

## **Public Safety at Dams – A Canadian Perspective**

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**SYNOPSIS** Following several highly publicised events that resulted in loss of life at dams, the Canadian Dam Association, in 1995, embarked on an ambitious effort to develop a set of guidelines to assist dam owners and operators in understanding the principles of dam safety and the process and management of these principles to protect the public, not only from a dam failure, but from injury and/or death due to the public's close proximity to these facilities.

This paper will focus on the implementation of a public safety program at several of BC Hydro's dams in western Canada in 2013 and efforts undertaken to minimize risk to the public of hazards upstream and in the tailrace and spillway areas of a dam. Working together with BC Hydro, Revelstoke Design Services Limited conducted detailed site assessments followed by recommendations for the installation of public safety control measures in critically hazardous areas.