

Watershed: Minor watersheds (third-order watersheds developed for the 1:50,000 BC Watershed Atlas) that could be at immediate risk if a tailings dam in the watershed fails.

Salmon Habitat: Occurrence of salmon in minor watersheds (third-order watersheds developed for the 1:50,000 BC Watershed Atlas). Click on a watershed to learn the species that could be at immediate risk if a tailings dam in the watershed fails.

Drainage Regions: Principal drainages (developed for the 1:50,000 BC Watershed Atlas) that could be at downstream risk in the event of a major tailings facility failure.

First Nations SOI: Traditional territories of First Nations that have filed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to negotiate a treaty with British Columbia. There are nearly 200 distinct First Nations in BC, and this overlay falls far short of fully reflecting the jurisdiction and title of all of them. The map will be updated as a more complete dataset becomes available.

Operating: Operating metal and coal mine sites containing tailings storage facilities.

Care & Maintenance: Metal and coal mine sites containing tailings storage facilities that the Province of BC has designated as under Care & Maintenance. There is no clear definition provided by BC for what the term Care & Maintenance means, but it generally implies the site is not operational but not fully closed, either. Care & Maintenance sites have reduced site presence and may receive inadequate oversight to prevent dam failures.

Closed: Closed metal and coal mine sites containing tailings storage facilities. Closed sites have reduced site presence and may receive inadequate oversight to prevent dam failures.

Proposed: Metal and coal mine sites that have been proposed and will contain tailings storage facilities when built and operational. These sites are either under construction, greenlit for construction, or actively pursuing approval.

Dam Height: Height of the tallest tailings dam on a site. Taller tailings dams tend to have greater failure consequences and, in some circumstances, can have increased probability of failure.

Dam Failure Consequence: Highest consequence of dam failure assigned to any single tailings dam on site, based on Canadian Dam Association guidelines. Failure consequence categories are defined based on potential loss of life and potential impacts to infrastructure, economics, and environmental and cultural values.

Facility Capacity: The maximum design storage capacity of the largest tailings facility on site (unless marked by a * - see Tailings Data document). Facilities with larger stored volumes of tailings tend to have greater failure consequences because there is more material than can be released during failure. One Olympic-sized swimming pool is equivalent to 2,500 cubic metres.

Upstream Dam Present: Whether at least one tailings dam on site has been raised by the upstream construction method. Upstream construction involves progressively raising the dam on top of the existing tailings in the facility. Upstream tailings dams have a higher probability of failing compared to other types of tailings dams.