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Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division: Mine.Safety@gov.bc.ca

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GEOHAZARDS IN PROXIMITY TO MINES

Geohazards are natural earth processes, phenomena, and conditions such as landslides, floods, and earthquakes, which have the potential to threaten people, property or the environment. In BC, geohazards have claimed many lives and cost millions of dollars in property and economic damage. Potential risks exist where there are interactions between geohazards and mine sites.



The earthflow from the 2018 Old Fort Landslide was in proximity to the Deasan Sand and Gravel Pit. The Chief Inspector of Mines' investigation into the slide is available at gov.bc.ca/mineshealthsafety.

Recommendations

- Mines are reminded to consider the risk of geohazards in proximity to mine sites and consult qualified professionals for any concerns related to geotechnical hazards or features that may pose a risk.
- Mines should undertake a review of their Mine Emergency Response Plan with specific consideration of potential geohazard risks, impacts or interactions with the mine site. *Note: Mine Emergency Response Plans, including the review of geohazard risks, will continue to form part of ministry inspections.*
- The potential for geohazard risk or interactions that impact or arise from mining activities are expected to be assessed and included as part of new Permit Application, Notice of Work or Notice of Departure submittals. *Note: An application should consider both the potential effects of the proposed infrastructure on the geohazard and the potential effects of the geohazard on mine infrastructure/areas.*

Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC (Code)

The following requirements are only some of the regulations that must be considered regarding geohazards on a mine site in BC. For a complete list, please review the Code:

Workplace Conditions – Code s.1.9.1: The manager shall take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure that the workplace is free of potentially hazardous agents and conditions which could adversely affect the health, safety, or well-being of the workers.

Mine Emergency Response Plan – Code s.3.7.1 (1): The manager shall develop, and file with the Chief Inspector, a Mine Emergency Response Plan (MERP) which shall be kept up to date and followed in the event of an emergency. *Note: MERPs should consider geohazards to ensure a proper response and rescue can be coordinated in the event of an emergency involving geohazards.*

Consult the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC for regulatory requirements