



Tailings Dam Safety Management and Engineer of Record

April 23, 2020

Organized by the USSD Committee on Tailings Dams

Thursday, April 23, 2020

The industry is facing challenges and the role of EOR is a critical function which needs to be understood and embraced by owners, operators and consultants. There is a lot of fear and reluctance in the industry to even accept the EOR role for a tailings dam, based on backlash from recent failures. The purpose of this workshop is to provide analysis of EOR/governance challenges which must be overcome to prevent further failures, a breakdown of recent changes to tailings dam safety management guidance documents and learn about their application, and share industry experiences, challenges and successes with the EOR role.

8:15 am – 8:30 am Welcome and Overview

Moderators - Tiffany Adams and Andy Small

Prior to the workshop, attendees will be encouraged to attend a separate Webinar giving specifics of current EOR guidance documents and practices. Attendance at this workshop will not go into details of the guidance but will assume that participants have attended the Webinar and are familiar with documents such as MAC, CDA and GBA.

8:30 am – 9:30 am EOR Understanding – Owner’s Perspective

CDA, GBA and other guidance documents are becoming more commonly accepted, but how are individual mine owners interpreting and implementing them? What challenges have they seen identifying and partnering with qualified EOR candidates? How are other technical expert roles, such as External Review Boards, employed by owners? Brief presentations by mine owners on their specific EOR framework, followed by a discussion panel.

Moderator – Amanda Adams

Panelists:

- *Jim Kuipers*
- *Kim Morrison*
- *Tamara Johndrow*

9:30 am – 10:30 am EOR Role in TSF Operations – Operator’s Perspective

Based on the current guidance, the Tailings Responsible Person is a critical counterpart to the EOR. What challenges and successes have these on-site operators experienced with the changing EOR definition? How is their perspective different from Corporate functions? Brief introductions by mine operators serving in the role of Tailings Responsible Person, followed by a discussion panel.

Moderator – Chris Hatton

Panelists:

- *Brian Gerrity*
- *Darren Albright*
- *Adam Rouch*

10:30 am – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **EOR Responsibility and Liability – Legal and Insurance Perspective**

What liability does an EOR have, as opposed to a Design Engineer of Record? Is there any difference at all? How is the Insurance industry responding to the changing EOR guidance, and the fallout from recent failures? Expert panelists will answer these questions and more in an interactive Q&A.

Moderator – Paul Ridlen

Panelists:

- Denis Binder
- Someone with Marsh
- Karen Martin

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **EOR Past, Present and Future**

Educating, identifying, training and retaining a successful EOR is a challenge that is becoming more difficult each day as experienced industry professionals retire, and the need for named EORs continues to grow. How are Universities responding to the call for qualified tailing professionals? How are companies identifying qualified candidates, and incentivizing them to pursue EOR as a career? Brief presentations followed by a discussion panel.

Moderator – Brad Ross

Panelists:

- Chris Bareither (CSU Professor)
- Jim Obermeyer (Stantec)
- Zygi Zurakowski (Stantec)

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Breakout Groups – Instructions/Overview**

Having heard the challenges facing EORs from a variety of perspectives, it is time for workshop participants to develop their path forward. At the end of this workshop our goal is for participants to feel confident and energized with the future of EOR for tailings dams, armed with new ideas and strategies to take back to their respective organizations. The purpose is not to develop new guidance or modify existing guidance documents but understand real strategies and applications that have been successful for others.

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm **Breakout Groups**

Groups of 6-8 people will share ideas and experiences while tackling a specific topic of interest which has been identified during the workshop. The top 3 solutions/approaches to share will be documented.

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Break**

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Group Report-out and Discussion**



The top 3 solutions/approaches from each group will be compiled, summarized and discussed in an open forum. Specific actions for USSD or other similar organizations to further the industry EOR practices will be identified.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Final Thoughts and Closeout

Tiffany Adams and Andy Small

Inadequate Dam Safety Management Systems and governance have contributed to recent tailings dam failures. Current guidance for tailings dams EOR provides a common starting point but understanding and applying the various guidance documents is not straightforward. The industry is facing challenges to identify, attract and retain qualified, interested and successful EORs. Owners, operator and EORs themselves need to be armed with both the industry guidance and real applications and strategies to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.