

A method of mitigating tree blockage to bridges on a spillway

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SYNOPSIS. On a wooded catchment there is a risk that fallen trees may be washed over the spill weir and trapped under bridges, which might result either in a loss of capacity and a potential overtopping of the dam or else a change in flow down the spillway and overtopping of the side walls. In the paper a trash barrier consisting of vertical poles placed upstream of the spill weir is described and results are presented from model tests showing the efficiency of the poles at trapping trees. It is concluded that the problem of tree blockage of a spillway can best be mitigated by the introduction of a double row of poles in front of the weir and that suitably placed poles would not affect the operation of the spillway.