

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION**

_____)
In the Matter of:)
)
)
PROPOSED AMENDMENT)
TO 20.6.2 NMAC (Copper Rule))
)
_____)

No. WQCC 12-01(R)

EXHIBIT SCOTT – D-17

**A Guide
to the Management
of Tailings Facilities**
Second Edition, 2011



The Mining Association | L'association minière
of Canada | du Canada

Tailings facilities are site-specific complex systems that have unique environmental and physical characteristics. They pose a significant business risk that must be effectively managed for the long term. The mining industry has the technology and resources to safely site, design, construct, operate, decommission and close tailings facilities, but there remains a need to continually improve their management in a consistent, safe and environmentally responsible manner through the full life cycle.

One way to do this is to establish a comprehensive tailings management system, one that integrates technical and managerial aspects, and one that individual companies may adapt and implement under often widely ranging conditions. With this approach, the industry can self-regulate, demonstrate due diligence, complement government legislation and regulations, and protect the environment and the public. Perhaps more importantly, such an approach will help companies to integrate environmental and safety considerations in a manner that is consistent with continual improvement in their tailings operations.

A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities provides a basis for the development of customized tailings management systems that address the specific needs of individual mining companies and local regulatory and community requirements. The *Guide* includes:

- ☒ a framework for tailings management; and
- ☒ sample checklists for implementing the framework through the life cycle of a tailings facility.

The framework offers a foundation for managing tailings in a safe and environmentally responsible manner through the full life cycle of a tailings facility from site selection and design, through construction and operation, to eventual decommissioning and closure.

The tailings management framework is expanded into sample checklists that address the various stages of the life cycle. These checklists provide a basis for developing customized management systems, operating procedures and manuals, exposing gaps within existing procedures, identifying training requirements, communicating with Communities of Interest, obtaining permits, conducting internal audits, and aiding compliance and due diligence, at any stage of the life cycle.

The *Guide* complements MAC's *Towards Sustainable Mining Guiding Principles*, which are appended. It is designed to help companies manage their tailings responsibly and safely and to be able to demonstrate this practice to regulators and the public. As well, it will help companies implement due diligence.

► **A tailings facility** includes the collective structures, components and equipment pertaining to tailings impoundment and management, including dams and reservoirs, other related facilities and appurtenances.