

Samarco Concluded Work and Contention Systems that Already Showed Effectiveness

Water monitoring in the structure indicated reduction of turbidity levels.

Concluded last January, the sediments contention system implanted by Samarco, in Mariana, already proved its efficiency.

Samarco's water monitoring in the area showed significant reduction of them turbidity levels. Indeed, since mid-January, water quality indices that are just below the Dike S4, are inferior to the limit of 100 NTUs **, limit set by the Conama resolution 357, (resolution of the National Environment Council).

In the case of the Dike S4, for instance, the average turbidity level of the water fell to 25,7 NTUs on the 15th of February.

The Dike S4 was built in order to prevent any solids from being transported from the impacted area of Bento Rodrigues to the Gualaxo River.

"The reduction of the level of turbidity demonstrates that Dike S4 fulfills its roles of both containing sediments in the Bento region and sending clean water to Gualaxo" explains Rodrigo Vilela, Samarco's Director of Operations and Infrastructure.

The Dike S4 is a temporary structure. The flooded area 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.

The contention system increased by approximately six million cubic meters the remaining sediments retention capacity after the Fundão dam burst.

"The Dike S4 and the Nova Santarém complement the structures 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 is built on compacted soil and blocks of rock and its function is to prevent materials to be transported to outside the Samarco's area.

The sediment containment system is yet another step in the environmental repair process.

Waste management actions in the stretch between Bento Rodrigues and the Hydroelectric Power Plant of Risoleta Neves (Candongá) are being carried out by the Renova Foundation, which was created under the Transaction and Adjustment of Conduct Terms (TTAC) signed between Samarco, its shareholders and the Federal governments of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo. Meanwhile, Samarco continues the dredging work of Candonga.

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.

***Turbidity:** Physical property of fluids which results in reduction of their transparency due to the presence of suspended materials.

****NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

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