Recent Developments in Tailings Dam Safety and Regulation Around the World

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The imperative for safe tailings dams was highlighted in 2014 and 2015 after two, significant, catastrophic failures of large tailings dams at mines in Canada and Brazil. Nevertheless, in 2019, another large tailings dam failure in Brazil was captured in a dramatic video, cost hundreds of lives, and devastated mine facilities and the downstream community. On-going efforts by national and international organizations such as ASDSO, the Canadian Dam Association, and ICOLD were reinforced and joined by other international bodies to increase the standard of care and reduce the risks from tailings dam failures. Incident investigations and advances in engineering yielded new understanding of technical parameters contributing to tailings dam incidents. This presentation will review recent developments on tailings dam safety and regulation in the United States, Canada and the world.