

September 26, 1997

The Honorable James L. Witt
Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION INPUT TO BIENNIAL DAM SAFETY REPORT

Dear Mr. Witt:

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During the upcoming biennial period, we expect to keep FEMA informed of further progress in the implementation of the FGDS, through the quarterly meetings of the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety.

I trust this letter and the enclosures are fully responsive to your request

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

NL14

Enclosures: As stated

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MLayton	DGillen			

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CP/PROOFED/SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

OFC	URB*		URB*	E	DWM*		NMSS <i>CP</i>		
NAME	DRom		JHolonich		JGreeves		CPaperiello		
DATE	9/22/97		9/12/97		9/23/97		9/26/97		

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Sincerely,

John T. Greeves, Director
 Division of Waste Management
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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NAME	DRom <i>DSR</i>		JHoltz <i>JH</i>		JGreeves		<i>CS P</i>		
DATE	9/12/97		9/12/97		9/ /97				

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NRC DAM SAFETY PROGRAM
FY96-97 PROGRESS REPORT

I. Introduction

In the FY94-95 Progress Report, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported a total of nineteen structures under its jurisdiction. All nineteen structures met the Federal definition of a dam. All nineteen dams are considered to be in the "Low Hazard" category. Of the nineteen structures, nine are associated with nuclear power plants, and the remaining ten are associated with uranium extraction activities.

Inspection and surveillance activities of the NRC dams are supported by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Division of Dam Safety and Inspections. Under an interagency agreement, FERC provides significant expertise to inspect all NRC water impoundment structures. The distribution of NRC dams in each geographical location is as follows:

Name and Location	NRC Region	Number of Dams	Type of Facility
1. Lucky Mc (WY)	IV	1	Mill Tailings Pond
2. Ferret (NE)	IV	3	Evaporation Ponds
3. White Mesa (NM)	IV	4	Evaporation and Tailings Ponds
4. Power Resources, Inc (WY)	IV	1	Purge Fluid Storage
5. North Anna (VA)	II	1	Service Water Pond
6. Summer (SC)	II	3	Service Water Pond
7. Catawba (SC)	II	1	Standby Service Reservoir
8. Comanche Peak (TX)	IV	1	Safe Shutdown Water Reservoir
9. Farley (AL)	II	1	Cooling Water Storage Pond
10. Shearon Harris (NC)	II	1	Auxiliary Reservoir
11. McGuire (NC)	II	1	Standby Service Reservoir
12. Shirley Basin (WY)	IV	1	Mill Tailings Pond

During this reporting period, there have been no significant changes in management and operations responsible for NRC dams, or the dam safety program. An agreement with FERC to inspect the structures remains in effect.

II. Program Actions Since Last Report

A. Implementation

NRC made significant progress during this reporting period. The first round of inspections at all NRC dams was completed. This action brings NRC into full compliance with the Federal Guidelines. Re-inspections of the dams will continue.

B. Actions Taken

The Conclusions and Recommendations section of the FY94-95 report identified seven areas in which additional progress to implement the Guidelines was necessary. In accordance with the FY94-95 Recommendations, NRC has implemented the following:

- i. NRC has made a commitment to fully implement the Guidelines
- ii. Dam safety has been evaluated within the agency-wide strategic assessment
- iii. NRC has explored expanded opportunities under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FERC

- iv. NRC adopted the use of FERC engineering guidelines and annual updates, and NRC has explored which expanded inspections, investigations analyses, reviews, and evaluations can be contracted to FERC
- v. NRC has considered expanded involvement through its MOA, identifying FERC dam safety expertise within the NRC matrix of technical resources
- vi. NRC has confirmed that all NRC dams are "low-hazard," and do not require EAP's
- vii. The NRC has made the commitment to an effective dam safety program

In the FY96-97 period, NRC's dam safety program incorporated all of the FY94-95 recommendations identified by FEMA, with the exception of scheduling and completing EAP's for dams. The EAP's were determined to be unnecessary since all NRC dams were confirmed to be in the "Low-Hazard" bracket. NRC representatives met with FERC, and adopted the use of FERC engineering guidelines.

C. Changes in Administration

There have been no changes in administration during the reporting period which have affected NRC control of the 19 dams.

III. Progress on Implementation of the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety

A. Organization, Administration, and Staffing

NRC's Dam Safety Officer (DSO) continues to be John Greeves, Director, Division of Waste Management, (301-415-7437). Technical support for Mr. Greeves is provided by Ted Johnson (301-415-6658) and Daniel Rom (301-415-6704). In addition, there are several other headquarters staff who have input to the dam safety program activities. Given the scope of NRC's Dam Safety Program, the staff size is considered adequate. Inspection support is provided by FERC regional offices where NRC dams are located. NRC reimbursement to FERC for the costs incurred is through the MOA.

NRC's internal Dam Safety Advisory Group (DSAG) includes representatives from the Offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Research, and the General Counsel. The DSAG meets several times a year to assure coordination of agency effort.

NRC will be exploring the use of interagency agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) or others to provide additional expertise, if required. NRC also has numerous in-house sources with expertise on various aspects of dam safety.

B. Dam Safety Training Activities

NRC has supported dam safety training by providing staff with relevant books and video tapes (Training Aids for Dam Safety) which were developed by the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS). The ICODES "Development of Ground Motion Parameters for Dam Safety Evaluation" conference held in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in February 1997, was also attended by NRC dam safety personnel. Dam safety staff also received training on related geotechnical engineering topics and NRC "Fundamentals of Inspection" training in April 1997.

C. Dam Inventories

The NRC Dam Inventory is current and complete. The inventory is updated when conditions warrant. All NRC dams are included in the National Inventory of Dams (NID) and updated NRC information is included when the NID is revised. Since the last reporting period, no dams have been re-classified with respect to hazard potential. No NRC dams are unclassified or underclassified. As discussed in NRC's response to the FY92-93 FEMA report, the completion of all NRC dam inspections has confirmed that all 19 structures are "Low-Hazard."

In the current reporting period, an inventory of Category I, Non-Category I, and off-site dams was made to assure that those dams/embankments which are non-safety related, and therefore not regulated by NRC, are routinely inspected by the appropriate agency. It was confirmed that the Non-Category I dams are inspected by other agencies, including FERC, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), COE, and others. For example, the Category I dam at Catawba which isolates an arm of Lake Wylie is inspected by FERC.

D. Independent Reviews

NRC's inter-agency agreement with FERC allows for independent reviews for dam safety issues as required. Considering the small size of the program, additional independent review is not considered to be necessary at this time.

E. Inspection Programs

Inspections have been, and will continue to be, conducted at a rate of three to five per year. This number of inspections is considered adequate because formal licensee-sponsored dam inspections are made at least annually, and the results are submitted to the NRC. Routine inspection of NRC structures by operating licensee personnel may occur daily, weekly, or monthly, and at any time unusual circumstances such as weather may merit. In future reporting periods, the results of licensee-sponsored dam inspections will be provided to FERC to more efficiently integrate all available information. Concurrently, NRC's formal dam inspections will be conducted by FERC.

F. Dam Safety Rehabilitation Programs

No rehabilitation effort has been required for NRC structures in the current reporting period.

G. Management Effectiveness Reviews

Considering the small size of NRC's dam safety program (19 dams), neither management effectiveness nor General Accounting Office reviews are considered necessary. In the current reporting period, the NRC Commissioners were advised of the status of the dam safety program, and Commission input was given on proposed dam safety efforts by the staff.

H. Dam Failures and Remedial Actions

No dam failures occurred in the current reporting period.

I. Emergency Action Planning

Emergency Action Plans (EAP's) are not required for "Low-Hazard" structures. If dams of significant hazard classification enter the system, EAP's would be required. A review of FERC-prepared inspection reports confirms the "Low-Hazard" classification for all NRC dams.

J. Application of ICODS Technical Guidance

ICODS has produced information and training documents for dam safety programs. NRC receives copies of the available documents, which will continue to be used in future NRC activities as applicable.

K. State Dam Safety Agency Involvement

NRC has no written cooperative relationships with state agencies. All NRC dams are on licensee-controlled property. As a courtesy, NRC advises state agencies of its intent to inspect a dam structure prior to the inspection date, and issues an invitation to state personnel to participate in the inspection activities.

L. Research and Development and Special Initiatives

There is no research and development (R&D) or special initiative activity associated with any of NRC's dams. Considering the number and size of structures, and the "Low-Hazard" classification, no R&D activities are considered necessary at this time.

M. Public Concerns

There has been no public concern expressed over NRC dams. There are no current plans to bring the public into NRC operations.

IV. Impact on Agency Operations

A. Budget Impact

NRC continues to provide adequate resources for implementing its dam safety program. NRC relies heavily on FERC for inspection support activities. NRC will pursue efficient interactions with FERC and other members of ICODS to streamline NRC activities under its dam safety program.

B. Impact on Contracting Procedures

In order to explore how best to comply with guidelines on limited funds, NRC met with FERC and FEMA, and plans to meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997. The purpose for the meetings is to optimize available resources for NRC dam inspections. NRC plans to review four to five licensee-sponsored dam inspections, and to supplement these reviews with several formal inspections each year.

C. Budget Allocation for Training/Education

Attendance at training sessions or conferences is paid for by NRC. No impact is foreseen for continued training operations.

NRC INFORMATION FOR STATUS TABLE
SUMMARY STATUS OF DAMS

DEPT	DAM INVENTORY				PERIODIC INSPECTIONS				Dams Under Investigation & Study		Dam Safety Modifications		Dams with EAP's	
AGENCY	TOTAL	HAZARD CLASSIFICATIONS			SINCE LAST REPORT				FY96-97	Active	FY96-97	Active	High	Sig.
		HIGH	SIG.	LOW	TOTAL	Formal	Inter.	Const						
NRC	19	0	0	19	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ACTION

wm-11

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

26

FROM: DUE: 09/24/97

EDO CONTROL: G970233
DOC DT: 04/04/97
FINAL REPLY: *9/12/97*

406

James L. Witt
FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN **

Office Director

CRC NO: 97-0304

DESC: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL GUILIELINES FOR DAM SAFETY

ROUTING:
Callan
Jordan
Thompson
Norry
Blaha
Burns

DATE: 04/09/97

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS Paperiello

Assigned to T. Johnson

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

DWM Action
Due to NMSS Director's Office
By *9/19/97*
rec'd 4/10/97

ACTION: *C. Cain, UR3*
Due to DWM
Director's Office: *9/23/97*

CC: *Greaves*
Federline
Sobel

9/19 Extended

H/11

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-97-0304 LOGGING DATE: Apr 7 97
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: JAMES WITT
AFFILIATION: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON
LETTER DATE: Apr 4 97 FILE CODE: OM-12 FEMA
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR DAM
SAFETY ~~Request~~
ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, RF
SPECIAL HANDLING:
CONSTITUENT:
NOTES: RESPONSE REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1997
DATE DUE:
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION: