



The British Dam Society at the Institution of Civil Engineers

EVENING MEETING

Update on Key Reservoir Safety Initiatives

Presented by:

**Ian Hope - Technical Manager – Reservoir Safety,
Environment Agency**

Simon Rundle - Principal Counsel, Environment Agency

Gary Tustin - Principal Scientist, Environment Agency

Alan Warren - Chief Engineer-Dams, Halcrow Group Ltd

**Monday 23rd February 2009
@ 5.30pm**

at

**The Institution of Civil Engineers
1 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AA**

For a brief synopsis see overleaf

Admission Free

Teas available from 5.00pm

For more information please contact
Tim Fuller (BDS Secretary) on 020 7665 2234 or
Email: bds@ice.org.uk

Summary of Presentation

The opportunity is being taken at this evening meeting to provide an update on key reservoir safety initiatives. There will be joint presentations on the following :-

Proposals for legislative change

Following the Pitt Review of 2008 the Environment Agency put forward proposed changes to the Reservoirs Act 1975 to Defra. The principal proposed change is to introduce a risk-based approach to the legislation and ensure that those currently unregulated reservoirs that constitute a significant risk are regulated.

The Government has announced that it will publish a draft Floods and Water Bill in the Spring for pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill is expected to address how the Government will implement its response to the recommendations of the Pitt Review report including issues relating to reservoirs. The speakers (Mssrs. Hope and Rundle) will highlight the key proposals put forward to Defra by the Environment Agency.

Update on reservoir flood plans

The Water Act 2003 amended the Reservoirs Act 1975 to include the requirement for reservoir flood plans. As part of his extensive review following the floods of 2007, Sir Michael Pitt recognised the need for inundation maps to be provided to local resilience forums.

Defra has instructed the Environment Agency to produce inundation maps for all reservoirs subject to the Act and pass them to local resilience forums by December 2009. The speaker will provide a brief update on current developments.

Summary of R&D projects

Responsibility for the delivery of publically-funded R&D on reservoirs was passed by Defra to the Environment Agency in April 2007. A comprehensive strategy has been produced and a number of high priority contracts let. Copies of the strategy will be available and the speakers (Mssrs. Hope and Tustin) will provide a brief update on these contracts.

Post-incident reporting annual report

The Environment Agency is producing an annual report following the second year of administering the post-incident reporting system. The speakers (Mssrs Warren and Hope) will provide an update and summarise the highlights of the findings.