



# ***WORKSHOP ON THE SAFETY OF TAILING MANAGEMENT FACILITIES***

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**• The Workshop on the Safety of Tailing Management Facilities** was arranged by the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia with the financial support from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and held in Yerevan from 12 to 14 November 2007.





The workshop was held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.



## *Workshop Goal*

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The main goal of the Workshop was

✚ to share information and experience on practice management systems, inspections and emergency planning for tailing dams, as well as on their pre-construction and closing.



## *Main Issues*

Participants discussed issues relevant to tailing dams:

- ⊕ management systems,
- ⊕ Inspections and improvements;
- ⊕ emergency planning;
- ⊕ pre-construction and closing;
- ⊕ abandoned and orphan tailing dam sites, including their decommissioning and remediation;
- ⊕ training and education for mining professionals on safety.



## Discussion

- At the Workshop the proposed Draft Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailing Management Facilities were discussed.
- Based on the experience of the Workshop participants – representatives of governmental structures, actors, financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), valuable comments and suggestions were proposed.



## *Sharing experience and information*

The participants had the chance to share experience

- on the importance of issues relevant to preconstruction stage: tailing dams safety beginning with the planning and design;
- licencing, environmental impact assessment and remediation;
- on tailing dams management system and safety
- on inspection;
- on emergency planning.



## *Issues of special importance*

- Training and education for competent authorities and mining professionals (actors);
- ) transboundary context;
- abandoned abandoned and orphan tailing dam sites,
- public awareness and participation in the tailing dam “life-cycle”;





# *Presentations*

- Risk and hazard assessment for tailing dams (Czech Republic);
- Avoiding tailing dam failures: good practice in prevention (Sweden);
- Tailing dam inspections (Germany);
- Public participation and information to the public throughout the phases of tailing dam life cycle (Germany);
- Emergency planning for tailing dams (Germany);
- Abandoned sites - Assessment and risk management (Sweden)
- Training for tailing safety (France)





## *Presentations*

- Implications of earthquakes on the stability of tailing dams (Shell International B.V.);
- European Union rules for safe management of mining waste facilities;
- The safety of tailing management facilities in Ukraine in view of the future implementation of the guidelines (Ukraine)
- Tailing dam safety and implementation of safety guidelines by a tailing dam operator (Deno Gold Mining CJSC, Armenia)
- The role of the Public Environmental Information Centre on mining in view of the future implementation of the guidelines (CENN)



## Information

- The presentations are available on the UNECE website at:
- <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/water/tailoringdams/yerevan-document.htm>



## *Feedback*

- ✚ At the Workshop information of the concerned parties was presented on consideration of the Safety Guidelines in view of necessary amendments, including the assessment of their possible use/application in future.
- ✚ The concluding session consisted of a discussion on the draft safety guidelines and good practices for tailing dams.



## *Feedback*

- ❖ Participants made valuable inputs regarding the Principles on Safety and recommendations to UNECE member countries, competent authorities and tailing dam operators.
- ❖ Numerous comments were also made regarding the technical annex.
- ❖ The important role of the workshop participants in shaping the draft safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities was also stressed.



## Resolution

All the comments were taken into consideration and should be used while preparing the second version of the document. It was agreed that after the second version was finalized by the steering group, it will be circulated to UNECE member countries, tailing dam operators and nongovernmental organizations, in English and Russian, for a final round of comments.



## Outcomes

- The workshop contributed greatly to the exchange of experience and good practice on national and international developments regarding the prevention, control and reduction of tailing dam failure.
- The important role of the workshop participants in shaping the draft safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities was also stressed.



## VISIT TO A TAILING FACILITY

- A site visit to a tailing management facility at Ararat was organized on 14 November, 2007.
- During the visit, workshop participants had the possibility to talk to a representative of the tailing facility operator, and to pose questions related to safety.





# VISIT TO A TAILING FACILITY





## *Social Events*

- ❖ A visit to MATENADARAN – a depository of ancient manuscripts- was arranged for Workshop participants.
- ❖ Receptions were arranged by the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.



**Thank you for  
your attention**

