

Canadian Dam Association Dam Safety Guidelines

PREFACE

Dams in Canada are owned by utilities, mining companies, pulp and paper companies, various levels of government, and private owners. Regulation of dam safety in Canada is primarily a provincial responsibility; some provinces have enacted specific dam safety regulations, while others use existing Acts or regulations to authorize the design, construction, inspection, operation, rehabilitation, alteration, or decommissioning of dams. Federal agencies have jurisdiction over some aspects of dam safety related to international boundary waters covered by treaty with the United States. The federal government also has some responsibility for security of critical infrastructure which includes many dams. In any case, legal regulations take precedence over guidelines produced by nongovernmental organizations.

In 1995, after three years of effort by working groups across the country, the Canadian Dam Safety Association published *Dam Safety Guidelines*. In 1999, the Canadian Dam Association (CDA) issued a revised version. In 2003, the CDA began soliciting input and suggestions for revisions and additions through the Internet and workshops across the country. *Dam Safety Guidelines* is a product of the CDA members, and a large number of individuals contributed to it.

Dam Safety Guidelines consists of

- 1 *Section 1, principles that are applicable to all dams*—The principles should be understood by dam owners, regulators, managers, operators, and other interested parties. The brief explanatory text outlines, in general, how conformance with the principles could be demonstrated.
- 2 *Sections 2–6, guidelines that outline processes and criteria for management of dam safety in accordance with the principles*—The guidelines are of interest to dam owners, regulators, managers, operators, and other decision-makers, as well as engineers and consultants.

The CDA also publishes a separate companion series of technical bulletins on dam safety. The technical bulletins suggest methodologies and procedures for use by qualified professionals as they carry out dam analyses and safety assessments. The technical bulletins are of particular interest to professional engineers involved in dam engineering.

The responsible dam safety engineer or decision-maker must assess and interpret the information provided in *Dam Safety Guidelines* and the technical bulletins, identify any considerations not addressed by those documents, and determine the appropriate dam safety requirements for a specific situation.

The CDA intends to review and update *Dam Safety Guidelines* and the technical bulletins as the need arises. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the validity and accuracy of the published information, the CDA and its membership disclaim any legal responsibility for use of *Dam Safety Guidelines*.