



INFORMATION SHEET

ANNUAL DAM STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The British Columbia Dam Safety Regulation (Regulation) was passed into law under the *Water Act* effective February 11, 2000 and was most recently updated November 30, 2011. 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, properly maintain and ensure that their dams meet ongoing engineering standards.

In 2016, a revised Regulation will be effective when the new *Water Sustainability Act* comes into force. There will be a period of transition to allow owners of regulated water supply dams to become compliant with the new regulation. For more information, please visit the following website (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/>).

BC DAM SAFETY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

To protect public safety and ensure dam owners are aware of and in compliance with the Regulation, Dam Safety Officers conduct periodic audits, provide education and awareness to dam owners, maintain information on every regulated dam in the province and require dam owners of high, very high and extreme consequence classification dams to annually complete and submit a 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(s) on record of every high, very high and extreme failure consequence classification dam in BC. A principal contact is either the dam owner, or if more than one owner, one of the dam owners, or the owner(s)' representative who liaises with the Province regarding the dam. 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, Emergency Preparedness 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 the local Dam Safety Officer.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Completing and submitting the Dam Status Report is a mandatory requirement under the *Water Act* by virtue of

the written request from the Comptroller of Water Rights. Failure to comply with the *Water Act* or BC Dam Safety Regulation may result in escalating enforcement action being taken which could include: a fine of \$230; an Order to drain the reservoir; charges under the *Water Act*; or cancellation of the water licence.

OFFENCES UNDER THE WATER ACT

Failure to comply with the Regulation is an offence under the *Water Act*. Please refer to the following for more information on offences under the *Water Act* (referred hereafter as 'Act') under [Section 93](#):

- (2) A person who does any of the following commits an offence:
 - (p) fails to do an act or thing required to be done by the person under this Act or under an order of the comptroller, regional water manager, engineer or officer.
- (3) A person who does any of the following commits an offence:
 - (l) willfully:
 - (i) submits a false or misleading log, record, report form or return, or
 - (ii) records false or misleading information required to be submitted or recorded under this Act.
 - (m) fails to submit, produce or retain a log, record, report, form or return required to be submitted, produced or retained under the Act.
- (4) 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

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