

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Public Safety, Security, and Emergency Management

Submitted by: Meg Richardson, Chair and Bryan Cisar, Co-Chair

Report Date: 3/31/2022



Committee Mission/Purpose

The mission of the Committee on Public Safety, Security, and Emergency Management for Dams is to support the Mission and Strategic Plan of United States Society on Dams (USSD) through the development, maintenance, and communication of programs and tools which gather and disseminate information related to public safety, security, and emergency management for dams. This committee exists to foster cooperative arrangements and partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities for the purpose of enhancing public safety, security, and emergency management of dams within the United States. Our efforts will be demonstrated through educational and collaborative endeavors with recognition through the establishment and sponsoring of an awards program. Our members are made up of the following:

- Dam Owners and Operators
- Security Specialists
- Public Safety Specialists
- Emergency Preparedness Specialists
- Engineers

2021 Goals/Accomplishments

1. Community and Connections

Strategic collaboration outside USSD continues by working on national initiatives supported by ASDSO's committee on Public Safety. Members of the committee continued to work on identifying dam safety related incidents and providing them to ASDSO for inclusion on their internationally recognized web page on "Public Safety at Dams"

<https://damsafety.org/public-safety>

Outreach programs that have obtained committee support this year included sponsoring and supporting committee member Dr. Rollin Hotchkiss' "Joint Task Committee on Low-head dams". Manuela Johnson (Association of State Dam Safety (ASDSO) and Dr. Brian Crookston (USSD) co-chair the Task Force, whose charter was renewed by the parent organization, the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This past year the Task Force:

- Led the effort to declare April as Public Safety around Low-Head Dams Month and was joined by ASDSO, USSD, and several universities, consulting firms, and agencies
- Presented webinars to ASDSO, Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and two chapters of ASCE
- Celebrated ASCE Environmental & water Resources Institute website devoted to the inventory (<https://www.asce.org/communities/institutes-and-technical-groups/environmental-and-water-resources-institute/national-inventory-of-low-head-dams>)
- Completed several more state inventories; two States were "quality control" checked by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
- Continued research on using "machine learning" (e.g., algorithms) to assist in locating low-head dams from aerial photography and imagery

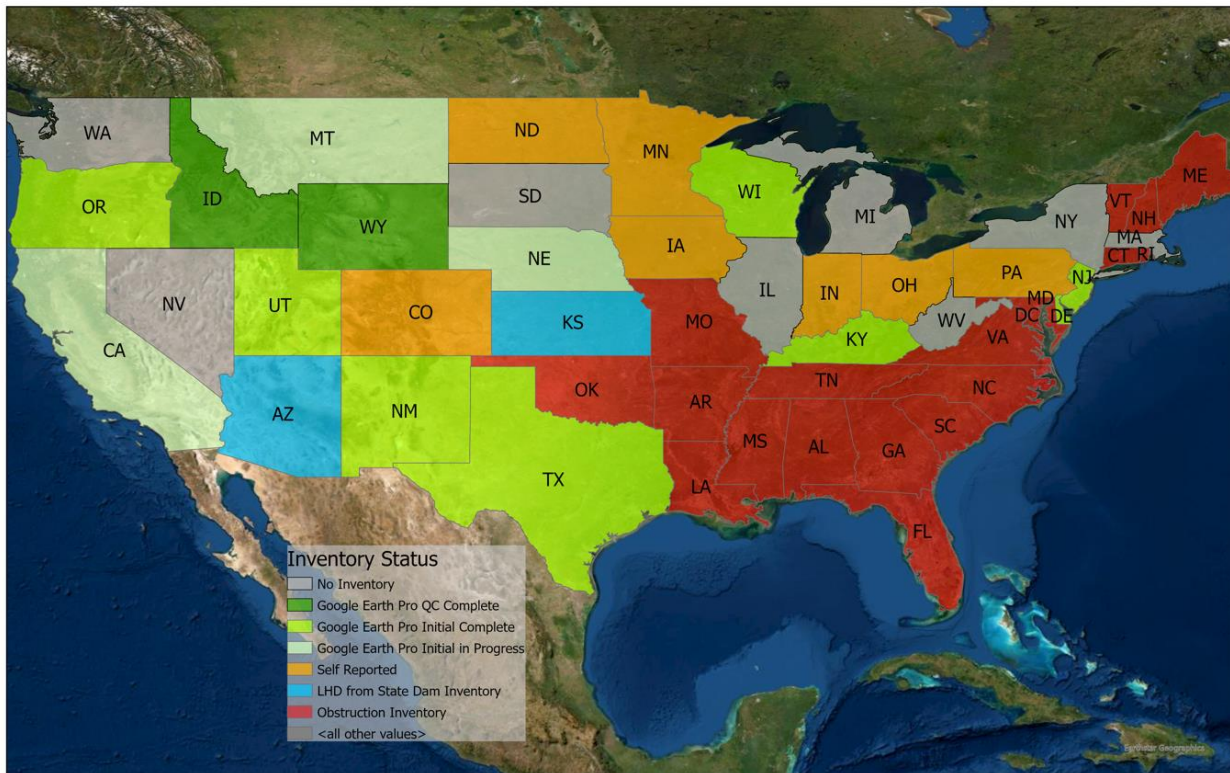
The following map provides the status of completion of this effort for the lower 48 states:

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2. Advocacy and Awareness

Cosponsored the U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation’s Canal Safety Competition. The Canal Safety Challenge, a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Water, Klamath Irrigation District, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, was a public competition focused on discovering solutions to improve public safety and reduce drownings in canals throughout the US and make egress from the canals easier or allow for safer rescue and recovery efforts. This committee provided judges to help assess the submissions for this competition and was instrumental in selecting the three-finalist chosen to develop and demonstrate a prototype of their ideas. The three Canal Safety Challenge finalists (e.g., Greenfields Irrigation District, Isotope LLC, and WGM Group, Inc) were notified, and received \$50,00 each, to construct and test their proposed prototypes.

Selected Mr. Randall White, Principal Security Manager Southern California Edison, for the 2021 USSD COPSSEM Award Recipient. Randy White is the Principal Manager for Physical Security and Asset Protection at Southern California Edison, one of the largest, most innovative electrical utilities in the country with over 15 million customers. SCE’s Corporate Security department is responsible for a territory of 50,000 square miles across central, coastal and Southern California. Randy is responsible for security operations including protecting people and facilities in adherence to the requirements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) standards. In this role, he oversees corporate security investigations, workplace violence prevention, security vulnerability assessment program, law enforcement liaison, security forces, security monitoring and response, and critical asset protection. Responsibilities include but are not limited to criminal investigations, background checks, security planning with respect to cameras and electronic access control, physical security measures, vulnerability assessments, 24x7 Security Operations Center, FERC Security

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Program, DHS Dam Sector, and all aspects of security operations and response. Additionally, he and his team develop strategic plans and programs. Randy has 30 years of experience in risk mitigation, intelligence operations, and security executive leadership. Randy brings broad experience to ensure the protection of people and assets, and that operational missions and focus drive security planning and response.

3. Education and Professional Development

Committee members provided technical support to, and subject matter expertise on, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Safety for Dams National Strategy effort that is focused on developing a "National Dam Warning Sign Guidance" bulletin. This was finalized and published in September 2021. [Dam Safety Warning Signs Best Practices \(fema.gov\)](#)

4. Recruitment and Growth

Committee networking and collaboration have not been hampered with COVID, due to holding reoccurring quarterly business meetings (list dates here in parenthesis!) that include incorporation of a formal agenda process that has maintained committee member participation of 33 members as of March 2022.

2022 Goals

Our committee continues to strive to support the four primary domains outlined in the USSD Board of Directors' 2020 Strategic Plan of which and include:

1. Community and Connections

Solicit and support other initiatives around matters of public safety, security, and emergency preparedness for Dams.

2. Advocacy and Awareness

Maintain and support the recognition program for members and member projects that reflect best in class and most improved on matters of public safety, security, and emergency management for dams.

3. Education and Professional Development

Identify and work towards developing education material and solutions around emergency incident management that involves establishing and working in a unified command structure.

4. Recruitment and Growth

Support organization initiatives to encourage participation of new members and young professionals to become aware of if not participate in the committee and initiatives.