Developments in management of reservoir safety in UK

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SYNOPSIS. The UK government funds a continuing programme of research and development on issues related to the safety of large raised reservoirs in the UK. This paper describes three recent projects carried out by KBR which are likely to have a significant effect on the way reservoir safety is managed in the UK.

The first project was to devise and trial a system for quantitative risk assessment of dams, to allow comparison of threats such as inadequate spillway capacity with other threats to the safety of a dam. This system is to be published in early 2004 as a Interim engineering guide for extended trial by dam owners and dam professionals. The second project arose out of the realisation that in UK there are typically about three incidents a year where emergency drawdown of a reservoir is required to avert failure. The project comprised a feasibility study into the content of an incident reporting and investigation system and how this might be established. The third project comprised a feasibility study to identify practicable means of early identification of internal erosion in old dams.