

## USSD Committee on Tailings Dams Charter

Approved by the BOD on 08/16/2018

### ***Committee Description***

The Committee on Tailings Dams contributes to the USSD Vision of a world class organization dedicated to advancing the role of dams in society and building the community of practice. The committee engages in activities that contribute to and support the USSD Mission imperatives of advocating, educating, collaborating and cultivating. Specifically, the Committee on Tailings Dams:

- ***Advocates*** the engineering, construction, operation, and reclamation of tailings dams and coal combustion residual (CCR) impoundments in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible manner.
- ***Educates*** by providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and experience in tailings dams and CCR impoundments design, construction, operational performance, and reclamation within the community of practice. We also disseminate information from the committee through workshops and by contributing to documents published by USSD or ICOLD.
- ***Collaborates*** by providing a forum for exchange of information between members of the committee, by interacting and participating in activities with other USSD committees as well as providing a liaison with the ICOLD Committee on Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons.
- ***Cultivates*** by providing a community of practice related to tailings dams and coal combustion impoundments.

### ***Terms of Reference***

The Committee on Tailings Dams was established by the Board of Directors of USCOLD (the predecessor of USSD) in the 1980s as a representative US committee to the Committee on Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons of ICOLD. The Committee on Tailings Dams is charged with (a) promoting safe, environmentally and socially responsible practices for tailings dams and CCR impoundments through design, construction, operational performance, and reclamation; and, (b) collaborating with other national and international professional organizations involved with tailings dams and CCR impoundments, such as the Committee on Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons of ICOLD. The Committee keeps the general membership informed through timely publication of reports and white papers, announcements in the USSD Newsletter, input to the committees section of the USSD website, and in the organization and execution of periodic workshops. The Committee collaborates and/or assists with other committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four imperatives of the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan - Advocate,

Educate, Collaborate, and Cultivate.

## ***Background and History***

The initial focus of the committee when it was formed was public education, i.e., explaining the differences between tailings dams and water dams. However, this initial focus was broadened to encompass the need for a professional forum to address tailings dam safety and design, as there was no such body active in the US at the time. The need to bring understanding of tailings dam technology and safety to a level commensurate with water dams was recognized, and USCOLD was the logical focal point for these efforts. The committee experienced significant activity in the 1980s under the chairmanship of Steven G. Vick, then committee chair. A major accomplishment of the committee was the preparation of a document on tailings dam failures, which was published by USCOLD in 1994 (*Tailings Dam Incidents*).

Since then, the committee has been involved in organizing workshops, publishing papers and its members participated in a range of professional activities. More recently, the committee organized or contributed to several well-attended workshops, as follows:

- *Tailings Dams 2000* (organized jointly with ASDSO in Las Vegas)
- *Tailings Dams 2002* (organized jointly with ASDSO in Las Vegas)
- *Dam Break Analysis Applied to Tailings Dams* (standalone workshop, Denver, 2011),
- *Closure of Tailings Dams* (USSD Conference, Phoenix, 2013),
- *Closure of Tailings Dams* (ICOLD Conference, Seattle, 2013),
- *Seismic Design of Tailings Dams* (San Francisco, 2014),
- *Risk Assessment Tools Applied to Coal Tailings Dams and Ash Impoundments* (Louisville, 2015), and
- *Creating Landforms: When a Waste Impoundment is No Longer a Dam Safety Hazard* (Denver, 2016)
- *Workshop on Lessons Learned from Recent Tailings Dams Failures: A Path Forward* (San Antonio, 2017)
- *Construction of Cutoffs for Small Embankment Dams and Levees* (Miami, 2018)

The topics discussed in the 2011 and 2017 workshops were summarized in a paper or presentation at the 33<sup>rd</sup> USSD Annual Conference and Meeting in Phoenix, and the 38<sup>th</sup> USSD Annual Conference in Miami.

## ***Responsibilities***

The direction from the BOD has been to participate with the Committee on Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons of ICOLD, and be active within USSD by publishing documents and organizing workshops or symposiums.

### ***Chair, and Vice Chairs and Related Responsibilities***

Chair: Amanda Adams

Responsibilities: Actively participate in Committee activities. Organize regular committee conference calls, represent the committee at the USSD annual meeting, participate in USSD committee chair meetings and conference calls, and organize applicable sub-committees to advance the mission imperatives. Prepare meeting minutes after committee calls (or delegate responsibility). Participate in ICOLD as a representative of USSD.

Vice Chair: Robert Snow

Responsibilities: Actively participate in Committee activities. Coordinate with the Chair to lead committee conference calls or participate in committee chair meetings when the chair is unavailable. Assist the Chair with their responsibilities.

Vice Chair (Young Professional): Ben Schmidt

Responsibilities: Assist the Chair and Vice Chair with their responsibilities. Coordinate with other YP members of USSD to promote membership and active involvement in the organization.

### ***Goals and Objectives***

The goals and objectives of the committee are consistent with the current Terms of Reference for the ICOLD Committee on Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons. The goals and objectives are recorded in the Committee Scorecard under the categories of Advocate, Educate, Collaborate and Cultivate. The Scorecard is updated periodically to reflect current activities and initiatives.

## ***Membership***

Mark Abshire

Sam Abbaszadeh

Amanda Adams

Tatyana Alexieva

Robert Bachus

Carmen Bernedo

Denise Bunte-Bisnett

Recep Cetin

Jose Clemente

Charlie Cobb

Phillip Crouse

James Daly

Hafiz Duzgun

Ben Gallagher

Blaise Genes

Aaron Grosser

Stuart Harris

Chris Hatton

Greg Hebler

Michael Henderson

Kubra Kahramanoglu

Kanyembo Katapa

Dean Korri

Richard Kulesza

Greg Noack

Paul Ridlen

Mark Rokoff

Michael Ruetten

Andy Small

Robert Snow

Clint Strachan

Steven Vick

Melanie Walling

Mike Wheeler

Christina Winckler

Lisa Yenne