

Samarco Completes Work on Tailings Containment System

Samarco has recently completed work on the tailings containment system in Mariana (MG), increasing by approximately six million cubic meters the remaining sediments retention capacity after the Fundão dam burst. The last concluded structures were the Nova Santarém dam in the Germano Mining Complex and the Dike S4 in Bento Rodrigues.

"The two structures complement the ones already built during the emergency phase, such as the Dike S3 and the containment barriers. They strengthen and give more robustness and safety to the tailings containment system built in 2016, " states Rodrigo Vilela, Samarco's Director of Operations and Infrastructure.

Nova Santarém was concluded in December 2016, with a containment capacity of over 5 million cubic meters. The structure uses a different construction method and its function is to prevent tailings from leaving Samarco's area.

The Dike S4

The construction of the Dike S4 was accomplished on January 27. The structure was built to prevent any solids from being transported from the impacted area of Bento Rodrigues to the Gualaxo River. The Dike S4 is a temporary structure and will be deactivated as soon as Bentos' definitive recovery models are defined.

The area to be flooded by the Dike S4 does not affect the existing ruins and buildings, such as the Chapel of St. Benedict and the cemetery.

The System

Nova Santarém and the Dike S4 are part of a system composed of the Dikes S1, S2 and S3, which were concluded at the beginning of 2016.

While the Dikes S1 and S2 fulfilled the requirements in January last year, at the peak of the first rainy season, the Dike S3 underwent an elevation work accomplished in late November.

Timeline

January 2016

- Conclusion of the Dikes S1 and S2

February 2016

- Conclusion of the Dike S3, phase 1

November 2016

- Conclusion of the elevation of the Dike S3, phase 2
- Conclusion of the first containment barriers

December 2016

- Conclusion of Nova Santarém
- Conclusion of all containment barriers.

January 2017

- Conclusion of the Dike S4.