



June 15, 2021

Files: 35050-20/Mailout &
35050-20/IOD Dike Files

To: British Columbia Diking Authorities

Re: **Annual Dike Inspection Reporting, and Dike Maintenance Act Approvals**

To help reduce the risk of dike failure and impacts of flooding in British Columbia, **every diking authority is required** to submit an annual dike inspection report to the Inspector of Dikes by October 31st.

The contents and attachments of this letter provide the information on:

- A. Dike Inspection Reporting
- B. *Dike Maintenance Act* Approvals for Changes to Dikes

A. DIKE INSPECTION REPORTING

The Province's Flood Safety Section continued with a series of virtual dike inspection workshops for diking authorities in various regions across the province in 2020. We are reviewing how this virtual training was received and whether it will be provided in the future.

Annual inspections are critical to ensure you know the status of your dikes and can address any deficiencies prior to the flood season(s) your community faces. Non-submission or reporting below the minimum report quality standard may result in the further reporting requirements or auditing by the Inspector of Dikes per the *Dike Maintenance Act*. Please review the **report quality** section below.

Please ensure that dike maintenance and repair are planned and executed prior to the next flooding period your dikes protect against.

**Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development**

Resource Stewardship Division

Water Management Branch
Flood Safety Section

Office of the Inspector
of Dikes

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M1

Location:
5th Floor, 2975 Jutland Rd
Victoria BC V8T 5J9
Telephone: 778-698-7344
Email: floodsafety@gov.bc.ca



Report Quality

The minimum standard for the annual dike inspection report submission below is not a substitute for your comprehensive dike inspection and maintenance program. It is recommended that diking authorities **review their dikes often** (during high and low flows) and collect as much information as is required to effectively inspect and maintain their dikes. Your regional Deputy Inspector of Dikes (see attached contact list) are also available for information and advice on inspections and dike safety.

By October 31, 2021, email a colour PDF file of the inspection report to floodsafety@gov.bc.ca or mail a colour hardcopy (please include a flash drive with a PDF version) to the mailing address above Attn: Rudy Sung – Senior Dike Safety Engineer.

The minimum requirements for the annual dike inspection report are:

- a. Fill in the attached Dike Inspection Checklist (mobile app output no longer accepted);
- b. Use ONLY the official dike name and GPS Number. To obtain this information please visit the Flood Protection Works Database at:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/integrated-flood-hazard-management/dike-management/flood-protection-structures>
- c. Include detailed descriptions, sketches, etc., of maintenance issues, deficiencies and proposed remedial measures;
- d. Include a photo record of observed issues/deficiencies referenced to the detailed descriptions in the checklist;
- e. Provide a summary of any upgrades completed since your last inspection report and confirm that all as-builts, survey and O&M manual updates have been provided to your regional Deputy Inspector of Dikes per the DMA approval for these projects.
- f. Provide a summary of maintenance/repair work completed in the past 12 months;
- g. Provide a summary of maintenance/repair work proposed for the next 12 months, and
- h. Provide a pdf copy of any consultant reports completed in the past year (if available).

Diking authorities are reminded that the [Flood Protection Works Inspection Guide 2000](#) is available online to assist with completing the dike inspection report.

If you have discovered dike integrity issues, please contact your regional Deputy Inspector of Dikes to discuss your plans to address the issue. They may also be able to direct you to available funding programs for non-maintenance related repairs.

B. *DIKE MAINTENANCE ACT* APPROVALS FOR CHANGES TO DIKES

Routine maintenance of a dike by a diking authority does **not** require an Approval under the *Dike Maintenance Act* (DMA), but major repairs or changes as listed below do require an Approval per Section 2(4) of DMA.

- Changes or alterations to the cross section or crest elevation of a dike;
- Installation of culverts, pipes, flood-boxes, utility lines, pump stations, or any structure through, on or over a dike;
- Construction of any works on or over a dike or dike right of way, including structures, excavations and placement of fill or other materials;

- Alteration of the foreshore or stream channel where the work could impact the integrity of a dike such as dredging, construction of erosion protection and other in-stream works; and
- Construction of a new dike.

DMA Approval application forms, approval requirements, design guidelines, and general information are available at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/integrated-flood-hazard-management/dike-management/approvals>

Additional permits and/or Approvals under other legislation/regulation may be required in addition to a DMA Approval or even when DMA is not required, so plan accordingly.

If you have any questions or comments relating to flood preparedness, dike safety or the DMA approval process, please contact your regional Deputy Inspector of Dikes.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Hahn, P.Eng.
Inspector of Dikes

List of Attachments

1. 2021 Dike Inspection Checklist
2. 2021 Dike Safety Program Contact List

pc: Regional Deputy Inspectors of Dikes, Regional Offices, FLNRORD
George Roman, Manager River Forecast and Flood Safety, Water Management Branch, FLNRORD