

Consultation response

Part 1: Your details

Original language of response: English

Name: Tim Moulding

Country of residence: Canada

Are you willing to let us publish your response publicly on the Global Tailings Review website? Yes

Please select which stakeholder group you are representing: Non-governmental organization (NGO) – International

If 'Other', please specify below:

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? Yes

Please give the name of the organization: Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Environmental Protection Branch

Your level within the organisation: Management

Part 2: Your views on each of the Principles and Requirements in the Standard

Topic 1: Knowledge Base

Principle 1

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 1 do your comments relate to?

Comments on the Principle itself

Your comments on Principle 1

General requirement on each of the requirements is that in order for the requirement to be something that can be audited and/or evaluated for compliance, there needs to be more information on how to quantify and measure whether the requirement is being met.

Principle 2

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 2 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 2

Topic II: Affected Communities

Principle 3

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 3 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 3

Topic III: Design, Construction, Operation and Monitoring of the Tailings Facility

Principle 4

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 4 do your comments relate to?

Comments on the Principle itself

Your comments on Principle 4

It would be unlikely that a proponent would not offer some rebuttal. Rather than presuming a classification, it may be more useful to require that a proponent ""provide adequate justification for the consequence classification being proposed, including supporting information, standards used for reference, and 3rd party review.

Principle 5

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 5 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 5

Principle 6

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 6 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 6:

Principle 7

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 7 do your comments relate to?

Requirement 7.8

Your comments on Principle 7

Full review should be carried out on a periodic basis, but 3 years may not be appropriate for all situations. Rather than state the period, perhaps note that the period should be appropriate for the facility.

Principle 8

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 8 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 8

Topic IV: Management and Governance

Principle 9

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 9 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 9

Principle 10

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 10 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 10:

Principle 11

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 11 do your comments relate to?

Requirement 11.4

Your comments on Principle 11:

Not sure if it should be a requirement that the DSR contractor cannot conduct subsequent DSRs on the same facility. There are professional associations to ensure integrity of the professional members and so long as members remain in good standing with their associations, that assurance should be sufficient. Also, there is some utility for continuity in using the same contractor in subsequent reviews.

Principle 12

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 12 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 12:

Principle 13

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 13 do your comments relate to?

No

Your comments on Principle 13:

Principle 14

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 14 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 14:

Topic V: Emergency Response and Long-Term Recovery

Principle 15

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Yes

Which aspects of Principle 15 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 15:

Principle 16

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 16 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 16:

Topic VI: Public Disclosure and Access to Information

Principle 17

In your view, will compliance with this Principle and its Requirements contribute to the prevention of catastrophic failure of tailings facilities?

Partially

Which aspects of Principle 17 do your comments relate to?

Your comments on Principle 17:

Part 3: Your views on the Standard

Your view as to whether the content of the Standard meets your expectations

Your view as to whether the content of the Standard meets your expectations (closed question):

3: Meets my expectations

Please summarize why you chose this option:

It is expected that developing these types of standards is difficult. As noted in the cover letter attached, standards need quantifiable, measurable benchmarks to evaluate performance against. This document reads more like a guideline than a standard in its current form and perhaps that is sufficient for a global document. If it is intended to be used as a standard, more will be needed to describe how the requirements can be demonstrably met.

Your view on whether the Standard will create a step change for the industry in the safety and security of tailings facilities

Your view on whether the Standard will create a step change for the industry in the safety and security of tailings facilities (closed question):

3: Will strengthen some but not all aspects of the safety and security of tailings facilities

Please summarize why you chose this option:

see above summary

Does the content of the Standard address all aspects of tailings facility management adequately?

Does the content of the Standard address all aspects of tailings facility management adequately (closed question)?

No

Please explain why and/or what is missing:

More is required to describe how the requirements can be met and measured.

Part 4: Suggestions for topics to be included in the accompanying Recommendations Report

On which topics would you expect to have further clarification or guidance in this document?

Other information

Non-fitting response text (text submitted which did was not in response to one of the questions above)

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection Branch, provide the following general comments as part of the review of the Global Tailings Standard – Draft for Public Consultation, November 2019. Specific comments regarding the Global Tailings Standard have been provided using the online survey.

Overall the document can be the basis for a guidance or best management practices document for the mining industry. However, if the document is meant to serve as a management standard for tailings impoundment systems globally, additional information including quantifiable and measurable benchmarks for performance should be incorporated. For example, for consequence classification, the standard requires that "tailings facilities be designed for the most severe level in the Consequence Classification Matrix, unless it can be demonstrated that a lower classification is appropriate" without sufficient information regarding how these demonstrations can be quantified and measured. To highlight this, a catastrophic failure of a structure in a very remote area may have a much lower consequence than a relatively minor failure of a structure in close proximity to a large community.

In Saskatchewan, environmental assessments are used to describe current conditions, model potential impacts, and provide for regulatory and public review of information prior to issuing construction approvals so that risks are understood and accounted. Following the environmental assessment the approval and compliance assurance process ensures legislative requirements are met and provide long-term financial stability through the requirement of financial assurance by proponents.

The ministry understands the difficulties in developing global standards where

regulatory requirements vary greatly among jurisdictions along with the capacities of regulators and the quality of regulatory tools available. In Canada, the Canadian Dam Association – Mining Dams Committee (CDA-MDC) provides a forum for discussion and development of guidance information to be used by mining companies and regulators to help ensure the safety of mining dams. The ministry has representatives on the CDA-MDC, and are aware that the CDA-MDC is planning on submitting comments on the standard as an organization. Please review these comments in conjunction with those provided herein.

Attachment 1 reference (if applicable)

ref:0000001090:Q83

Attachment 2 reference (if applicable)

December 31, 2019

File: S25000-00

Dr. Bruno Oberle, Chair
Global Tailings Review
bruno@globaltailingsreview.org
consultation@globaltailingsreview.org

Dear Dr. Bruno Oberle and members of the expert panel:

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection Branch, provide the following general comments as part of the review of the Global Tailings Standard – Draft for Public Consultation, November 2019. Specific comments regarding the Global Tailings Standard have been provided using the online survey.

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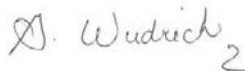
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. . . 2

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If you have any specific questions or require further information regarding the ministry's response please contact Tim Moulding, Manager Uranium and Northern Operations directly by telephone at 306-933-7063 or by email at tim.moulding@gov.sk.ca.

Sincerely,



Gerald Wudrich.
Director, Mining, Industry and Audit

cc: Miranda Carlberg, Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment
Tim Moulding, Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment

