



Charter of the USSD Committee on Dam Safety

Approved by the Executive Committee on Aug. 26, 2021

Approved by the BOD on Aug. 26, 2021

Committee Description

Promotes all aspects of dam safety through study, compilation, and interchange of information on legislation, policy, technical developments, and actual performance requirements of dams and reservoirs; maintains information by states as to the laws relating to safety of dams and compiles information on dam safety incidents or failures of dams. Develops programs and tools which gather and disseminate dam safety information, coordinates and provides dam safety training for USSD members, and establish cooperative arrangements and partnerships with other organizations for the purpose of enhancing dam safety within the United States.

Terms of Reference

The Committee on Dam Safety (CODS) is one of the longest standing committees of USSD. CODS has tasked itself with promoting the improvement of dam and levee safety in the United States by establishing and accomplishing programs which develop, gather and disseminate information, and collaborate with other organizations. Furthermore, CODS provides USSD guidance on the country's national dam safety programs to assist in forming international guidance and information sharing through the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). The CODS keeps the general USSD membership informed of its progress through timely publication of reports and white papers, announcements in the Bulletin, 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 USSD committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four domains of the Strategic Plan: Community and Connections; Advocacy and Awareness; Recruitment and Growth; and Education and Professional Development.

Background and History

CODS activities to date have included the workshops on Leveraging Potential Failure Mode Analyses to Perform Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessments; responding to ICOLD surveys for the ICOLD Bulletin "Current state-of-practice in risk-informed decision-making for the safety of dams and levees"; webinar on "What the f-N? Clarifying Misconceptions about Risk Plots"; held a virtual CODS meeting in Oct 2020; and provided comments and feedback on proposed ICOLD bulletin "DAM SAFETY CONCEPTS, PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK".

CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND LEADERSHIP

Position	Name	E-mail
Chair	Bob Pike	rpik@usbr.gov
Vice-Chair	Jacob Davis	Jacob.r.davis@usace.army.mil
Vice-Chair, Young Professional	M. Amin Hariri	mohammad.HaririArdebili@colorado.edu amin.hariri@nist.gov



Subcommittee on Risk		
Chair	Nate Snorteland	Nathan.j.snorteland@usace.army.mil
Vice-Chair	Jonathan Harris	jharris@schnabel-eng.com
Subcommittee on Incidents		
Co-Chairs	Nathaniel Gee Lee Mauney	ngee@tva.gov Lee.Mauney@hdrinc.com

Responsibilities-

The responsibilities of the Committee include the following:

- Supporting the goals and objectives of USSD per the Strategic Plan
- Identify and provide state-of-the-practice knowledge on assessing dam safety risks
- Identify and provide state-of-the-practice knowledge on the understanding, cause, and consequences of dam safety incidents and failures
- Collaborate and cooperate with Federal, State, and International associations and agencies who are supporting and improving dam safety in the world
- Support the goals and objectives of ICOLD’s Committee on Dam Safety

Goals and Objectives

The following goals are provided to help focus the CODS and its subcommittee’s efforts. In addition to increasing active participation on technical and policy issues for dams and levees within the CODS, the CODS will also assist USSD in meeting its Strategic Plan of 2020.

- Promote and advance State-of-the-Practice in Dam Safety by developing white papers, fact sheets, and other training materials that will provide USSD members the ability to remain at forefront of the dam safety industry;
- Identify emerging issues and develop guidance on specific dam safety issues;
- Collaborate with other Technical Committees to identify knowledge gaps, develop specialized training, and provide expertise;
- Leverage CODS leadership and their extensive professional network to engage new federal, state, or local agencies in CODS activities and/or work products and to educate the public and decision makers.

Community & Connections	Objectives	Strategies	Metrics
	1. Create networking and mentoring opportunities for professionals to share, grow and access information for collaboration and encourage the free flow of information.	Develop intra-USSD mentoring program. Develop strategic partnerships between Federal agencies' programs, amongst dam owners, and between companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # partnerships created - # mentorships formed
	2. Create opportunities and mechanisms for higher educational institutions and researchers to share advances in the field.	Engage dam owners and consultants for needed solutions to complex problems that research can possibly provide; work with Federal partners and other entities to identify potential funding sources. Possibly increase sustaining member dues to develop a funding mechanism for USSD grant program to fund research projects. Collaborate with Academic and Research Collaboration Subcommittee of E&TC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # collaborative workshops held - # research projects funded and pursued - \$ raised - # research projects contributed with USSD funds
	3. Identify and provide leadership opportunities to advance USSD mission and ensure it remains viable.	Rotate USSD leadership rotate through National Dam Safety Review Board. Encourage other USSD members to be observers and participate in working groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # CODS members in working groups
	4. Strengthen and promote connection to ICOLD.	Encourage participation in ICOLD activities, such as developing a Bulletin, and submitting abstracts to ICOLD conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # CODS members attending ICOLD activities/conferences - # CODS abstracts submitted

Advocacy & Awareness	Objectives	Strategies	Metrics
	1. Build awareness of the challenges, value and benefits of dams and levees to the public.	Collaborate with Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee	
	2. Provide accurate and timely information about dams and levees to stakeholders and policy makers.		
	3. As a profession, let people know who we are, what we do, and why.		
	4. Generate, join, and support coalitions which are aligned with USSD's mission and values.		

Recruitment & Growth	Objectives	Strategies	Metrics
	1. Foster career paths that will grow the talent pool for our industry.	Develop a white paper or bulletin for Dam Safety Career Progression Plan.	- Publication of a document
	2. Attract students and young professionals into the industry and USSD activities.	Increase committee membership to include involvement of young professionals. USSD members encourage YP attendance at USSD trainings and conferences.	- # additional USSD YP attendees - # additional CODS YP members
	3. Strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion within the community of practice.	Encourage diversity and inclusion at all levels.	
	4. Grow USSD through outreach beyond our membership.	Form strategic partnerships with other ICOLD committees, ASCE, other societies, or entities with similar interests.	- # partnerships/agreements formed - % increase to USSD website - % increase in “followers” of social media - # members on LinkedIn

Education & Professional Development	Objectives	Strategies	Metrics
	1. Identify advancements in dam and levee safety and needs for training.	Collaborate with Education and Training Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # CODS-sponsored workshops - # CODS-sponsored training/webinars - Publication of a white paper or bulletin for Dam Safety Career Training/Development Plan - # CODS members participating - Development of a formal and sustainable Certification plan - # certificates awarded
	2. Develop and deliver industry-relevant education and training.		
	3. Create a structured curriculum for dam and levee safety professionals.		
	4. Evaluate and, if warranted, create accrediting/certifying opportunities for professionals and/or programs.		