

For Immediate Release

Contact: Catrice Jones (catrice@ussdams.org)

Subject : Response to Kakhovka Dam Failure

June 8, 2023

Our heartfelt thoughts go to the people impacted by the catastrophic failure of Kakhovka Dam.

As a professional organization, the United States Society on Dams (USSD) advocates for a world where all dams are safe and valued by the communities they serve. We are deeply saddened by the failure of Kakhovka Dam and the potential for loss of human life, damage to the environment, and many other resources that this dam has provided.

At this time, we do not have sufficient information to hypothesize or comment on why the Kakhovka Dam has failed. Dams can fail for a variety of reasons, and without having a better understanding of the structure, how it was designed and operated, and whether the damage incurred was from natural or manmade causes, any opinion we provide would only be speculation.

USSD represents the United States as a member of a larger international organization, the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). USSD, as an organization, stands together with ICOLD to support peace and the belief that dams should only be used for the intended purpose they are built; to safely serve all humankind. (*"Dams must remain instruments of peace and development"*, October 2022, [2022-03-10 ICOLD Press Release-Ukraine\[97\].pdf \(icold-ciqb.org\)](#))



Dina Bourliea Hunt

President of the United States Society on Dams

Sent on behalf of the USSD Board of Directors

About USSD

USSD is a world class organization of engineering professionals who advance the environmentally sustainable science of planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of dams, levees and associated civil engineering projects. Our members lead the nation, and work with partner organizations worldwide, to resolve the world's most critical resource problem: access to clean water.