Lessons Learned from Recent Tailings Dam Failures: A Path Forward

September 14-15, 2017

Organized by the USSD Committee on Tailings Dams

Thursday, September 14

8:00 am – 5:00 pm  Registration Desk open

8:30 am – 10:00 am  Plenary Session, Part 1
Moderator – Amanda Adams

Welcome and Introductions/Safety Share
Amanda Adams, Stantec (Chair, USSD Committee on Tailings Dams)

Opening Thoughts
Jeremy Boswell, Thurber Engineering Ltd.

Historic Tailing Dam Failures and Regulatory Response
Jeremy Boswell

Mt. Polley Failure Mechanism Summary
Dirk VanZyl, University of British Columbia

10:00 am – 10:30 am  Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am  Plenary Session, continued
Samarco Failure Mechanism Summary
Kim Morrison, Morrison Solutions, Inc. and Geoprofessional Business Association

Kingston TVA
Bill Walton, GEI Consultants

11:30 am – 1:00 pm  Lunch (on your own)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  Plenary Session, Part 2
Moderator – Bob Snow

Canada and US Regulatory Responses to Recent Tailings Dam Failures
Charles Cobb, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Similarities and Differences in Kingston Compared to Tailings Dams and other Ash Ponds
Bob Bachus, Geosyntec Consultants

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm  Break
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Panel Discussion

Moderator – Amanda Adams

Owner’s Perspective - Tamara Johndrow, Freeport McMoRan

Owner’s Perspective - John Lupo, Newmont

Consultant’s Perspective – Kim Morrison, Morrison Solutions, Inc.

Consultant’s Perspective – Paul Ridlen, Knight Piésold and Co.

Friday, September 15

8:00 am – 5:00 pm  Registration Desk open

8:30 am – 8:45 am  Introductions

8:45 am – 9:00 am  Group Warm-Up Activity

9:00 am – 9:05 am  Break into Three Working Groups

Each group will discuss the following topics in a round-robin format:

- Design Changes
- Regulatory Changes
- Operational Changes

9:05 am – 9:30 am  Brainstorm Round 1

9:30 am – 10:00 am  Brainstorm Round 2

10:00 am – 10:30 am  Break

10:30 am – 11:00 am  Brainstorm Round 3

11:00 am – 11:30 am  GBA TSF Engineer of Record Initiative update by Kim Morrison

11:30 am – 1:00 pm  Lunch (on your own)

1:00 pm – 1:10 pm  Break into Groups

Design, Regulatory or Operation (your choice) for further discussion and to develop action plans

1:10 pm – 3:00 pm  Develop Action Plans

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  Presentation of Each Group’s Findings

Moderator – Christina Winckler

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Closing Thoughts