

The Performance of Thika Dam, Kenya

D. A. BRUGGEMANN, KBR, Leatherhead, UK

J. D. GOSDEN, KBR, Leatherhead, UK

SYNOPSIS. Thika Dam is situated on the Thika River about 60km north of Nairobi in the foothills of the Aberdare Mountains where the river bed is 1985m above mean sea level (AMSL). The dam forms a major element of the Third Nairobi Water Supply Project which was constructed between 1990 and 1995.

The dam incorporated a range of instrumentation and monitoring systems. The data from the instrumentation was collected regularly for 5 years after construction with periodic reviews of the dam performance.

The purpose of the paper is to show that the dam constructed from halloysitic clay has performed satisfactorily and to compare the behaviour with dams constructed from conventional materials.