

## High Hazard Emergency Action Plans

### Background

*...the owner of a hazard class C dam shall create and maintain an emergency action plan that meets the recommendations of the federal guidelines for dam safety: emergency action planning for dam owners," prepared by the interagency committee on dam safety and published by the federal emergency management agency, dated October 1998 and reprinted January 2004, which is hereby adopted by reference. The owner shall submit a copy of the EAP to the chief engineer. K.A.R. 5-40-73(b).*

Failure of a Class C high hazard dam could cause extensive loss of life or damage to more than one home, industrial or commercial facilities, a public utility serving a large number of customers, traffic on high-volume roads (more than 1,500 vehicle use in average 24-hour period), a frequently-used recreational facility serving a large number of persons, or a high-volume railroad line.

### EAP Requirements

Since the 1980s, the Chief Engineer's rules and regulations associated with the Obstructions in Streams Act have required an Emergency Action Plan be included with any application for a permit for Class C high hazard dam. Changes to the regulations in May 18, 2007, require all high hazard dams to have an EAP. Owners of Class B significant hazard dam also must submit an EAP on a form the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, has available on the KDA website at [www.ksda.gov/structures/](http://www.ksda.gov/structures/).

K.A.R. 5-40-73 requires dams classified high hazard to have an EAP, a formal document that identifies

potential emergency conditions at a dam and specifies preplanned actions for those conditions if the dam should fail. Basically, this document provides contact names to aid in warning notifications and evacuations, breach inundation map or a description of the inundation area that identifies crucial areas during dam emergencies, and planned emergency procedures.

For example, contacts listed on the notification flowchart could include local emergency management, downstream residents, National Weather Service, appropriate federal and state emergency management, news media, operators of other dams or water-retention facilities that might be affected, managers and operators of recreation facilities, residents and property owners located immediately downstream of the dam, and others as needed

Because this regulation also requires EAPs to meet the "recommendations of federal guidelines for dam safety," the Chief Engineer suggests owners or operators of high hazard dams complete and send to the Chief Engineer the EAP fillable form developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. Once an EAP is developed, it should be updated annually, and a copy sent to the Chief Engineer if significant changes are made. For more information, view EAP Factsheet June 2007, detailed instructions for completing the EAP fillable form, and a sample EAP developed using fillable form.