FEMA Training, Technical Assistance, & Research Initiatives to Enhance Dam Risk Management & Increase Dam Safety

June 22, 2016
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm
3rd Floor: GGO-E
Points to Cover Today

- FEMA Dam Risk Management Vision
- Overview of Research, Training, and Technical Assistance Initiative
- Stakeholder Feedback
- Next Steps
FEMA Vision

- Facilitate the delivery of Dam Safety technical assistance, training, and research and provide a national resource to communities, owners, local and State governments ("clearinghouse" concept)

- Leverage work by others and focus on “unmet” needs in areas of training, technical assistance, and research

- Avoid duplication and rely on existing industry and academic initiatives to continue to provide important dam risk management support
FEMA Vision (continued)

- Target stakeholders (e.g., emergency managers) who have not historically been engaged in the dam risk management dialogue

- Goal is to reduce the existing risk posed by dams to communities through preparedness, mitigation, recovery planning; holistic approach as opposed to focusing only on dam repair or upgrade
Objectives

Objective 1: Assess Stakeholder Training and Technical Assistance Needs for Dam Safety

Objective 2: Develop a Training and Technical Assistance Management Plan for the National Dam Safety Program

Objective 3: Develop a Dam Safety Research Management Process
Key Approach Elements

- **Active Engagement** with key stakeholders to identify and prioritize training and technical assistance needs
  - NDSRB and ICODS (work groups)
  - FEMA HQ and Regions
  - State Dam Safety Officials
  - Professional Dam Safety Organizations (ASDSO, NEMA, USSD, ASFPM, IAEM, ASCE)

- **Subject Matter Experts** will be used to develop an understanding of existing dam safety resources – including assessment of existing publications, products and training
Training and Technical Assistance

- Work with stakeholders to develop a Management Plan with the following key elements:
  - Vision
  - Goals and Objectives
  - SOPs

- Determine:
  - What makes sense to deliver?
  - What is the process to select and prioritize what will be delivered?
  - What are the costs (as a means to help prioritize)?
  - How will it be delivered?
  - How will we measure the positive impacts of the materials delivered?
Dam Safety Research

- Develop a systematic Management Process to review, identify, evaluate, validate, and prioritize research projects
  - Use NDSRB Research Workgroup and Peer Review Team input to develop evaluation, validation, and prioritization criteria
  - Identify National dam safety research priorities as part of this process to influence research on a national scale
  - SOP to annually identify, evaluate, prioritize research needs
  - Actively engage stakeholders such as NSF, ASDSO, NEMA, USSD, NRC, USACE, USBR, FERC
  - Establish a dam safety research database for public use
Discussion, Questions & Answers

- **Research**
  - What additional research topics would assist you in performing your duties?
  - What are some of the current issues with dam safety you’ve experienced, as they pertain to dam failure or flooding?

- **Training**
  - Have you taken dam safety-related training?
  - Who offered/authored the training?
  - Based on your experience, is the available dam risk management training adequate?
  - What additional topics should be covered in future trainings?

- **Technical Assistance**
  - What technical assistance would benefit you to help with dam risk management issues in your community?
  - What are your technical assistance experiences?
Next Steps

- Ongoing coordination with NDSRB/ICODS
- Continue to incorporate stakeholder feedback in development of draft documents
- Complete draft and final drafts for Peer Review Team concurrence
- Present final drafts to NDSRB/ICODS
- Finalize documents and prepare for implementation
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http://www.fema.gov/dam-safety