

A New Incident Reporting System for UK Dams

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SYNOPSIS. This paper describes the development of a system of incident reporting for UK dams, to be administered by the Environment Agency. Drawing from recent research for Defra by KBR Consultants, and building on an existing database developed by the BRE, the paper describes the development of the system specification for the particular requirements of the Environment Agency and the reservoir industry. The main aim of the new specification is to provide an effective system for the reporting, storage and analysis of information on incidents at dams and related structures, and related remedial measures. This information will then be used to inform the industry on vulnerabilities and trends in incidents and to improve reservoir safety through the lessons learnt. It may also inform future research priorities. Some of the key issues addressed in the paper are: what constitutes an incident; who reports an incident; confidentiality and liability. The paper also discusses proposals for the investigation of major incidents by suitably-qualified engineers.