

BOARD REPORT

Committee Name: Tailings Dams

Submitted by: Amanda Adams, Benjamin Schmidt, Linda Wade

Report Date: March 22, 2022

Committee Mission/Purpose

The Committee on Tailings Dams contributes to the USSD Vision of a world where all dams and levees are safe and valued by the communities they serve and Mission of empowering professionals to advance sustainable benefits of dams and levees for society. Specifically, the Committee on Tailings Dams is dedicated to:

- **Advocacy and Awareness** by supporting advancement of the state-of-practice for the engineering, construction, operation, and reclamation of tailings dams and coal combustion residual (CCR) impoundments in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible manner participating in the development of and publicly endorsing national and international guidance documents.
- **Education and Professional Development** 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, by contributing to documents published by USSD and ICOLD, and supporting efforts of affiliate organizations developing structured curricula and accreditation programs.
- **Community and Connections** 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 and the CDA Mining Dams Committee. We also foster connections among industry, consulting, and academic professionals to develop and share advances in the field.
- **Recruitment and Growth** by providing a community of practice related to tailings dams and coal combustion impoundments.

2021 Goals/Accomplishments

- The committee recognized the contributions of long-time Vice Chair Bob Snow as he stepped down and recommended YP Vice Chair Ben Schmidt to assume the Vice Chair position. Linda Wade was recommended as the new YP Vice Chair and approved by the Board.
- Completed the first year of a 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. Progress in the first year was defining the outline for the guidance document and getting approval of the outline by FEMA.

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- Submitted an article “EOR for Tailings Dams: Practical Collaboration is Key” which was included in the Spring 2021 edition of the bulletin.
- Formed a Tailings Working Group with members from USSD and CDA to collaborate on workshops and publications specific to the Engineer of Record for Tailings Dams.
- Hosted an EOR workshop at the October 2021 CDA conference in collaboration with CDA members.
- Hosted an EOR workshop at the November 2021 Tailings & Mine Waste Conference in collaboration with CDA members.
- Developed a Position Statement on the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management.
- Supported ICOLD and ASDSO efforts for development of tailings dam safety guidelines (ongoing).
- Recommended becoming 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 (this was approved by the Board)
- Held regular, monthly meeting with attendance typically exceeding 20 committee members.
- Addressed Peer Review comments on the **REVIEW OF USA STATE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR TSF CLOSURE** white paper.
- Stood up a Liquefaction sub-committee (in collaboration with Embankment Dams and Earthquakes committee members).

2022 Goals

- Host an EOR Workshop at the 2022 USSD Conference in collaboration with CDA.
- Actively collaborate with other associations involved in tailing dams (CDA, MAC, SME, ICMM, Tailings and Mine Waste, TAILENG, Tailings Center, Geo-Institute) 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 ICOLD in the completion of the updated Tailings Dam Safety Bulletin and champion its dissemination through our membership.
- Publish the closure white paper.
- Submit a Committee Corner article, highlight of the closure white paper, and review of SME’s recently published “Tailings Management Handbook” for the USSD Bulletin
- Complete Year 2 of the FEMA contract.
- Receive Board approval to publish the GISTM position statement.
- Solicit at least 12 tailings abstracts for the 2023 conference.
- Increase YP participation in the committee by recruiting at least 3 new YP members.

What do you need to accomplish your 2022 goals?

- Support to complete the White Paper and present to the Board for approval.
- Board approval for the position statement (was submitted in January 2022).

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- Connections within Embankment Dams and Earthquakes committees to develop the liquefaction sub-committee.