

USSD COMMITTEE ON DAM DECOMMISSIONING CHARTER

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The USSD Dam Decommissioning Committee provides a forum to discuss, develop, and share technical information about the decommissioning of dams. This technical information is used to provide dam owners, dam engineers and public safety officials, and other professionals with the information necessary to help guide decision-making when considering dam removal as a project alternative.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Dam Decommissioning Committee was initially established by the Board of Directors of USSD in 1998. The Dam Decommissioning Committee is charged with the following activities:

- To establish and maintain a USSD Technical Committee that will be responsible for developing information that can be used to respond to inquiries that come to USSD on decommissioning of dams.
- To establish a forum where Members of USSD and other interested parties can discuss issues related to the decommissioning of dams.
- To establish and maintain contact with ICOLD committees that are interested in and knowledgeable about decommissioning of dams, and to keep ICOLD apprised of the knowledge and activities of USSD related to this subject.
- To review and maintain a state-of- art body of accurate information on the decommissioning of dams.
- To prepare and maintain a USSD position paper on decommissioning of dams for inclusion on the USSD World Wide Web home page.
- To maintain and update existing USSD guidelines for national use in determining the "why, when, and how" to decommission dams.
- To coordinate and exchange information with other professional organizations and groups that are interested in the decommissioning of dams, including workshops and webinars.

The Committee keeps the general membership informed of dam decommissioning technical information 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 was formed in 1998 with Richard Armstrong and Thomas Mudd as the first committee chair and vice chair. The first committee members were R. Michael Akridge, Lee DeHeer and Wayne Edwards. The committee was formed to develop and provide technical guidance on dam decommissioning and not to advocate for dam removal. Many USSD members believed that advocacy for dam removal would be counter to USSD goals and objectives.

One of the first committee activities was for Wayne Edwards (Committee Chair) to join a diverse group of people, invited by the Aspen Institute, to discuss dam decommissioning. This group met eight times over a two-year period (2000-2002) and published the book "Dam Removal: A

New Option for a New Century.” Wayne Edwards also chaired the ICOLD Dam Decommissioning Committee from 2005 to 2011.

The USSD Dam Decommissioning Committee annually organized a technical session on dam decommissioning at several USSD Conferences from 2001 through 2018.

The committee organized and led technical workshops on dam decommissioning at the 2008 USSD Workshop in Portland, OR and during the 2013 ICOLD meeting in Seattle, WA.

The Committee completed the Guidelines for Dam Decommissioning Projects in July 2015. This guideline is now available on line at: <http://www.usstdams.org/15Decommissioning.PDF>

The Committee also led the USSD Workshop on Dam Decommissioning in Oakland, CA November 2-4, 2015.

Committee Chairs:

- Richard Armstrong [1998-1999]
- Wayne D. Edwards, W.D. Edwards Consulting [2000 – 2005]
- William H. Hover, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. [2006 – 2007]
- Thomas E. Hepler, Bureau of Reclamation (retired) [2008 – 2010]
- Timothy Randle, Bureau of Reclamation [2011 – 2017]

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee is responsible for developing technical information related to the decommissioning of dams (see Terms of Reference above).

CHAIR, AND VICE CHAIRS, AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Jennifer Bountry, PE, MS

Vice Chair: Kevin Schneider, PE

Vice Chair Johnathon Atkins (Young Professional)

Goals and Objectives

General goals and objectives of the Committee are listed below for advocacy, education, collaboration, and cultivation.

Advocate:

1. Provide technical information on dam decommissioning to support USSD Advocacy Goals
2. Communicate with committee members about relevant outreach information and activities

Educate:

1. Publish technical papers, presentations, and guidelines
2. Develop and convene conference sessions and workshops
3. Provide on-line resources

Collaborate:

1. Collaborate within USSD

2. Strategically collaborate with targeted U.S. organizations (e.g., interagency Subcommittee on Sedimentation, American Society of Civil Engineers)
3. Strategically collaborate with targeted international organizations (e.g., ICOLD Dam Decommissioning Committee)

Cultivate:

1. Improve committee operations and recruit sustaining members
2. The specific goals and objectives of the Committee during 2014, 2015, and 2016 are to accomplish the following activities:
3. Complete the publication entitled: "USSD Guidelines for Dam Decommissioning Projects."
4. Convene workshops to educate engineers and scientists on the use and application of the guidelines.
5. Convene technical sessions on dam decommissioning at USSD annual conferences.
6. Identify and report on new trends and issues related to dam decommissioning.
7. Coordinate with activities of the ICOLD Dam Decommissioning Committee.

The Committee will pursue several activities over the next three years to increase committee membership, including the involvement of younger members:

- Current committee members are encouraged to individually recruit colleagues with an interest in dam decommissioning to serve on the committee
- The Committee will also recruit colleagues at USSD annual meetings and conferences during committee meetings, technical sessions, and workshops.