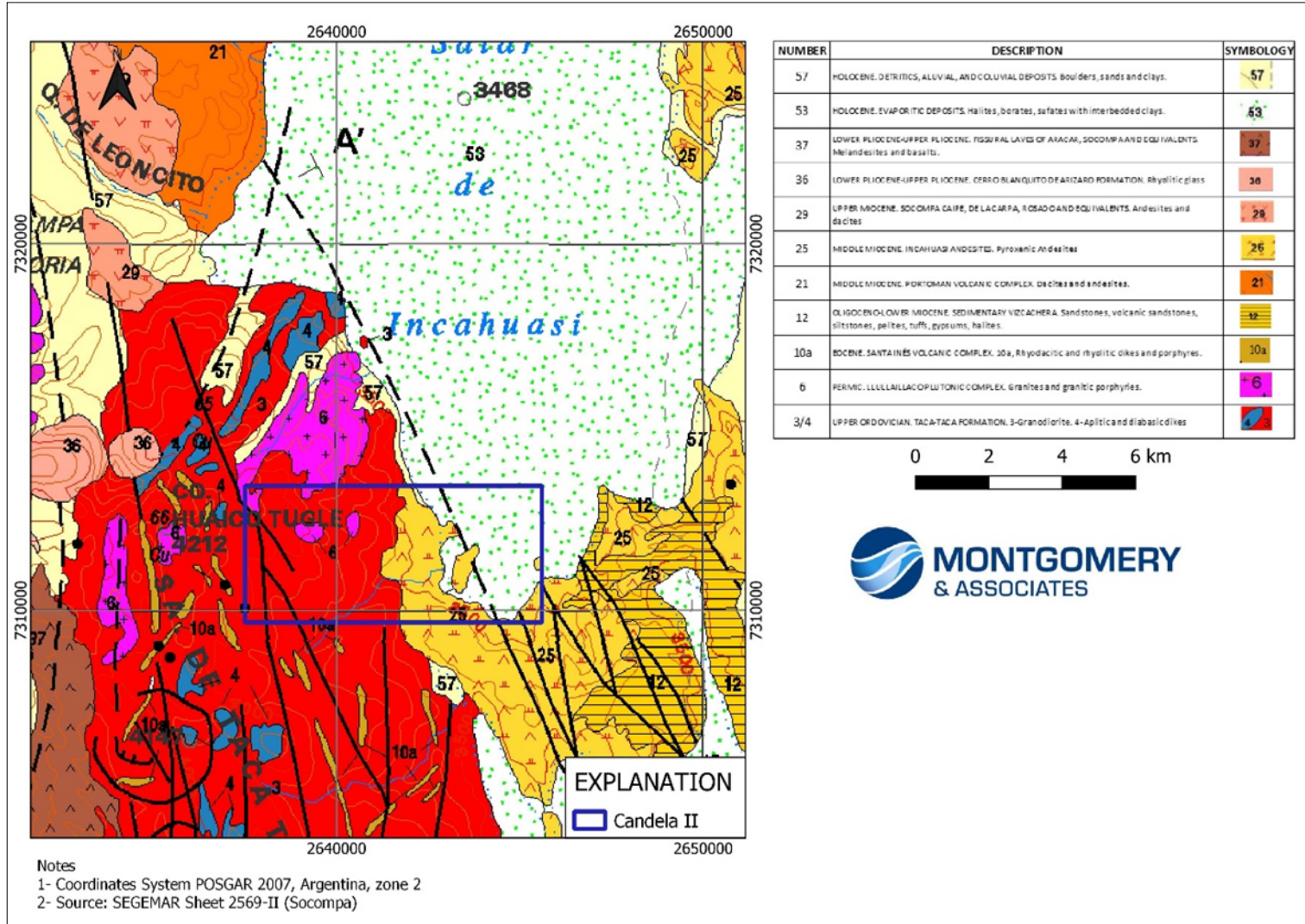
The Salar Incahuasi is located in the Geological Province of La Puna (Turner, 1972) and within the Puna Austral Geological Sub-province (Alonso et al., 1984a). One of the most important characteristics that define the Geological Province of La Puna is the presence of evaporite basins or "salares" where deposits of borates, sodium sulfate and lithium are concentrated. The Salar Incahuasi occupies one of these endorheic (internal drainage) basins. Evaporite basins near the Project area include Arizaro, Jama, Rincón, Lullaillaco and Antofalla. **Figure 7-1** shows the geological map of the area and the stratigraphic explanations associated for the units.

The oldest rocks in the area crop out to the southwest of the Incahuasi salt flat forming the Taca Taca mountain range, which correspond to the Taca Taca Formation. This unit is of Ordovician age, composed essentially of a granodiorite with coarse-grained facies and fine-grained facies, intruded by aplitic and diabasic dikes of the same age. Later, the Taca Taca Formation was intruded by a set of bodies with a porphyritic texture attributed to the Lullallaco plutonic complex (Permian) and by rhyodacitic and rhyolitic dikes and porphyries from the Santa Inés volcanic complex (Eocene).

The sedimentary outcrops located between the Incahuasi and Arizaro salt flats correspond to the Vizcachera Formation of Oligocene to Middle Miocene age, consisting of sandy-conglomerate, sandy-clayey and sandy-chalky, poorly consolidated rocks. The other rocks that dominate the area are of volcanic origin. Volcanic rocks consist mostly of basalts, andesites, dacites and rhyolites of upper Tertiary age.

The basins between the volcanic outcrops consist of Quaternary age, poorly consolidated to unconsolidated, colluvial and alluvial sedimentary deposits. The Quaternary fill terminates, and interfingers with the evaporite deposits, which form salt flats in the central areas of the basins.





Source: Segemar (2008)

Figure 7-1. Geological Map for Candela II Project Area

## **ORDOVICIAN**

### **Taca Taca Formation (Numbers 3 and 4 on Figure 7-1)**

The Taca Taca Formation is composed of a granodiorite intruded by aplitic and diabasic dike rocks (Méndez, 1975) first described this formation as the plutonic body outcropping on the western margin of the Salar Incahuasi and on the northwestern edge of the Salar Arizaro, forming the Sierra de Taca Taca.

### **Plutonic Ordovician Rocks**

A set of Ordovician outcrops in the area of the Western Puna make up a volcano-sedimentary and plutonic belt which is known as the Western Puna Eruptive Belt and is assigned to the Upper Ordovician (Coira et al., 1999). In the mountains that border the Arizaro salt flat, the following granitoids occur: Chachas, Taca Taca (419 + 16 Ma), Arita (419-418 Ma), Macón, Navarro (429+ 36 Ma) and La Casualidad; these are located on a sedimentary basement of Ordovician age, with a low degree of metamorphism. The best-studied pluton is that of Taca Taca. According to Koukharsky and Lanés (1994) a gray biotitic monzogranite predominates, crossed by aplitic dikes and diffuse contact pegmatite lenses. A recent K-Ar dating of the gray monzogranite biotites assign it a minimum age of 419 + 16.0 Ma (Koukharsky and Lanés, 1994). These outcrops separate the Arizaro and Incahuasi salt flats.

## **PERMIAN**

### **Llullaillaco Plutonic Complex (Number 6 on Figure 7-1)**

Mendez (1975) grouped various rocks, previously described as part of the Taca Taca, Llullaillaco and La Casualidad Formations, as the Llullaillaco Plutonic Complex. At the northern end of the Taca Taca mountain range, a set of outcrops with a porphyritic texture intrude into the Taca Taca granodiorite, and are included the Llullaillaco Complex. The complex consists of tonalitic-granodioritic porphyries, granitic porphyries, rhyodacitic porphyries as well as rocks affected by hydrothermal alteration linked to magmatic activity.

## **PALEOCENE-EOCENE**

### **Santa Ines Volcanic Complex (Number 10a on Figure 7-1)**

The Santa Ines volcanic complex consists of rocks that previously are included in the Taca Taca and Lullaillaco Formations (Zappettini et al., 2001). The complex predominantly consists of dacite, dacitic ignimbrites, and rhyodacitic to rhyolitic dikes.

In the Taca Taca range, rhyodacitic and rhyolitic porphyry dikes intrude the Paleozoic granitic-granodioritic basement of the Taca Taca Formation. Radiometric dating of a dacitic porphyry belonging to the outcropping sequence in the Taca Taca area estimates a K/Ar age of 42 Ma (Zappettini et al. 2001). For these reasons, the group is assigned to the Lower Eocene-Oligocene.

## **MIDDLE OLIGOCENE - LOWER MIOCENE**

### **Vizcachera Formation (Number 12 on Figure 7-1)**

The Vizcachera Formation corresponds to the sedimentary sequence between the Arizaro and Incahuasi salt flats. The sequence consists of 1 to 10 centimeter (cm) thick layers of sandy-conglomeratic, sandy-clayey, weakly-consolidated sedimentary units. In the upper part of the formation, light gray sandstones of probable aeolian origin occur.

## **MIDDLE MIOCENE**

### **Portomán Volcanic Complex (Number 21 on Figure 7-1)**

Koukharsky (1988a) described a set of pyroclastic rocks, dacitic and andesitic lavas that form the Portomán Volcanic Complex. Outcrops to the west of the Incahuasi salar consist of finely vesiculated, gray, brown and purple dacites and andesites.

### **Incahuasi Andesites (Number 25 on Figure 7-1)**

The Incahuasi andesites are located between the Incahuasi and Arizaro salares. They form thin black mantles overlying older rocks, and are disaggregated into blocks. The outcrops consist mostly of andesites, containing phenocrysts of plagioclase, amphibole, pyroxene and biotite. They unconformably overlie the granodiorites of the Taca Taca Formation and units belonging to the Vizcachera Formation.

## **UPPER MIOCENE**

### **Socompa Caipe, de la Carpa, and Rosado Volcanic Complexes (Number 29 on Figure 7-1)**

Included in these complexes are the volcanic centers that, from north to south, comprise the basal part of the Salín hill, the Socompa Caipe hill, and the outcrops are part of the Loma Colorada. In the study area, the andesites and dacites that crop out in the Leoncito ravine have been assigned to this unit.

## **PLIOCENE**

### **Cerrito Blanco de Arizaro Formation (Number 36 on Figure 7-1)**

This formation was initially designated by Galliski et al. (1987). The name comes from the denomination used by Koukharsky (1969) for those vitreous rocks that make up the domes located to the east of the Aracar hill (northwest of the Taca Taca mountain range) and in the Vega Arizaro area. These domes are composed of light gray to cream white glassy flows in which biotite phenocrysts stand out (Koukharsky, 1988a). The glass appears fresh and colorless. There are vesicles which are partially occupied by what is believed to be sericite.

### **Aracar lavas, Socompa ( Number 37 on Figure 7-1)**

These lavas occur in the western sector of the Taca Taca range. It consists of dark gray to black basaltic rocks that are partly vesicular with phenocrysts of plagioclase (labradorite), pyroxenes (hypersthene and augite) and olivine.

## **HOLOCENE**

### **Evaporite deposits (Number 53 on Figure 7-1)**

Evaporite deposits occupy the central part of the basin and are actively being deposited via evaporation. They are composed of chloride, sulfate and borate minerals, interbedded with pelitic deposits (Alonso, 1999). The Incahuasi salt flat has a characteristic crusty surface, with the development of polygon surface structures up to 2-3 m in diameter and up to 50 cm thick.

### **Alluvial and colluvial deposits (Number 57 on Figure 7-1)**

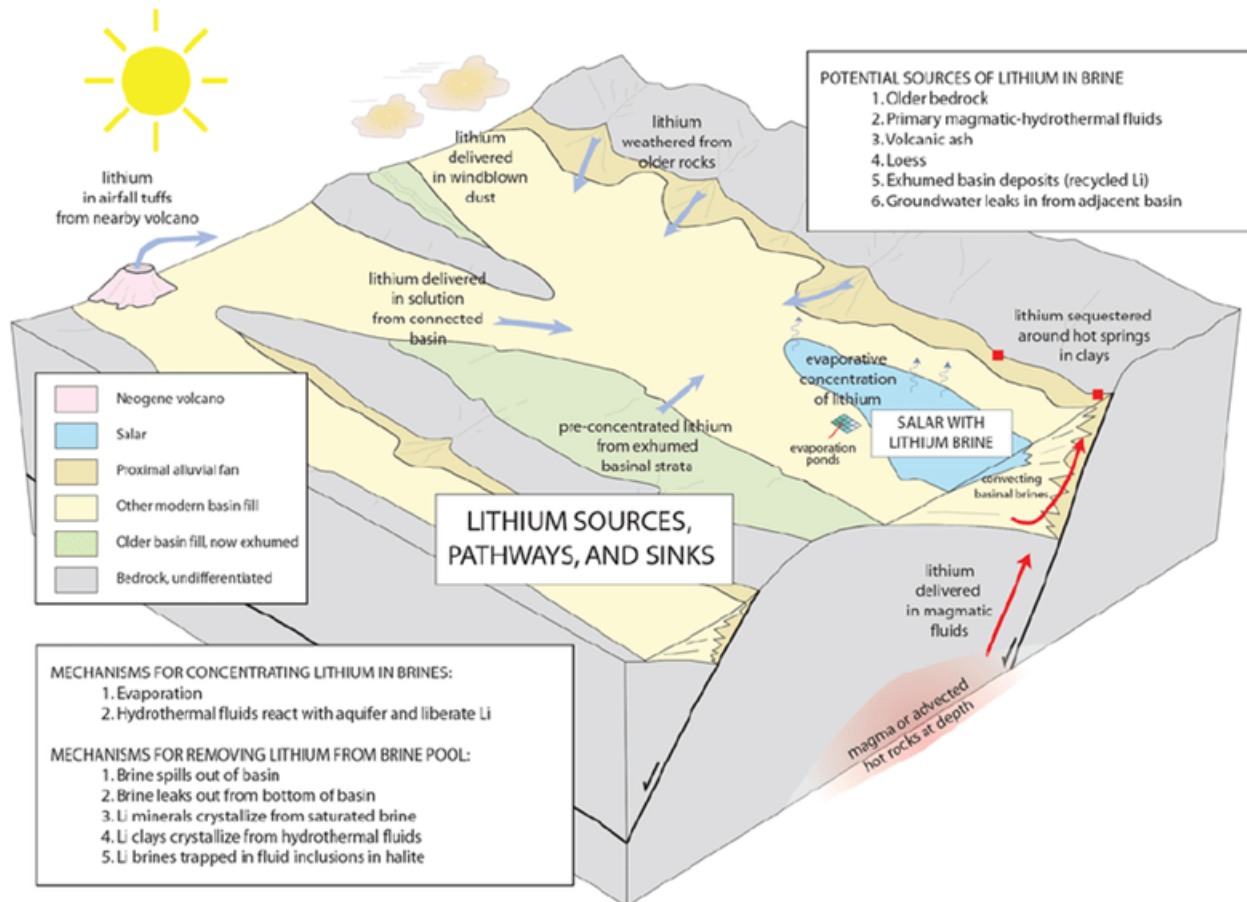
These youngest sediments in the area are located to the north in Pampa Coria and in the Vega de Arizaro sector. These deposits consist of unconsolidated materials. They occur widely and have variable thicknesses that increase towards the lower areas. Alluvial fans form large sedimentary deposits with poorly stratified layers of gravel and sand that grade to silt and evaporite towards the distal sectors. The youngest alluvial fans in these basins are superimposed on older ones, and are actively being deposited. In the distal sectors they intercalate with each other as they grow toward the lower parts of the basin floor.

#### **7.1 Mineralization**

The mineralization for the project consists of a lithium-enriched brine that is contained within the pore spaces of the sedimentary strata in the salar basin. In addition to lithium, boron and potassium enrichment are considered as potential future economic elements. The boundaries of the mineralization are suspected to be the basin boundary, although some lithium-enriched brine may be contained in the fractures and/or pores of the rocks that form the basin boundary.

## 8 Deposit Type

The deposit type is a lithium-enriched, saline brine aquifer occurring in a high altitude, hydraulically closed basin. The conceptual geological model of salars by Bradley et al. (2013) (**Figure 8-1**) agrees well with the observed conditions in the salars in the Puna region in Northern Argentina. In closed basin systems where evaporation potential exceeds precipitation input, the freshwater evaporates, concentrating the elements in the water and producing brines. When even small amounts of lithium are present in the freshwater, lithium has the potential to evaporate-concentrate because it does not easily crystallize into mineral form until effectively all of the water is evaporated. Therefore, lithium stays in solution in the aquifer resulting in lithium-rich brine in closed basins where the conditions are optimal for its evapo-concentration.



Source: Bradley et al. (2013)

Figure 8-1. Generic Model of a Salar with an Enriched Lithium Brine

The year 2021 exploration program, and future proposed exploration programs are based on the concept that extractable brines are encountered in permeable aquifer materials, such as porous

halite, or permeable clastic sediments. Therefore, exploration drilling attempts to target permeable aquifer material. Exploration also tends to target the thickest parts of the sedimentary sequence where the largest thickness of aquifer material is present. The aquifer tends to increase in thickness toward the center of the basin. Ultimately, the amount of brine able to be pumped from the basin will be a function of the thickness and hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer, and independent of the lithium content in the brine.

## 9 Exploration

### Near-Surface Brine Sampling

David Carabanti and his assistants went to the Incahuasi Salar in May 2021 and took 27 samples using a petrol-powered auger. The location map is shown on **Figure 9-1**. They and were able to collect 25 one-liter samples and two, 200-liter samples obtained at locations 001 and 002. The auger holes were approximately 400 m apart. **Table 9-1** shows the laboratory results for the surface sample results.

The samples were collected using a bailer, put into 1-liter bottles, labelled and securely taped closed, and put into a secure box for transport to the SGS laboratory. Of the 27 auger holes, all had brine at less than 1 m in depth. A duplicate sample (lab number 28) was obtained for location PM-25; lab samples 42 and 43 were control samples (**Table 9-1**).



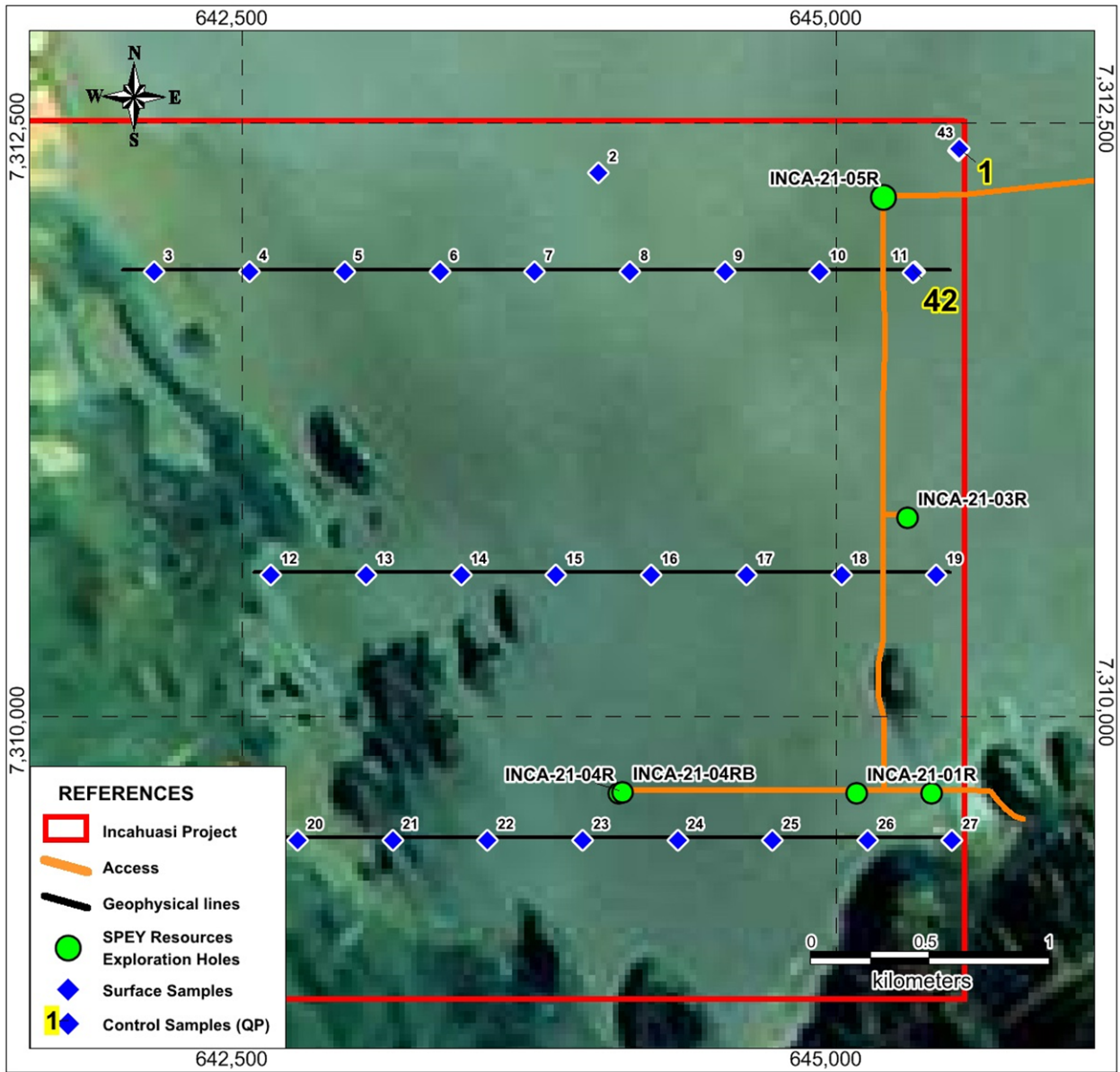


Figure 9-1. Map of the Brine Sampling Locations

Table 9-1. Laboratory Chemical Analyses for Surface Sampling Program

| Sample_Laboratory | Sample_AIS_Field | X_UTM-WGS84 | Y_UTM-WGS84 | Lithium_mg/L  | Magnesium_mg/L | TDS_mg/L |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| 1                 | PA200            | 645515      | 7312396     | 144.74        | 4791.9         | 339300   |
| 2                 | PB200            | 644001      | 7312303     | 97.18         | 3034           | 332200   |
| 3                 | PM01             | 642131      | 7311883     | 88            | 3682.3         | 343500   |
| 4                 | PM02             | 642531      | 7311883     | 64.7          | 1973.3         | 351300   |
| 5                 | PM03             | 642931      | 7311883     | 94.1          | 3055.1         | 348600   |
| 6                 | PM04             | 643331      | 7311883     | 92.4          | 2840.3         | 344600   |
| 7                 | PM05             | 643731      | 7311883     | 74.6          | 2412.2         | 347600   |
| 8                 | PM06             | 644131      | 7311883     | 79.1          | 2466.7         | 346900   |
| 9                 | PM07             | 644531      | 7311883     | 96.5          | 3028.3         | 346700   |
| 10                | PM08             | 644931      | 7311883     | 118.3         | 4123.2         | 353000   |
| 11                | PM09             | 645331      | 7311883     | 113.4         | 4055.1         | 354700   |
| 12                | PM10             | 642622      | 7310608     | 40.1          | 1249           | 284100   |
| 13                | PM11             | 643022      | 7310608     | 68.2          | 2032.6         | 347100   |
| 14                | PM12             | 643422      | 7310608     | 54.4          | 1258           | 351400   |
| 15                | PM13             | 643822      | 7310608     | 50.4          | 1115.1         | 345900   |
| 16                | PM14             | 644222      | 7310608     | 62.7          | 1649.3         | 340000   |
| 17                | PM15             | 644622      | 7310608     | 65.1          | 1694.6         | 343100   |
| 18                | PM16             | 645022      | 7310608     | 62            | 1569.6         | 342700   |
| 19                | PM17             | 645422      | 7310608     | 70.8          | 2286.4         | 344600   |
| 20                | PM18             | 642733      | 7309490     | 25.4          | 1048.4         | 132900   |
| 21                | PM19             | 643133      | 7309490     | 45.1          | 1142.4         | 342900   |
| 22                | PM20             | 643533      | 7309490     | 46            | 859.5          | 337600   |
| 23                | PM21             | 643933      | 7309490     | 55.9          | 1187.1         | 338000   |
| 24                | PM22             | 644333      | 7309490     | 60.3          | 1286.8         | 341800   |
| 25                | PM23             | 644733      | 7309490     | 58.8          | 1357.2         | 341800   |
| 26                | PM24             | 645133      | 7309490     | 69.1          | 1627.8         | 340400   |
| 27                | PM25             | 645488      | 7309491     | 151.7         | 4615.5         | 348500   |
| 28                | PM25             | 645488      | 7309491     | 173.26        | 4588.5         | 322700   |
| 42                | PM11-BIS         | 645325      | 7311881     | <b>110.32</b> | <b>93143.5</b> | 350100   |
| 43                | PA200-BIS        | 645519      | 7312402     | <b>121.79</b> | <b>91281.9</b> | 352400   |

mg/L = milligrams per liter

Control samples are highlighted in yellow

Iso-concentration maps for lithium and TDS are shown on **Figure 9-2** and **9-3**. Inspection of the figures suggests that there is a likely correlation between lithium and total dissolved solids. The lowest values of lithium and TDS occur in the southwest part of the basin near the boundary. The Author believes that this area may be a freshwater recharge area and there may be some dilution of the brine occurring in this area.

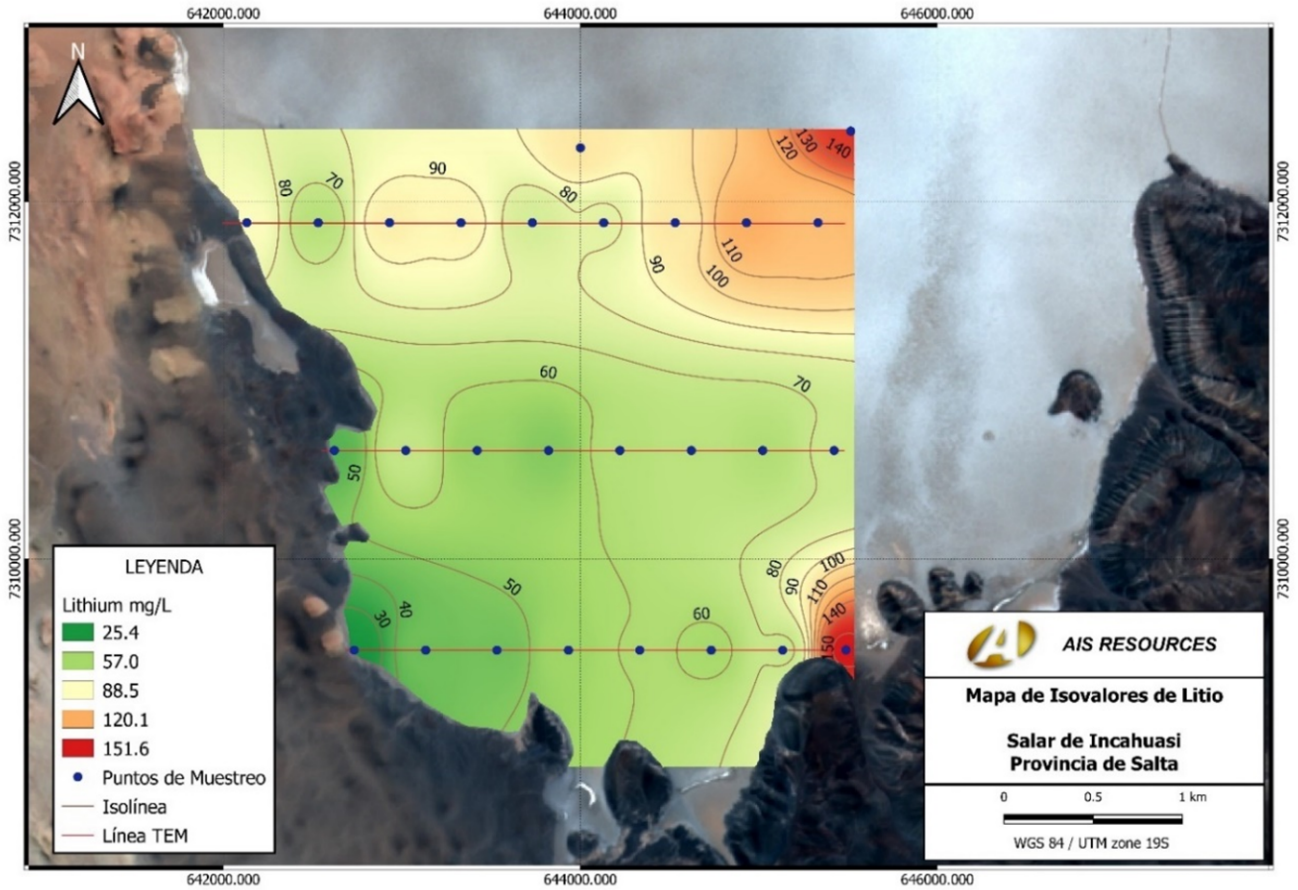


Figure 9-2. Iso-Concentration Map of Near-Surface Lithium Concentration

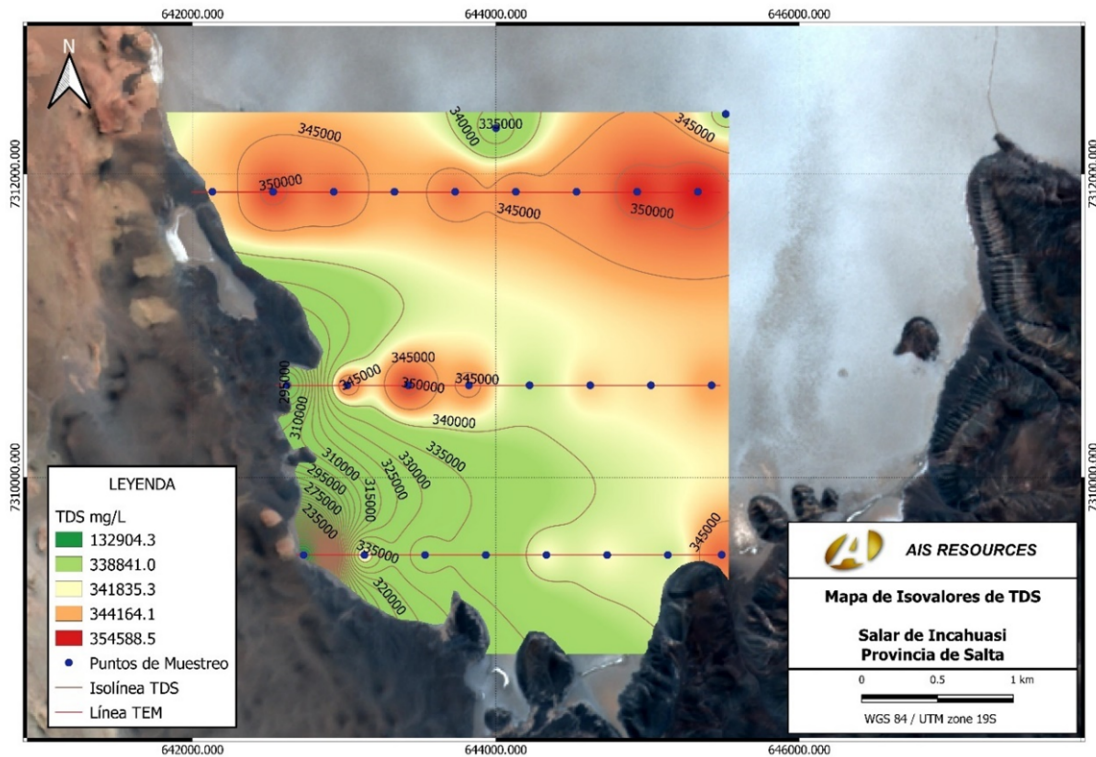


Figure 9-3. Iso-Concentration Map of Near-Surface Total Dissolved Solids Concentration

### 9.1 TEM Geophysics Study

In 2021, following the surface sampling results, Quantec (2021) was contracted to conduct a TEM survey of the property. A total of 50 soundings were taken along three, east-west lines. The location map is shown on **Figure 9-4**. The goal of the survey was to identify locations for five exploration boreholes. Results of the boreholes are discussed in Chapter 10.

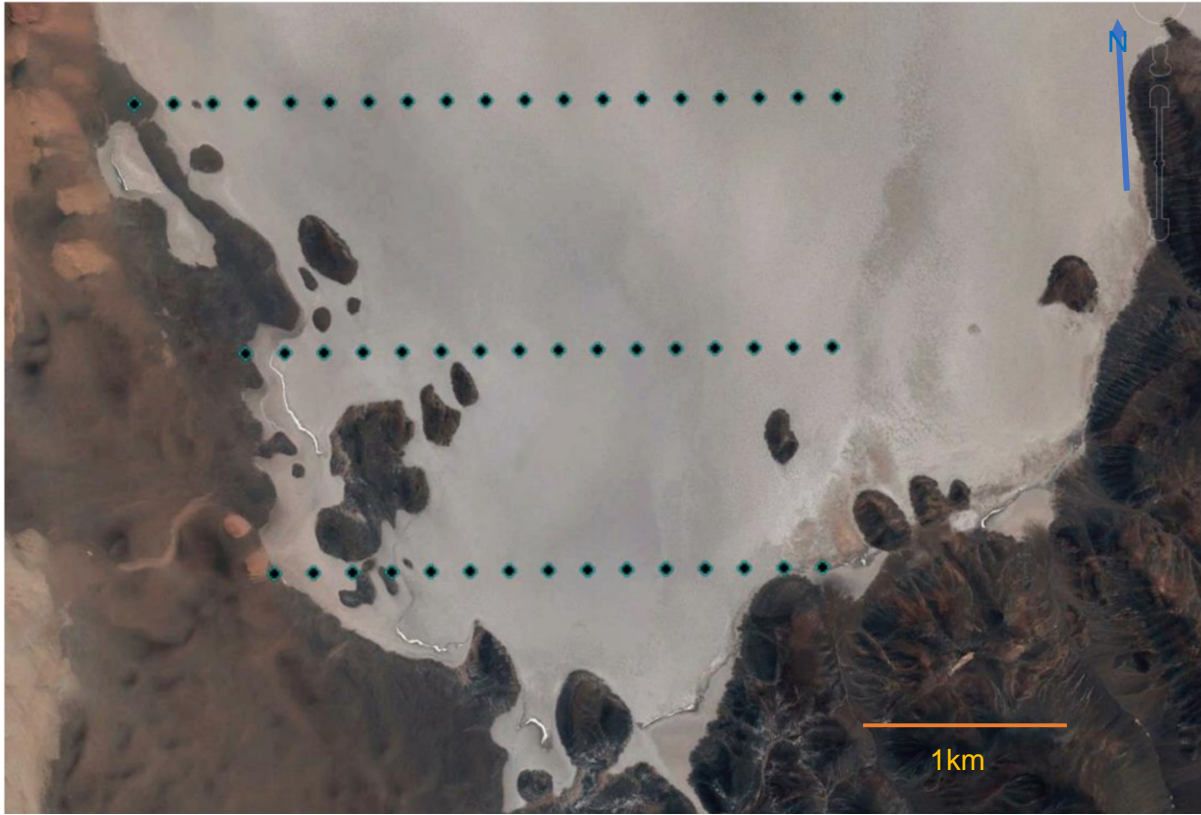


Figure 9-4. Location Map of TEM Geophysics Survey Points

Interpreted sections for the three TEM lines are shown on **Figures 9-5, 9-6, and 9-7.**

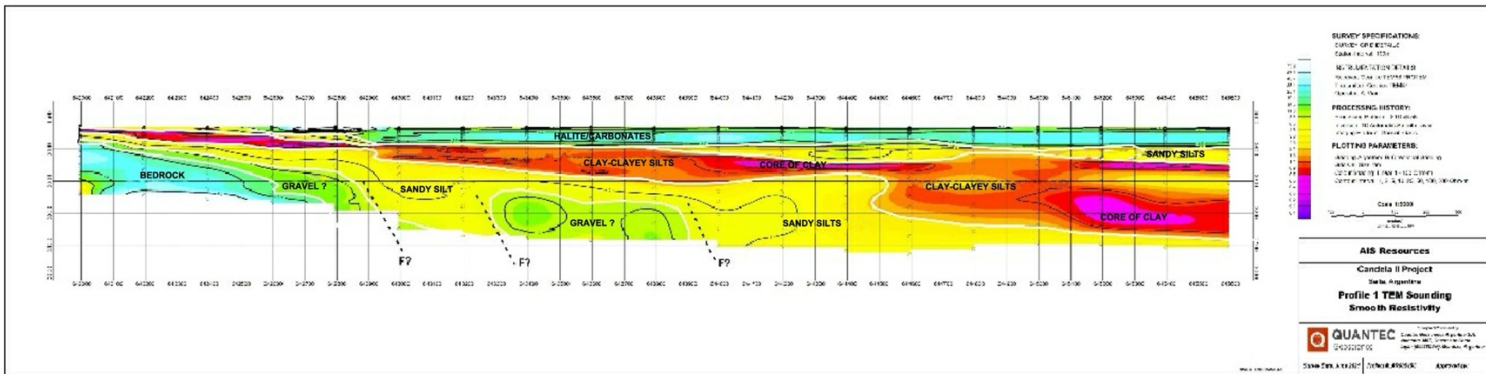


Figure 9-5. TEM Profile for North Line

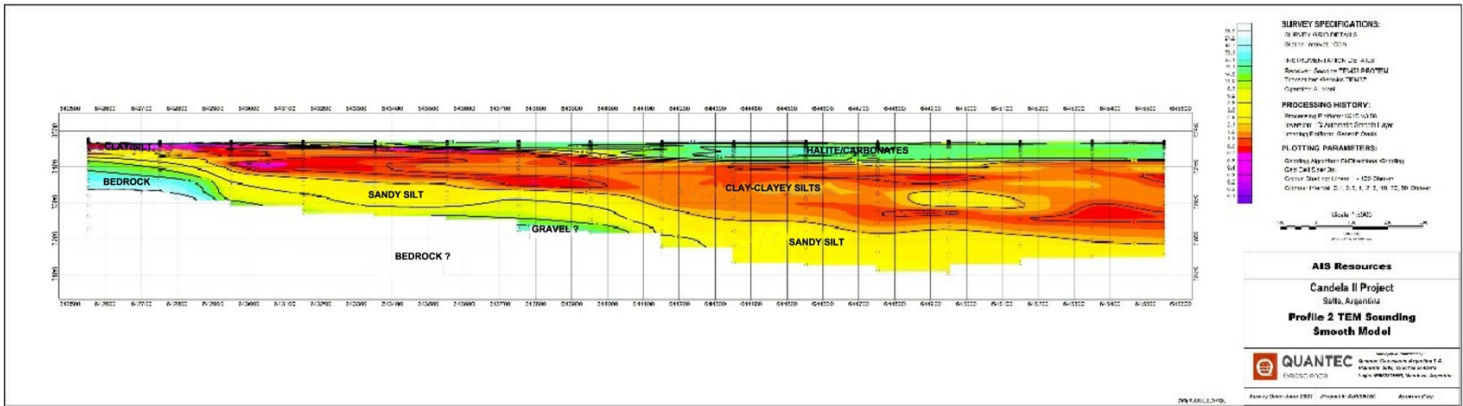


Figure 9-6. TEM Profile for Center Line

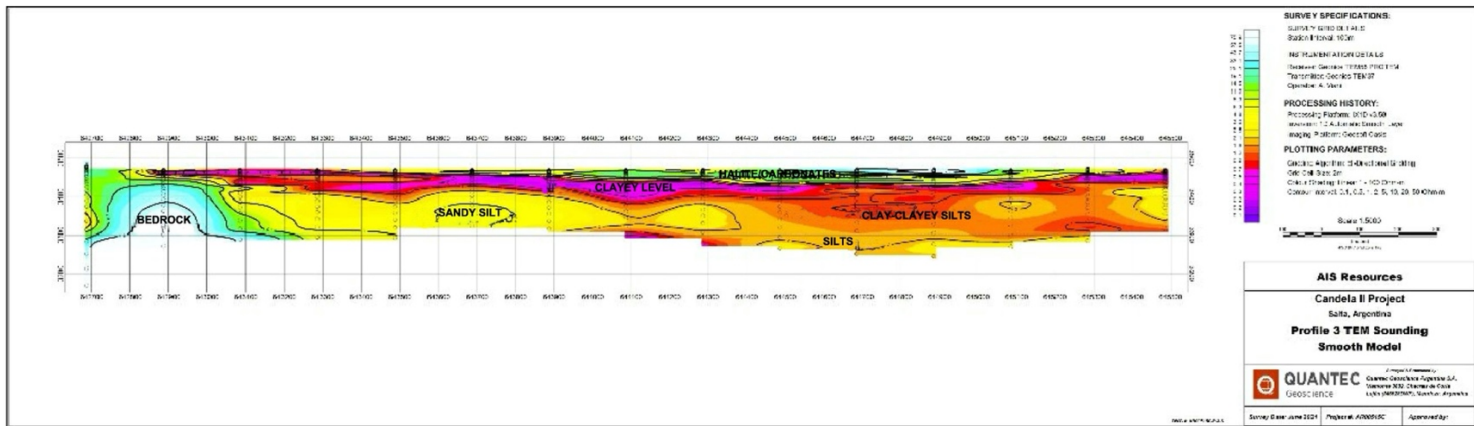


Figure 9-7. TEM Profile for South Line

In general, the three TEM lines shown on the surface an area of green-blue color, with a powerful thickness towards the north sector. This layer has a resistivity that varies between 11 and 33 Ohm-meters (Ohm-m) and is interpreted as sequences of halite and carbonates. According to previous experience, halite occurs both in compact and crystalline form. To the west there is also an area of blue color presenting a resistivity above 33 Ohm-m, this layer can be interpreted as part of the granitic basement of the Taca Taca Formation.

Below, the levels of violet to orange are interpreted as sequences of fine material of high porosity and low permeability (silt-clayey and silt-sandy), with a resistivity of 0.1 to 2.1 Ohm-m. This layer has a thickness of approximately 200 m to the east and is wedged to the west, while from north to south it maintains its relatively constant thickness.

The yellow color has resistivity values ranging from 2.1 to 8.3 Ohm-m. This layer is interpreted as a sandy-silt sequence. It has a variable thickness, being most prominent to the north. The green color that is observed at depth are interpreted as coarser grained basal conglomerates with potentially good porosity and permeability.

## **9.2 Exploration by Others**

Several other exploration campaigns have been done in the basin during the last 14 years on other mining concessions. While not specific to the Project, the results from these programs provide valuable information for the Project. Two of these have been publicly reported and are summarized below. Although these campaigns are not on the Issuer 's Candela II concession, it is the experience of the QP that in mature salar basins such as Incahuasi, large variability in chemistry does not occur except in areas that have been diluted with fresh water. Therefore, their reported results have value. Other groups in the basin, like Ganfeng Lithium, have been exploration drilling in the basin, but there is no reporting requirement for them, and those results are not publicly available.

### **9.2.1 Latin American Minerals**

Latin American Minerals Inc, now Sterling Metals Corporation, reported in November 2008 “encouraging results were received from the Incahuasi Salt Lake, where 17 brines and 17 crust samples were collected. Incahuasi Salt Lake shows high potassium content in the brines. Lithium concentrations are also encouraging with consistently high values, but the higher magnesium content of these brines suggests the lithium would be more expensive to extract than in the Cauchari Salt Lake.”

Latin American's exploration program consisted of excavating 1-2m deep holes cutting across the salt lake crust to sample the brine underneath. A total of 64 pits were dug and 39 of them contained brine. It is worth noting, that the sediment samples are not relevant because, in general, there is little correlation between lithium in sediments and lithium in brine within a given basin. **Table 9-2** shows the results from selected sediment and shallow brine samples.

Table 9-2. Latin America Minerals Sampling Results

| Inca Huasi Salt Lake Sampling Results |             |               |               |             |               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sample                                | Sample type | Potassium (%) | Lithium (ppm) | Boron (ppm) | Magnesium (%) |
| 11865                                 | Crust       | 0.97          | 94            | 109         | 0.48          |
| 11868                                 | Crust       | 1.19          | 65            | 48          | 0.29          |
| 11872                                 | Crust       | 0.39          | 62            | 38          | 0.27          |
| 11863                                 | Crust       | 0.29          | 40            | 38          | 0.15          |
| 11870                                 | Crust       | 0.18          | 29            | 61          | 0.10          |
| 11906                                 | Crust       | 0.06          | 20            | 58          | 0.10          |
| Sample                                | Sample type | Potassium (%) | Lithium (ppm) | Boron (ppm) | Magnesium (%) |
| 11923                                 | Brine       | 0.37          | 227           | 92          | 0.92          |
| 11864                                 | Brine       | 0.53          | 155           | 78          | 0.66          |
| 11867                                 | Brine       | 0.67          | 148           | 92          | 0.59          |
| 11871                                 | Brine       | 0.81          | 204           | 93          | 0.92          |
| 11869                                 | Brine       | 0.86          | 182           | 104         | 0.82          |
| 11866                                 | Brine       | 0.94          | 239           | 105         | 1.33          |

ppm = parts per million

### 9.2.2 PepinNini Minerals

PepinNini Minerals Limited “PepinNini” have proposed three drill holes and completed TEM survey and sampling. **Table 9-3** shows results from the Incahuasi sampling as it was reported to their shareholders in 2019. **Figure 9-8** shows the location map of PepinNini drilled wells and sampling locations.

Table 9-3. PepinNini Minerals Reported Lithium Results for Salar de Incahuasi

| Brine          | Li Lithium % | Na Sodium % | K Potassium % | Ca Calcium % | Mg Magnesium % | Cl Chloride % | SO <sub>4</sub> Sulphate % | BO <sub>2</sub> Borate % | Mg:Li  |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Rincon         | 0.82         | 1.94        | 3.81          | <0.01        | 2.44           | 3.78          | 29.79                      | 3.16                     | 8:1    |
| Incahuasi      | 0.60         | <0.10       | 2.17          | 12.00        | 2.80           | 30.00         | -                          | 1.10                     | 5:1    |
| Blend - Case 1 | 2.24         | 0.09        | 0.21          | 8.87         | 2.28           | 33.79         | 0.05                       | 0.34                     | 1.02:1 |

% = percent



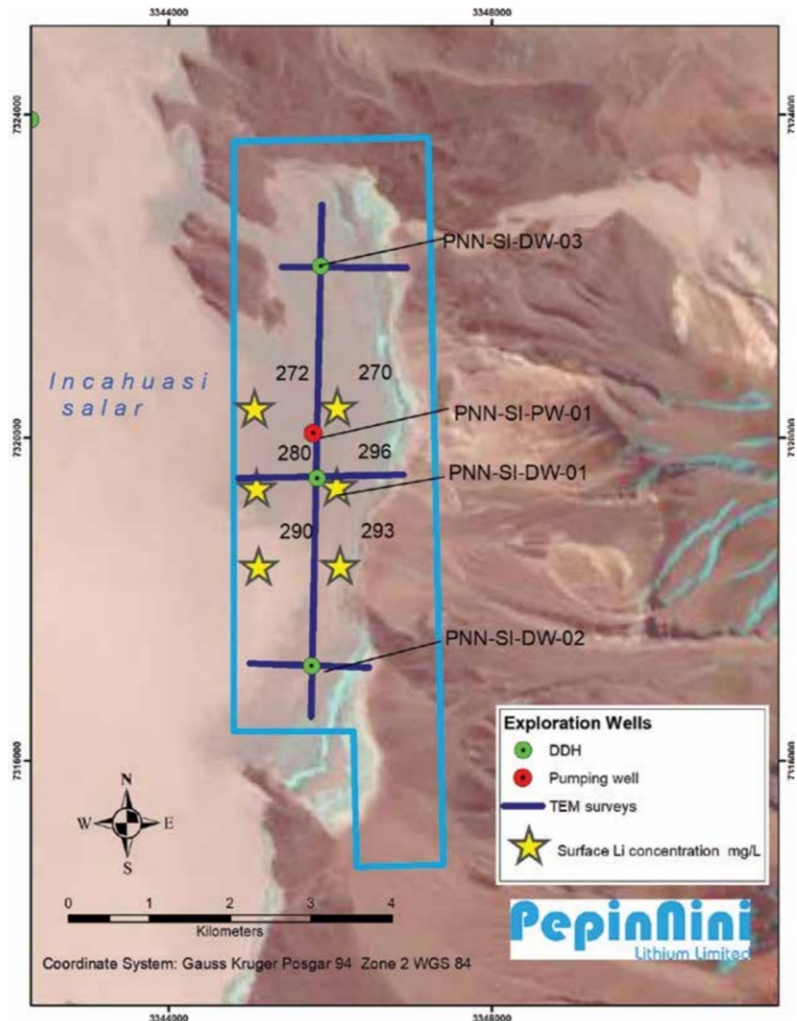


Figure 9-8. PepinNini Drill Hole Locations and Lithium Surface Concentrations

PepinNini reported 220-296 ppm lithium; this data was taken from an unpublished report compiled by Alonso and Rojas (2011).

### 9.3 Other Exploration

Ganfeng Lithium Co., who has the tenements adjacent to Candela II, completed a gravity survey in 2020, drilled three exploration holes in 2021, and constructed a production well. These results are not publicly available.

## 10 Drilling

Drilling activities were conducted for the Project area during year 2021. A total of five wells were drilled using normal rotary mud circulation method. Drilling activities started on September 18<sup>th</sup> of 2021, and were finished during December 12<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Locations for all borehole locations, are shown on **Figure 10-1**.

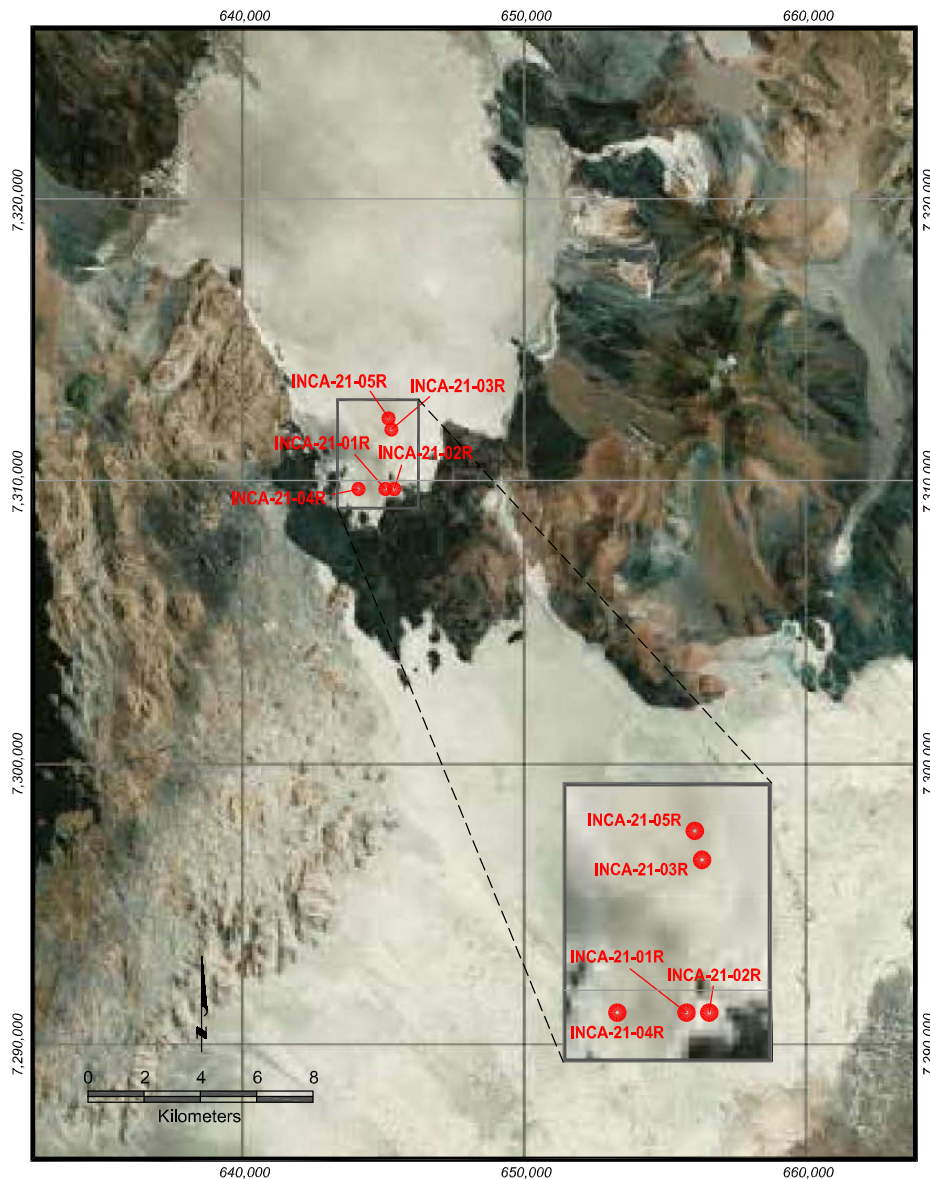


Figure 10-1. Location Map for Exploration Wells

The drilling contractor used for the program was Amaru Mining Services, based in Salta, Argentina. The drill rig used was a track-mounted, DESCO model SP4500SD. Drilling was done

using conventional circulation mud rotary. A brine-based, polymer drilling mud was used. Vizcosan, Gettrol and Poliget fluids were the drilling fluid additives used to condition the borehole to prevent collapse.

### 10.1.1 Exploration Well INCA-21-01R

Drilling activities for exploration well INCA-21-01R started on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, reaching the depth of 52 meters below land surface (m.bls) on September 26, 2021. Well schematic for well INCA-21-01R is shown on **Figure 10-2**. Location and depth information for brine exploration well INCA-21-01R is given in **Table 10-1**.

Table 10-1. Location and Depth for Exploration Well INCA-21-01R

| Exploration Well Identifier | Total Depth (m) | UTM Easting <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) | UTM Northing <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| INCA-21-01R                 | 52              | 645,086                              | 309,690                               |

<sup>1</sup> UTM Easting and Northing from a hand-held portable GPS.

The following represents a brief summary of the equipment and methods utilized during construction of the well.

- The 5½-inch diameter borehole was drilled from land surface to 52 m,bls.
- Unwashed and washed drill cuttings were collected every meter and were described and stored in labeled cutting boxes.
- Water level was measured after construction was 0.9 m,bls.
- One brine sample was collected with a packer system between 46 and 50 m,bls.

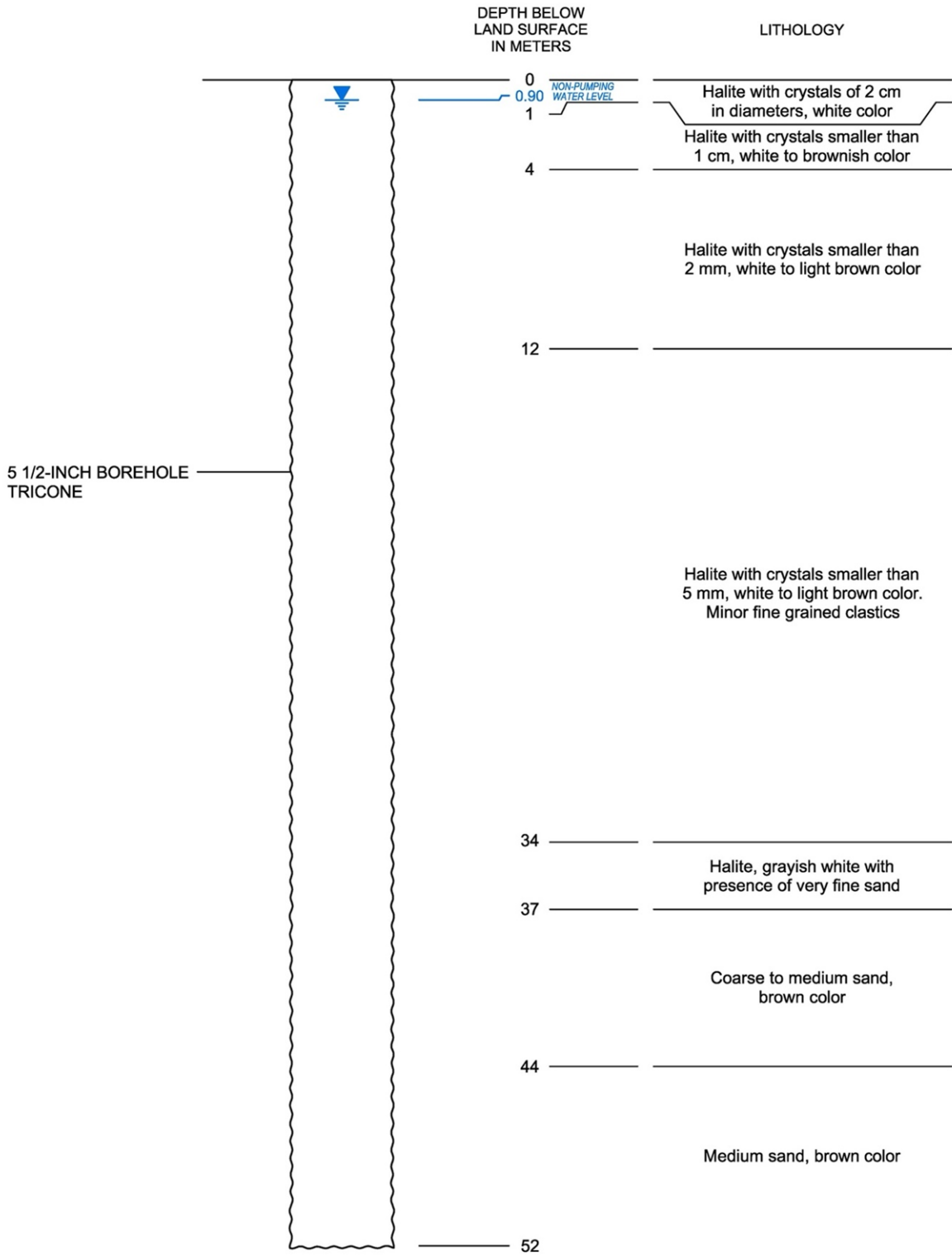


Figure 10-2. Schematic Diagram for Exploration Well INCA-21-01R

### 10.1.2 Exploration Well INCA-21-02R

Drilling activities for well INCA-21-02 started on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, reaching the final depth of 44 m,bls on October 1st, 2021. Construction schematic for well INCA-21-02R is shown on **Figure 10-3**. Location and depth information for exploration well INCA-21-02R is given in **Table 10-2**.

Table 10-2. Location and Depth for Exploration Well INCA-21-02R

| Exploration Well Identifier | Total, Depth (m) | UTM Easting <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) | UTM Northing <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| INCA-21-02R                 | 44               | 645,400                              | 7,309,690                             |

<sup>1</sup> UTM Easting and Northing from a hand-held portable GPS

The following represents a brief summary of the equipment and methods utilized during construction of the well.

- The 5½-inch diameter borehole was drilled from land surface to 44 m,bls.
- Once drilled to 44 m,bls, the borehole could not be constructed with 2-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) casing, because drilling rods got stuck inside the borehole.
- Unwashed and washed drill cuttings were collected every meter, but only to 31 m,bls due to difficulties during drilling procedures and lack of cuttings return.
- One brine sample was collected with bailer between 28 and 29 m,bls.

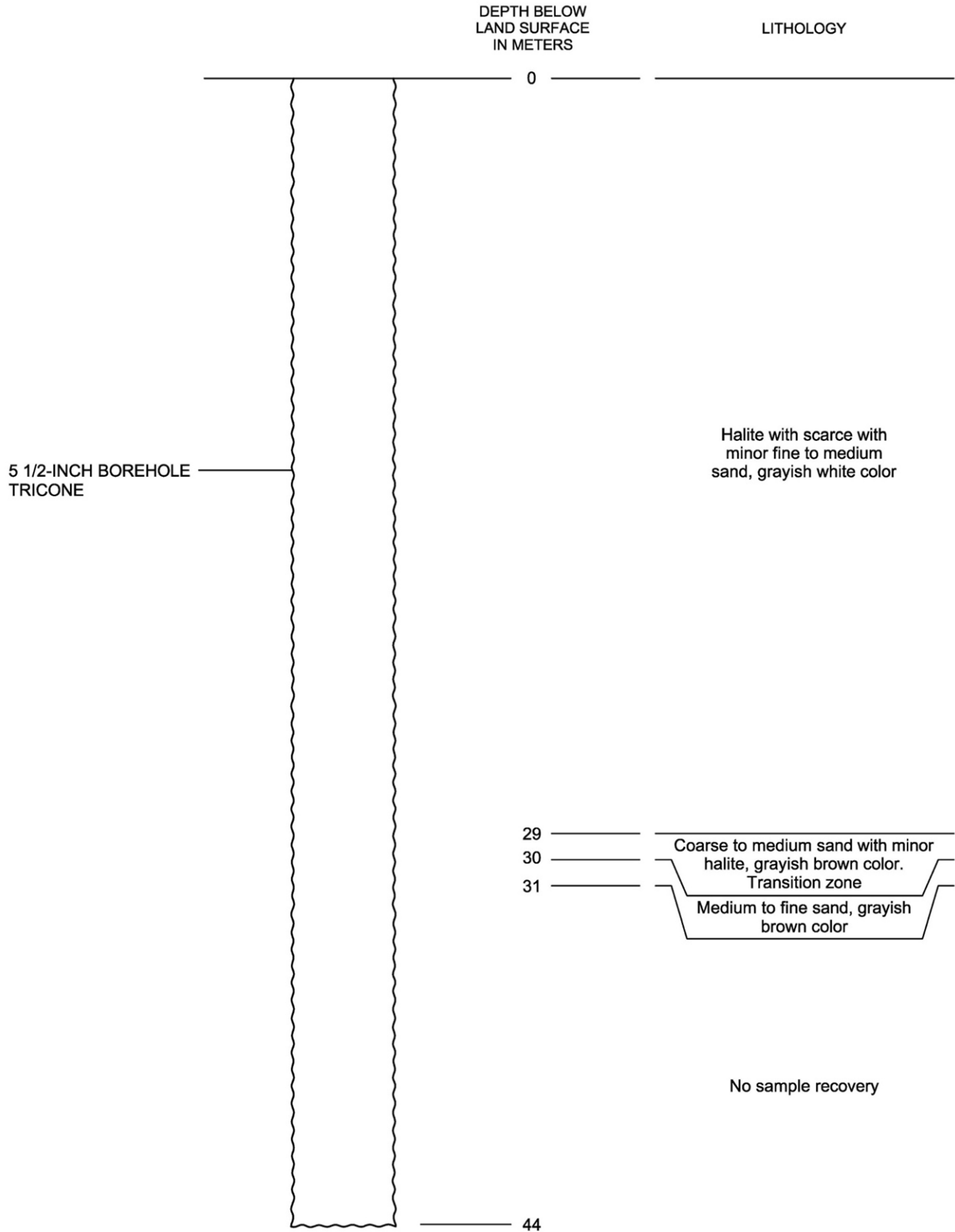


Figure 10-3. Schematic Diagram for Exploration Well INCA-21-02R

**10.1.3 Exploration Well INCA-21-03R**

Drilling activities for well INCA-21-03R started on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, reaching the depth of 70 m,bls on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Construction schematic for well INCA-21-03R is shown on **Figure 10-4**. Location and depth information for the exploration well is given in **Table 10-3**.

Table 10-3. Location and Depth for Exploration Well INCA-21-03R

| Exploration Well Identifier | Total Depth (m) | UTM Easting <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) | UTM Northing <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| INCA-21-03R                 | 70              | 645,300                              | 7,311,800                             |

<sup>1</sup> UTM Easting and Northing from a hand-held portable GPS

The following represents a brief summary of the equipment and methods utilized during construction of the well.

- The 5½-inch diameter borehole was drilled from land surface to 70 m,bls. Once drilled to total depth, the borehole was constructed with 2-inch diameter PVC casing, 1-mm slot size from 22 to 50 m,bls. Blank 2-inch PVC casing was installed from surface to 22 m,bls.
- Unwashed and washed drill cuttings were collected every meter and were described and stored in labeled cutting boxes.
- Gravel pack (2- to 4-millimeter (mm) diameter) was installed in the annular space surrounding the well screen, from bottom up 20 m,bls.
- Bentonite was installed in the annular space overlying gravel pack, from 20 to 17 m,bls.
- From land surface to 17 m,bls was filled with grout.
- One brine sample was collected after drilling was completed with packer sampling system between 46.5 and 50 m,bls.

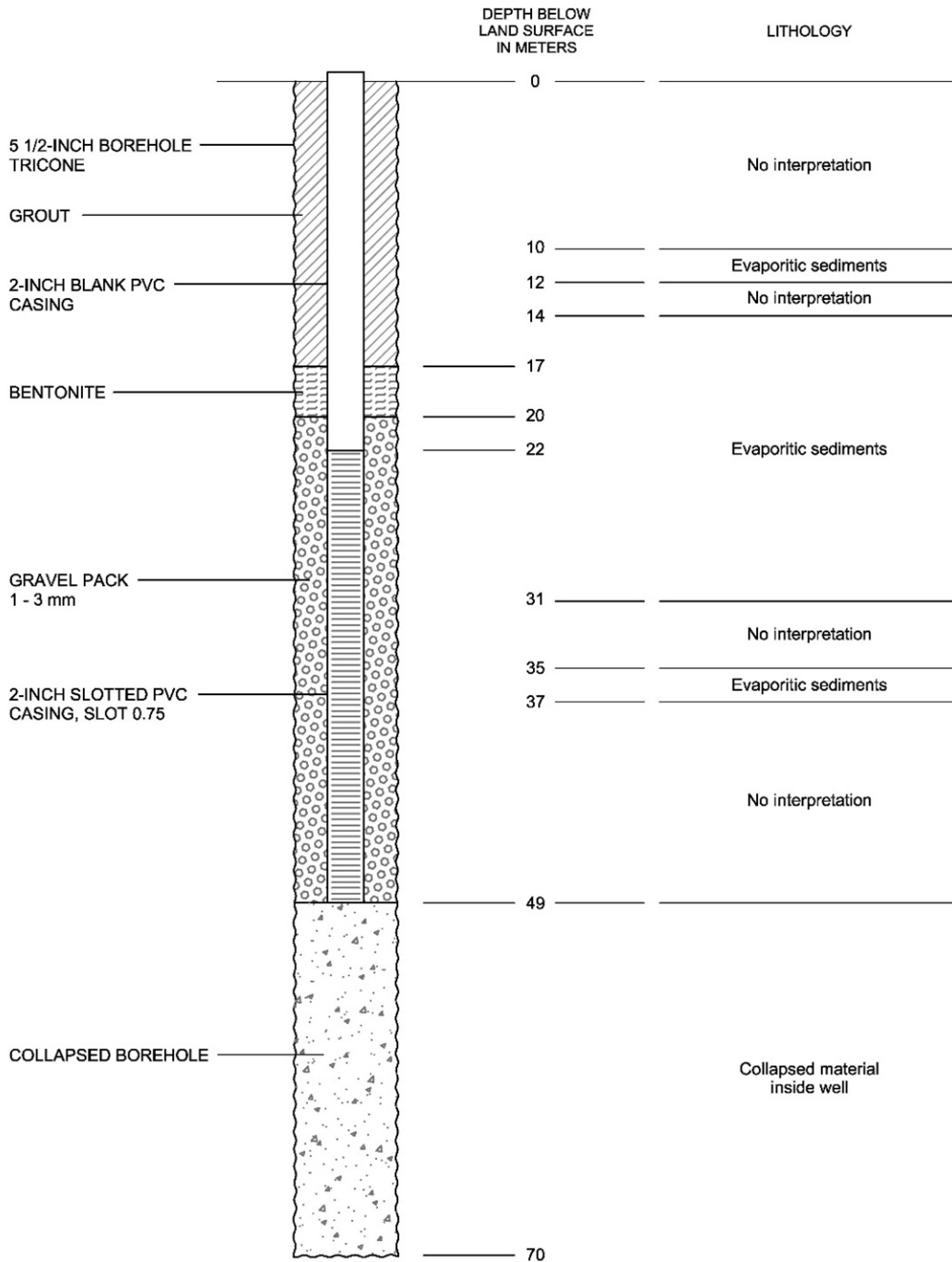


Figure 10-4. Schematic Diagram for Exploration Well INCA-21-03R

**10.1.4 Exploration Well INCA-21-04BR**

Drilling activities for well, INCA-21-04R started on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, reaching the depth of 60 m,bls, due to collapsed problem together with caving conditions encountered at 27-30 m,bls, a



second well INCA-21-04BR was drilled nearby, reaching a depth of 70 m,bls on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Construction schematic for well INCA-21-04BR is shown on **Figure 10-5**. Location and depth information for the exploration well is given in **Table 10-4**.

Table 10-4. Location and Depth for Exploration Well INCA-21-04BR

| <b>Exploration Well Identifier</b> | <b>Total, Depth (m)</b> | <b>UTM Easting<sup>1</sup><br/>(m, WGS 84)</b> | <b>UTM Northing<sup>1</sup><br/>(m, WGS 84)</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| INCA-21-04BR                       | 70                      | 644,130  | 7,309,690                                       |

<sup>1</sup> UTM Easting and Northing from a hand-held portable GPS.

The following represents a brief summary of the equipment and methods utilized during construction of the well.

- The 5½-inch diameter borehole was drilled from land surface to 70 m,bls.
- Once drilled to total depth, the borehole was constructed with 2-inch PVC slotted casing, 1-millimeter slot size, from 30 to 70 m,bls pth. Blank 2-inch diameter PVC casing was installed from surface to 30 m,bls.
- 6-inch diameter blank steel casing was installed from surface to 30 m,bls.
- Unwashed and washed drill cuttings were collected every meter and were described and stored in labeled cutting boxes.
- Gravel pack (2-4 mm diameter) was installed in the annular space from bottom to 28 m,bls. The annular space was filled with bentonite from 28 to 26 m,bls and with grout from 26 m,bls to surface.
- Depth to water level was measured as 0.7 meters m,bls.
- Two depth-specific brine samples were collected; one at 46-50 m,bls, and the other at 26-29 m,bls.

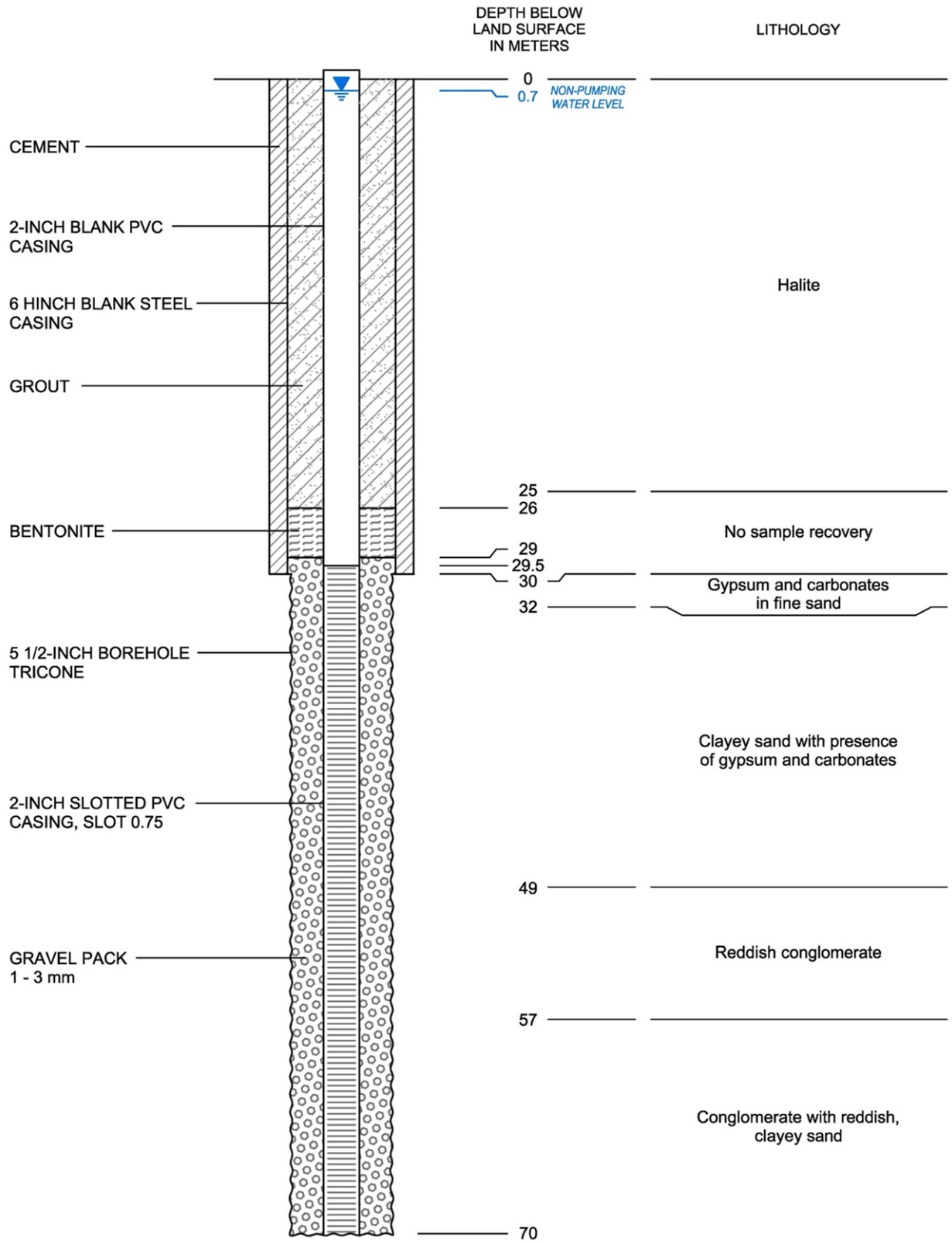


Figure 10-5. Schematic Diagram for Exploration Well INCA-21-04BR

### 10.1.5 Exploration Well INCA-21-05R

Drilling activities for well, INCA-21-05R started on November 2021, reaching the depth of 209 m,bls on December 12, 2021. Construction schematic for well INCA-21-05R is shown on **Figure 10-6**. Location and depth information for the exploration well is given in **Table 10-5**.

Table 10-5. Location and Depth for Exploration Well INCA-21-05R

| Exploration Well Identifier | Total Depth (m) | UTM Easting <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) | UTM Northing <sup>1</sup> (m, WGS 84) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| INCA-21-05R                 | 209             | 645,200                              | 7,312,200                             |

<sup>1</sup> UTM Easting and Northing from a hand-held portable GPS.

The following represents a brief summary of the equipment and methods utilized during construction of the well.

- The 5½-inch diameter borehole was drilled from land surface to 209 m,bls.
- Once drilled to total depth, the borehole was constructed with 2-inch PVC slotted casing, 1-millimeter slot size from 146 m,bls to 205.3 m,bls. Blank 2-inch PVC casing was installed from surface to 146 m,bls.
- Blank 6-inch steel casing was installed from surface to 6 m,bls.
- Unwashed and washed drill cuttings were collected every meter, and were described and stored in labeled cutting boxes.
- Gravel pack (2-4 mm diameter) was installed in the annular space from bottom up to 144 m,bls.
- Bentonite was installed from 144 to 140 m,bls, and grout from 140 m,bls to surface.
- Water level was measured at 0.5 m,bls.
- Five brine samples were collected in these wells - four of them between 46-200 m,bls with a packer sampler system, and one sample via airlifting between 150 and 205.3 m,bls.

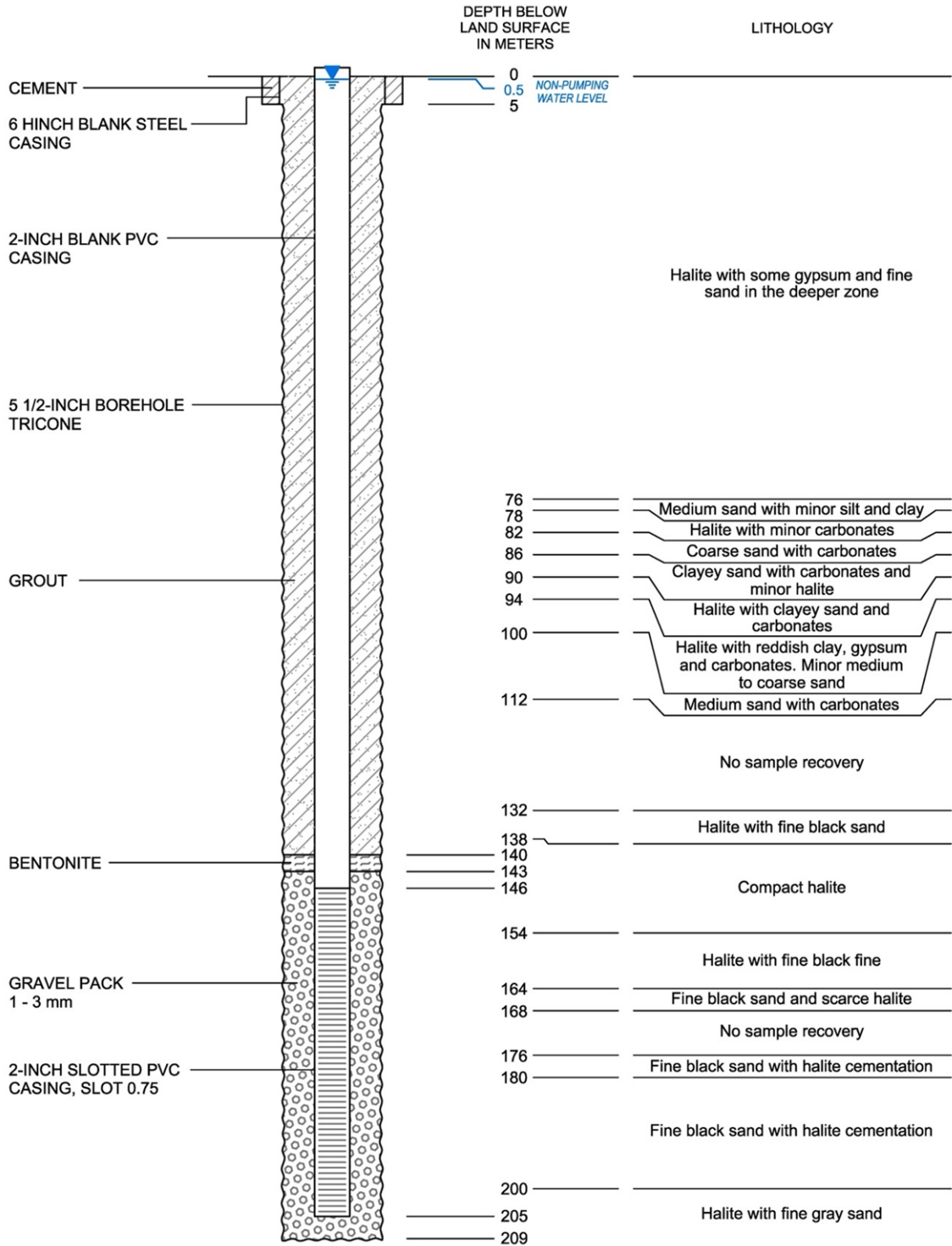


Figure 10-6. Schematic Diagram for Exploration Well INCA-21-05R

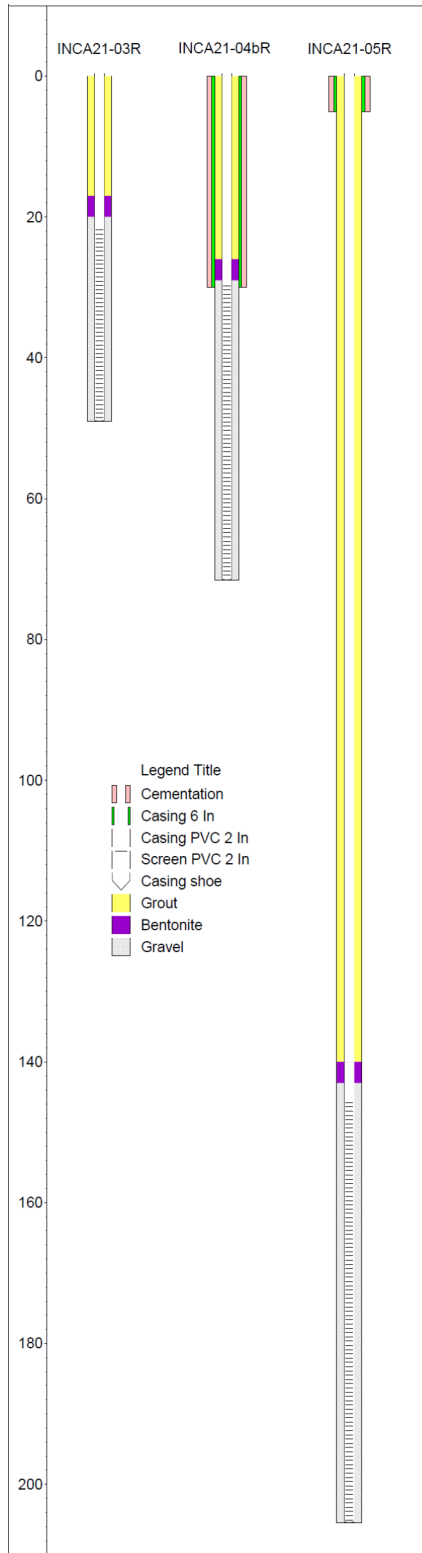


Figure 10-7. Comparison of Exploration Wells INCA-21-03R, INCA-21-04BR and INCA-21-05R

### 10.1.6 Summary of Sampling During Drilling

During drilling, chip and brine samples were collected from the cyclone at 1-m intervals using a packer system which isolated specific zones of the aquifer. Occasionally, lost circulation resulted in the inability to collect samples from some intervals. Brine samples obtained during exploration drilling are summarized in **Table 10-6**. A total of nine brine samples were collected from the boreholes and submitted for SGS laboratory chemical analyses; three samples were obtained via airlift in the completed wells. For each brine sample, field measurements were conducted on regular basis for electrical conductivity, pH and temperature. Sample collection, preparation and analytical methods are described in Section 11. Daily static water level measurements were carried out inside the drill string at the start of each drilling shift, using a water level tape. Boreholes were completed with steel surface casing and a surface sanitary cement seal.

Table 10-6. Summary of Depths and Field Parameters for Brine Samples Obtained During Drilling

| Sample No. | Well No.     | From M | To M  | Interval | Density | Conductivity | pH    | Temp °C | Observation  |
|------------|--------------|--------|-------|----------|---------|--------------|-------|---------|--|
| 30         | INCA-21-01R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 1.215   | 199.9        | 6.2   | 15.00   | sample taken with packer   |
| 31         | INCA-21-02R  | 28     | 29    | 1        | 1.210   | 208.7        | 6.54  | 16.00   | hole collapsed - sampled with bailer   |
| 32         | INCA-21-03R  | 46.5   | 50    | 3.5      | 1.214   | 198.4        | 6.24  | 14.90   | sample taken with packer   |
| 33         | INCA-21-04R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 1.214   | 213.2        | 7.44  | 13.00   | sample taken with packer   |
| 34         | INCA-21-04BR | 26     | 29    | 3        | 1.210   | 201.1        | 5.92  | 15.90   | sample taken with packer   |
| 35         | INCA-21-05R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 1.211   | 200.9        | 7.41  | 16.88   | sample taken with packer   |
| 36         | INCA-21-05R  | 96     | 100   | 4        | 1.214   | 213.2        | 6.600 | 19.800  | sample taken with packer   |
| 37         | INCA-21-05R  | 146    | 150   | 4        | 1.213   | 203.1        | 6.480 | 18.860  | sample taken with packer   |
| 38         | INCA-21-05R  | 196    | 200   | 4        | 1.213   | 201.1        | 7.350 | 16.350  | sample taken with packer   |
| 39         | INCA-21-05R  | 150    | 205.3 | 55.3     | 1.211   | 245          | 6.3   | 20      | Air pumping test sample in a finished well, corresponding to the area with PVC slotted pipes (filters) after 6 hours |
| 40         | INCA-21-03R  | 31     | 48.85 | 17.85    | 1.2     | 249          | 6.2   | 20      | Air pumping test sample in a finished well, corresponding to the area with PVC slotted pipes (filters) after 6 hours |
| 41         | INCA-21-04RB | 30     | 70    | 40       | 1.2106  | 247          | 6     | 20      | Air pumping test sample in a finished well, corresponding to the area with PVC slotted pipes (filters) after 6 hours |

Note: Depths and intervals are in meters; density in g/cm<sup>3</sup>; conductivity in milliSeimens/cm

Table 10-7. Laboratory Analytical Results for Brine Samples Obtained During Drilling

| Sample No. | Well No.     | From M | To M  | Interval | Boron | Calcium | Strontium | Lithium | Magnesium | Potassium   | Sodium    | Mg/Li | K/Li  |
|------------|--------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 30         | INCA-21-01R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 65.06 | 5927.39 | 113.14    | 111.81  | 5917.7    | 6520.7      | 106096.8  | 52.93 | 58.32 |
| 31         | INCA-21-02R  | 28     | 29    | 1        | 51.76 | 4107.41 | 75.63     | 75.72   | 3531.5    | 4188.4      | 112829.9  | 46.64 | 55.31 |
| 32         | INCA-21-03R  | 46.5   | 50    | 3.5      | 64.93 | 6274.83 | 127.39    | 113.79  | 5987.4    | 5616.4      | 108842.9  | 52.62 | 49.36 |
| 33         | INCA-21-04R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 68.18 | 6327.07 | 121.93    | 117.55  | 5909.4    | 5982.3      | 107331    | 50.27 | 50.89 |
| 34         | INCA-21-04BR | 26     | 29    | 3        | 56.11 | 7168.47 | 113.97    | 120     | 6136.78   | 4984.08     | 106839.2  | 51.14 | 41.53 |
| 35         | INCA-21-05R  | 46     | 50    | 4        | 64.27 | 8127.91 | 155.78    | 145.9   | 6339.03   | 6224.86     | 103479.1  | 43.45 | 42.67 |
| 36         | INCA-21-05R  | 96     | 100   | 4        | 69.2  | 9814.67 | 169.78    | 158.1   | 7571.13   | 6650.66     | 104733.4  | 47.89 | 42.07 |
| 37         | INCA-21-05R  | 146    | 150   | 4        | 65.02 | 8034.97 | 154.3     | 128.31  | 5744.85   | 5384.596592 | 97350.405 | 44.77 | 41.97 |
| 38         | INCA-21-05R  | 196    | 200   | 4        | 66.39 | 9073.02 | 181.9     | 156.89  | 6881.3    | 6232.05     | 94350.7   | 43.86 | 39.72 |
| 39         | INCA-21-05R  | 150    | 205.3 | 55.3     | 98.18 | 11168.2 | 183.06    | 154.1   | 8053.8    | 6933.3      | 93193.3   | 52.26 | 44.99 |
| 40         | INCA-21-03R  | 31     | 48.85 | 17.85    | 86.21 | 8015.6  | 147.99    | 135.44  | 6270.8    | 5415.89     | 99388.9   | 46.30 | 39.99 |
| 41         | INCA-21-04RB | 30     | 70    | 40       | 97.82 | 9667.6  | 169.6     | 161.51  | 7845.8    | 6553.82     | 96253     | 48.58 | 40.58 |

Note: Depths and intervals are in meters; concentrations in mg/L; Mg/Li and K/Li are ratios  
 Lithium column highlighted for emphasis

Inspection of the results support the concept that the deeper brine contains a larger lithium content than the brine located in the upper part of the aquifer. The smallest lithium concentration for the samples occurs in those samples obtained above about 50 m,bls. This is likely due to freshwater with a lower lithium content and lower density entering the basin and mixing with the older brine in the upper part of the aquifer.

#### **10.1.7 Summary of Sampling and/or Recovery Factors that Could Affect Results**

For the brine samples obtained during drilling, the main factor that could impact the results would be if the packer did not adequately seal off other aquifer zones during the sampling process. An inadequate seal could allow for brine from different zones above the packer to leak into the interval being sampled. For this project, because slightly lower lithium concentration brine is located in the upper part of the aquifer, errors of this type would most likely result in “lower than actual” lithium concentrations, and not overestimated lithium concentrations. That said, packer inflation was not noted as being a problem during sampling, and is therefore not believed to be an issue of concern.

## 11 Sample Preparation, Analyses, and Security

### Sample Preparation Methods And Quality Control Measures Employed

Sampling of brine for the program occurred during shallow auger sampling, during drilling and testing, and after the program was completed in the form of due diligence sampling by the QP. The following is a general summary of the sampling methods employed during each phase of sampling; sampling methods and quality control were similar during each phase.

In May 2021, David Carabanti and his assistant initially sampled near-surface brine from the auger holes using an immersed bottle lifting system. **Figure 11-1** is a photo of the auger process. **Figure 11-2** is a photo of a completed sampling location and bottles. Samples were assayed for a range of elements, including Li, Mg, K, Ca, SO<sub>4</sub>, B, as well as alkalinity, TDS, density, electrical conductivity and pH. Samples were typically obtained at 2 m,bls.



Figure 11-1. Geologist David Carabanti Using Power Auger to Drill for Brine Samples



Figure 11-2. Location Stake and Labelled Sample Bottles



During and after drilling of the exploration wells, brine samples were also taken using bailer, packer and drive point methods. In addition, once drilling was finished using low flow sampling equipment inside the 2-inch diameter PVC slotted casing installed in each of the boreholes 3, 4 and 5. Prior to bottling, the sample was transferred to a bucket, which had been rinsed with the same brine as the sample.

The bottles were rinsed with the brine and then filled to the top of the bottle removing any airspace, and capped. Bottles were labelled with the borehole number and sample depth with permanent marker pens, and labels were covered with transparent tape, to prevent labels being smudged or removed. When necessary, fine sediment was allowed to settle in the bucket before the brine sample was transferred from the bucket to two 1-liter plastic bottles. Two bottles were collected for each auger hole, (main sample, duplicate sample). Sample bottles were labelled with the hole number, sample or duplicate number and collection date; Labels were protected by clear packaging tape. Field measurements of pH, density, electrical conductivity, temperature and TDS were taken. All field data were recorded in a notebook and transcribed to the electronic data base maintained by David Carabanti of AIS Resources.

Brine samples remained in possession of the David Carabanti until delivered to the assay laboratory SGS, in Salta 4400, Argentina. No other sample preparation was done prior to shipment to the laboratory. The laboratory is ISO 17025 and 9001 certified and not affiliated with the Issuer.

### **Information for Sample Locations**

At each auger location, the position coordinates were measured by a hand-held GPS unit, logged, then checked by the assistant geologist. The following is an example of the information recorded at each sampling location.

*Sample Location – PM09*

*Coordinates: X= 645331 / Y= 7311883*

*Geomorphology: Earthy saline crust. Rough surface. saline and detrital content. Without polygon development.*

*Water table: 0.55 m,bls*

*Depth of the auger hole: 1.98 m,bls*

*0.00 m - 0.30 m,bls: Sand with halite crystals.*

*0.30 m - 0.60 m,bls: Silty sand.*

*0.60 m - 0.96 m,bls: Sand with halite layers; high silt content.*

*0.96 m - 1.98 m,bls: Halite.*

### **Brine Chemistry Laboratory Procedures and Analyses**

Brine samples were analyzed by SGS Laboratories, in Salta Argentina. SGS is an independent laboratory, has significant experience in assaying lithium brines, and is certified to ISO 17025 standards for lithium brine assays. **Figure 11-3** is an example of the laboratory reports obtained for each sample.



Laboratorio Salta  
 Av. Moseñor Tavella 2580  
 Salta - Capital - CP: 4400  
 Tel: (54)-(9387)-5985769

**INFORME DE ENSAYO**  
**SA21-00066**

Salta, 2 de junio de 2021

Página 2 de 4

|                                |                 |                  |                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Identificación SGS:</b>     | SA21-00066.0001 | <b>Producto:</b> | Salmuera de Litio |
| <b>Identificación Cliente:</b> | SALMUERA 0001   | <b>Recibido:</b> | 28/05/2021        |
|                                |                 | <b>Muestreo:</b> | -                 |

| Análisis                    | Método                               | LD  | LC  | Resultado | Unidad     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|------------|
| Densidad a 20°C             | ASTM D7777-13(Reapproved 2018)je1    | -   | -   | 1.204     | G/ML       |
| Densidad a 20°C             | ASTM D7777-13(Reapproved 2018)je1    | -   | -   | 1204      | kg/m3      |
| Alcalinidad                 | Basado en SM 2320 B - 23rd Edition   | -   | 1   | 45.2      | mg CaCO3/l |
| Bicarbonatos                | Basado en SM 2320B - 23rd Edition    | -   | 1   | 45        | mg CaCO3/l |
| Carbonatos                  | Basado en SM 2320B - 23rd Edition    | -   | 1   | <1        | mg CaCO3/l |
| Cloruros                    | Basado en SM 4500Cl-D - 23rd Edition | -   | 2   | 175397    | mg/L       |
| Conductividad               | Basado en SM 2510 B 23rd Edition     | -   | 0.1 | 286000    | uS/cm      |
| Dureza (por cálculo)        | Basado en SM 2340B - 23rd Edition    | -   | -   | 39200     | mg/L       |
| Bario                       | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | <10       | mg/L       |
| Boro                        | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 69.43     | mg/L       |
| Calcio                      | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 6771.7    | mg/L       |
| Estroncio                   | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 153.7     | mg/L       |
| Hierro                      | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | <10       | mg/L       |
| Litio                       | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 144.74    | mg/L       |
| Magnesio                    | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 4791.9    | mg/L       |
| Manganeso                   | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | <10       | mg/L       |
| Sodio                       | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 92419     | mg/L       |
| Potasio                     | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 5711.1    | mg/L       |
| Zinc                        | SGS.ME.342                           | -   | 10  | 10.11     | mg/L       |
| pH                          | Basado en SM 4500 H B 23rd Edition   | -   | 0.1 | 6.6       | UpH        |
| Solidos Suspendidos Totales | Basado en SM 2540 D - 23rd Edition   | -   | 10  | 76        | mg/L       |
| Solidos Totales Disueltos   | Basado en SM 2540 C - 23rd Edition   | -   | 10  | 339300    | mg/L       |
| Sulfatos                    | Basado en SM 4500 D - 23rd Edition   | 0.2 | 5   | 844       | mg/L       |

Figure 11-3. Example of SGS Laboratory Report

## Security

Site geologist David Carabanti closed and sealed the bottles and delivered them personally to SGS in Salta. The samples were collected using a bailer, put into 1-liter bottles, labelled and securely taped closed, and put into a secure box for transport to the SGS laboratory. Chain of custody forms were used, and confirmation was issued by SGS on receipt of the sample bottles.

## Summary

In the opinion of the QP, sample preparation, security, and analytical procedures were adequate and adhere to best industry practice.

## 12 Data Verification

Analytical quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) was monitored through the use of duplicate samples, blank samples and by standard samples. Accuracy, the closeness of measurements to the “true” or accepted value, was monitored by the insertion of standards, or reference samples. Distilled water blank samples were used to evaluate potential sample contamination and are inserted to measure any potential cross contamination.

Initially, QA/QC analysis of the May 2021 surface brine samples included one duplicate assay. Analysis of the duplicate results shows reasonable correlation between main and duplicate results for the major elements of interest. Results for the duplicate sample are shown on **Table 12-1**.

Table 12-1. Summary of Duplicate Sample Chemistry Results

| Incahuasi - lodged 28 May 2021 |        |        | SGS ID SA21-66.0001 mg/L |        |       | Reported 2 Jun 21 |       |        |       |      |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| Assay                          | Li     | Mg     | K                        | Ca     | B     | TDS               | S     | Cl     | SG    | ph   |
| Augur 1 00001                  | 144.74 | 4791.9 | 5711.1                   | 6771.7 | 69.43 | 339300            | 844   | 175397 | 1.204 | 6.6  |
| Duplicate 1                    | 143.16 | 5102.2 | 5409.4                   | 6879.7 | 69.83 | 341500            | 868   | 175824 | 1.204 | 6.6  |
| Diff%                          | 1.1%   | -6.5%  | 5.3%                     | -1.6%  | -0.6% | -0.6%             | -2.8% | -0.2%  | 0.0%  | 0.0% |
| Augur 2 00002                  | 97.18  | 3034   | 3886.3                   | 4300   | 49.65 | 332200            | 1391  | 178208 | 1.203 | 6.8  |

On March 22, 2022, the Author obtained a duplicate sample (M-32122) from well INCA-21-05R via bailer at a depth of about 30 m,bls with the assistance of David Carabanti. **Figure 12-1** shows the bailing process and the resulting brine samples. Results for this sample and the original sample are shown on **Table 12-2**. In the opinion of the Author, results from the recent sample are not sufficiently similar to the older sample obtained at a similar depth. The difference in the sample chemistry is believed to be due to the fact that the part of the well that was sampled at 30 m,bls is in blank casing (not in hydraulic connection to the aquifer), and that the brine sampled in this stagnant part of the well is not representative of the aquifer chemistry. For previous samples taken by David Carabanti in the same well INCA-21-05R, samples were collected using depth-specific packers during drilling the borehole, and before the borehole was cased.



Figure 12-1. Bailing Sample from Well INCA-21-05R, March 2022

Table 12-2. Laboratory Results from Sample Taken by QP at Well INCA-21-05R, Compared to Older Sample Results

| Sample ID<br>Original / Duplicate | Interval Depth<br>(m,bls) | Li<br>(mg/L) | K<br>(mg/L) | Mg<br>(mg/L) | Ca<br>(mg/L) | Na<br>(mg/L) | B<br>(mg/L) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>M-32122<sup>1</sup></b>        | 0-30                      | 47.0         | 5,713.3     | 5,538.3      | 9,062.6      | 63,476.1     | 26.9        |
| <b>SALMUERA 35<sup>2</sup></b>    | 46-50                     | 145.9        | 6,224.9     | 6,339.0      | 8,127.9      | 103,479.1    | 64.3        |

<sup>1</sup>Sample taken with bailer in well INCA-21-05R during QP visit on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

<sup>2</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-05R during December 2021

Because few duplicate samples were analyzed during the original program, previously collected, duplicate samples were submitted for re-analysis in April 2022. All samples including originals were sent to SGS laboratory, except two standards samples that were prepared by ALS laboratory. In addition, blank samples and standard samples were also submitted. **Table 12-3** presents original and duplicate sample analytical results and percentage of difference with original values selected constituents (Li, K, Mg) of the brine samples analyzed. **Table 12-4** presents percentage differences between original and duplicate samples for selected constituents (Ca, Na, B).

Table 12-3. Percentage Difference Between Original and Duplicate Sample Results for Li, K, and Mg

| Sample ID<br>Original / Duplicate | Li<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference | K<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference | Mg<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| BLANK/44                          | 0.00         | <10       | 0.0             | 0.00        | <10       | 0.0             | 0.00         | <10       | 0.0             |
| SALMUERA 0030 <sup>1</sup> /45    | 111.81       | 115.41    | 3.2             | 6,520.70    | 5,117.19  | 21.5            | 5,917.70     | 5,094.55  | 13.9            |
| SALMUERA 0031 <sup>2</sup> /46    | 75.72        | 81.36     | 7.5             | 4,188.40    | 3,449.34  | 17.6            | 3,531.50     | 3,143.73  | 11.0            |
| Standard-1 <sup>7</sup> /47       | 147.00       | 134.08    | 8.8             | 1,272.00    | 966.76    | 24.0            | 593.00       | 548.33    | 7.5             |
| SALMUERA 0032 <sup>3</sup> /48    | 113.79       | 109.86    | 3.5             | 5,616.40    | 4,743.24  | 15.5            | 5,987.40     | 4,833.70  | 19.3            |
| SALMUERA 0033 <sup>4</sup> /49    | 117.55       | 113.66    | 3.3             | 5,982.30    | 4,845.02  | 19.0            | 5,909.40     | 4,873.83  | 17.5            |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /50      | 120.00       | 107.89    | 10.1            | 4,984.08    | 4,447.39  | 10.8            | 6,136.78     | 4,792.84  | 21.9            |
| SALMUERA 35 <sup>6</sup> /51      | 145.90       | 140.13    | 4.0             | 6,224.86    | 6,169.13  | 0.9             | 6,339.03     | 5,959.27  | 6.0             |
| SALMUERA 36 <sup>6</sup> /52      | 158.10       | 152.97    | 3.2             | 6,650.66    | 6,564.00  | 1.3             | 7,571.13     | 6,723.63  | 11.2            |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /53      | 120.00       | 108.41    | 9.7             | 4,984.08    | 4,809.31  | 3.5             | 6,136.78     | 4,815.16  | 21.5            |
| SALMUERA 037 <sup>6</sup> /54     | 128.31       | 133.47    | 4.0             | 5,384.60    | 5,889.64  | 9.4             | 5,744.85     | 5,946.51  | 3.5             |
| SALMUERA 038 <sup>6</sup> /55     | 156.89       | 147.38    | 6.1             | 6,232.05    | 6,337.87  | 1.7             | 6,881.30     | 6,649.93  | 3.4             |
| SALMUERA 39 <sup>6</sup> /56      | 154.10       | 159.25    | 3.3             | 6,933.30    | 6,746.77  | 2.7             | 8,053.80     | 7,416.61  | 7.9             |
| Standard-2 <sup>7</sup> /57       | 98.00        | 84.83     | 13.4            | 2,672.00    | 2,380.42  | 10.9            | 1,189.00     | 1,133.80  | 4.6             |
| SALMUERA 40 <sup>3</sup> /58      | 135.44       | 132.85    | 1.9             | 5,415.89    | 5,792.52  | 7.0             | 6,270.80     | 6,096.97  | 2.8             |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /59      | 120.00       | 103.56    | 13.7            | 4,984.08    | 4,843.32  | 2.8             | 6,136.78     | 4,710.71  | 23.2            |
| SALMUERA 41 <sup>5</sup> /60      | 161.51       | 164.87    | 2.1             | 6,553.82    | 6,819.31  | 4.1             | 7,845.80     | 7,614.91  | 2.9             |
| BLANK/61                          | 0.00         | <10       | 0.0             | 0.00        | <10       | 0.0             | 0.00         | <10       | 0.0             |

<sup>1</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-01R

<sup>2</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-02R

<sup>3</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-03R

<sup>4</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-04R

<sup>5</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-04BR

<sup>6</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-05R

<sup>7</sup>Standard-1 and Standard-2 by NOA2221487 Certificate ALS International Argentina

Shaded cells are more than 10% difference

Table 12-4. Percentage Difference Between Original and Duplicate Sample Results for Ca, Na, and B

| Sample ID<br>Original / Duplicate | Ca<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference | Na<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference | B<br>(mg/L) | Duplicate | %<br>difference |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| BLANK/44                          | 0.0          | <10       | 0.0             | 0.0          | <10       | 0.0             | 0.0         | <10       | 0.0             |
| SALMUERA 0030 <sup>1</sup> /45    | 5,927.4      | 6,466.8   | 9.1             | 106,096.8    | 95,454.9  | 10.0            | 65.1        | 54.9      | 15.7            |
| SALMUERA 0031 <sup>2</sup> /46    | 4,107.4      | 4,575.7   | 11.4            | 112,829.9    | 106,984.3 | 5.2             | 51.8        | 39.3      | 24.1            |
| Standard-1 <sup>7</sup> /47       | 299.0        | 238.4     | 20.3            | 107,530.0    | 106,359.5 | 1.1             | 543.0       | 503.7     | 7.2             |
| SALMUERA 0032 <sup>3</sup> /48    | 6,274.8      | 6,592.3   | 5.1             | 108,842.9    | 101,366.4 | 6.9             | 64.9        | 56.1      | 13.6            |
| SALMUERA 0033 <sup>4</sup> /49    | 6,327.1      | 6,597.0   | 4.3             | 107,331.0    | 98,717.7  | 8.0             | 68.2        | 52.8      | 22.6            |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /50      | 7,168.5      | 6,302.7   | 12.1            | 106,839.2    | 98,717.7  | 7.6             | 56.1        | 45.3      | 19.3            |
| SALMUERA 35 <sup>6</sup> /51      | 8,127.9      | 8,125.9   | 0.0             | 103,479.1    | 93,911.5  | 9.2             | 64.3        | 56.5      | 12.1            |
| SALMUERA 36 <sup>6</sup> /52      | 9,814.7      | 9,241.4   | 5.8             | 104,733.4    | 91,935.7  | 12.2            | 69.2        | 60.6      | 12.4            |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /53      | 7,168.5      | 6,165.2   | 14.0            | 106,839.2    | 99,384.0  | 7.0             | 56.1        | 45.3      | 19.3            |
| SALMUERA 037 <sup>6</sup> /54     | 8,035.0      | 8,071.2   | 0.5             | 97,350.4     | 92,665.0  | 4.8             | 65.0        | 55.0      | 15.4            |
| SALMUERA 038 <sup>6</sup> /55     | 9,073.0      | 9,095.4   | 0.2             | 94,350.7     | 88,881.2  | 5.8             | 66.4        | 61.3      | 7.7             |
| SALMUERA 39 <sup>6</sup> /56      | 11,168.2     | 10,441.0  | 6.5             | 93,193.3     | 89,085.1  | 4.4             | 98.2        | 75.5      | 23.1            |
| Standard-2 <sup>7</sup> /57       | 498.0        | 418.7     | 15.9            | 98,500.0     | 94,492.5  | 4.1             | 490.0       | 443.7     | 9.5             |
| SALMUERA 40 <sup>3</sup> /58      | 8,015.6      | 8,073.1   | 0.7             | 99,388.9     | 95,530.5  | 3.9             | 86.2        | 59.9      | 30.5            |
| SALMUERA 34 <sup>5</sup> /59      | 7,168.5      | 6,109.3   | 14.8            | 106,839.2    | 97,522.7  | 8.7             | 56.1        | 43.9      | 21.8            |
| SALMUERA 41 <sup>5</sup> /60      | 9,667.6      | 9,959.0   | 3.0             | 96,253.0     | 89,671.3  | 6.8             | 97.8        | 70.0      | 28.4            |
| BLANK/61                          | 0.0          | <10       | 0.0             | 0.0          | 10.8      | 0.0             | 0.0         | <10       | 0.0             |

<sup>1</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-01R

<sup>2</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-02R

<sup>3</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-03R

<sup>4</sup>Sample taken with packer in well INCA-21-04R

<sup>5</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-04BR

<sup>6</sup>Sample taken with packer and airlift in well INCA-21-05R

<sup>7</sup>Standard-1 and Standard-2 by NOA2221487 Certificate ALS International, Argentina  
 Shaded cells are more than 10% difference

All percentage differences between the original and the duplicate samples results are low and generally considered within an acceptable range – especially for lithium values where most of the results have a difference of less than 5%.

## 12.1 Conclusions

The field sampling of brines was done in accordance with generally accepted industry standards. The brine sampling program included standard QA/QC elements such as obtaining duplicate laboratory samples, and submitting standard samples with known values and blank samples.

Formal traffic reports and chain of custody documents were prepared for every sample obtained and submitted for laboratory analysis. In the opinion of the Author, sample preparation, security, and analytical procedures were acceptable and results from the laboratory analyses, especially with respect to lithium, are considered adequate and acceptable. Verification was limited because the Author was not physically present in the field during the exploration program; however, documentation of activities were complete and laboratory results, including results of duplicate samples for the original samples and the sample taken by the Author, support the work completed and the results obtained.

For subsequent exploration and aquifer characterization programs, the Author recommends development of a more robust QA/QC program that includes insertion of more duplicate samples at the time of sampling.



### **13 Mineral Processing and Metallurgical Testing**

At this early phase of the Project, the Issuer had only preliminary conversations with process engineers regarding mineral processing selection and metallurgical testing. Only after additional works have been done to better determine the chemistry of the brine, estimate lithium resources and reserves, and determine project feasibility, will detailed mineral processing and metallurgical testing be conducted.

### **14 Mineral Resource Estimates**

No mineral resource estimates were done on the Project by the Issuer.

### **15 Mineral Reserve Estimates**

Not applicable.

### **16 Mining Methods**

Not applicable.

### **17 Recovery Methods**

Not applicable.

### **18 Project Infrastructure**

Not applicable.

### **19 Market Studies and Contracts**

Not applicable.

### **20 Environmental Studies Permitting and Social or Community Impact**

Not applicable.

### **21 Capital and Operating Costs**

Not applicable.

## **22 Economic Analysis**

Not applicable.

## **23 Adjacent Properties**

**Figure 23-1** shows the properties adjacent to the Project, and in the nearby area. Little information has been made public for the exploration efforts by the adjacent owners. Ganfeng Lithium has drilled exploration wells, but the results of these efforts are not public. Orocobre is not known to have conducted exploration activities to date on their concessions.

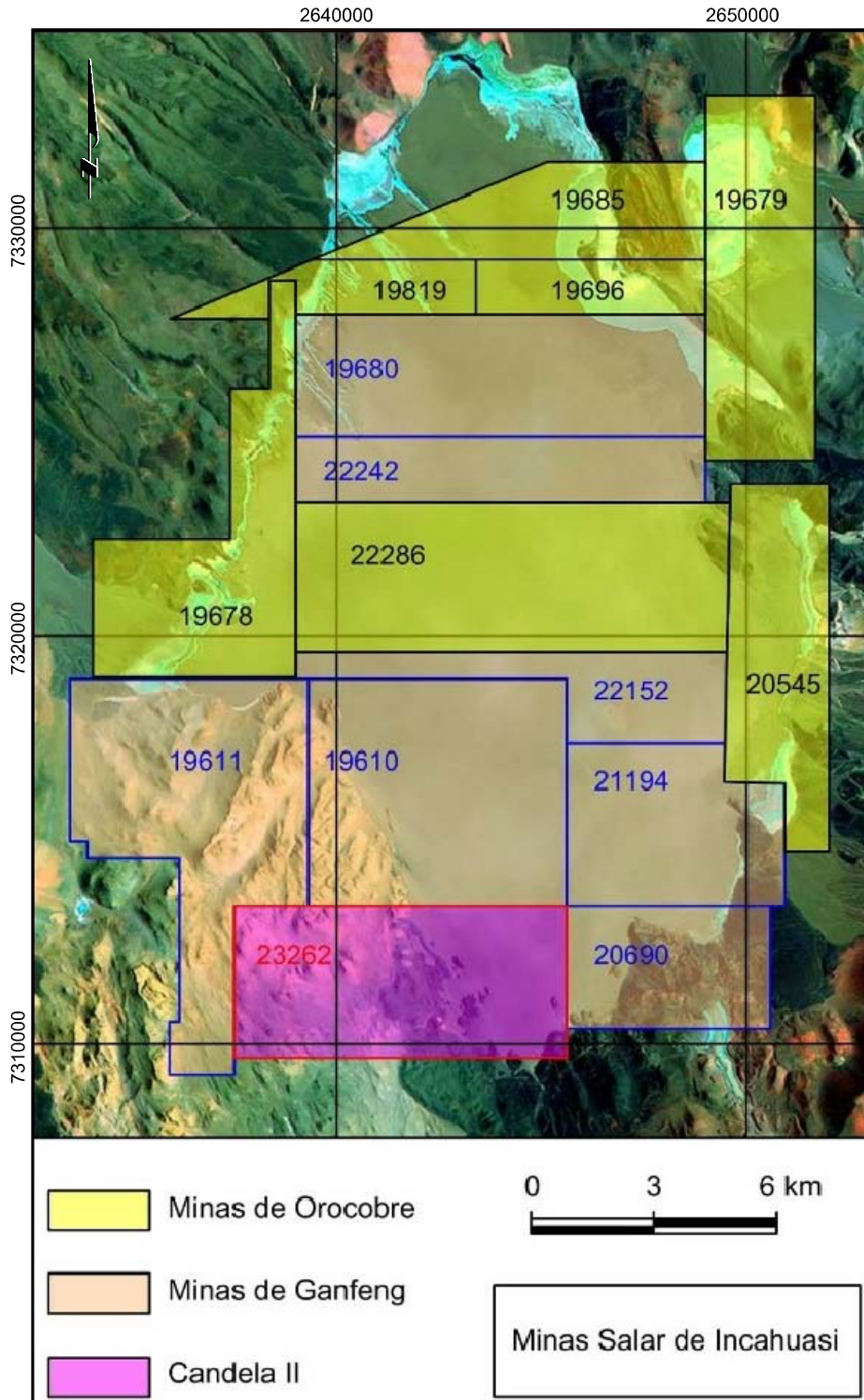


Figure 23-1. Adjacent Mining Concessions

## **24 Other Relevant Data and Information**

The following information is excerpted from Ganam (2021). This preliminary study was prepared mainly for the purpose of obtaining exploration drilling permits. Aside from this information, there are no other relevant data to disclose that has not already been covered in this report.

### **24.1 Environmental Studies in Argentina and in Salta**

Mining operations in Argentina are regulated by the National Mining Code (national Law 24.196) and are enforced by the provinces. Argentina is a Federal Republic, and therefore the Provincial government is in charge of establishing the rules for mining activities and issuing environmental permits. The Mining and Energy Secretariat of the province of Salta is the enforcement authority for mining and environmental issues. Permits are granted by multiple ministries within the Salta Government, however, the engagement and permitting process is coordinated by the Provincial Mining Secretariat.

The EIS is the main permit required for mining operations and includes the conditions and rules for such operations and is compliant with the Law of Environmental Protection for the Mining Activity (Law 24.585) and complementary regulations. The EIS is normally prepared by an external environmental consultant based on detailed information for the project. The consultant updates the environmental baseline, analyses the potential alternatives for the project against current legislation, assesses the environmental impacts. Also, the EIS process defines several environmental management plans and a community engagement process. The EIS is then submitted to the Mining Secretariat, which in turn involves other provincial secretariats and groups (Environment, Water Resources, Industry, Energy, and others as applicable) in the review. After the review process with all these groups is completed, the Mining and Environmental Secretariats prepare a preliminary report for approval.

A Public Audience organized by Mining Secretariat with the involved communities is then held to discuss the results of the preliminary report. After the Public Audience, the Mining Secretariat provides final approval. The time for this approval is typically between 6 and 9 months, depending on the complexity of the project. It is important to note that results of the Public Audience are not binding.

## **24.2 Candela II Environmental Studies**

At the beginning of 2021, the EIS was presented for the exploration stage of the Candela II mining concession (Ganam, 2021). In March of the same year, the report was approved by the environmental authorities of Mining Secretariat in Salta province. This report proposed the drilling of five wells to a maximum depth of 200 m using the diamond method with core recovery, which were executed later. For the realization of the wells, permanent facilities such as camp and accessories were not built (only temporary), with a minimum of personnel for drilling and geological control tasks. During drilling operations, brine from the salt flat was used, for which extraction pits were excavated in the vicinity of the wells. The water for human consumption was transferred from the nearest population center. It is noteworthy that biodegradable additives were used for drilling.

Given the scope of the operations, no significant environmental impacts were recorded on geomorphology, landscape, surface water, groundwater, air quality, flora, and fauna during exploration drilling.

## **24.3 Environmental Baseline Studies**

No specific environmental baseline studies were carried out for the project's area of influence. In this case, a bibliographic compilation of the main disciplines of geology, geomorphology, soil and land uses, climate, hydrogeology, flora and fauna was made. In the area of influence of the Candela II mining concession there are no records of sites of cultural, archaeological and paleontological value of importance, however, a field study is recommended according to the activities carried out, and to be carried out in the future. As part of the baseline studies, protected natural areas and the social elements of the project are discussed in the following sections.

### **24.3.1 Identification of protected natural areas**

The closest protected area of the Los Andes Multiple-Use Open Reserve (Res.428; Gob. Salta Province, 2016). This covers a large part of the Los Andes Department and the northern sector of the La Poma Department of Salta Province. According to the published zoning (**Figure 24-1**), the Candela II mining concession is in sustainable use zones including:

- Multiple-use subzone: area for the harmonious development of productive activities and the construction of linear structures such as railways, power lines, roads, etc.

- Support ecosystem services sector: spaces with manifestations of ecosystem processes typical of the Puna, in areas free of industrial activities, roads, railways and infrastructure works.
- Salar sector: includes the natural limits of the Puna salt flats in what is intended to characterize the saltwater-freshwater balance, which enables the development of particular vegetation and associated faunal communities.

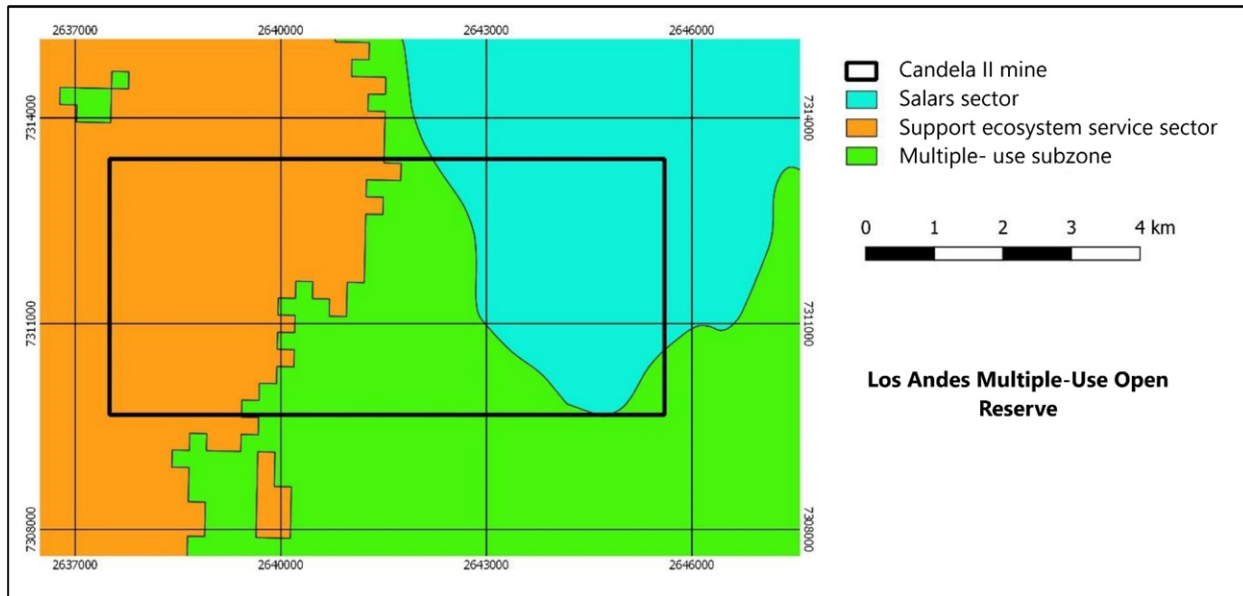


Figure 24-1. Map of Protected Natural Areas for the South Part of the Incahuasi Salar

### 24.3.2 Social

The town of Tolar Grande, which is the closest population center, is approximately 55 km from the Candela II project. According to the census of the year 2010 has a permanent population of 200 inhabitants. It has lodging infrastructure, a police station, primary and secondary school, cell phone service, satellite television service, electricity supply, gastronomy services and merchandise supply. It also has a health center, an infirmary, an ambulance and a health care professional. The San Antonio de Los Cobres Hospital is the closest complex center, 180 km away from the town of Tolar Grande. This center has more of 30 inpatient beds and professionals of different specialties.

San Antonio de los Cobres has more urban characteristics than the other communities because of the larger population. These include additional public institutions, and more commercial activity. The main economic activities in San Antonio de los Cobres are employment in public

administration, trade, craft industries, and since the last decade, small industries related to tourism and mining. Current mining-related employment includes direct employment, and indirect employment such as jobs in transportation, lodging, dining, grocery stores, vacation homes, and offices.

Companies with activities in the Puna region coordinate their activities directly with the local communities.

Except for San Antonio de los Cobres, as the most important town-city of Los Andes Department, all communities share similar rural characteristics. The main activities in the area have been historically related to small-scale livestock (mainly camelid) production. Settlement patterns and spatial dispersion vary with livestock pasturing movements.

Mining is considered to be one of the most important sources of work for the residents of these communities, only preceded by animal husbandry; also manual labor and a growing tourism sector contribute to the local economy.

#### **24.4 Total Impact and Management Plan**

The impacts on the geomorphology and the landscape due to the construction of access roads and slabs to the wells were considered negligible and reversible; therefore the affect will be temporary after the application of the corrective measures at the end of the works operations. Within the surface of the salar, there are no developed soils, therefore the impact of the operations is considered null in terms of its current and potential use. The volumes of water that will be used both for drilling wells and subsequent pumping tests are very low compared to the natural recharge of the salt flat, so the impact is considered insignificant. In the same way, gas emissions from vehicles and machinery used in the operation, as well as the production of Particulate Matter (PM), are considered insignificant for the impact on air quality in the area. Since the surface of the salt flat is devoid of flora, there will be no impact on this environmental factor. The Candela II mine concession is far from freshwater vegas and from sites that can serve the fauna as a refuge and feeding areas. Even though the noise produced by the movement of the operations may affect the fauna, this impact is minor and reversible, given the temporary nature of the operations.

Prior to initiation of the exploratory tasks, and as part of the communication plan, informative meetings were held with the community. Planned activities were explained in detail, as well as

the potential for environmental impacts. Positive impacts include local employment and the purchase and use of local goods and services.

An environmental contingency plan was created in view of the potential for accidental spills of fuel, lubricants and other substances used in operations, as well as the prevention and mitigation of possible employee accidents. No environmental accidents were reported since exploration operations started.

## **25 Interpretation and Conclusions**

### ***Caution to readers:***

This report contains forward looking information related to the Project. There are many factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from any conclusions set out in this report. Some of the material factors include changes to regulatory framework development and issues with approval of exploitation licenses, differences from the assumptions made in this report regarding concentration assays, drilling results, pumping rates, porosity and transmissivity of aquifers, and other circumstances such that the project proceeds, as described in this report. Potential risks associated with the Project are typical for lithium projects, and may include, but are not limited to laboratory error, uncertainty in hydrogeologic conceptualization, permitting and legal delays, and logistical issues associated with mining in remote areas. For this reason, readers should read this summary solely in the context of the full report and after reading all other items of this report. The purpose of this technical report is to describe the lithium project and the exploration work completed to date.

Based on the recent results from exploration drilling and geophysical surveys, the aquifer underlying the Project is saturated with a concentrated lithium brine. The upper part of the aquifer consists of halite and the lower part of the aquifer is mostly clastic sands and gravels. In the southern part of the concession close to the edges of the basin, the aquifer may thinner, and the brine chemistry contains less lithium. It appears that there is some dilution of the brine with fresh water towards the edges of the basin in the upper part of the aquifer where fresh water recharge occurs. Larger lithium concentrations occur in the northern part of the concession and with increasing depth. The majority of the samples obtained had lithium concentrations consistently in excess of about 130 mg/L below a depth of about 50 meters below land surface; largest reported lithium concentration was 161 mg/L at well INCA-21-05R.





In the northern part of the concession where well INCA-21-05R is located, there is a deeper sequence of clastic sediments below the halite as compared to the southern part of the Candela II concession. The geophysical surveys show that the aquifer gets thicker to the north and to the east; drilling at well INCA-21-05R confirms this. It is important to note that, although bedrock was not reported to be encountered during exploration drilling, there is some uncertainty regarding this issue at the wells located in the south part of the concession. The geophysics supports the idea that relatively shallow bedrock likely occurs in the south part of the concession, whether or not it was truly encountered during drilling or not.

## 26 Recommendations

Based on the initial results of exploration to date, additional exploration activities are justified to better characterize the subsurface brine in the concession. To date, the upper part of the aquifer has been drilled and tested. Additional drilling and testing will allow for expansion of the resource laterally throughout the entire concession area, and deeper until bedrock. Because well INCA-21-05R was terminated in permeable sediments, it is recommended that the proposed diamond coreholes be drilled to at least 250 m,bls, and more if favorable aquifer conditions are still encountered. The Author recommends additional diamond drill holes with depth-specific sampling at regular intervals to better define the brine chemistry throughout the entire aquifer. Additional drilling and testing will allow for estimation of an initial lithium resource and will support estimation of a future reserve.

The Author recommends a single additional drilling phase consisting of three coreholes (drilled to a maximum of about 250 m,bls), and two pumpable wells drilled and constructed to depths to be determined based on the results of the deep coreholes. The coreholes will include depth-specific brine sampling using an inflatable packer, and laboratory analysis of core for drainable porosity values.

For the proposed three corehole program, and two well program, costs (excluding tax, in USD) can be summarized as follows:

- Roads and drilling platforms - \$170,000
- Environmental studies - \$40,000
- Drilling and testing - \$1,900,000
- Field monitoring and supervision - \$240,000
- Development of a resource block model - \$80,000
- Reporting - \$70,000

Total estimated cost of about USD \$2,500,000 (plus taxes) (CAD \$3,200,00 plus taxes) for the proposed three corehole and two pumpable well exploration program.

If the results of the proposed exploration program are favorable and support feasibility of a lithium extraction project, additional studies should include the following:

- Fresh water study to identify a potential sustainable freshwater supply

- Development of a geologic reserve model to allow estimation of an initial reserve estimation
- Additional studies in support of a PEA study

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