

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Improving the safety of tailings management facilities based on the example of Ukrainian facilities



Ore processing tailings management facilities

Source: Grigory Shmatkov

#### Background

The failure of Tailings Management Facilities (TMF) leads worldwide to severe disasters. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) thus developed in 2009 “Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities”. These comprise recommendations to authorities on the necessary legal basis for permits for the safe operation of TMFs and recommendations to operators on their safety design. The UNECE requested on member countries to incorporate the safety guidelines into their national regulations and technical standards and to apply them. However, this poses problems because the Guidelines set out safety standards in general terms only.

#### Project details

The project aimed helping to overcome problems in the implementation of the UNECE Safety Guidelines for TMFs and to permanently reduce the risk posed by these facilities. After an analysis of the legal framework with respect to TMFs in Ukraine, the following tools have been developed:

- (i) a checklist, which inspectors and operators of TMFs can use to identify safety shortcomings of facilities and to derive measures to address them;
- (ii) a Tailing Hazard Index that can be used by competent authorities and inspectors to get a preliminary overview on possible problems, prioritize TMFs of concern on a national and international level and define first actions to be taken.

The developed instruments have been tested at the two Ukrainian facilities Lviv and Kalush, the final results were presented and discussed at an international work-shop. After completion of the project, the checklist will be available for use in the entire UNECE region.

Updated: June 2015

**Target country:** Ukraine

**Duration:** 07/2013 – 06/2015

**Beneficiary:** Authorities and plant operators

**Implementing organisation:** IHPA, International HCH & Pesticides Association, Denmark

**Project number:** 26206

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#### Advisory Assistance Programme

(AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

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