

Executive summary points out causes of the Fundão dam failure

Here is a free translation of the executive summary of the result of the external investigation of the failure of the Fundão dam. Presented to the press at the end of August, the study was conducted by a panel of specialists put together by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP.

Immediately after the dam failure, Samarco, VALE and BHP Billiton commissioned an investigation by the US law office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, on the basis of absolute independence. Samarco collaborated fully with the external investigation, providing all the information and free access to its units and its employees.

The panel of experts who carried out the investigation analyzed the technical aspects which provoked the failure of the dam and performed the appropriate tests. One of the members of the panel is Norbert Morgenstern, who has worked in over 140 dam projects and has over 330 academic publications on the matter. He serves as a member, vice president and president on a long list of technical committees around the world, in addition to contributing to the transfer of technology to developing countries through the United Nations and other agencies. Also on the panel was the chairman of the Board and former CEO of Klohn Crippen Berger Ltd., Bryan Watts, who has over 35 years of experience in dam projects. Steven Vick, the third member of the panel, is an author and independent consultant in the field of geotechnical engineering, and has over 40 years of experience in performing technical and safety assessments of earth fill structures and tailings dams. And last but not least, the fourth member is Cassio Viotti, an independent consultant in dam engineering, who has over 45 years of experience and is specialized in all phases of conceptual and detailed design of dams and hydraulic structures.

Access the full report of the investigation of the dam failure at www.fundaoinvestigation.com

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