



INFORMATION SHEET

ANNUAL DAM STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the BC Dam Safety Program is to promote the safety of water storage dams in the province by:

- Providing education to dam owners and dam safety professionals
- Monitoring dam owner compliance with the Dam Safety Regulation
- Reviewing project plans for consistency with Canadian Dam Association Guidelines and other industry standard practices
- Supporting emergency planning and response for dam safety incidents

In BC, dam owners are responsible for the safety of their dams. The Dam Safety Regulation (Regulation) under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) requires owners to operate, maintain and inspect dams to minimize risks to the public, the environment and property.

DAM SAFETY COMPLIANCE MONITORING

The BC Dam Safety Program promotes dam owner awareness of the Regulation and monitors compliance in a number of ways. Dam Safety Officers conduct periodic compliance audits and provide education to dam owners. In addition, the program requires owners of high, very high and extreme failure consequence classification dams to complete an annual status report for each dam they own.

ANNUAL REPORTING BY DAM OWNERS

At the end of November of each year, a Dam Status Report 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 the dam owner, the owner's representative or, if there is more than one owner, the owners' designate.

Principal contacts are required to complete the form with factual information about their dam safety program. This includes formal inspections, site surveillance, dam safety review, Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual, Dam Emergency Plan, and any dam safety concerns that have been identified in the past year. An explanation of the required information is provided on the back of the form.

More information and a downloadable version of the form are available under the Compliance and Enforcement section on the Dam Safety Program website at gov.bc.ca/damsafety, 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 request is an offence under the WSA and may result in escalating enforcement action being taken.

OFFENCES UNDER THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT

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/damsafety