

Dam Safety Code

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AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY

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1. PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

1.1 Application

This Code applies to **Water Utilities**.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to ensure **Dams** are properly managed in order to prevent unsafe operation and/or failure that can, in turn, cause loss of life and damage to property and the environment.

2. DICTIONARY

2.1 Dictionary Attached

The dictionary at the end of this **Dam Safety Code** is part of this Code.

3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DAMS

3.1 Each Water Utility Must Comply with Guidelines

Each **Water Utility** must operate and maintain the **Dams** owned or controlled by them in accordance with:

- (1) **ANCOLD Guidelines**; and
- (2) **NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines**.

3.2 Each Water Utility to Report on Compliance

Each **Water Utility** must provide a written report annually to the **Chief Executive** in the form required by the **Chief Executive** that:

- (1) lists each requirement under both the **ANCOLD Guidelines** and the **NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines** applicable to the **Dams** owned or controlled by it;
- (2) for each of those requirements, details as to whether the **Water Utility** has complied with those requirements;
- (3) for any requirements with which the **Water Utility** has failed to comply, a proposed course of action to ensure that, as soon as practicable, the **Water Utility** complies with these requirements; and
- (4) for any requirements with which the **Water Utility** has failed to comply, whether the **Water Utility** subsequently complied with these requirements and, if not, why not.

4. DAM SURVEILLANCE

4.1 Dam Surveillance Program

Each **Water Utility** must develop and maintain a Dam Surveillance Program for each **Dam**. Each Dam Surveillance Program must:

- (1) be developed and maintained in accordance with current good industry and engineering practice as defined in the **ANCOLD Guidelines** and the **NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines**;
- (2) be under the direct supervision of a competent Dam Safety Engineer;
- (3) include routine dam surveillance, the results of which must be documented annually; and
- (4) include comprehensive dam surveillance conducted on a rolling five year program.

4.2 Program Available for Chief Executive

Details of the Dam Surveillance Programs and the documented results of dam surveillance must be made available, on request, to the **Chief Executive**.

5. DAM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS

5.1 Preparation of Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans

Each **Water Utility** must, within 6 months of the grant of its **Utility Services Licence**, and annually thereafter:

- (1) prepare a draft Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan for each **Dam** that it owns and/or operates; and
- (2) submit the Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans to the **Chief Executive** for approval.

5.2 Contents of Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans

Each Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan must, at a minimum, contain the following information for the relevant **Dam**:

- (1) details of emergency situations:
 - (a) failure situations;
 - (b) impending failure situations;
 - (c) flooding;
 - (d) earthquake; and
 - (e) unusual occurrences;
- (2) dam failure inundation maps for “clearday”, “imminent failure flood” and “overtopping failure floods”;
- (3) define key roles of staff employed by the **Water Utility** and attendance procedures;
- (4) identify relevant emergency service organisations and provide a notification directory for these organisations;
- (5) prescribe dam emergency preparedness alerts and emergency classifications;

- (6) prescribe communications and responsibilities for each authority involved, for example, Dam Manager, Dam Safety Engineer, ACT Police (Australian Federal Police), the ACT Emergency Services Bureau, NSW State Emergency Services and NSW Police; and
- (7) provide details of any installed warning systems.

5.3 Approval of Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans

As soon as practicable after the **Water Utility** submits the Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans to the **Chief Executive** for approval, the **Chief Executive** will:

- (1) consult with interested parties including, but not limited to, the ACT Emergency Services Bureau; and
- (2) may either:
 - (a) approve the Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans or
 - (b) require the **Water Utility** to amend one or more of the Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans.

5.4 Amendments to Proposed Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans

The **Chief Executive** may direct a **Water Utility** to amend a proposed Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan or Plans only if, in the **Chief Executive's** reasonable opinion, the proposed plan or plans do not adequately address any one or more of the matters referred to in clause 5.2.

5.5 Water Utility to Make Proposed Amendments

If the **Chief Executive** directs a **Water Utility** to amend its proposed Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan or Plans under clause 5.4, the **Water Utility** must in good faith and within 14 days of receipt of the **Chief Executive's** direction prepare and submit a revised Plan or Plans to the **Chief Executive** for approval.

5.6 Chief Executive Submission of Dam Emergency Preparedness Plans

As soon as practicable after approving a Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan the **Chief Executive** must submit the Plan to interested parties including, but not limited to, the ACT Emergency Services Bureau.

6. EMERGENCY EVENT REPORTING

6.1 Emergency Event Report to Chief Executive

Each **Water Utility** must send a written **Emergency Event** Report to the **Chief Executive** not later than:

- (1) five **Business Days** after the occurrence of an **Emergency Event**; and/or
- (2) five **Business Days** after receiving a request from the **Chief Executive**,

6.2 Content of Emergency Event Report

An **Emergency Event** Report must be in the form required from time to time by the **Chief Executive** and, in the case of an **Emergency Event** Report submitted under clause 6.1(2), it must contain the following:

- (1) details of the event and the **Dam** at which the event took place;
- (2) the time and date at which the event took place;
- (3) notification involved;
- (4) agencies notified;
- (5) the status of the **Dam**;
- (6) maintenance details and other actions to be taken by the **Water Utility** to ensure the long term safety of the **Dam**; and
- (7) any other details requested by the **Chief Executive**.

6.3 The Chief Executive May Give Direction to Utility

If, on the basis of an **Emergency Event** Report, the **Chief Executive** is not satisfied with:

- (1) a **Water Utility's** adherence to its respective Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan following an **Emergency Event**; and/or
- (2) a **Water Utility's** compliance with the **ANCOLD Guidelines** and/or **NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines** following an **Emergency Event**,

the **Chief Executive** may give a direction to the **Water Utility**.

7. INSPECTION OF RECORDS

7.1 Each Water Utility to Keep Records

Each **Water Utility** must keep, or cause to be kept, comprehensive and accurate records of:

- (1) compliance with the requirements of the **ANCOLD Guidelines** and the **NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines**;
- (2) compliance with the requirements of this Code; and
- (3) any other matters reasonably required by the **Chief Executive**.

SCHEDULE 1: DAMS

- (1) The dam known as Cotter Dam located on the Cotter River.
- (2) The dam known as Bendora Dam located on the Cotter River.
- (3) The dam known as Corin Dam located on the Cotter River.
- (4) The dam known as Googong Dam located on the Queanbeyan River.
- (5) The Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre Bypass Storage Dam.

DICTIONARY

- (1) “**Act**” means the *Utilities Act 2000*;
- (2) “**ANCOLD**” means the Australian National Committee on Large Dams;
- (3) “**ANCOLD Guidelines**” means the most recent “*Guidelines on Dam Safety and Management*” published by **ANCOLD**;
- (4) “**Business Day**” means a day, other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the **Territory**;
- (5) “**Chief Executive**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (6) “**Dam**” means a dam referred to in Schedule 1 of the **Dam Safety Code** and includes appurtenant works;
- (7) “**Dam Safety Code**” means the **Dam Safety Code** approved as a **Technical Code** by the **Minister** under the **Act**;
- (8) “**Emergency Event**” means an emergency as defined from time to time under the **ANCOLD Guidelines** and these may include seismic, flood, landslides, or other unusual events such as sabotage;
- (9) “**ICRC**” means the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission established under section 5 of the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1987 (ACT)*;
- (10) “**Minister**” means the **Minister** responsible for administering Part 5 of the **Act**;
- (11) “**NSW Dam Safety Committee**” means the Dam Safety Committee constituted under the *Dam Safety Act 1978 (NSW)*;
- (12) “**NSW Dam Safety Committee Technical Guidelines**” means the technical guidelines published from time to time by the **NSW Dam Safety Committee**;
- (13) “**Technical Code**” means a code approved or determined by the **Minister** under Part 5 of the **Act**;
- (14) “**Territory**” means the Australian Capital Territory;
- (15) “**Utility**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (16) “**Utility Services Licence**” means a licence granted to a **Utility** by **ICRC** under Part 3 of the **Act**;
- (17) “**Water Services**” means those services as defined in the **Act**;
- (18) “**Water Utility**” is a **Utility** licensed under the **Act**, to provide **Water Services**.