
Technical Committee on Mining Geotechnique
Report of Activities – July 2014 to July 2015
Prepared by the Executive Committee

The Technical Committee on Mining Geotechnique was officially created in October 2011. The Executive Committee for the current period consists of the following CGS members: Paul Simms (Chair), Michel Aubertin (Past-Chair), Bruno Bussière, Murray Grabinsky, and Ward Wilson.

GeoRegina and GeoQuebec

The committee had a very successful participation at the GeoRegina conference, with 6 or 7 of the sessions being dedicated to Mining Geotechnique. The committee's executive participated quite heavily in the review process for these sessions.

Some of our executives assisted the GeoQuebec technical committee with the review of abstracts and papers. It appears that several sessions may be dedicated to Mining Geotechnique at the conference, though many mining themed papers fall into the permafrost side of the conference

At the committee meeting in Regina, several ideas were discussed on how to broaden the contribution of the committee to CGS beyond the yearly participation in the conference.

One idea was to initiate a student-oriented event to facilitate networking between students and professionals. A number of students from several universities have been working on a proposal to have a short meeting at GeoQuebec along these lines. The intent of the meeting is not to detract from student participation in the technical sessions at the conference. GeoQuebec has agreed to supply us with room, and we are currently soliciting participation in this event.

Activities of members

Our members remain quite active at various conferences and events both nationally and internationally. The Biannual International Oil Sands Tailings Conference in Lake Louise in early December, hosted by the University of Alberta, was the most successful of this conference series, and included participation by CGS members from across the country. The 2014 Quebec Mines conference was held in November at Quebec City. Sessions were organized on topics related to mine site reclamation and mining environment. CGS members were actively involved in the organization of these sessions. The 5th Symposium on Mines and the Environment, organized by CIM and by RIME UQAT-Polytechnique, was held at Rouyn-Noranda mid-June 2015. More than 340 attendees participated to the conference including more than 80 students. Three short courses, a trade show, four site visits and a plenary session on the challenge of low grade high tonnage mines were also organized. Canadian consultants and academics continue to participate in international conferences such as Paste 2015 and Tailings 2015. Academics in Canada continue to undertake strong research collaborations with industry across the country. Notable examples include Ward Wilson's NSERC Industrial Chair at the University of Alberta, and the TERRE-CREATE program, which fosters industry collaboration in student education specifically in mining related areas, which is participated in by a number of Canadian as well as international universities. Suffice to say, mining remains a strong driver of Geotechnical research across the country.

Affiliations and relationships with Other Organizations

Discussions are being pursued to establish closer ties with other organizations that are active in mining geotechnique. In early 2014, a specific link was established with the Canadian Dam

Association (CDA) under Michel Aubertin's initiative, in collaboration with Andy Small; it involves the review of the recent update on the Mining Dams Guidelines.

Other initiatives to create closer ties with the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), and the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) are ongoing.

Several of our international colleagues have expressed interest in the activities of the committee. We will encourage them to participate through joining CGS and participating at the yearly conferences.

Financial Status

Nothing to report at this time.