



# Dam Safety

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

We have a vigilant dam safety program. Our dams are routinely inspected and maintained on rigid schedules and are well-prepared to handle the floodwaters. This is what they were designed to do. Our dams are structurally sound and are not experiencing any signs that indicate impending failure.

Our dams are equipped with instruments that allow us to identify potential seismic or seepage issues if and when they develop. When our reservoir water levels are high, we become even more proactive and increase our surveillance of these instruments.

Our dams are routinely inspected on an annual basis and undergo an even more rigorous evaluation every five years. Our dams are evaluated for safety in accordance with the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety originally issued in 1979 and revised in 2005.

This is uncharted territory for releases; however, our reservoirs have been at, or very near these levels before.

There is no risk of our dams being overtopped during this event. However, the water is in our exclusive flood control zone and near the top of our spillway gates. If the reservoir rises to the top of the spillway gates, we have to open the spillway gates and release water beneath the gates. The spillway gates are considerably lower than the top of the dam and are not designed to have water flowing over the top of them.

There is very little potential for liquefaction to occur at our dams. Our dams underwent rigorous studies in the 1970s and in 2005 to reflect state of the practice changes in seismic evaluation. Both studies concluded our dams are not a risk for liquefaction for the seismicity of their region.

The Omaha District dam safety monitoring process consists of the following:

- Daily and monthly inspections by project personnel.
- Instrumentation data collection and interpretation.
- Annual Inspections performed by project and district dam safety personnel.
- Periodic Inspections performed every five years. Periodic Inspections include a thorough review of all components of the project and are attended by project personnel, technical staff from various disciplines within the Omaha District, Division technical experts, and government officials from outside the Corps of Engineers.
- Special Inspections are also performed for high water conditions, seismic events, and other unusual conditions.
- The Omaha District assesses each dam's safety with regard to other issues such as operational modifications to the project and adequacy of hydraulic steel structures.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Kansas City District**

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