



INFORMATION SHEET

ANNUAL DAM STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The B.C. Dam Safety Regulation was passed into law under the *Water Act* effective February 11, 2000. This regulation was repealed and replaced by the Dam Safety Regulation (Regulation) under the new *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) on February 29, 2016. The objective of the Regulation is to enhance public safety and mitigate damage to property and the environment from a dam breach by requiring dam owners to adequately inspect and properly maintain their dams, and ensure that their dams meet applicable engineering standards.

BC DAM SAFETY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

The purpose of the dam safety compliance program is to protect public safety, the environment and property by promoting awareness of and compliance with the Dam Safety Regulation. Dam Safety Officers conduct periodic audits, provide education to dam owners, and maintain information on every regulated dam in the province. As part of this program, owners of high, very high and extreme failure consequence classification dams must complete and submit an annual status report for each dam they own.

ANNUAL REPORTING BY DAM OWNERS

At the end of November of each year, a form is sent to the principal contact on record for every high, very high and extreme failure consequence classification dam in B.C. A principal contact is either the dam owner, the owner's representative or, if there is more than one owner, the owners' designate.

On the form, principal contacts are required to provide factual information related to their dam safety program including: formal inspections, site surveillance, Dam Safety Review, Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual, Dam Emergency Plan, and indicate whether any new dam safety concerns have been identified in the past year. An explanation of the required information is provided on the back of the form.

More information and copies of the current form are available under the Compliance and Enforcement section of the [Dam Safety Program website](#) or can be obtained from a Dam Safety Officer.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Completing and submitting the Dam Status Report is a mandatory requirement under the WSA when requested by the Comptroller of Water Rights. Failure to comply with the WSA or the Regulation may result in escalating enforcement action being taken which may include: a fine of \$230, an order to drain the reservoir, charges under the WSA or Regulation, or cancellation of the water licence.

OFFENCES UNDER THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT

Failure to comply with the Regulation is an offence under the WSA. Please refer to the following information on general offences under s.106 of the WSA:

- (5) A person who does any of the following commits an offence:
 - (p) fails to keep information or records required to be kept under section 116 (1) [*records and reporting*];
 - (q) fails to keep information or records for the prescribed period contrary to section 116 (1);
 - (r) fails to produce records when required under section 116 (2) (a);
 - (u) knowingly contravenes section 116 (5).
- (6) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on conviction to the following:
 - (a) in the case of an offence that is not a continuing offence, a fine of not more than \$200 000 or imprisonment for not longer than 6 months, or both;
 - (b) in the case of a continuing offence, a fine of not more than \$200 000 for each day the offence is continued or imprisonment for not longer than 6 months, or both.

MORE INFORMATION

Dam Safety Section
Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M1
Email: dam.safety@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/water