



Press Release
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For Immediate Release:

The Salt Lake County Kennecott Tailings Impoundment Committee is pleased to announce that a draft study of the seismic stability of the South East corner of the Utah Kennecott Copper Tailings Impoundment is available. The Draft study is intended to give citizens of Magna an independent review of the seismic stability of the Kennecott Tailings Impoundment.

The Committee heard a report from the Geotechnical Engineering firm Tetra Tech, Inc. on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, who **independently verified available data and evaluated conditions at the impoundment.** The draft report showed that most of the data and information previously presented to the committee by Utah Kennecott Copper Company was valid and repeatable.

Using that data and the latest methods for analyzing dam performance and liquefaction potential – methods different from those used by Kennecott – Tetra Tech concluded that under conditions created by the maximum credible earthquake of 7.2 Magnitude on the Richter Scale, Kennecott's previous evaluation is reasonable: it is unlikely that the tailings in the impoundment will would spread more than 790 feet from the existing south east boundary of the retention pond. Tetra Tech stated that, as a later Kennecott report indicated, it is possible the run out would be less than 200 feet. It is important to note that the 7.2 M earthquake used in the analyses represents an event having a return period of approximately 2,400 years. There appear to be no residences within the 790 foot distance.

To better define the potential for a serious run out under a severe earthquake, the Committee deems that it is in the public's best interest to

commission additional analysis to evaluate the run out in the event of the maximum credible earthquake or under a less severe but more probable earthquake; i.e. an event having a return period on the order of 500 years..

This analysis will better define the areas around the Kennecott Tailings Retention Pond might be threatened by a seismically induced dike failure.

It is expected that a final report including the additional run out analysis will be completed within the next two months.

The Salt Lake County Kennecott Tailings Impoundment Committee is comprised of 12 Community Members and 5 Elected Officials that represent the Magna Community. The Committee is further staffed with geotechnical and tailings experts.

For a copy of the draft report, please contact Ryan Perry at 801-468-2932 or rperry@slco.org. Further information can be found at www.magnatailingsstudy.slco.org