

# USSD DAM DECOMMISSIONING COMMITTEE 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, public safety regulators, and other professionals with the information necessary to help guide decision-making when considering dam decommissioning 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 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 website.
- 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 organization and execution of periodic workshops. The Committee also collaborates and/or assists with other committees in developing and promoting the four strategic domains of the USSD Strategic Plan 2021-2025: Community and Connections, Advocacy and Awareness, Recruitment and Growth, and Education and Professional Development.

## 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.

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 organized a technical session on dam decommissioning at several USSD Conferences from 2001 through 2019.

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. The guidelines are now available online at: <https://www.usdams.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/15Decommissioning.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]
- Jennifer Bountry, Bureau of Reclamation [2018 – 2021]
- Pete Haug, Ayres [2021 – present]

## **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: Pete Haug, PE (Ayres)

Vice Chair: Steve Whiteside, PE (CDM Smith)

Vice Chair: Jared Vegrzyn, EIT (Young Professional) (West Consultants)

### ***Goals and Objectives***

General goals and objectives of the Committee are listed below for Community and Connections, Advocacy and Awareness, Recruitment and Growth, and Education and Professional Development.

Community and Connections:

1. Strategically collaborate with targeted international organizations.
2. Collaborate within USSD to create networking and mentoring activities.
3. Strategically collaborate with targeted U.S. educational institutions and research organizations (e.g., SEDHYD Sedimentation Committee, American Society of Civil Engineers).

Advocacy and Awareness:

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

#### Recruitment and Growth:

1. Individually recruit colleagues with an interest in dam decommissioning to serve on the committee.
2. Recruit colleagues at USSD annual meetings and conferences during committee meetings, technical sessions, and workshops.

#### Education and Professional Development:

1. Publish technical papers, presentations, and guidelines in support of USSD's Education and Professional Development goals.
2. Develop and convene conference sessions and workshops
3. Provide on-line resources and webinars.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021-2025**

The specific goals and objectives of the Committee from 2021 to 2025 are to accomplish the following activities:

- Maintain a list of recent and planned dam decommissioning projects and try to recruit people to write USSD conference papers on these topics.
- Develop a list of important cost drivers related to dam decommissioning.
- Convene workshops to educate engineers and scientists on the use and application of the USSD Guidelines for Dam Decommissioning Projects.
- Convene technical sessions on dam decommissioning at USSD annual conferences and webinars.
- Identify and report on new trends and issues related to dam decommissioning.