

GEMCO

TSF EMERGENCY PLANNING



Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning (GISTM Requirement 15.1 B8)

Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO) maintains an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for tailings storage facility (TSF) failure that describes GEMCO's emergency response to an actual or imminent loss of containment from their facilities.

Each facility has an Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual (OMS) for the TSF that describes the efforts to operate and maintain the integrity of the facility, over time. The OMS also documents the physical conditions that are monitored to identify emergency scenarios and criteria that can be used define the level of such an emergency.

In the event of an escalating emergency the GEMCO ERP then relates to the local and state government agencies by way of the Groote Eylandt Local Emergency Plan. This was developed for Groote Eylandt District and regulates the response from the local government and its Local Emergency Committee (LEC) to any major emergency within its boundaries.

The LEC coordinates any evacuation of the community. Prior to the LEC being activated, any evacuation will be managed by the Northern Territory Police (NTP).

1. Emergency - Event Detection

An unusual event or emergency event may be detected by:

- Observations at or near the TSFs, dam safety inspections by team or contract personnel;
- Evaluation and monitoring instrumentation data associated with the structure;
- Earthquakes felt or reported in the vicinity of the site; and
- Forewarning of conditions that may cause an unusual or emergency event like severe weather or flash flood forecast.

2. Emergency Level Determination

GEMCO's TSFs emergency levels operate under three levels described below.

Level 1

Indicates that the operational parameters of the TSF are exceeded. Additional efforts to maintain the integrity shall be taken. These measures are described in the OMS. The Process and Logistics Manager shall, in consultation with the Responsible Tailings Facility Engineer (RTFE), and the Coordinator Tailings & Water Management, through the Chain of Command, inform the Vice President Operations (VPO).

Level 2

Indicates that there is potential for failure of the TSF. Additional efforts to maintain the integrity shall be taken. These measures are generally described in the OMS. The Process and Logistics Manager shall, in consultation with the RTFE, and the Coordinator Tailings & Water Management, through the Chain of Command, inform the VPO.

The VPO will then consider invoking the ERP and activating the incident management Team (IMT), in consideration of the advice from the RTFE and the nature of the situation.

Level 3

Indicates that a TSF failure is likely or has occurred. The Process and Logistics Manager shall, in consultation with the RTFE, and the Coordinator Tailings & Water Management, through the Chain of Command, inform the VPO. The VPO should now ensure that the ERP steps are assigned, activate the IMT, if not already done, and conduct notifications and warnings.

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3. Close Out

Once the emergency event is over, the emergency must be closed out and follow-up procedures completed.

Assessment of social, environmental, and local economic impacts will be conducted as soon as possible after people are safe and short-term needs have been met.

GEMCO will also facilitate the monitoring and public reporting of post-failure outcomes and work with regulators and affected people towards the development of reconstruction, restoration and recovery plans that address the medium- and long-term social, environmental, and local economic impacts of the failure.