Firstly vegetation and soils are to be removed from the first section of the stack footprint area.

The vegetation and soils are to be stripped to the layer of till, which will then be compacted prior to placement of a basal drainage layer formed of barren mine rock, and a geotextile fabric in order to separate this layer from the tailings.

Any deep, humified peat below the nominal stripping level of 0.4 metres below existing ground level shall be retained in situ, covered with a geotextile and covered with mine rock basal drain.
Tailings (dried up to around 16% water content) will be loaded from the tailings stockpile and hauled using a dump truck. The tailings shall then be placed, spread and compacted in 300mm layers (buldozed and rolled) to form tailings storage stacks.

Tailings placement will be undertaken throughout the day with spreading and compaction taking place twice a day for around 5 to 10 minutes each time.

Next a layer of topsoil is to be placed on the stacks and topped with peat turves ‘capping’ the stack and creating a suitable surface for vegetation to colonise and regenerate.

[source: ES Appendix 3, Appendix Figure 5-1: Tailings Stack Construction Methodology]

Glossary:

Till – unsorted sediment and rock fragments carried by a glacier
Basal layer – base layer
Humified peat – peat with a high degree of decomposition of organic matter