

Date:	March 25, 2021
Committee Name:	Tailings Dams
Report completed by:	Amanda Adams, Benjamin Schmidt, Robert Snow
Member count:	55

Recent/Past Accomplishments:

- Awarded contract from FEMA to develop US-based tailings dams best practice manual. Steering committee (chaired by Allen Marr) was appointed, and principal investigators identified (Robert Snow, Michael Henderson, Paul Ridlen) with Del Shannon as the USSD project manager.
- Hosted a webinar in December 2020 “Introduction to the Engineer of Record” by Christopher Hatton and Andy Small.
- Accepted four abstracts that will be presented in a tailings-focused session of the USSD 2021 conference.
- Supporting ICOLD and national efforts for development of tailings dam safety guidelines (ongoing).
- Formed a Tailings Working Group with members from USSD and CDA to collaborate on workshops and publications.
- Held regular, monthly meeting with attendance typically exceeding 20 committee members.

What are the committee’s priorities during the next three to six months?

- Finalize terms of reference and work plan for the EOR Working Group with CDA with a charter “To develop CDA and USSD guidance, webinars, and collect and distribute information on the role of Engineer of Record (EOR) and share this guidance with other stakeholders. To work as a joint Working Group between the CDA Mining Dams Committee and the USSD Tailings Dams Committee.”
- Publish a position statement on the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM).
- Moderate 1 tailings session at the USSD 2021 conference.
- Actively collaborate with other associations involved in tailing dams (CDA, MAC, SME, Tailings and Mine Waste) to holistically plan participation and involvement in workshops and conferences that will complement the USSD tailing dam committee’s efforts, including the Tailings & Mine Waste Committee of SME.
- Support development of ASDSO Model State Dam Safety Regulations.
- Support the FEMA effort, the goal by Sept. 2021 is to finalize the detailed outline of the FEMA tailings dams best practice manual and then begin writing sections of the document.
- Prepare additional articles for the USSD Bulletin following the article “EOR for Tailings Dams: Practical Collaboration is Key” that will be included in the Spring 2021 edition of the bulletin.
- Holding a committee meeting at the 2021 USSD conference (May 5).
- Assign a new YP Vice-Chair.

Committee White Paper/Guideline Status:

- Peer Review is complete for the State of Closure Practice for Tailing Dams in the US White Paper. Responses to peer review and committee member comments are being prepared. The goal is to submit a draft to the USSD board for review in Q2 2021.

Is the Committee Planning a Workshop?

- An abstract is being prepared for the next in the series of EOR-best-practices webinars.
- Workshop abstract titled “Stability of Tailings Dams with Contractive Elements” was submitted in collaboration with CDA for their October 2020 conference – will confirm with CDA if this can be held in 2021.

Items for Board consideration at the Next Board Meeting:

- Consideration of a common website/SharePoint area that could be accessible to both USSD and CDA members of the working group for document collaboration.
- Become an “affiliate organization” with the Tailings and Industrial waste ENGINEERING (TAILENG) Center consortium of Georgia Tech, Colorado State University, UC Berkeley, and the University of Illinois.
- Review and approve the Tailings Committee’s position statement on the GISTM.