

Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams (Watching Brief)

INTRODUCTION

The current version of the Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams was published in September 2012. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide a consistent method of categorising the consequences of dam failure so that resources can be allocated according to the potential effects of failure of the dam on the general community.

Three levels of assessment are outlined in the guidelines. The third and most comprehensive level provides the option of assessment using either Population at Risk (PAR) or Potential Loss of Life (PLL). The inclusion of PLL represents the most significant change to the earlier version of the guidelines. PLL is synonymous with the term Loss of Life (LOL) as described in the ANCOLD Guidelines on Risk Assessment (2003). The PLL assessment is based on incremental PLL, the additional potential loss of life or damage caused by dam failure compared with the same event occurring without dam failure.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Watching Brief Committee is to maintain surveillance on all matters associated with the purpose of the guideline, to monitor industry trends both nationally and abroad and assess the currency of the existing guidelines against those trends.

BACKGROUND

The Watching Brief Committee was created in late 2014 by the ANCOLD Executive who appointed David Ryan as the Convenor for the Committee. David is an Associate Member of ANCOLD.

For these guidelines, it was agreed by the Executive that only the Convenor be appointed but where queries or

comments refer to or request a proposed change to the guidelines, then the Convenor is empowered to contact members of the original working group, or other practitioners who are willing to assist in any review and invite them to join the Watching Brief Committee. Any such changes to the Watching Brief Committee are subject to the approval of the ANCOLD Executive.

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

Following the 2014 ANCOLD Annual Conference, a request was submitted to investigate the rationale behind the development of Tables 3 and 4 of the Guidelines. These tables define the actual consequence categories and are arguably the focal point of the document. In 2015, minor amendments were proposed and submitted to the ANCOLD Executive for approval. The amendments were adopted and presented in the 2015 Annual report. Since this amendment was approved and published, there has been no further queries on the Guidelines. However, the Watching Brief Committee maintains an awareness of change in engineering practices associated with dams including the development of the revised ANCOLD Acceptable Flood Capacity Guidelines, the revision of the Risk Guidelines and development (or re-development) of State Government regulations. Although it is considered unlikely the ANCOLD Guidelines currently under review will require a need for change to the Consequence Guidelines, any such amendments will be subject to prior approval by the ANCOLD Executive. Notifications of change will be provided to members via the ANCOLD website.

The Watching Brief committee continues to maintain surveillance on matters associated with the guideline and are willing to consider any suggestions or comments that may assist with ensuring the guidelines remain current and reflect industry trends.

David Ryan

Convenor

Membership of the Working Group	Company
David Ryan (Convenor)	SunWater, Queensland