



# Master's Thesis

## Tailings dams

Ore is by nature a part of the earth's soils or rocks. In mines the profitable ore is processed and refined (separated) from non profitable materials, the so-called tailings. Tailings are deposited and impounded by embankment dams.

Unfortunately, some of these dams collapsed in the past, causing human, ecological and economical losses due to a uncontrolled release of tailings.

The aim of this thesis is to conduct a literature study to obtain information about construction methods of these dams, safety standards, case histories of failed dams and investigate the failure mode(s).

Furthermore, it is of interest how dam surveillance is executed during operation and after decommissioning of tailing dams, compared to large dams.

**Start:** Anytime

**Contact:** Edwin Staudacher  
 Phone: 0316-873-8852  
 Mail: [edwin.staudacher@tugraz.at](mailto:edwin.staudacher@tugraz.at)