

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2. Hypothesis	1
1.3. Objectives	1
1.4. Context of the Research.....	2
1.5. Scope of the work	3
1.5.1. Geotechnical Instrumentation.....	3
1.5.2. Chapter Overview.....	4
1.6. Methodology.....	5
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
2.1. Introduction.....	6
2.2. Slope Design	6
2.2.1. Geotechnical Model.....	7
2.2.2. Experience Based Design	8
2.2.3. Optimized Designs	10
2.3. Slope Stability.....	11
2.3.1. Acceptance Criteria	11
2.3.2. Geotechnical Instrumentation.....	12
2.3.3. Groundwater effect on Slope Stability	12
2.4. Groundwater Control	13
2.5. Applications of Groundwater Monitoring	14
2.6. Instrumentation for Groundwater Monitoring.....	15
2.6.1. Water Table Monitoring	15
2.6.2. Pore Pressure Monitoring	17
2.7. Considerations for Piezometer Installation.....	21
2.7.1. Hydrodynamic Time-lag.....	21
2.7.2. Grouting.....	22
2.7.3. Multi-point Measurements	23
2.7.4. Design of an Instrumentation Program.....	24
CHAPTER 3: INSTRUMENTATION TRIAL.....	25
3.1. Networked Smart Marker Technology	25
3.2. Trial Setup.....	26

3.3.	Characteristics of the Trial Site	26
3.4.	NSM’s Trial Installation in Open Pit.....	27
3.4.1.	Preparation.....	27
3.4.2.	Installation	28
3.5.	Performance of the System in Operation.....	30
3.5.1.	System Evaluation	31
3.5.2.	System Upgrades	33
3.6.	Second NSM’s Trial Installation in Open Pit	34
3.6.1.	Updated Installation Procedure	35
3.7.	Development of Pore Pressure Measurement Capabilities.....	36
CHAPTER 4: DEVELOPMENT OF A MINE PLAN.....		37
4.1.	Introduction.....	37
4.2.	Mine Planning.....	37
4.2.1.	Block Model Characteristics	38
4.2.2.	Mining Environment	39
4.2.3.	Pit Collections	42
4.2.4.	Economic Environment	42
4.2.5.	Mine Plan.....	43
4.2.6.	Results	44
4.3.	Pushback Design.....	46
4.3.1.	Export/Import Mine Plan.....	46
4.3.2.	Pushback Limitations	47
4.3.3.	Pushbacks Design.....	51
4.4.	Optimization of the Existing Design	53
4.4.1.	Effects of steepening slope angle	54
CHAPTER 5: DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAMS		57
5.1.	Effects of Steepening of South Wall.....	57
5.2.	Selection of pore water pressure monitoring instruments.....	57
5.2.1.	Guidelines for Instrument Selection.....	57
5.2.2.	Instrument Selection for the Mine Plan.....	62
5.2.3.	Guidelines for Instrument Deployment	62
5.3.	Design of Pore Water Pressure Monitoring Programs.....	65
5.3.1.	Groundwater Monitoring Campaigns.....	65

5.3.2.	Monitoring Campaign based on Vibrating Wire Piezometers.....	65
5.3.3.	Monitoring Campaign based on Enhanced NSMs	66
5.4.	Cost of Geotechnical Instrumentation Programs	67
5.4.1.	Vibrating Wire Piezometer-based Monitoring Program	67
5.4.2.	Enhanced NSM-based Monitoring Program	69
5.5.	Cost of Geotechnical Instrumentation Programs	70
5.5.1.	Vibrating Wire Piezometers-based Program	71
5.5.2.	Enhanced Networked Smart Markers-based Program.....	71
5.5.3.	Final Observations.....	71
CHAPTER 6: RESULTS & DISCUSSION.....		73
6.1.	Geotechnical Instrumentation Technologies	73
6.2.	Guidelines for Geotechnical Instrumentation	73
6.3.	Comparison between Sensing Technologies	75
6.3.1.	Technical Comparison.....	75
6.3.2.	Economic Comparison	76
CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE WORK.....		78
7.1.	Conclusions.....	78
7.2.	Future Work & Recommendations	79
CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY		80
CHAPTER 9: APPENDIX.....		85
9.1.	Appendix A: Mine Costs based on Extraction Rates.....	85
9.2.	Appendix B: Processing Plants Costs based on Processing Capacities.....	87
9.3.	Appendix C: DeepMine’s Pushback Design for Initial Mine Plan.....	91
9.4.	Appendix D: Topography changes as Pushbacks Progress in Optimized Mine Plan.....	96
9.5.	Appendix E: Nested Pit Analysis.....	99
9.6.	Appendix F: Types of Geotechnical Instruments and Applications	100
9.7.	Appendix G: Pore Pressure Monitoring Devices.....	105
9.8.	Appendix H: Understanding Rock Mass Behavior through the Development of an Integrated Sensing Platform	119
9.8.1.	Abstract.....	119
9.8.2.	Introduction	119
9.8.3.	Networked Smart Markers.....	125
9.8.4.	Enhanced Networked Smart Markers.....	127

9.8.5.	Conclusions	130
9.8.6.	Acknowledgements	130
9.8.7.	References	131
9.9.	Appendix I: Implementation of Novel Subsurface Deformation Sensing Device for Open Pit Slope Stability Monitoring - The Networked Smart Markers System	134
9.9.1.	Abstract.....	134
9.9.2.	Slope Design and Stability	134
9.9.3.	Slope Monitoring Instrumentation	135
9.9.4.	Case Study	138
9.9.5.	Other Considerations	143
9.9.6.	Conclusions	144
9.9.7.	Future Developments.....	144
9.9.8.	Acknowledgements	145
9.9.9.	References	145
9.10.	Appendix J: Slope stability management: coupling deformation measurements with pore pressure data using novel Networked Smart Markers platform	148
9.10.1.	Abstract.....	148
9.10.2.	Introduction.....	148
9.10.3.	Networked Smart Markers.....	150
9.10.4.	NSM Enhancement – Pore Pressure Sensor	151
9.10.5.	Conclusions and Future Work	157
9.10.6.	Acknowledgements.....	158
9.10.7.	References.....	158

TABLES

Table 1.1: Types of instruments to be reviewed, based in Common Instruments chart by W. A. Marr (2013)	3
Table 3.1: System Improvements	34
Table 4.1: Processing Plant Characteristics.....	39
Table 4.2: Stockpile Characteristics	40
Table 4.3: DeepMine's optimum mine plan	44
Table 4.4: Processing Plants operation summary	45
Table 4.5: Truck fleet calculation.....	48
Table 4.6: Shovel fleet calculation	49
Table 4.7: Optimized operative mine plan	52
Table 4.8: Increase on extracted material with improved mine plan.....	54
Table 5.1: Instruments to consider for monitoring cut slopes in rock (Dunnicliff, 2012).....	58
Table 5.2: Instruments to consider for monitoring joint water pressure in cut slopes, both in rock and soil.....	59
Table 5.3: Summary of Instruments for Measuring Groundwater Pressure.....	60
Table 5.4: Summary of Instruments for Measuring Groundwater Pressure (Continued)	61
Table 5.5: Number and spacing of piezometers in boreholes for the first monitoring stage.....	66
Table 5.6: Number and spacing of piezometers in boreholes for the second monitoring stage....	66
Table 5.7: Number and spacing of Enhanced NSMs in the initial boreholes.....	67
Table 5.8: Number and spacing of Enhanced NSMs in the additional boreholes	67
Table 5.9: Costs of Vibrating Wire Piezometers and related equipment	68
Table 5.10: Ratio of materials for grout mix	68
Table 5.11: Cost of materials used for piezometer installation	68
Table 5.12: Summary of costs for first VW Piezometer installation	69
Table 5.13: Summary of costs for second VW Piezometer installation.....	69
Table 5.14: Costs of Enhanced NSMs and related equipment	69
Table 5.15: Summary of costs for first Enhanced NSM installation.....	70
Table 5.16: Summary of costs for second Enhanced NSM installation	70
Table 5.17: NPV for different configurations of the project	72
Table 6.1: Guidelines to integrate geotechnical instrumentation to the mine plan	74
Table 6.2: Effect of implementing geotechnical campaign on cash flow	77
Table 9.1: Table of Operating and Capital Costs, retrieved from the Mine and Mill Equipment Estimator's Guide 2011.....	85

Table 9.2: Updated Table for OPEX and CAPEX per Extraction Rate.	85
Table 9.3: Table of Operating and Capital Costs for Concentrator Plant, retrieved from the Mine and Mill Equipment Estimator's Guide 2011.	87
Table 9.4: Updated Table for OPEX and CAPEX per ton of Processed Ore in Concentrator Plants.	87
Table 9.5: Table of Operating and Capital Costs for Leaching Plant, retrieved from the Mine and Mill Equipment Estimator's Guide 2011.	89
Table 9.6: Updated Table for OPEX and CAPEX per ton of Processed Ore in Leaching Plants.	89
Table 9.7: Technologies for Surface Monitoring based on Space-Based Observations	100
Table 9.8: Technologies for Surface Monitoring based on Airborne Observations.....	100
Table 9.9: Technologies for Surface Monitoring based on Ground-Based Observations.....	101
Table 9.10: Technologies for Subsurface Monitoring.....	103
Table 9.11: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co.	105
Table 9.12: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Durham Geo Slope Indicator.....	105
Table 9.13: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Encardiorite	105
Table 9.14: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Geo-Instruments	106
Table 9.15: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Geotechnical Systems... ..	106
Table 9.16: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Itmsoil Interfels.....	106
Table 9.17: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Marton Geotechnical Services.....	106
Table 9.18: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Roctest	106
Table 9.19: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Gage Technique.....	107
Table 9.20: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from RST.....	107
Table 9.21: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Sisgeo.....	107
Table 9.22: Technical specifications for Standpipe Piezometers from Solinst	107
Table 9.23: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co.	108
Table 9.24: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Durham Geo Slope Indicator.....	108
Table 9.25: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Geotechnical Systems.. ..	108
Table 9.26: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Geotechnical Systems.. ..	108
Table 9.27: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Roctest	108
Table 9.28: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from Gage Technique	108
Table 9.29: Technical specifications for Pneumatic Piezometers from RST	109

Table 9.30: Technical specifications for VW Multi-point Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co.	109
Table 9.31: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co.	109
Table 9.32: Technical specifications for VW Vented Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co. ...	110
Table 9.33: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Durham Geo Slope Indicator.....	110
Table 9.34: Technical specifications for VW Titanium Piezometers from Durham Geo Slope Indicator.....	110
Table 9.35: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Encardiorite	110
Table 9.36: Technical specifications for VW Slim Piezometers from Encardiorite	111
Table 9.37: Technical specifications for VW Low Pressure Piezometers from Encardiorite	111
Table 9.38: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Geo-Instruments ...	111
Table 9.39: Technical specifications for VW Heavy Duty Piezometers from Geokon	111
Table 9.40: Technical specifications for VW Small Diameter Piezometers from Geokon.....	111
Table 9.41: Technical specifications for VW Standard Piezometers from Geokon.....	112
Table 9.42: Technical specifications for VW High Temperature Piezometers from Geokon	112
Table 9.43: Technical specifications for VW Multilevel Piezometers from Geokon	112
Table 9.44: Technical specifications for VW Autoresonant Piezometers from Geokon	112
Table 9.45: Technical specifications for VW Titanium Piezometers from Geokon	113
Table 9.46: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Geonor.....	113
Table 9.47: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Geostar	113
Table 9.48: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Itmsoil Interfels	113
Table 9.49: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Geotechnical Systems	114
Table 9.50: Technical specifications for VW Multi-Level Piezometers from Roctest	114
Table 9.51: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Roctest.....	114
Table 9.52: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Sisgeo	114
Table 9.53: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from RST.....	115
Table 9.54: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezopress from Solexperts	115
Table 9.55: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Toyoko Elmes	115
Table 9.56: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Jewell Instruments	115
Table 9.57: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Gage Technique....	116
Table 9.58: Technical specifications for Vibrating Wire Piezometers from Measurand Inc.	116

Table 9.59: Technical specifications for Semiconductor Piezometers from Ace Instruments Co.	116
Table 9.60: Technical specifications for Semiconductor Piezometers from Geokon	116
Table 9.61: Technical specifications for Electric Piezometers from Itmsoil Interfels	116
Table 9.62: Technical specifications for Strain Gauge Piezometers from RST	117
Table 9.63: Technical specifications for Single Piezometers from Alert Solutions.....	117
Table 9.64: Technical specifications for Resistive Piezometers from Sisgeo	117
Table 9.65: Technical specifications for Piezoresistive Piezopress from Sisgeo.....	117
Table 9.66: Technical specifications for Twin Tube Piezometers from Encardiorite.....	117
Table 9.67: Technical specifications for Electric Piezometers from Simstrumenti	118
Table 9.68: Technical specifications for Hydraulic Piezometers from Itmsoil Interfels.....	118
Table 9.69: Troubleshooting summary.....	141
Table 9.70: System improvements	142
Table 9.71: Comparison of available filters	153

FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Typical open pit slope geometry (Wyllie & Mah, 2004).....	7
Figure 2.2: Chart for slope angle and slope height (Haines & Terbrugge, 1991)	9
Figure 2.3: Chart of rock slope vs slope height for stable and unstable cases (Hoek, 1970).....	9
Figure 2.4: Potential impact of steeper slopes in open pit mines (Stacey, 2009).....	10
Figure 2.5: Horizontal drains and pumping wells in open pit mines (Sperling et al., 1992).....	14
Figure 2.6: Flow net illustrating seepage forces in a slope (Brawner, 1982).....	15
Figure 2.7: Installation diagram: (a) Standpipe piezometer (b) diaphragm piezometer (Mikkelsen & Green, 2003).....	22
Figure 3.1: Networked Smart Marker	25
Figure 3.2: Mina Sur's slope monitoring early trial's diagram	26
Figure 3.3: NSM array hanging from the stairs to test rope's resistance	27
Figure 3.4: Floor Plan of the Instrumented Slope	28
Figure 3.5: Networked Smart Marker installation.....	28
Figure 3.6: Grouting process	29
Figure 3.7: NSM Antenna	29
Figure 3.8: NSM Installation diagram.....	30
Figure 3.9: NSM's connectivity	31
Figure 3.10: Floor Plan of the second trial installation	34
Figure 4.1: DeepMine's initial screen with its five elements to create a mine plan	38
Figure 4.2: First results on concentrator plant's life	40
Figure 4.3: Surplus Limit for Concentrator Plant per year.....	40
Figure 4.4: Surplus Limit for Leaching Plant per year.....	40
Figure 4.5: Re-handling capacity for Concentrator Stockpile per year.....	41
Figure 4.6: Re-handling capacity for Leaching Stockpile per year	41
Figure 4.7: Leaching Plant Operation	41
Figure 4.8: Concentrator Plant Operation.....	41
Figure 4.9: Visualization for calculated nested pits	42
Figure 4.10: Phase dimensions (DeepMine 2.2 User Manual).....	43
Figure 4.11: Ore movement from the Mine Operation.....	45
Figure 4.12: Mine Plan's Cash Flow.....	46
Figure 4.13: Block model's visualization per phase	46
Figure 4.14: Komatsu HD1500-7 speed chart.....	47

Figure 4.15: Komatsu HD1500-7 section views	48
Figure 4.16: Shovel-Truck Matching	49
Figure 4.17: Komatsu PC5500-6 radius of gyration.....	50
Figure 4.18: Proposed configuration for truck loading	50
Figure 4.19: Combination of several phases into one	51
Figure 4.20: Section view of the block model.....	51
Figure 4.21: Outline of the final pit.....	52
Figure 4.22: Visualization for re-calculated nested pits.....	53
Figure 4.23: Outline of the improved pit.....	54
Figure 4.24: Nested Pit Analysis	55
Figure 5.1: Initial setup for instrumentation campaign in the South-East walls of the open pit ...	63
Figure 5.2: Final setup for instrumentation campaign in the South-East walls of the open pit	64
Figure 5.3: Cement/Bentonite/Water ratios for two grout mixes (Mikkelsen & Green, 2003).....	65
Figure 9.1: Calculated function to determine OPEX based on the Extraction Rate of the mine. .	86
Figure 9.2: Calculated function to determine CAPEX based on the Extraction Rate of the mine.	86
Figure 9.3: Calculated function to determine OPEX based on the Processing Capacity of the Concentrator Plant.	88
Figure 9.4: Calculated function to determine CAPEX based on the Processing Capacity of the Concentrator Plant.	88
Figure 9.5: Calculated function to determine OPEX based on the Processing Capacity of the Leaching Plant.	89
Figure 9.6: Calculated function to determine CAPEX based on the Processing Capacity of the Leaching Plant.	90
Figure 9.7: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 1	91
Figure 9.8: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 2	91
Figure 9.9: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 3	91
Figure 9.10: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 4	92
Figure 9.11: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 5	92
Figure 9.12: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 6	92
Figure 9.13: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 7	93
Figure 9.14: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 8	93
Figure 9.15: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 9	93
Figure 9.16: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 10	94
Figure 9.17: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 11	94

Figure 9.18: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 12	94
Figure 9.19: DeepMine's visualization for pushback 13	95
Figure 9.20: DeepMine's visualization for the final pit.....	95
Figure 9.21: Excavation of pushback 1	96
Figure 9.22: Excavation of pushback 2	96
Figure 9.23: Excavation of pushback 3	97
Figure 9.24: Excavation of pushback 4	97
Figure 9.25: Excavation of pushback 5	98
Figure 9.26: Excavation of final pit.....	98
Figure 9.27: Behavior of extracted ore and waste for pits 6 to 10	99
Figure 9.28: Behavior of extracted ore and waste for pits 11 to 15	99
Figure 9.29: Behavior of extracted ore and waste for pits 16 to 19	99
Figure 9.30: Crown pillar defined at Palabora mine (after Glazer and Hepworth, 2004).	121
Figure 9.31: Seismic monitoring at the site (after Glazer and Hepworth, 2004).	121
Figure 9.32: Plan view of Los Bronces–Andina interaction area (after Google Maps, 2015). ...	122
Figure 9.33: Summary of surface and underground geotechnical monitoring methods.	123
Figure 9.34: Smart Marker sensor.	125
Figure 9.35: Networked Smart Markers 3D data representation of six weeks.....	126
Figure 9.36: Networked Smart Markers 2D data representation of six weeks.....	127
Figure 9.37: Enhanced Networked Smart Markers performing initially as subsurface monitoring and later as cave trackers combined with conventional cave trackers in an open pit–underground interaction scenario.....	130
Figure 9.38: Networked Smart Marker.....	137
Figure 9.39: First NSM installation diagram.....	139
Figure 9.40: NSM’s connectivity	139
Figure 9.41: Both ways signal strength	140
Figure 9.42: Networked Smart Marker.....	150
Figure 9.43: Filter Prototype	153
Figure 9.44: Prototype boards assembled with batteries, antenna and pressure transducer	154
Figure 9.45: Filter Test 1	155
Figure 9.46: Porous filter test: two small PVC pipes (with and without filter) attached to a large PVC pipe	156
Figure 9.47: Pressure readings using PVC pipes with and without filter.....	156