Kansas Projects Information Sheet

US Army Corps of Engineers

February 2011

DSAC III Dams

Pomona Dam

Pomona Dam is considered a moderate to high risk dam and was given a DSAC III rating. . The primary concern is seepage through rock in the left abutment. A secondary concern is that the riprap on the upstream dam face is degraded which could result in erosion during extreme floods.

Interim Risk Reduction Measures being pursued at Pomona Dam are improving flow measurements of seepage through the Kereford Limestone and Plattsmouth Limestone drains, updating the Dam Surveillance and Emergency Action plan. An orientation seminar will be held to familiarize local emergency management officials with the Emergency Action Plan.

Wilson Dam

Wilson Dam is considered a moderate to high risk dam and was given a DSAC III rating. The primary concern is seepage through both abutments. A secondary concern is that the spillway capacity may be inadequate to prevent overtopping of the dam embankment during extreme floods.

Interim Risk Reduction Measures completed at Wilson Dam include installation of pins for measuring cracks in the conduit liner. The Dam Surveillance and Emergency Action Plan are being updated. An orientation seminar will be held to familiarize local emergency management officials with the Emergency Action Plan.

DSAC IV Dams

No Interim Risk Reduction Measures are required for USACE dams rated DSAC IV. These Dams are labeled inadequate with low risk.

Kansas City District Dams rated DSAC IV in Kansas include Clinton, Hillsdale, Kanopolis, Melvern, Milford, Perry, and Tuttle Creek.

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To better ensure public safety, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has decided to use a risk-based approach to inspect and evaluate its more than 600 dams. Risk is the measure of the likelihood that a natural event will occur, the performance of the structure during this event, and the consequences of failure/poor performance – loss of life being of paramount concern.

Results of risk assessments are being used to prioritize dam rehabilitation funding. Other objectives of risk management include communicating risk posed by flood control structures and managing operations and maintenance activities to reduce risk as low as practical within budget constraints.

In collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation and other dam safety organizations, the Corps has developed a risk-based rating system for assessing each of its dams—the Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) system. The DSAC system ranks dam rehabilitation priorities on a scale of 1–5. DSAC 1 (Unsafe) is the highest risk category for dams in need of remediation; DSAC 5 (Adequately Safe) is the lowest risk category. No dams were rated DSAC 5.

To assign initial DSAC ratings, cadres of engineers from multiple disciplines performed one-day risk analyses on every Corps dam between 2005 and 2009. Each initial risk analysis was referred to as a Screening-level Portfolio Risk Assessment (SPRA). Based on the SPRA results, seven dams in the Kansas City District were assigned DSAC 3 (Conditionally Unsafe) ratings; the remaining 11 NWK dams received DSAC 4 (Marginally Safe) ratings. The seven DSAC 3 dams include Harlan County, Pomme de Terre, Pomona, Rathbun, Smithville, Stockton, and Wilson. Dam Wilson Dam and Pomona Dam are the DSAC 3 dams in Kansas.

For your planning purposes, USACE water supply policy does not allow the multipurpose pool level to be raised at projects where dams are classified as DSAC (Dam Safety Action Classification) I through III. Therefore, only storage within the existing conservation pool may be considered for water supply purposes.