

# **USSD COMMITTEE ON EMBANKMENT DAMS CHARTER**

Approved by the Board of Directors on 7/22/15

## **COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION**

The Committee on Embankment Dams focuses on the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation for embankment dams.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee on Materials for Embankment Dams was renamed the Committee on Embankment Dams by the Board of Directors of USSD in 2013. The Committee on Embankment Dams is charged with representing USSD on the ICOLD Committee on Embankment Dams and supporting USSD strategic initiatives for advocacy, education, collaboration, and cultivation as they pertain to embankment dams. The Committee keeps the general membership informed of the state-of-the-practice for design, construction, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of embankment dams through timely publication of reports and white papers, announcements in the Newsletter, input to the committees section of the USSD website, and in the organization and execution of periodic workshops. The Committee shall also collaborate and/or assist with other committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four imperatives of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, Advocate, Educate, Collaborate, and Cultivate.

## **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY**

The Committee on Embankment Dams has been in existence since 1981. The committee sponsored the 1991 USSD (USCOLD) annual meeting with the theme of geomembranes and the 1997 USSD (USCOLD) annual meeting with the theme of non-soil water barriers for embankment dams. Additionally, the committee developed and presented seepage workshops in 2005 and 2012. Notable white papers include the 2007 Strength of Materials for Embankment Dams, 2010 Aging of Embankment Dams, and 2011 Materials for Embankment Dams. Previous committee chairpersons include: Mr. Lloyd Timblin (1981 – 1986), Mr. Donald Bowes (1986 – 1989), Mr. David Kleiner (1989 – 1998), Ms. Debora Miller (1998 – 2006), Mr. William Allerton (2006 – 2011), and Mr. Craig Harris (2011 – 2014).

The committee has also been active on a number of bulletins published by the ICOLD Committee on Embankment Dams (Committee on Materials for Fill Dams), most notably taking leadership roles on the 1994 Granular Filters Bulletin and the 2011 Concrete Face Rockfill Dams – Concepts for Design and Construction Bulletin.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee on Embankment Dams will collaboratively sponsor the 2015 USSD Workshop on Internal Erosion and the 2016 Joint Symposium with the Deep Foundations Institute. In addition, the committee will also provide USSD representation to the ICOLD Committee on Cemented Material Dams.

## CHAIR, AND VICE CHAIRS AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Rachael V. Bisnett  
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Rachael.V.Bisnett@mwhglobal.com

Vice Chair: Victor M. Vasquez,  
Freese and Nichols  
10431 Morado Circle, Bldg V, #300  
Austin, TX 78759  
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Vice Chair (Young Professional): N/A

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives for the USSD Committee on Embankment Dams align with the USSD Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2017.

### Advocate:

1. Provide technical information as requested to support USSD Advocacy Goals.
2. Communicate relevant outreach information/activities with committee members.
3. Actively review draft documents prepared by the ICOLD Committee on Embankment Dams.
4. Communicate availability of white papers and ICOLD Committee on Embankment Dams Bulletins via USSD website committee space.

### Educate:

1. Publish white paper on Design and Performance of Riprap Slope Protection for Embankment Dams.
2. Publish white paper on Laboratory Testing of Fill Strength Parameters for Embankment Dams.
3. Develop and publish white paper on Riprap Bedding. The white paper will be comprised of a literature review and recommendations for research needs.
4. Develop and publish white paper on Piping and Internal Erosion. The white paper will be a detailed annotated outline of available references.
5. Co-sponsor 2015 Workshop on Internal Erosion and 2016 Joint Symposium on Cutoffs.
6. Solicit and encourage international participants to share experiences and best practices.

Collaborate:

1. Collaboration within USSD to co-sponsor 2015 Workshop on Internal Erosion.
2. External collaboration with the Deep Foundations Institute to co-sponsor 2016 Joint Symposium on Cutoffs.
3. Support USSD website redesign efforts as appropriate and requested.
4. Collaborate with other entities such as ICOLD, ASDSO, DFI, ASCE, and others.

Cultivate:

1. Provide resources as requested to support USSD Cultivate Goals.
2. Support leadership opportunities for young professionals within the committee.
3. Invite scholarship finalists to attend and participate in committee meeting at the USSD annual conferences.
4. Develop relationships with other USSD committees through appointment of liaisons who will work to identify and support collaboration opportunities.

## MEMBERSHIP

The current membership of the USSD Technical Committee on Embankment Dams is provided below.

Rachael Bisnett, Chair  
Victor M. Vasquez, Vice Chair  
William H. Allerton  
P. Emeruwa Anyanwu  
Terrence E. Arnold  
Michael C. Canino  
John W. France  
Edwin R. Friend  
Mason Ghafghazi  
Craig W. Harris  
David E. Kleiner  
Richard W. Kramer  
Richard Lech Kulesza  
Mary Ellen Large  
James McHenry  
Debora J. Miller  
David B. Paul  
Ralph W. Rabus  
Jay Stateler  
Roger L. Torres  
Christina Winckler

Subcommittees are formed as necessary for the purpose of developing white papers and supporting workshop efforts. The Committee on Embankment Dams intends to increase membership by actively supporting USSD initiatives, publishing white papers, and sponsoring technical workshops. Younger members will be provided participation and leadership opportunities on the committee goals and objectives.