

Testing and Reporting on Spillway Gate Operations

1. Section 12.44 (b) requires annual operation of each spillway gate either during regular project operation or on a test basis. Section 12.44 (c) requires load-testing of standby power at regular time intervals, but not less than once during each year. If it is not feasible to operate the gates or perform the load-testing of standby power at the time of the FERC dam safety inspection, verification that the gates were operated satisfactorily during the past 12 months will suffice.
2. FERC inspector may require operation of a spillway gate, including the use of standby power, during an inspection.
3. Notarized verification of operation of all spillway gates and load testing of standby power at least once during the preceding 12-month period should be submitted by December 31 of each year. To ensure national consistency, you are asked to submit the verification as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) material. Verification should be in accordance with Section 12.13 and the certificate must include the signatures of an official of your company and the plant personnel who actually operated the gates or load-tested the standby power and observed such operation. You must also include an annual spillway gate operation certificate indicating those gates opened during flood flow conditions, those tested separately, the date of each gate's operation, and the date of the last full gate operation. The certificate should also include source of standby power, the date it was tested, and the gate it operated. The report should address any problems noted or maintenance performed.
4. All gates, with the exception of Category 2 Tainter gates, must be tested to full gate opening at least once every 5 years. If such a test is not considered feasible, a waiver, with appropriate justification, must be obtained from this office. Category 2 Tainter gates require full opening at least once every 10 years. See Footnote on Certificate below for the definition of Category 1 and 2 gates. All gates are deemed as Category 1 gates unless demonstrated that failure would have minimal or no consequences. All Category 1 Tainter gates are required to have a detailed inspection every 10 years.