

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY CHARTER

I. Mission

The mission of the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS) is to provide federal leadership to reduce risks to life, property, and the environment from dam incidents in the United States.

II. Purpose

The purpose of ICODES is to encourage the establishment and maintenance of effective federal programs, policies, and guidelines to enhance dam safety.

ICODS accomplishes its mission and purpose through serving as the permanent forum for the following activities:

- coordination and information exchange among federal agencies on dam safety issues, including implementation of the *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*;
- achievement of the objectives related to the federal element, as outlined in Section 8 of the Dam Safety Act of 2006
- collaborating with the National Dam Safety Review Board to ensure consistency and support between the federal element and non-federal element to accomplish a united National Dam Safety Program.

III. Objectives

The following objectives are related to the federal element and are aligned with those set forth in Section 8(c) of the National Dam Safety Program:

- ensure that new and existing dams are safe through the development of technologically and economically feasible programs and procedures for national dam safety hazard reduction;
- encourage acceptable engineering policies and procedures to be used by federal agencies for dam site investigation, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness;
- encourage the establishment and implementation of effective dam safety programs in each federal agency;
- develop and encourage public education and awareness projects to increase public acceptance and support of federal dam safety programs;
- develop technical assistance materials for federal dam safety programs;
- develop mechanisms with which to provide federal technical assistance for dam safety to the non-federal sector; and
- develop technical assistance materials, seminars, and guidelines to improve security for dams in the United States.

IV. Organization

A. Membership

The members of ICODS are one representative and one alternate from each of the federal agencies listed below.

- Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Department of Defense/United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Department of Labor/Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- Department of State/United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)

B. Chair

The Chair of ICODS is the designated FEMA representative.

C. Subcommittees and Task Groups

As required, ICODS will establish Subcommittees and Task Groups to fulfill its mission and purpose. A member of ICODS will be named by the Chair as the lead for each Subcommittee and Task Group. The members of ICODS Subcommittees and Task Groups will be approved by ICODS.

D. Meetings

ICODS will meet on a quarterly basis. Other meetings may be called by the Chair.

E. Voting and Rules

Each representative to ICODS has one vote. A representative may designate an alternate to vote in her or her absence. The most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* will be followed.

F. Reporting

Each federal agency that serves on ICODS is responsible for reporting biennially to the Congress on their progress in implementing the *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*, as required by Section 11 of the Dam Safety Act of 2006.

V. Amending Charter

Amendments may be made to this Charter by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

Approved by the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety on October 23, 2007.