



**The Geosynthetics Interest Group South Africa**

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**GIGSA STATEMENT ON GEOMEMBRANE SERVICE LIFE**

Dear Reader

The Global Industry Standards for Tailings Management published in 2020, has been accepted by some mining houses operating in South Africa. There however remains some resistance to compliance with modern standards and regulations which may be due to unjustified perceptions such as reflected in the statement “I am convinced a lining would fail over time, be it 15 or 20 years,” said by Niel Pretorius, CEO of DRDGOLD in <https://www.miningmx.com/news/gold/48764-drdgold-hits-roadblock-after-dept-of-water-frustrates-r1bn-tailings-facility-proposal/>

The GIGSA distances itself from the statement as it believes that the use of appropriate technology in a competent design, with a construction quality assurance plan would yield safe tailings storage facilities with contaminant containment barrier systems to protect water resources and hence people and the environment for many decades if not centuries. Doubters are encouraged to participate in the GIGSA and/or IGS activities of sharing technology in particular on geomembrane service life, which is readily available online. <http://gigsa.org/about/membership/>

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