PLANNING BULLETIN

US Army Corps of Engineers

No. PB 2013-01 Issuing Office: CECW-P Issued: 11 January 2013

Subject: Dam Safety Considerations for Water Supply Storage Allocation and Reallocation Studies

Applicability: Guidance

1. Dam safety should be on the critical path of all decisions regarding water supply storage in USACE reservoirs. Public safety is vital consideration. When water supply storage is requested by a non-Federal entity, USACE decision-makers at all levels must fully consider the condition of the dam and associated project levees, Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC), Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) and other remediation, and their impacts on pool levels and inspection, operation and maintenance of the project. This guidance supplements the requirements of ER 1105-2-100 Planning Guidance Notebook and other applicable Engineer Regulations and Engineer Circulars.

2. In all cases, prior to initiation of a reallocation study, the non-Federal entity must be informed in writing by the District Commander that dam safety risks are dynamic. Future performance could require IRRM and other remediation. The non-Federal entity must submit a Letter of Intent that includes their understanding of all costs associated with the reallocation.

3. After approval of the reallocation report and associated water supply storage agreement and upon execution of a water supply storage agreement, the non-Federal entity will be required to share in the costs of IRRMs as a part of Operations & Maintenance of the dam, consistent with current policy.

4. Conditions for Allocation and Reallocation should be reflected in the alternative costs, evaluation, comparison and recommendation of the reallocation study documentation. The conditions are as follows:

a) DSAC I, II, III, and IV: After approval of the reallocation report and associated water supply storage agreement, execution of an agreement for the allocation of authorized, uncontracted water supply storage or the reallocation of storage from the existing conservation pool is permitted provided the District commander has informed the non-Federal entity, in writing, of the current risks associated with the dam and reservoir; that water supply storage may be reduced by IRRM or other remediation; that the dam may be subject to increased monitoring and evaluation, and that, upon execution of a water storage or surplus water agreement, the non-Federal entity will be required to share in the cost of IRRM and other remediation consistent with current policy.
b) DSAC V: Because a dam is a structure that changes over time, the non-Federal entity requesting water supply storage must be informed of the potential of the classification changing and the potential impacts of the change as early as possible.

5. Pool Raises are subject to the following plan formulation constraints.
   a) DSAC I, II, and III: Reallocation that requires raising the conservation pool will not be permitted.
   b) DSAC IV: Reallocation that requires raising the conservation pool will be considered by USACE on a case-by-case basis. Reallocation reports recommending a pool raise must include a review of the Potential Failure Mode Analysis (PFMA) for the dam and the effect of a higher pool elevation on dam.
   c) DSAC V: Reallocation that requires a pool raise must include a review of the PFMA for the dam and an analysis of the effect of a higher pool elevation on the dam.

6. Surplus water agreements and interim-use irrigation agreements are subject to paragraph 2 above. Additionally, upon execution of a surplus water or interim-use irrigation agreement, the non-Federal entity will be required to share in the costs of IRRM and other remediation during the period of the water supply storage contract.

7. Permits for emergency withdrawals of water from USACE reservoirs for municipal and industrial purposes may be issued in accordance with current policy without regard to the project DSAC. District commanders shall inform permit applicants and permit holders, in writing, of any dam safety issues that may affect the quantity of water available for withdrawal.

8. Water supply allocation and reallocation studies are subject to the following:
   a) A decision by the District Commander to initiate or continue a water supply allocation or reallocation study requires:
      i) Following the guidance in this planning bulletin and considering all relevant internal and external factors that determine the safety of USACE dams and the potential risks to public safety.
      ii) Informing, in writing, prior to initiation of a water supply allocation or reallocation study, the non-Federal entity of the current status of the dam and reservoir; restrictions and conditions imposed by this PB; possibility that water supply storage may be reduced by IRRM or other remediation; and that, upon execution of a water storage agreement, the non-Federal entity will be required to share in the costs of IRRM and other remediation.
      iii) Early consultation with the district Dam Safety Officer, including membership of the DSO (or designee) on the study team. The DSO is responsible for the dam safety evaluations conducted by the team as a part of the study.
   b) A water supply allocation or reallocation study may be initiated while repair work or other remediation is underway.
   c) Recommendations submitted to Headquarters USACE must be consistent with the policies of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 above and must not be conditioned on the completion of work or the upgrading of a dam's condition.
   d) All other applicable provisions of this Planning Bulletin must be followed.
   e) The general provisions of this paragraph also apply to studies and assessments supporting use of seasonal conservation storage for water supply purposes, surplus water agreements, interim-use irrigation agreements, and emergency withdrawal permits.

9. Water supply allocations or reallocation studies approved in advance of this Planning Bulletin are subject to its provisions, and the recommended alternative must be evaluated in light of the safety of the dam and life prior to implementation of any agreement. This might result in the need to reevaluate or reformulate a recommended plan.

10. This PB will be incorporated into updates to ER 1110-2-1156 Safety of Dams and ER 1105-2-100 Planning Guidance Notebook.

11. Point of contact for this PB is Bruce Carlson, 202-761-4703.

Theodore A. Brown, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Directorate of Civil Works