

Projects and Management Systems of Tailings Dams: A Global Outlook

17th Brazilian Mining Congress

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Mount Polley Tailings Failure August 4, 2014







Mount Polley Tailings Storage Facility Breach on August 4, 2014



Independent Expert Engineering Investigation and Review Panel

Report on Mount Polley
Tailings Storage Facility Breach

APPENDICES A – I

Independent Expert Engineering Investigation and Review Panel

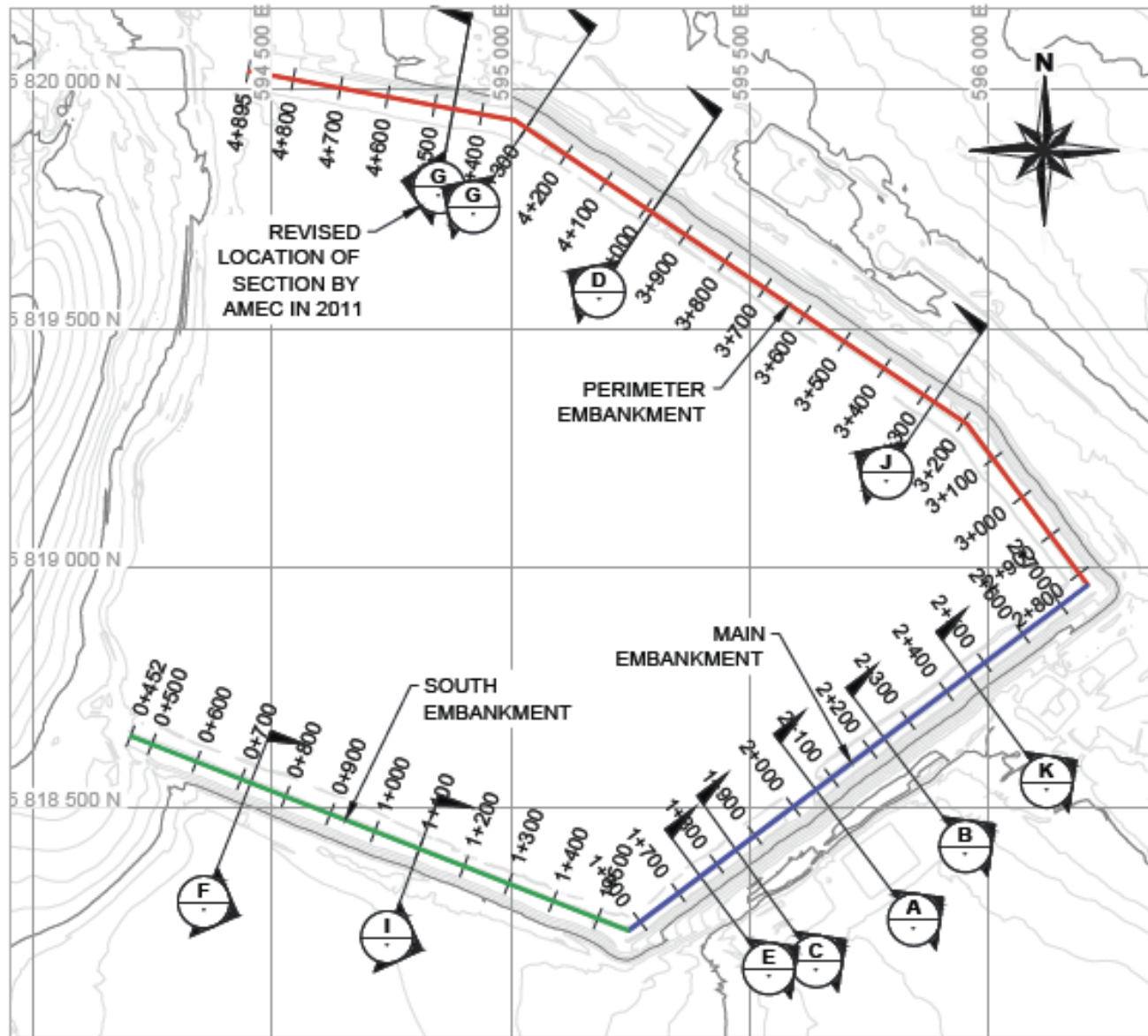
Report on Mount Polley Tailings
Storage Facility Breach

January 30, 2015

January 30, 2015

<https://www.mountpolleyreviewpanel.ca>

FIGURE 3.1.1: TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY PLAN



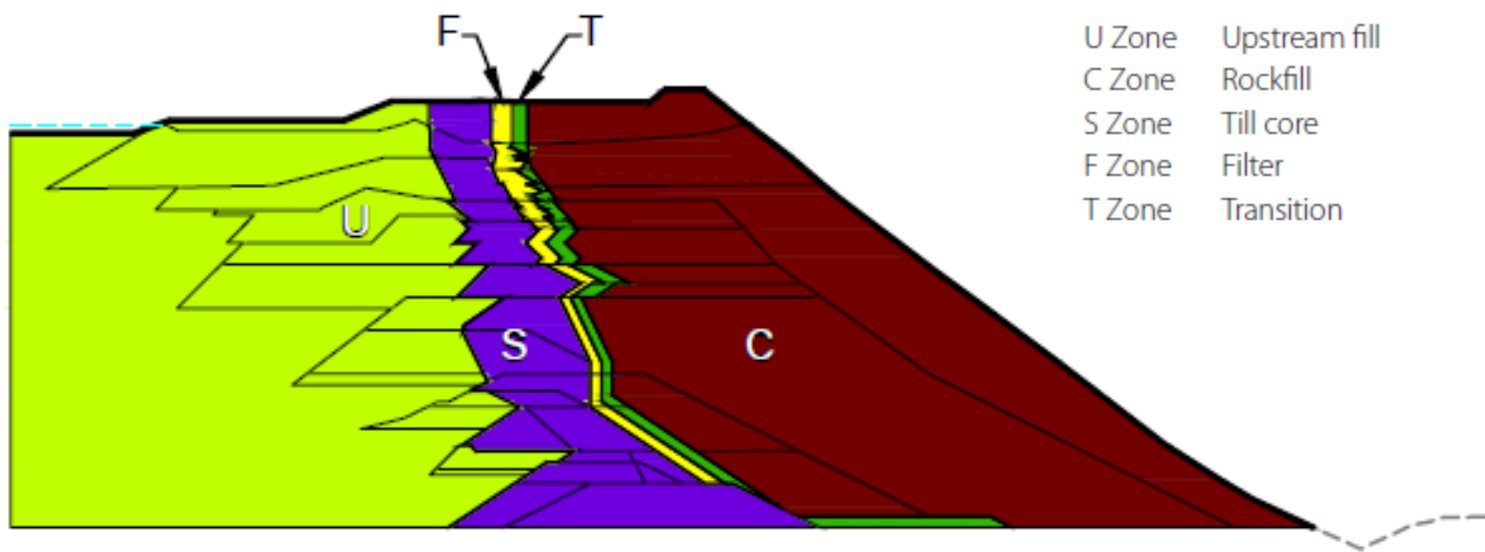


FIGURE 5.1.5: APPARENT BEDDING ROTATION ON LEFT ABUTMENT OF BREACH (SEPT. 4, 2014 PHOTO)



FIGURE 5.1.6: SLIDING-RELATED FEATURES AT RIGHT ABUTMENT (SEPT. 4, 2014 PHOTO)

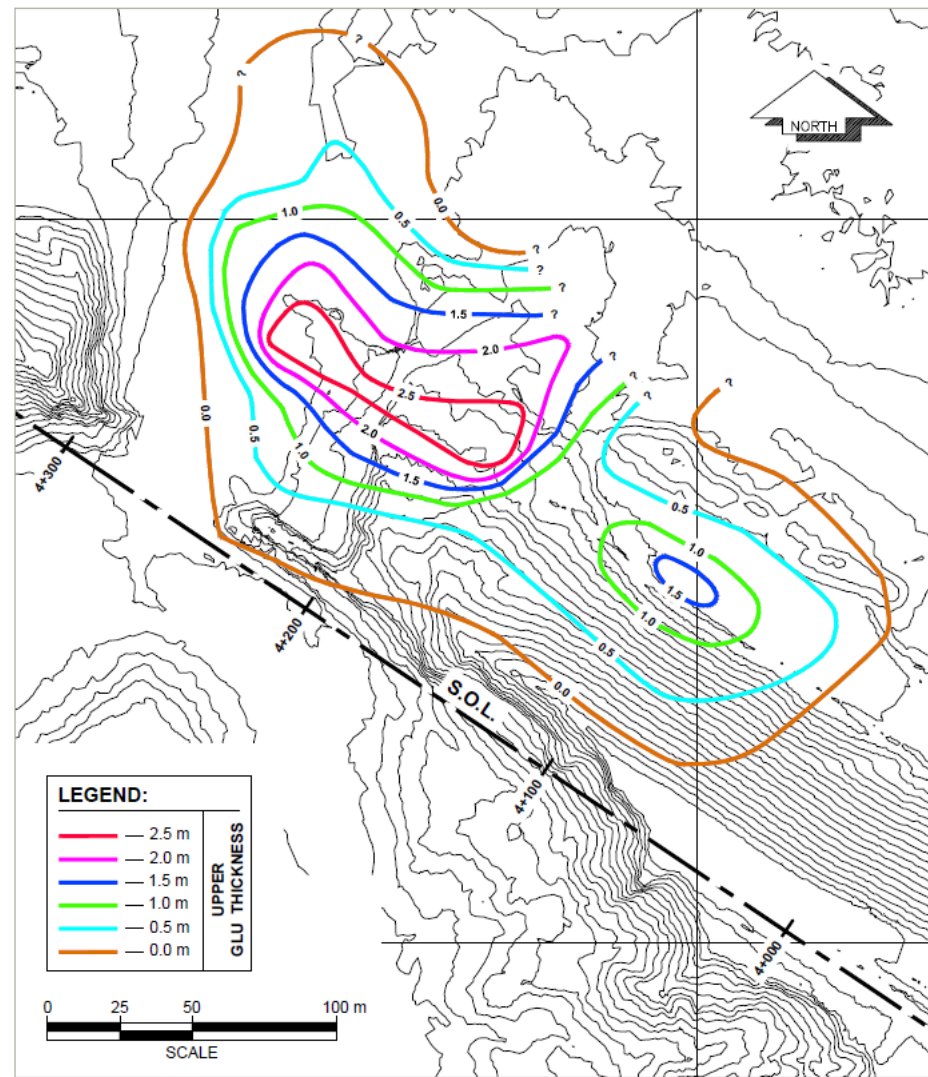


TABLE 5.1.1: MEASURED AND INFERRED SLIDE MOVEMENTS

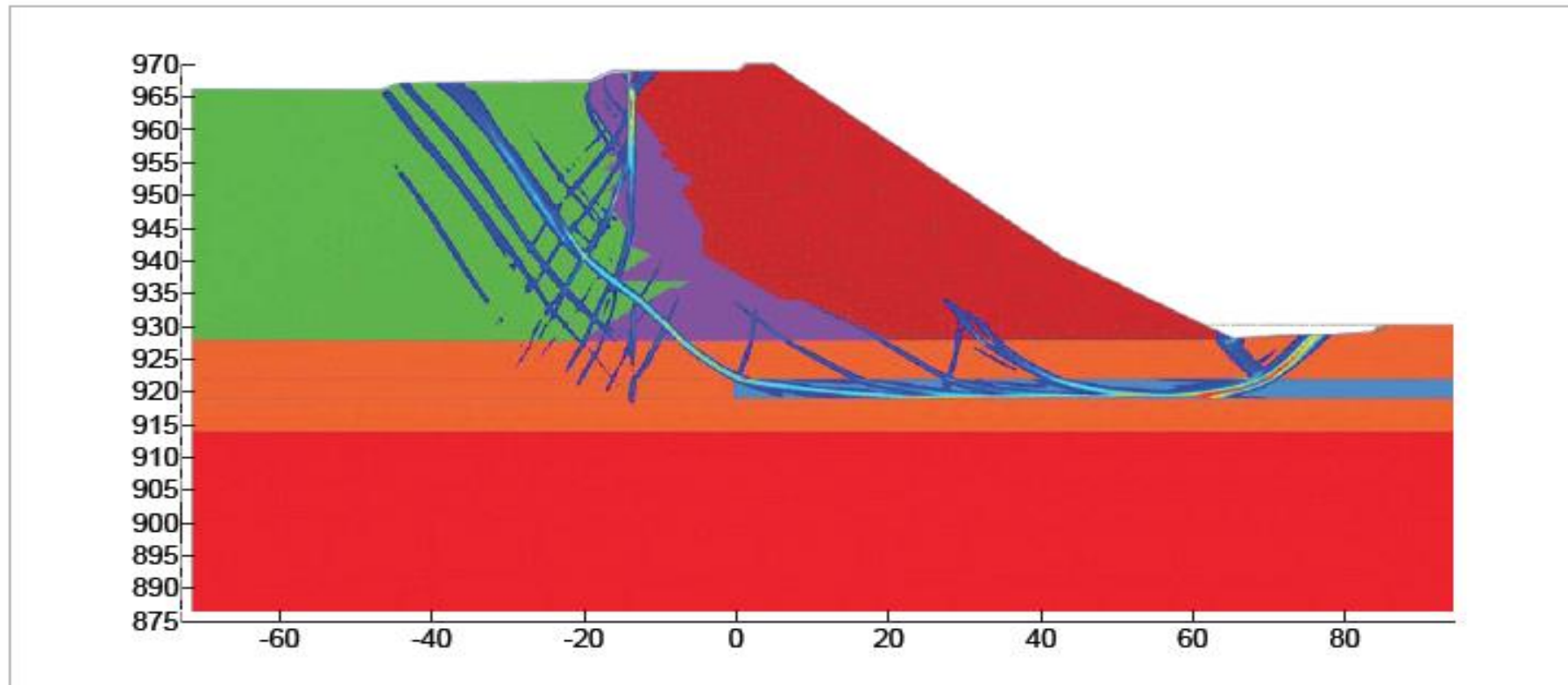
LOCATION	DISPLACEMENTS AND ORIENTATIONS
DOWNSTREAM TOE	Vertical: 2.8 to 3.5 m upward Horizontal: 11 m downstream
UPSTREAM SHEAR SURFACE	Vertical: >3.3 m downward Dip: 47 degrees
RIGHT ABUTMENT	Rotation: 5 to 14 degrees
LEFT ABUTMENT	Rotation: 7 to 10 degrees

FIGURE 5.2.3: GENERALIZED SOIL STRATIGRAPHY IN BREACH AREA

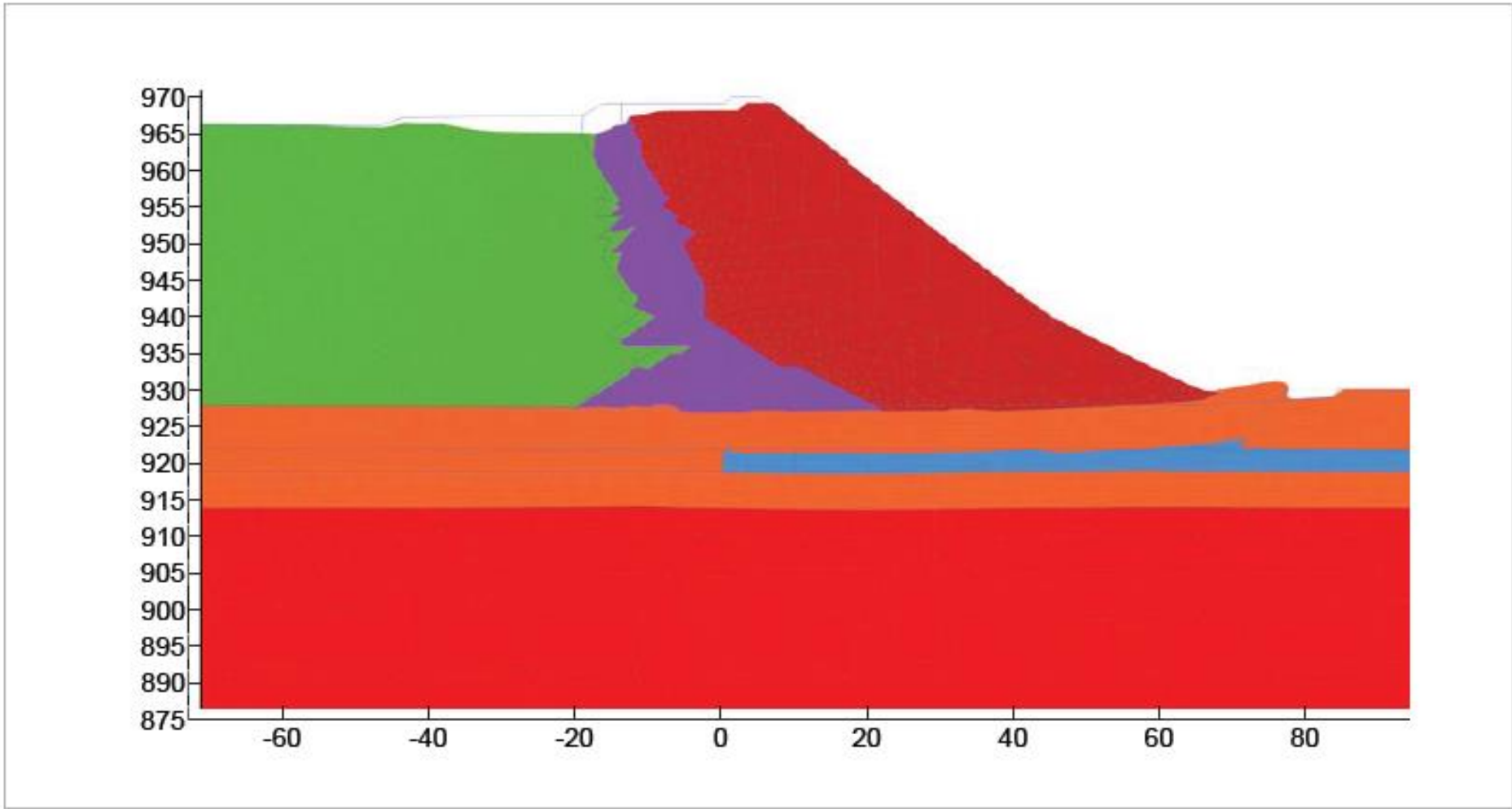
MAJOR STRATIGRAPHIC UNIT	STRATIGRAPHIC SUB-UNIT
UPPER TILL	
UPPER GLACIOLACUSTRINE (UPPER GLU)	
LOWER TILLS	LOWER BASAL TILL
	LOWER GLACIOLACUSTRINE (LOWER GLU)
	GLACIOFLUVIAL
	LOWER BASAL TILL
WEAK BEDROCK	



Contours of Upper GLU Thickness



Modeled failure surface matched failure surface location agreed with field observations.





Mining and Mineral
Resources Division
Ministry of
Energy and Mines

MOUNT POLLEY MINE TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY BREACH

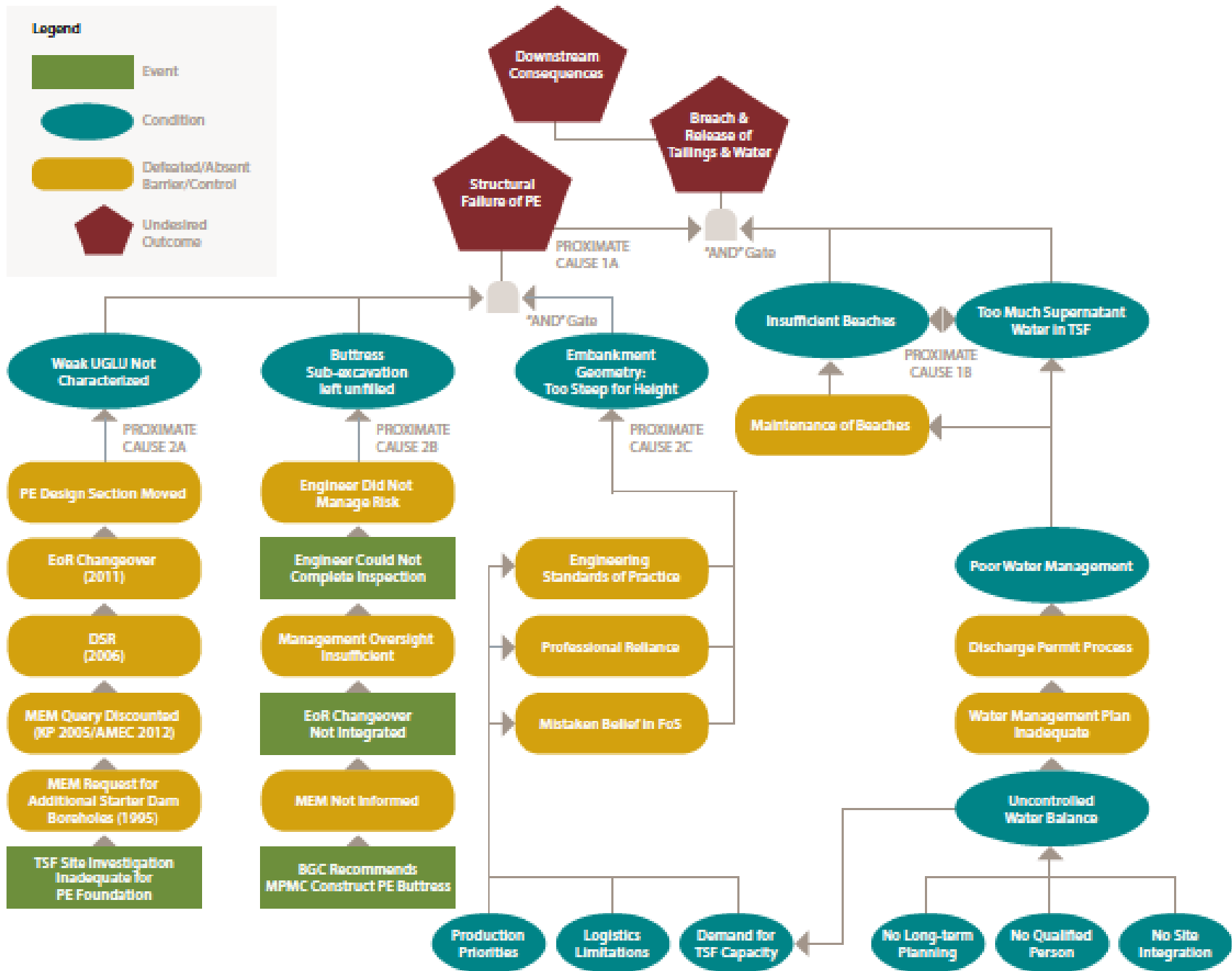
August 4, 2014

Investigation Report
of the Chief Inspector of Mines

November 30, 2015

Outcomes

- Agreed with Panel failure mode
- Slightly different failure sequence
- Spent much more time understanding the company governance and motivations
- Excellent report



**Root Cause Analysis
Event and Causal
Factor Tree**

New Directions

Canada

Report of the TSM Tailings Review Task Force

Recommendations to Strengthen the Mining Association of Canada's Tailings Management
Requirements and Guidance

NOVEMBER 18, 2015

A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities

THIRD EDITION



TSM ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

A Tool for Assessing Tailings Management Performance

Purpose

The purpose of the assessment protocol is to provide guidance to facilities in completing their evaluation of tailings management performance against TSM indicators. The assessment protocol sets out the general expectations for tailings management as part of the TSM initiative.

As with any assessment of a management system, professional judgment is required in assessing the degree of implementation of a system indicator and the quality of management processes and intervention. Application of this protocol will, therefore, require a level of expertise in auditing and systems assessment and knowledge of and experience in the practice of tailings management. This assessment protocol provides an indicator of the level of implementation of proactive tailings management practices as part of the TSM initiative. It is not, of itself, a guarantee of the effectiveness of tailings management activities.

Performance Indicators

Five performance indicators have been established.

1. Tailings management policy and commitment
2. Tailings management system
3. Assigned accountability and responsibility for tailings management
4. Annual tailings management review
5. Operation, maintenance and surveillance (OMS) manual

While this protocol focuses on the physical management of tailings facilities and internal accountability and review mechanisms, an additional critical component of good practice in tailings management is community engagement. TSM addresses tailings related community engagement as part of a broader topic on engagement regarding risks to communities and as such, tailings engagement requirements are contained in the [TSM Aboriginal and Community Outreach Protocol](#). Specifically, Indicator 2 of the TSM Aboriginal and Community Outreach Protocol requires facilities to have processes in place to engage with COI on credible risks to the public that are associated with company activities, including tailings management. Specific topics for engagement should be determined through dialogue with COI.

Action Plans

Facilities that have not achieved a minimum of a Level A for the tailings management indicators are required to disclose in their company profile section of the annual *TSM Progress Report* actions that the company intends to take to achieve a Level A.

Tailings management action plans should address at a minimum:

- Identified gaps in indicators where the facility has not achieved a Level A
- Specific actions the company will take to reach a Level A
- Timeline for implementing actions (note: actions must be implemented within three years)

REVISIONS TO PART 10 EFFECTIVE AS OF JULY 20, 2016

SCHEDULE

- 1 *Part 10 of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia is repealed and the following is substituted:*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
10.1 Mine Plan and Reclamation Program Information, Proposed Coal and Mineral Mines, Major Modifications to Existing Mines & Major Exploration and Development	2
10.2 Notice of Filing	9
10.3 Referral of Permit Application to Other Agencies	9
10.4 Permitted Sites	10
10.5 Operations	12
10.6 Mine Closure	14
10.7 Reclamation Standards	17

Definitions

"best available technology" means the site specific combination of technologies and techniques that most effectively reduce the physical, geochemical, ecological and social risks associated with tailings storage during all stages of operation and closure.

"dam" means a barrier on the surface preventing uncontrolled release of either water, slurry or solids or a barrier underground to prevent the uncontrolled flow of water, slurry or solids.

"dump or stockpile" means the accumulation of deposited rock fragments or other unconsolidated material

"engineer of record" means the Professional Engineer who is retained under section 10.1.5 (1) of this code.



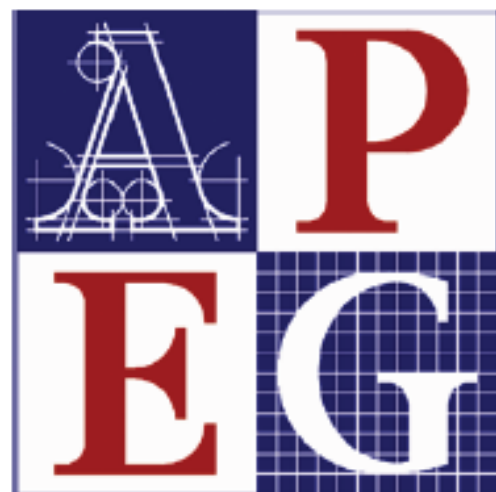
Guidance Document

Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia

Version 1.0

Updated July 2016

Professional Practice Guidelines - Site Characterization Assessments for Dam Foundations in BC



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

www.apeg.bc.ca

USA

Montana Code Annotated 2015

[Search](#) · [MCA Contents](#)

Table of Contents

TITLE 82. MINERALS, OIL, AND GAS CHAPTER 4. RECLAMATION

Part 3. Metal Mine Reclamation

[Back Up One Level in Table of Contents](#)

[82-4-301. Legislative Intent and findings.](#)

[82-4-302. Purpose.](#)

[82-4-303. Definitions.](#)

[82-4-304. Exemption -- works performed prior to promulgation of rules.](#)

[82-4-305. Exemption -- small miners -- written agreement.](#)

[82-4-306. Confidentiality of application information.](#)

[82-4-307. Review of existing files.](#)

[82-4-308. Release by waiver.](#)

[82-4-309. Exemption -- operations on federal lands.](#)

[82-4-310. Exemption -- scale and type of activity.](#)

[82-4-311. Disposition of fees, fines, penalties, and other unclaimed money.](#)

[82-4-312. Hard-rock mining reclamation debt service fund.](#)

[82-4-313. Hard-rock mining reclamation bonds.](#)

[82-4-314. Authorization for sale of hard-rock mining reclamation bonds.](#)

[82-4-315. Hard-rock mining reclamation special revenue account.](#)

[82-4-316. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-321. Administration.](#)

[82-4-322. Investigations, research, and experiments.](#)

[82-4-323. Interagency cooperation -- receipt and expenditure of funds.](#)

[82-4-324. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-331. Exploration license required -- employees included -- limitation.](#)

[82-4-332. Exploration license.](#)

[82-4-333. Repealed.](#)

[82-4-334. Exception -- geological phenomena.](#)

[82-4-335. Operating permit -- limitation -- fees.](#)

[82-4-336. Reclamation plan and specific reclamation requirements.](#)

[82-4-337. Inspection -- issuance of operating permit -- modification, amendment, or revision.](#)

[82-4-338. Performance bond.](#)

[82-4-339. Annual report of activities by permittee -- fee -- notice of large-scale mineral developer status.](#)

[82-4-340. Successor operator.](#)

[82-4-341. Compliance -- reclamation by department.](#)

[82-4-342. Amendment to operating permits.](#)

[82-4-343. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-349. Limitations of actions -- venue.](#)

[82-4-350. Award of costs and attorney fees.](#)

[82-4-351. Reasons for denial of permit.](#)

[82-4-352. Reapplication with new reclamation plan.](#)

[82-4-353. Administrative remedies -- notice -- appeals -- parties.](#)

[82-4-354. Mandamus to compel enforcement.](#)

[82-4-355. Action for damages to water supply -- replacement.](#)

[82-4-356. Action in response to complaints related to use of explosives.](#)

[82-4-357. Abatement of environmental emergencies.](#)

[82-4-358. and reserved.](#)

[82-4-360. When activity prohibited -- exception.](#)

[82-4-361. Violation -- penalties -- waiver.](#)

[82-4-362. Suspension of permits -- hearing.](#)

[82-4-363. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-367. Long-term or perpetual water treatment permanent trust fund.](#)

[82-4-368. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-371. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites.](#)

[82-4-372. Filing of lien for abandoned mine reclamation project.](#)

[82-4-373. and reserved.](#)

[82-4-375. Engineer of record -- duties.](#)

[82-4-376. Tailings storage facility -- design document -- fee.](#)

[82-4-377. Independent review panel -- selection -- duties.](#)

[82-4-378. Quality assurance during construction.](#)

[82-4-379. Tailings operation, maintenance, and surveillance manual.](#)

[82-4-380. Periodic review required.](#)

[82-4-381. Annual inspections.](#)

[82-4-382. through reserved.](#)

[82-4-390. Cyanide heap and vat leach open-pit gold and silver mining prohibited.](#)

International



DECEMBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MINING
AND METALS (ICMM)

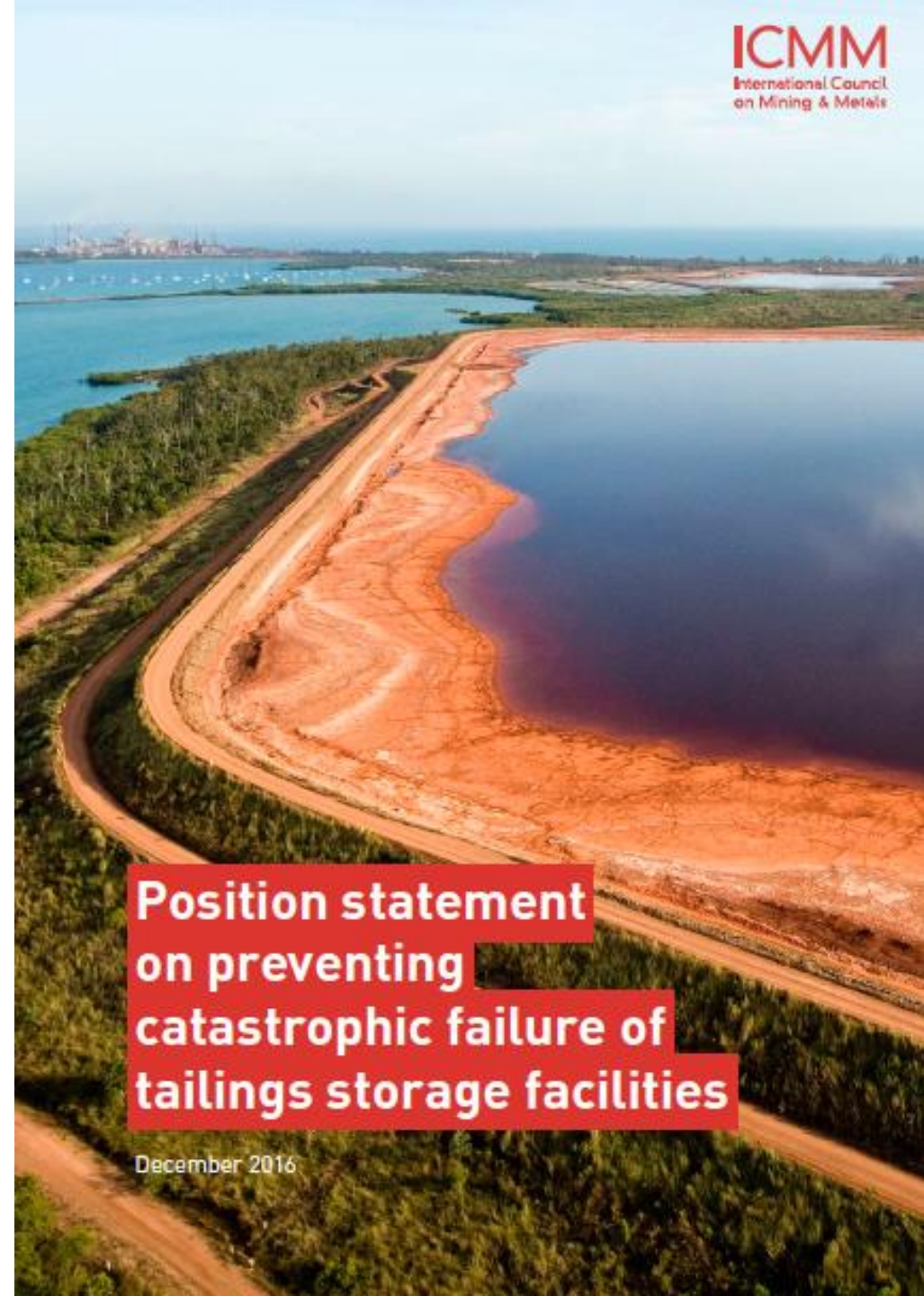
REVIEW OF TAILINGS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Submitted to:
International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)
35/28 Portman Square,
London W1H 6LR,
United Kingdom

REPORT



ICMM
International Council
on Mining & Metals



**Position statement
on preventing
catastrophic failure of
tailings storage facilities**

December 2016



VISION ZERO

MINE TAILINGS STORAGE SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

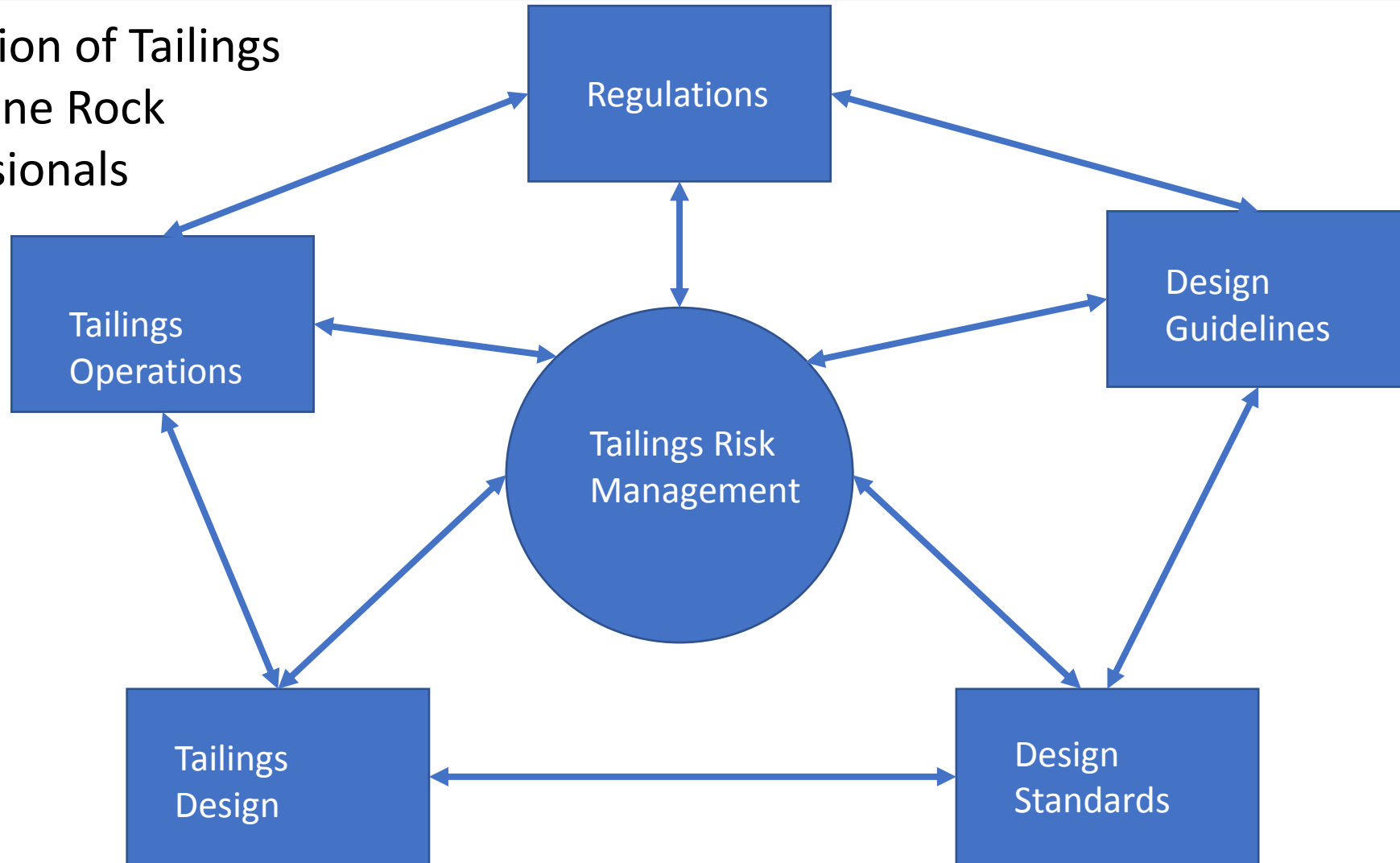
A RAPID RESPONSE ASSESSMENT



Tailings Risk Management Infrastructure

- Education and Training
- Regulations
- Design guidelines
- Design standards (compliance required and voluntary)
- Tailings design (typically by consultants)
- Tailings operations (mining company)

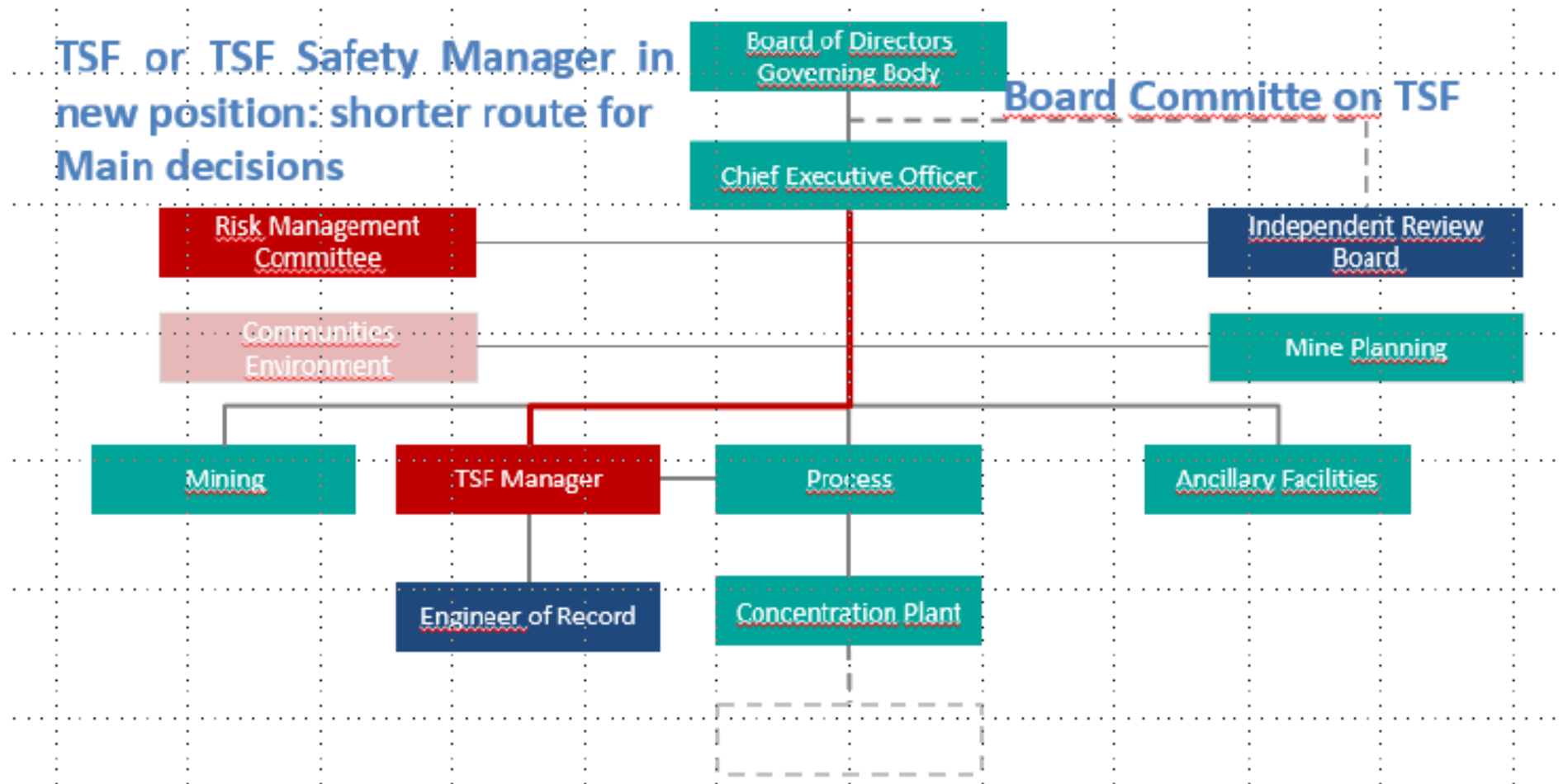
Education of Tailings and Mine Rock Professionals



A New Organizational Structure to Enhance Tailings Management?

New TSF position in the organization?

TSF or TSF Safety Manager in new position: shorter route for Main decisions



Significance of Robustness and Resilience

Robustness

- Robust Geotechnical Design (RGD) - A design is considered robust if the variation in system response (e.g. failure probability) is insensitive to the statistical characterization of noise factors, such as uncertain geotechnical parameters

Resilience

- Resilience is the intrinsic ability of a system to adjust its functioning prior to, during, or following changes and disturbances, so that it can sustain required operations under both expected and unexpected conditions

Resilience Engineering and Management

- Resilience engineering and management is based on the following four components:
 - **Monitoring** – knowing what to look for – timely measurement and analysis
 - **Performance prediction** – knowing what is expected – identifying when performance is not meeting expectations and critical control actions are triggered
 - **Implementing critical control actions** – knowing what to do – implementing in a timely manner
 - **Learning from performance** and critical control responses to improve the system model, assess residual risks and apply resilience engineering and management to increase robustness and post failure resilience.

Robustness and Resilience (2)

- Robustness and resilience changes over the life of a facility, e.g.
 - The exceedance of pre-consolidation pressure of glaciofluvial layer at Mount Polley
- The level of risk management must increase over the life of the tailings facility
- Critical controls must be re-evaluated all the time

Closing Comments

- The recent tailings failures have attracted much attention from tailings engineers, mining companies, regulators and the public worldwide
- Many changes are happening that impacts the design and operations of tailings management facilities and it is expected that this will continue for years
- Tailings governance is a critical issue and will receive significant attention from industry, regulators and communities
- We are in a time that will see ongoing changes in tailings design, operations and management

