

PROJECT INFORMATION

Feasibility study on the safety of Tailing Management Facilities (TMFs) in Kyrgyzstan

Updated: November 2020



Lower flotation tailings management facility of the Altynken mine

Source: State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use of the Kyrgyz Republic

Background

In the Central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan, mining activities are an extremely important branch of the economy, which contributes significantly to the gross national product of the country. Kyrgyzstan has rich deposits of mineral resources. However, the retention of mine waste has very low safety levels, with a high risk to people and the environment in the vicinity of these facilities. TMF accidents with dramatic consequences, even transboundary ones, are raising worldwide. Therefore, the safety level of Kyrgyz TMFs has to be updated and renewed according to the requirements of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Project details

The idea and approach of the project were proposed by the German Environment Agency. They based on experiences of previous projects to strengthen the safety of TMFs by practical tools for inspection but also for self-assessments by TMF operators. The objectives of the project were to narrow knowledge gaps and raise awareness related to TMF safety, hazards and risks in the Kyrgyz Republic. For that purpose a round table was organized with all competent authorities to discuss deficits and options to improve the safety of TMFs in their country. Also a preliminary TMF inventory for Kyrgyzstan was developed based on open access data and official national information. This inventory includes basic data and preliminary risk assessments for each identified TMF. The created database will be used as a tool for updating the cadastre of TMFs in Kyrgyzstan. The outputs of the project include easy to use online and offline maps that help to identify the most dangerous Kyrgyz TMFs and pave the way for future advisory assistance to train competent authorities and operators to raise the safety of TMFs.

Beneficiary country:

Kyrgyzstan

Duration: 08/2020 – 11/2020

Beneficiaries: State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use of the Kyrgyz Republic, Industrial Safety Regulatory Authority, Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, Agency for TMFs Management, State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Safety under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, TMF operators, non-governmental organisations

Implementing organisations: NGO Sustainable Development Platform (Ukraine), PA "Independent Ecological Expertise" (Kyrgyzstan)

Project number: 145801

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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 and Nuclear Safety

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