

OWNER'S DAM SAFETY PROGRAMS (ODSP)

The Importance of ODSP

The ODSP is most important to maintain safe dams

- Recent Peer review of FERC dam safety program emphasized the importance of the ODSP in maintaining safe dams
- Lack of adequate owner's dam safety program a factor in most recent dam failures and dam safety incidents including, Taum Sauk, Silver Lake, Teton, and Swinging Bridge and others
- Dams with owners that do not have adequate dam safety programs represent a higher risk
- Dams without a good ODSP require a higher level review by regulator
- Look for 5 principles in a supportive dam safety organization

Why is it important that we understand the dam safety knowledge, experience and expertise of the owner

- First line of defense against dam failures
- On-site 24 hours a day
- Only person that can provide surveillance and monitoring
- Must know what it takes to maintain a safe dam
- Must recognize an unsafe dam
- Regulator cannot stop dam failures if the owner isn't fully capable.
- Dams owned by owners without capable dam safety programs are at a higher risk of failure

ODSP - Most important element in maintaining safe dams

- Owners must understand that they must have the resources and expertise to maintain safe dams
- They are primarily responsible for safety
- Regulatory oversight cannot be their dam safety program
- Identify Owner's that have poor/non-existent dam safety programs