

Reservoir Flood Plans – Towards Implementation

IM HOPE, Technical Manager Reservoir Safety, Environment Agency
AK HUGHES, Director of Dams & Water Resources, Atkins Ltd

SYNOPSIS. The Water Act 2003 established a new role for the Environment Agency as the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975 in England and Wales. Further change is heralded with the introduction of reservoir flood plans (or emergency action plans).

The Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is producing guidance on technical standards for reservoir flood plans entitled an “*Engineering Guide to Emergency Planning for UK Reservoirs*” (‘the Guide’). Reservoir flood plans, which will be used in emergency planning by Local Resilience Forums, will increase awareness of the extent of potential inundation areas from reservoirs and the challenges faced by all those involved in managing and communicating flood risk.

The current programme for introducing reservoir flood plans is to carry out a public consultation and impact assessment on the proposals, led by Defra, in autumn 2008, followed by the Ministerial direction and the introduction of the formal requirement for reservoir flood plans in spring 2009.

This paper provides a review of the current developments made towards completing the Guide and the major changes which will result from the requirement to produce reservoir flood plans. It also highlights the issues which arose during the earlier informal consultation process.