The Journey to GISTM Implementation

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The mining industry, in general, has embraced the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (or GISTM) to provide step-change improvement in the management of tailings facilities globally. Members of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) have committed to implementation of the GISTM for priority facilities (those with Extreme or Very High consequence classification) by August 2023 and all other facilities by August 2025. The GISTM has 77 requirements focused on six key topic areas: (i) affected communities; (ii) integrated knowledge base; (iii) design, construction, operation and monitoring of tailings facilities; (iv) management and governance; (v) emergency response and long-term recovery; and (vi) public disclosure and access to information. The requirements of the GISTM are generally focused on best international practices within these topic areas; however, there are varied interpretations of what conformance means for many of the GISTM requirements. ICMM has developed Conformance Protocols to support implementation, which is useful to support alignment, as well as engagement with industry peers. The eventual development of the Global Tailings Management Institute will further support alignment on the requirements. From Newmont's perspective, implementation of the GISTM is a journey, and it is an important step toward raising the bar with respect to responsible management of tailings.