



PRESS RELEASE

SASB Opens Public Consultation and Comment on Human Capital and Tailings Management Projects

SAN FRANCISCO, December 17, 2020—The [Sustainability Accounting Standards Board](#) (SASB) today announced the opening of a public consultation period for the Human Capital research project and the opening of a public comment period for the Tailing Management in Extractives standard-setting project.

“These are exciting developments in our standard-setting activities for two reasons. First, we’re advancing our research and standards on important global sustainability issues that matter to investors and for corporate enterprise value. Second, we’re seeking broad market input on these two projects that are in distinct phases of active development—this input is imperative to our process, as it helps ensure the SASB Standards evolve in a robust way to meet market needs,” says SASB Standards Board Chair Dr. Jeffrey Hales.

For the Human Capital [research project](#), the Board is opening a public consultation period to help finalize the body of evidence supporting the project and identify the industry-specific impacts of the industry-agnostic themes outlined in SASB’s preliminary [human capital framework](#), including how these impacts affect company financial performance. The themes included in the framework are workplace culture (i.e. diversity, inclusion, and engagement); workforce investment; mental health, wellbeing, and health-related benefits; alternative workforce; and labor conditions in the supply chain.

To provide feedback, please take the [investor](#), [corporate](#), or [subject matter expert](#) survey, which expected to be open through Friday, February 12. (The survey window close date is subject to change depending on volume of feedback. SASB will provide updates via the Human Capital Research [project page](#) if dates change.) To learn more about the project and public consultation period, attend [a webinar](#) on January 12.

For the Tailings Management in Extractives [standard-setting project](#), SASB has released [proposed changes](#) to the Metals & Mining and Coal Operations Standards and underlying basis for conclusions for a 90-day public comment period. The Board proposes adding a new disclosure topic, Tailings Storage Facilities Management, and three corresponding metrics to both standards. The proposed topic reflects expanded coverage of the risks associated with management of tailings storage facilities (TSFs), including maintaining safe operations of facilities, failure prevention, and emergency preparedness.

The Board also proposes maintaining the existing Waste & Hazardous Materials Management disclosure topic in the Metals & Mining Standard and the Waste Management disclosure topic in the Coal Operations Standard, but to narrow their scopes to reflect the new disclosure topic of Tailings Storage Facilities Management. The public is encouraged to [provide public comment letters](#) through March 17, 2021. To learn more about the project and public consultation period, attend [a webinar](#) on January 19.

SASB’s rigorous standard-setting process includes evidence-based research, broad and balanced stakeholder participation from companies and investors, and independent oversight and direction from the Standards Board. [Standard-setting meetings](#) of the Standards Board are



open to members of the public via livestream and are archived [here](#). The next meeting is February 25-26, 2021.

Visit [SASB.org](https://sasb.org) for more information about SASB's [standard-setting process](#) and [current projects](#).

About SASB

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) connects businesses and investors on the financial impacts of sustainability. SASB Standards enable businesses around the world to identify, manage, and communicate financially material sustainability information to investors. SASB Standards are industry-specific and are designed to be decision-useful for investors and cost-effective for companies. They are developed using a process that is evidence based and market informed. To download any of the 77 industry-specific standards, or learn more about SASB, please visit [SASB.org](https://sasb.org).

Media Contact

Amanda Medress
Director of Global Communications, SASB
amanda.medress@sasb.org