

**From:** Gobla, Michael  
**To:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Randall Jibson; David Gillette  
**Cc:** Leslie Stone; Christopher Gemperline; Thomas Luebke  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Gold King Mine Report  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 4:17:21 PM  
**Attachments:** Soil Sampling and testing Summary.doc

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Gentlemen,

I had hoped to have all of the geotechnical tests from Golder Associates completed by now but the hydraulic conductivity results are not yet complete. They did furnish the grain size analysis and Atterberg Limits. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Attached is an updated version of Appendix C with the soil classification test results included. Regarding the report peer review, I apologize for such a rough draft. I realize there is a lot of wording in the draft report that needs to be cleaned up or deleted (as George Washington said, I would have written a shorter letter if I had more time), I did not have time to proof read it before the deadline for the draft report. We are working on that aspect, and also doing a little more research on abandoned mine programs, mine plugs, and blowouts in other states. I look forward to receiving your review comments on Monday and the improvements you can add to the report. Please use reply all when sending your review comments so the other peer reviewers can see your comments. We do not want a formal transmittal of your peer review comments. It is our intent that all comments are considered and the report revised as necessary. If needed we will arrange a conference call between the peer reviews on Tuesday to discuss any comments that appear to be difficult to resolve or require further discussion. The plan is to revise the report and issue our final draft to you again no later than October 9th. This will give you the opportunity see the final draft and provide any final comments by the 14th. The final report must be transmitted by the afternoon of Oct. 15. My management has asked that some form of an acknowledgement page be prepared for the peer reviewers to sign and to be included in the final report. Thank you for your efforts in responding to the tight schedule demanded for this effort.

--

Michael J. Gobla, P. E.  
Supervisory Civil Engineer 86-68313  
Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007  
Building 67, Denver CO 802256  
(303) 445-3032

**From:** Gillette, David  
**To:** Jibson, Randall  
**Cc:** Luebke, Thomas; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Leslie Stone; Michael Goble; Christopher Gemperline  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Gold King Mine Draft Final Report  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:29:55 PM

---

I'm generally okay with Randall's comments. Minor stuff follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Second paragraph on page 75, just above RWJ23, clarify by inserting "there" and a comma:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DRG  
303.445.2994

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 11:08 AM, Jibson, Randall <jibson@usgs.gov <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>> > wrote:

Within my rather cramped time constraints this week, I have quickly reviewed the second draft of the report. It is much improved but still needs a little polish. My brief summary review comments are attached along with marked-up Word files of the draft documents.

I will be happy to discuss anything in my review, but my availability is limited. I am in a meeting all day Friday and will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday. Catch me if you can.

Randy Jibson

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 4:45 PM, Luebke, Thomas <tluebke@usbr.gov <<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>> > wrote:

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will note that we combined the report into a single WORD document, and I will send you the 3 Appendices by separate email in a moment.

We have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next

since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gobla, Michael <mgobla@usbr.gov <<mailto:mgobla@usbr.gov>> >  
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 4:24 PM  
Subject: Gold King Mine Draft Final Report  
To: Thomas Luebke <tluebke@usbr.gov <<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>> >  
Cc: Christopher Gemperline <cgemperline@usbr.gov <<mailto:cgemperline@usbr.gov>> >, Leslie Stone <lstone@usbr.gov <<mailto:lstone@usbr.gov>> >, David Gillette <dgillette@usbr.gov <<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov>> >  
>

See Attached.

--

Michael J. Gobla, P. E.  
Supervisory Civil Engineer 86-68313  
Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007  
Building 67, Denver CO 802256  
(303) 445-3032

--

Dr. Randall W. Jibson  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 966  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Tel. (303) 273-8577 Fax (303) 273-8600

**From:** [Quint, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02](#)  
**Cc:** [Baker, Karen J HQ02](#); [Lowell Pimley](#); [Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02](#); [Benavides, Ada HQ02](#); [Dalton, James C SES HQ02](#); [Bank, Robert HQ02](#); [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:47:22 PM

---

Thanks Steve. Karen - Lowell's number is 202-513-0508/cell 720-284-7101. Thanks much.....bob

On Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 4:41 PM, Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02 <[Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil](mailto:Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil)> <<mailto:Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil>> > wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Karen,

Just got a call from Bob Quint and Lowell Pimley, from Reclamation. They want to firm up some commitments regarding USAC participation on the review tea. Please give Bob a call. Contact information attached. Bob's number is (202) 513-0542. Karen's number is (202) 761-5642. Sorry Lowell, I don't have your number.

Steve

Steven L. Stockton, P.E., SES  
Director Civil Works, USACE  
(W) (202) 761-0100  
(Cell) (202) 491-0925  
[steven.l.stockton@usacearmy.mil](mailto:steven.l.stockton@usacearmy.mil) <<mailto:steven.l.stockton@usace.army.mil>>

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:09 PM  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Yes, I believe that Moira Kelly is working the press statement directly with the EPA press office & coordinating with Ms. Darcy and Army General Counsel.

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**From:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 1:19 PM  
**To:** Baker, Karen J HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
**Subject:** Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Karen. Assume you have a POC in Ms Darcy's Office for her concurrence. I've copied Steve on this note as I believe Ms Darcy is on same location with him.

James

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:54

To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02

Subject: FW: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Here's the latest - I think they are still working out some details. Rick, I will let them know you are standing by.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stalcup, Dana [<mailto:StalcupDana@epa.gov> <<mailto:Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>> ]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:15 PM

To: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Cc: Woolford, James

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Sorry, I forgot to follow up with you.

I provided Dr. Olsen's contact info to Bureau of Rec, and they intend to contact him in the window you identified. Waiting to hear on that. There is also a revised version of the press release/desk statement that I am trying to get ahold of, with some minor changes than what you probably saw. I will send that along as soon as I can. It may have already been shared with the press folks in your office - not sure about that.

BoR does not want to release the press notice until they have the conversation about the two agencies' respective roles, but I have every hope and belief we will be there by early/mid-afternoon.

Thanks again for your help and support. More to come, hopefully very soon...

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk - 703-603-8702

Cell - 202-309-5473

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02 [<mailto:Karen.J.Baker@usace.army.mil> <<mailto:Karen.J.Baker@usace.army.mil>> ]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:30 AM

To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Woolford, James

Subject: RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Dana - Just checking in....it's been kind of quiet this morning here - any new development? Should we be expecting someone to reach out to Dr. Olsen?

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From: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 6:25 AM

To: Stalcup, Dana  
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Subject: USACE lead for study peer review

Dana,

Thanks for the call last night. No objections from USACE in terms of DOI's request to have us assist with a peer review on the Gold King Mine study.

Our lead for this effort is Dr. Rick Olsen copied here. Dr . Olsen's BlackBerry number is [REDACTED].

He is teaching a class this week, but has a break between 1200-2:30 EDT and could be available for a call with appropriate DOI representatives.

Karen

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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Our lead for this effort is Dr. Rick Olsen copied here. Dr . Olsen's BlackBerry number is [REDACTED].

He is teaching a class this week, but has a break between 1200-2:30 EDT and could be available for a call with appropriate DOI representatives.

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Bank, Robert HQ02](#); [Koester, Joseph P HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** EPA Gold King Mine failure (last week in Colorado) and potential USACE geotechnical failure assistance (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2015 5:02:25 PM

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Bob,

For James Dalton;

I would like to talk with you and James offline about the EPA Gold King Mine failure that occurred last week in Colorado. Specifically, USACE was requested a few days ago to potentially provide geotechnical failure evaluation assistance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Dalton, James C SES HQ02](#); [Bank, Robert HQ02](#); [Koester, Joseph P HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:05:07 PM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Below is what I sent to the USBR coordinator for the EPA failure investigation.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

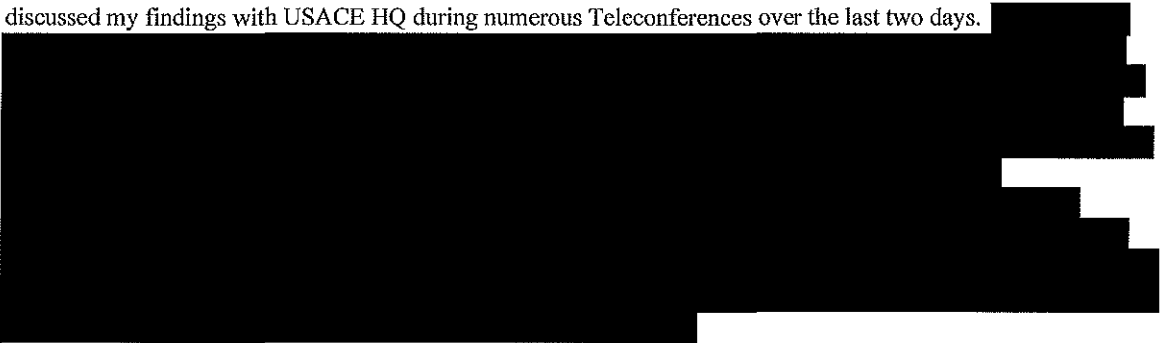
-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:02 PM  
To: Thomas Luebke  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report  
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days.



Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02;  
Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. i'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM

To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02

Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will note that we again had to divide the report into 3 parts because the size of the report was preventing delivery (at least to USACE). I will send the second and third parts momentarily.

In addition, we have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Dalton, James C SES HQ02](#); [Bank, Robert HQ02](#); [Koester, Joseph P HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 3:39:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [EPA failure Gold King Mine - USBR review - approval signatures 15+1016 1000000of .pdf](#)

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

James, Bob, & Joe,

Joe I had a long telephone call about finalizing this effort. The suggestion by USBR of inserting my comments into the report will be good for the total USBR effort - see my email below. I have sent USBR my signature as requested (and attached). This email trail documents our comments, concerns, and actions for any future inquiries.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 3:31 PM  
To: Luebke, Thomas  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

Please do as you suggested in your previous email [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] when you have inserted my comments please send me a modified version of the report, asap.

I have attached the signature page with my signature.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 1:52 PM  
To: Luebke, Thomas  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Tom,  
[REDACTED]

We will talk about the suggestions you mentioned below.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotech. Engr.  
HQ USACE, Engr. & Constr. Div., Washington DC, USA

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:32 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Rick - thanks much for your review comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please discuss this possible approach with your folks and let me know if this will satisfy your needs and permit you to sign the signature sheet send me back the scanned version so that we can finalize the report today.

Thanks.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 10:01 AM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

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Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
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**Olsen, Richard S HQ02**

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**Attachments:** GKM BOR draftfinal-Olsen comments.docx

Rick - see attached for my initial attempt to insert your views.

I think the maximum exposure of those views occurs by inserting them into the Executive Summary (and also into the Findings). I highlighted the inserted section in yellow.

We could consider instead making the insert at the end of the Introduction or at the end of the Team Composition sections, but I'll leave that up to you.

Please let me know if you would like improvements to the added section.

Thanks.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 1:31 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
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Tom,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] When you have inserted my comments please send me a modified version of the report, asap.

I have attached the signature page with my signature.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 1:52 PM  
To: Luebke, Thomas  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Tom,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

We will talk about the suggestions you mentioned below.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotech. Engr.  
HQ USACE, Engr. & Constr. Div., Washington DC, USA

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:32 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Rick - thanks much for your review comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please discuss this possible approach with your folks and let me know if this will satisfy your needs and permit you to sign the signature sheet send me back the scanned version so that we can finalize the report today.

Thanks.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 10:01 AM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE

USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> <mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>  
<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> > • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov <mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov> ]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. I'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM  
To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will note that we again had to divide the report into 3 parts because the size of the report was preventing delivery (at least to USACE). I will send the second and third parts momentarily.

In addition, we have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

## Olsen, Richard S HQ02

---

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:46 PM  
**To:** Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Lowell Pimley; Quint, Robert  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

We are talking right now - thanks

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:42 PM  
**To:** Baker, Karen J HQ02; Lowell Pimley; Quint, Robert  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Karen,

Just got a call from Bob Quint and Lowell Pimley, from Reclamation. They want to firm up some commitments regarding USAC participation on the review tea. Please give Bob a call. Contact information attached. Bob's number is (202) 513-0542. Karen's number is (202) 761-5642. Sorry Lowell, I don't have your number.

Steve

Steven L. Stockton, P.E., SES  
Director Civil Works, USACE  
(W) (202) 761-0100  
(Cell) (202) 491-0925  
steven.l.stockton@usace.army.mil

BUILDING STRONG®

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:09 PM  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Yes, I believe that Moira Kelly is working the press statement directly with the EPA press office & coordinating with Ms. Darcy and Army General Counsel.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 1:19 PM  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
Cc: Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
Subject: Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Karen. Assume you have a POC in Ms Darcy's Office for her concurrence. I've copied Steve on this note as I believe Ms Darcy is on same location with him.

James

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:54  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: FW: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Here's the latest - I think they are still working out some details. Rick, I will let them know you are standing by.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stalcup, Dana [mailto:Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:15 PM  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Cc: Woolford, James  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Sorry, I forgot to follow up with you.

I provided Dr. Olsen's contact info to Bureau of Rec, and they intend to contact him in the window you identified. Waiting to hear on that. There is also a revised version of the press release/desk statement that I am trying to get ahold of, with some minor changes than what you probably saw. I will send that along as soon as I can. It may have already been shared with the press folks in your office - not sure about that. BoR does not want to release the press notice until they have the conversation about the two agencies' respective roles, but I have every hope and belief we will be there by early/mid-afternoon. Thanks again for your help and support. More to come, hopefully very soon...

Dana Stalcup  
Director, Assessment and Remediation Division  
OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)  
Desk – 703-603-8702  
Cell – 202-309-5473

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02 [mailto:Karen.J.Baker@usace.army.mil]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:30 AM  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Stalcup, Dana  
Cc: Woolford, James  
Subject: RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Dana - Just checking in....it's been kind of quiet this morning here - any new development? Should we be expecting someone to reach out to Dr. Olsen?

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 6:25 AM  
To: Stalcup, Dana  
Cc: Woolford, James; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
Subject: USACE lead for study peer review

Dana,

Thanks for the call last night. No objections from USACE in terms of DOI's request to have us assist with a peer review on the Gold King Mine study.

Our lead for this effort is Dr. Rick Olsen copied here. Dr . Olsen's BlackBerry number is [REDACTED].

He is teaching a class this week, but has a break between 1200-2:30 EDT and could be available for a call with appropriate DOI representatives.

Karen

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



## Olsen, Richard S HQ02

---

**From:** Quint, Robert <bquint@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:47 PM  
**To:** Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02  
**Cc:** Baker, Karen J HQ02; Lowell Pimley; Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Steve. Karen - Lowell's number is 202-513-0508/cell 720-284-7101. Thanks much.....bob

On Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 4:41 PM, Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02 <Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil  
<mailto:Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Karen,

Just got a call from Bob Quint and Lowell Pimley, from Reclamation. They want to firm up some commitments regarding USAC participation on the review tea. Please give Bob a call. Contact information attached. Bob's number is (202) 513-0542. Karen's number is (202) 761-5642. Sorry Lowell, I don't have your number.

Steve

Steven L. Stockton, P.E., SES  
Director Civil Works, USACE  
(W) (202) 761-0100  
(Cell) (202) 491-0925  
steven.l.stockton@usacearmy.mil <mailto:steven.l.stockton@usace.army.mil>

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:09 PM  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Cc:** Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Yes, I believe that Moira Kelly is working the press statement directly with the EPA press office & coordinating with Ms. Darcy and Army General Counsel.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 1:19 PM  
**To:** Baker, Karen J HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02

Cc: Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02  
Subject: Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Karen. Assume you have a POC in Ms Darcy's Office for her concurrence. I've copied Steve on this note as I believe Ms Darcy is on same location with him.

James

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

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Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:54

To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02

Subject: FW: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:15 PM

To: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Cc: Woolford, James

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Sorry, I forgot to follow up with you.

I provided Dr. Olsen's contact info to Bureau of Rec, and they intend to contact him in the window you identified. Waiting to hear on that. There is also a revised version of the press release/desk statement that I am trying to get ahold of, with some minor changes than what you probably saw. I will send that along as soon as I can. It may have already been shared with the press folks in your office - not sure about that.

BoR does not want to release the press notice until they have the conversation about the two agencies' respective roles, but I have every hope and belief we will be there by early/mid-afternoon.

Thanks again for your help and support. More to come, hopefully very soon...

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

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Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

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Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:30 AM

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Cc: Woolford, James

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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To: Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Woolford, James; Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02

Subject: USACE lead for study peer review

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Our lead for this effort is Dr. Rick Olsen copied here. Dr . Olsen's BlackBerry number is [REDACTED].

He is teaching a class this week, but has a break between 1200-2:30 EDT and could be available for a call with appropriate DOI representatives.

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Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



## Olsen, Richard S HQ02

---

**From:** Pimley, Lowell <lpimley@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 5:57 PM  
**To:** Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02  
**Cc:** Baker, Karen J HQ02; Quint, Robert; Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Benavides, Ada HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: USACE lead for study peer review (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Steve and thanks to Karen for the quick consultation. I think we have a path forward ... to somewhere.

FYI - my cell number is [REDACTED] ... but don't tell Quint as I don't want to him bothering me.

thanks again all

On Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 4:41 PM, Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02 <Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.milmailto:Steven.L.Stockton@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

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To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Stalcup, Dana

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
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Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



**From:** [Gillette, David](#)  
**To:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Cc:** [jibson@usgs.gov](mailto:jibson@usgs.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:36:33 AM

---

[REDACTED] That might save you some time trying to figure out what he wrote. The latter part of the report was written after midnight Saturday morning, and his clarity and organization may have suffered a bit from that. (Note the time on his emails was 4:00 Saturday morning, MDT.)

On Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 5:57 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <[Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)> <<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

All,

Peer Review action is a special overview effort like over-the-shoulder observations during the work and to the end. We are now at the end. I can't see all of us agreeing to a given list of conclusions - because we are humans with different experiences and technical backgrounds.

[REDACTED]

I have several people at USACE that are reviewing the effort and I plan to write the final overview of the USACE assessment of the report. [REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Gillette, David [<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov> <<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov>> ]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:30 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; [jibson@usgs.gov](mailto:jibson@usgs.gov) <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review

Gents - What is your preference for getting review comments to Mike? The report refers to us as a "peer review team," so do we give him a unified written report, three individual sets of written comments and markups, a meeting with him (Rick by phone), or ? I suppose it's our option.

I have a number of editorial-type comments that we don't need to discuss. Those I will give him as markups on the printed report so we don't waste time talking about commas and hyphens.

DRG

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE



**From:** [Jibson, Randall](#)  
**To:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Cc:** [Gillette, David](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 11:37:24 AM

---

Guys,

I spoke with Mike during the site visit about this issue, and he indicated they were expecting three independent reviews. Like Rick, I can't see us having the time or the perspective to come to a unified conclusion about our review findings. Each of us brings a different perspective to the table, and our respective reviews will reflect those perspectives. [REDACTED]

Randy

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All,

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Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

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DRG

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

--

Dr. Randall W. Jibson  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 966  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Tel. (303) 273-8577 Fax (303) 273-8600

**From:** [Gillette, David](#)  
**To:** [Jibson, Randall](#)  
**Cc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:52:57 PM

---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gillette, David [mailto:[dgillette@usbr.gov](mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov) <<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov>> ]

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:30 PM

To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; jibson@usgs.gov <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review

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Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
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**From:** [Jibson, Randall](#)  
**To:** [Gillette, David](#)  
**Cc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:17:20 PM

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**To:** [Jibson, Randall](#); [Gillette, David](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:53:16 PM

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**Cc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 6:06:02 PM

---

I had figured on handing it to Mike, in the form of markups on a hard copy for the hyphens and commas, and a Word file of substantive comments written out in detail, [REDACTED]. (Maybe a .pdf instead?) I would of course send the Word file to you guys, and save a copy for the record, this being a job that has drawn a surprising amount of attention from various offices in Washington. From USACE and USGS, I assume there should be a formal transmittal, but within Reclamation, I think it can be handled more or less like internal review on any other draft report we generate. This is not routine, however, and I'm open to suggestion.

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**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 11:39:54 AM

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**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 1:28:34 PM

---

Good question. I just called up Tom Luebke, head of the Technical Service Center (Mike's boss two levels up the chain, my boss three levels up). He said that he wasn't looking for a formal transmittal at this stage, but you have to do what YOU think you need to do, formal or otherwise, bearing in mind that what you got was a draft that hadn't even been through the first line of review within Reclamation.

[REDACTED]

I think Luebke will try to set up a conference call with you, him, Mike, and me this afternoon; I'll pass your email and phone numbers along to him. His contact info: 303.445.2600 or [tluebke@usbr.gov](mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov)  
<<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>>

Rick - I don't have your phone number. Would you please email it to Tom or phone him?

Unfortunately, I'm taking my son to the doctor this afternoon, and I may not be back until 3:00 or later, which makes things more difficult for someone in the eastern time zone.

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[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
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<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Gillette, David [<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov> <<mailto:dgillette@usbr.gov>> ]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:30 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; [jibson@usgs.gov](mailto:jibson@usgs.gov) <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review

Gents - What is your preference for getting review comments to Mike? The report refers to us as a "peer review team," so do we give him a unified written report, three individual sets of written comments and markups, a meeting with him (Rick by phone), or ? I suppose it's our option.

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DRG

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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Dr. Randall W. Jibson

U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 966  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Tel. (303) 273-8577 Fax (303) 273-8600

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**From:** Gillette, David  
**To:** Jibson, Randall; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 2:48:01 PM  
**Attachments:** Gold King Mine - Review Comments by D Gillette.docx

---

Here are my comments (aside from a lot of English-teacher markups and comments on tone on a hard copy). [REDACTED]

I've run out of time, as I have two other things to get done by COB tomorrow.

DRG  
303.445.2994

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 9:39 AM, Jibson, Randall <jibson@usgs.gov <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>> > wrote:

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We are all funded by EPA to perform a Peer Review. Our product must go to EPA, but whom is a very good question. Who is the EPA technical and/or administrator for this effort?

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From: Jibson, Randall [<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov> <<mailto:jibson@usgs.gov>> ]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:17 PM  
To: Gillette, David  
Cc: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Randy

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**From:** [Jibson, Randall](#)  
**To:** [Gillette, David](#)  
**Cc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 12:28:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Gold King Mine report.docx](#)

---

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**Cc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:11:55 PM

---

Thanks for sending it. Looks reasonably reasonable.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Best regards,  
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**To:** [Gillette, David](#); [jibson@usgs.gov](mailto:jibson@usgs.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Gold King review (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:57:34 PM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**To:** Thomas Luebke  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:01:51 PM

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days.   


Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. i'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM  
To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will

note that we again had to divide the report into 3 parts because the size of the report was preventing delivery (at least to USACE). I will send the second and third parts momentarily.

In addition, we have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Luebke, Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:32:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [GKM Technical Approval.docx](#)

---

Rick - thanks much for your review comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please discuss this possible approach with your folks and let me know if this will satisfy your needs and permit you to sign the signature sheet send me back the scanned version so that we can finalize the report today.

Thanks.

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will note that we again had to divide the report into 3 parts because the size of the report was preventing delivery (at least to USACE). I will send the second and third parts momentarily.

In addition, we have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**To:** Luebke, Thomas  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 1:52:12 PM

---

Tom,

[REDACTED]

We will talk about the suggestions you mentioned below.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotech. Engr.  
HQ USACE, Engr. & Constr. Div., Washington DC, USA

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:32 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Rick - thanks much for your review comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please discuss this possible approach with your folks and let me know if this will satisfy your needs and permit you to sign the signature sheet send me back the scanned version so that we can finalize the report today.

Thanks.


On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 10:01 AM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> > wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov> <<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>> ]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <[Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> > wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. i'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM  
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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 10:01 AM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

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Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobra; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**To:** Koester, Joseph P HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:55:48 PM

---

The final reviewer signature page (with my name and not showing USACE) for the USBR report on the EPA failure states "The results, findings, and recommendations provided in this Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident are technically sound and consistent with current professional practice."

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:35 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

If you are in the building, I suggest trying to see Richard Frank in the OC area. He was once a geotech, and has been very helpful to me on the Katrina stuff.

[REDACTED]

Joseph P. Koester, PE, PhD  
Geotechnical and Materials Community of Practice Lead  
DC Office: (202) 761-4828  
Mobile: (202) 406-0589

-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:30 PM  
To: Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached signature form . [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] What does CC think of this direction

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas <tluebke@usbr.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:23 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. i'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM

To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02

Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

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Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
**To:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Cc:** Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:46:12 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Rick: Bob and I just spoke about this - he tried to call and left you a message, but we were all tied up on our own call, and your phone died, etc. I have a couple of questions, and comments to move along, please call when you can, thanks.

Joseph P. Koester, PE, PhD  
Geotechnical and Materials Community of Practice Lead  
DC Office: (202) 761-4828  
Mobile: (202) 406-0589

-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:56 PM  
To: Koester, Joseph P HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

The final reviewer signature page (with my name and not showing USACE) for the USBR report on the EPA failure states "The results, findings, and recommendations provided in this Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident are technically sound and consistent with current professional practice."

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message  
From: Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:35 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

If you are in the building, I suggest trying to see Richard Frank in the OC area. He was once a geotech, and has been very helpful to me on the Katrina stuff.

[REDACTED]

Joseph P. Koester, PE, PhD  
Geotechnical and Materials Community of Practice Lead  
DC Office: (202) 761-4828

Mobile: (202) 406-0589

-----Original Message-----

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:30 PM  
To: Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached signature form . [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] What does CC think of this direction

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.  
From: Luebke, Thomas <tluebke@usbr.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:23 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

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Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE



**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 1:58:15 PM

---

James, Bob, and Joe,

I think the suggestion by Mr. Luebke will be good for us and really good for the USBR effort.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotech. Engr.  
HQ USACE, Engr. & Constr. Div., Washington DC, USA

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 1:52 PM  
To: Luebke, Thomas  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Tom,

[REDACTED]

We will talk about the suggestions you mentioned below.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotech. Engr.  
HQ USACE, Engr. & Constr. Div., Washington DC, USA

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:32 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Rick - thanks much for your review comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


Please discuss this possible approach with your folks and let me know if this will satisfy your needs and permit you to sign the signature sheet send me back the scanned version so that we can finalize the report today.

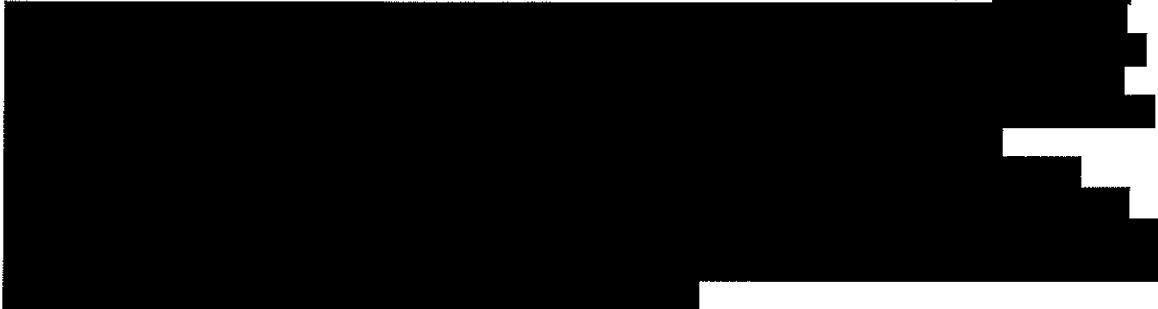
Thanks.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 10:01 AM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> > wrote:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days. 



Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
<<mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil>> • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) • from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov> <<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>> ]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

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On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil  
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Tom,

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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM  
To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

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We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
**To:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:21:06 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

I think this captures the issues very well. It does not state you will not be sending a signed page, but it is implied. I also note that Mr. Luebke stated that four of the six reviewers (...who prepared and peer reviewed the report...), and that they have already signed off on the draft, while you and Dr. Jibson have yet to sign. This means only two reviewers were elicited who were not also authors. [REDACTED]

Joseph P. Koester, PE, PhD  
Geotechnical and Materials Community of Practice Lead  
DC Office: (202) 761-4828  
Mobile: (202) 406-0589

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:05 PM  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Below is what I sent to the USBR coordinator for the EPA failure investigation.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:02 PM  
**To:** Thomas Luebke  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. I have discussed my findings with USACE HQ during numerous Teleconferences over the last two days. [REDACTED]



Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
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Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02;  
Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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Caveats: NONE


Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE


**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Thomas Luebke](#)  
**Bcc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:01:00 PM

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE





**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Thomas Luebke](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:01:51 PM

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

I have reviewed the USBR final draft report (dated 2015 Oct 13) on the EPA Gold King Mine failure. 



Rick Olsen, PhD PE  
USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Luebke, Thomas [<mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:22 AM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Randall Jibson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline; Bank, Robert HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

See attached for the blank signature page.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:39 PM, Olsen, Richard S HQ02 <[Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Tom,

Thanks for report but 1-1/2 days to review the final version is really not enough time. i'm traveling tomorrow and Thursday. I just returned to the office to print this report for a proper viewing. What does the signature page state; reviewed only, agree 100%, agree in general, etc?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Luebke, Thomas  
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:09 PM  
To: Randall Jibson; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone; David Gillette; Christopher Gemperline  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Final Peer Review of the Gold King Mine Incident Report

Dr. Jibson, Dr. Olsen - Please find attached the final draft of the Gold King Mine Incident Report. You will

note that we again had to divide the report into 3 parts because the size of the report was preventing delivery (at least to USACE). I will send the second and third parts momentarily.

In addition, we have a signature page that has been signed thru the 4 Reclamation folks who prepared and peer reviewed the report. Les Stone will be contacting Dr. Jibson in the morning and get the signature page to him next since he is in town. We will then send the signature page to Dr. Olsen.

We appreciate any further improvements that you believe need to be made at this time, though our original due date for final transmittal of the report is drawing near (cob October 15th).

Please let me know if you have any concerns at this time, otherwise we look forward to your final comments for inclusion in the report in the next couple of days.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**To:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 7:37:27 AM

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Rick -

Just checking in - have you connected with the Bureau of Rec team yet?

Thanks,

Karen

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 9:21 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks - I think it's important to have the subject matter experts speaking with each other as soon as possible - I will be first to admit this is not my area of expertise - I just had the EPA relationships.

I think you are copied on some messages from Lowell, but his cell is 720-284-7101

His primary concern in reaching out to us today was ensuring that USACE was on board with the plan before there was a commitment announced in the press. I think he would welcome a call and your thoughts.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 9:14 PM  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Karen,

I will initially email Lowell Pimley [<mailto:lpimley@usbr.gov>] tomorrow morning for the telephone number then call.

Rick Olsen, PhD PE

USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • [Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil) • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 9:08 PM  
To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)

Rick,

I appreciate your concerns. We have not committed to this as of yet.

I do think the best way to facilitate the right outcome is have you talk directly with the folks at Reclamation. Do you have Lowell's information? I think the two of you should discuss.

Karen

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Olsen, Richard S HQ02

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 8:58 PM

To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Karen,

I reviewed USBR proposed work effort below (tluebke@usbr.gov to Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rick Olsen, PhD PE

USACE Senior Geotechnical Engineer • Richard.S.Olsen@usace.army.mil • HQ USACE E&C (Washington, DC) •  
from my Desk

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 5:02 PM

To: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Rick,

Bureau of Rec is looking to see if we think we can meet the timeline....

Karen

-----Original Message-----

From: Pimley, Lowell [mailto:lpimley@usbr.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:56 PM

To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Stalcup, Dana  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Karen/Dana: FYI - draft scope of work.

As we discussed - we'd deliver our report to the Corps folks on about 9/25/15, ask for a peer review by about 10/7/15, then we'd finalize for EPA by 10/17/15.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Luebke, Thomas <tluebke@usbr.gov>  
Date: Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 2:10 PM  
Subject: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine  
To: "Stalcup, Dana" <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>  
Cc: Elizabeth <elizabeth\_washburn@ios.doi.gov>, Lowell Pimley <lpimley@usbr.gov>, Leslie Stone <lstone@usbr.gov>, Michael Gobla <MGobla@usbr.gov>

Dana - Lowell Pimley asked that I provide you with our draft scope of work for Reclamation's Engineering Review of the Gold King Abandoned Mine:

We currently envision our review will cover:

Description of the incident  
Geologic setting  
History of mining operations in and around Gold King  
History of remediation activities in and around Gold King  
Site conditions prior to incident  
Remediation workplan/HASP/EAP  
Activities leading up to incident  
Site conditions following incident

Industry standards and practices for abandoned mine remediation  
Lessons learned

The review report will be subjected to internal review at Reclamation and then released to Dr. Olsen at the Corps of Engineers. In addition, we hope to contract with Dr. Dirk Van Zyl, a recognized expert in this field, as a second peer review (not clear whether we can make this happen within the 60 day time frame).

Reclamation preliminary estimate for performing this work is \$80,000 in labor \$10,000 for travel, and \$20,000 for contracting. EPA will need to develop a separate agreement with COE for the involvement of Dr. Olsen

We anticipate that our draft report will be ready for peer review before September 30.

Mike Gobla will be Reclamation's principal reviewer on this work. A short description of his background follows:

Mr. Gobla has over 35 years of experience in civil, mining, and environmental engineering. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1976 with a B.S. in Mining Engineering. In 1991 he earned an M.S. degree in Mining Engineering from New Mexico Tech. He is currently a registered professional engineer in the States of Colorado and Montana and he formerly also practiced professional engineering in New Jersey and New Mexico.

Mike is currently the manager of one of four geotechnical engineering groups at the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado. He oversees eleven geotechnical engineers

in dam safety evaluation, dam design and modification projects, slope stability investigations, abandoned mine remediation, and waste site repository design.

Prior to joining the Federal Government he worked in the mining industry on mine design, permitting, operations, and closure and as a civil engineer in road and utility design. His industry experience includes coal, uranium, and precious metals mining operations in Colorado and Montana. As a mining engineer with Peabody Coal Company, Mike designed and permitted the Bluff Extension reclamation plan for the Big Sky Mine at Colstrip, Montana and developed mine plans and reclamation plans for the Seneca mine in Colorado.

As an engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Mines he researched innovative underground mine closure methods. He has also served as technical consultant to the EPA, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and State of South Dakota on mine closure projects.

We were unable to locate the email address for Dr. Olsen and hope that you will be able to forward this information and others at COE who may be involved.

Thanks.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**To:** [Dalton, James C SES HQ02](#); [Bank, Robert HQ02](#)  
**Bcc:** [Olsen, Richard S HQ02](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Peer Review Progress  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:13:42 PM  
**Importance:** High

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I got the draft final report last night and started reviewing it late last night and today. 



Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Baker, Karen J HQ02  
**To:** Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
**Cc:** Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
**Subject:** RE: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:26:30 PM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Our plan discussed with EPA yesterday was that we would let the tech experts discuss the scope and then come back with a proposal. I haven't heard anything more today since I sent Dana Stalcup a message around 0600 today with Dr. Olsen's name and contact info. I just sent another message to Dana Stalcup in the last 30 minutes asking him if there was any follow up.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:22 PM  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02  
Cc: Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Do we need to give cost estimate for USACE now?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 06:14  
To: Bank, Robert HQ02  
Cc: Olsen, Richard S HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Got it. Thanks.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Bank, Robert HQ02  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 5:44 AM  
To: Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02; Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ; Baker, Karen J HQ02; Olsen, Richard S HQ02  
Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Warnock, Douglas HQ; Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL; Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S HQ02; Rizzieri, Robert P HQ02; Koester, Joseph P HQ02; Moore, James P HQ  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Karen:

As previously stated, our lead will be Dr. Rick Olsen. Dr. Olsen is in MVN this week teaching a class this week, but is eager to initiate the discussion. He could have a call with DOI working around his lunch break, between 1200 and 1430 EDT.

Dr. Olsen's BlackBerry number is [REDACTED].

Bob



Robert A. Bank, PE, F.ASCE  
Chief, Civil Works Branch  
Engineering & Construction  
HQUSACE

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

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Original Message

From: Dalton, James C SES HQ02  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 9:35 PM  
To: Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02; Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ; Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Warnock, Douglas HQ;  
Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL; Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S HQ02; Rizzieri, Robert P  
HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Fully concur.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 20:05  
To: Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ; Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02;  
Warnock, Douglas HQ; Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL; Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S  
HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Indeed!

Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E., SES  
Director, Contingency Operations and Homeland Security, USACE  
(202) 761-4601, BB cell (202) 374-7245  
Karen.L.Durham-Aguilera@usace.army.mil

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 19:33  
To: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02; Bank,  
Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Warnock, Douglas HQ; Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL;  
Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Agree. Still OK for us; may be an even cleaner approach.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 5:20 PM  
To: Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ  
Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02; Bank,  
Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Warnock, Douglas HQ; Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL;

Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S HQ02  
Subject: Re: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

ALCON -

Received a call from Dana Stalcup at EPA about 1730...first, the press statement is off again for today. Second, they wanted to check in with us on a slightly different approach.

EPA has had further exchanges with DOI this afternoon on the scope of the study. DOI is asking to lead study and enlist USACE support in peer review. Apparently, DOI has a study protocol they use to investigate such incidents and they are ready to put regional SMEs on the ground immediately.

I said that I'd have check with the USACE team before I could commit. However, from my perspective, I don't believe this changes our position. We had always recommend DOI leads and we would support according to the scope of the effort and expected outcomes. It limits our scope further, and since DOI plans to have people collecting info on the ground immediately, it addresses one of our primary concern about getting to perishable info on the site immediately.

If we have no objection to this approach, next step would be to put our technical lead in touch with the DOI study lead to discuss details. DOI is interested in setting up some calls for tomorrow. Frankly, the sooner we can get the experts together without the EPA intermediary, the sooner we can scope and estimate cost of the USACE contribution (as well as keep the integrity of an independent review).

E&C please advise, and if this way ahead is acceptable, please confirm your lead on this effort.

I've been asked to pass along EPA's thanks for our quick response and for our patience as they work through these issues

VR,

Karen

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Baker, Karen J HQ02

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 1:40 PM

To: Caldwell, Lloyd SES HQ

Cc: Stockton, Steven L SES HQ02; Alexander, Ray SES HQ02; Durham-Aguilera, Karen L SES HQ02; Bank, Robert HQ02; Dalton, James C SES HQ02; Warnock, Douglas HQ; Jordan, Greg HQ02; Cohen, Mark D SPL; Pawlik, Eugene A HQ02; Walters, Candice S HQ02

Subject: Update on meeting with EPA on Gold King Mine Study (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Mr. Caldwell,

Good session this morning with EPA at their HQ offices. Many thanks to Ms. KD-A, Mr. Alexander and Bob Bank for rearranging their calendars on short notice and joining me. It was a short, but productive meeting. DOI officials joined us by phone.

BLUF: EPA was clear that the scope of the effort was to focus on the recent incident at Gold King Mine. They are looking for a report in 60 days on root cause analysis of the release at this site - what worked, what didn't work,

how do they prevent it from happening again. After the initial study, they may expand to a more holistic look to protocols/procedures to put in place at other sites, depending on the findings of the 60-day study.

DOI will lead with USACE in support. EPA wants to remove itself from directing the process as soon as possible, so as to retain the independent nature of the study. They would like DOI and USACE leads to meet and develop the scope further. They understand the reimburseable nature of USACE's support and expect USACE to submit a cost proposal. IIS is looking at our current MOA to ensure we have proper authority.

I will retain initial lead to facilitate relationship and to ensure a single point of contact while we continue to work details. However, E&C is already working to identify the appropriate USACE lead for the study team.

EPA would like to see a short press statement issued today stating that they have requested this independent study. EPA public affairs is working with appropriate DOI PAOs and our PAO to draft statement. I will be jumping on a call with Gene Pawlik and Candy Walters shortly with the interagency team.

I invite anyone else in attendance this morning to comment on any info I may have missed.

VR,

Karen

Karen J. Baker  
HQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Acting Chief, Environmental Division  
441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314  
Office: 202-761-5642  
Cell: 202-288-2143

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE