

Pebley Reservoir (Derbyshire) Emergency Drawdown Exercise

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SYNOPSIS. This paper details the exercising of an on-site emergency drawdown plan carried out at Pebley Reservoir. It highlights the lessons learnt, compares the use of submersible and suction pumps and recommends a frequency for future exercises.

INTRODUCTION

The Canal and River Trust (CRT), a charitable body, was set up in 2012 to look after the navigations in England and Wales which were formerly the responsibility of the British Waterways Board. The Canal and River Trust is responsible for 72 statutory reservoirs. Each reservoir, except for a handful presenting minimal risk, has an On-Site Emergency Drawdown Plan (EDP).

In response to the Defra consultation in 2009, British Waterways suggested that an appropriate time frame for a large undertaker to exercise their emergency plans would be one desk exercise every two years and a site exercise every five years. The most recent site exercise was in 2008 at Lower Foulridge Reservoir as reported in the paper *Exercising of Emergency Draw-down Plans¹* presented at the Strathclyde BDS conference in 2010. Subsequent changes to BW's framework contractor and to the organizational structure of the company led to the decision that a further full site test would be beneficial within the suggested five year timescale. In November 2011 a full exercise of an on-site emergency drawdown plan was carried out at Pebley Reservoir.