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Comments: FEMA, report to congress , aug 2016 many Americans are living below structurally deficient, high hazard potential dams; Americans are unaware of the risk; there is no plan in place to evacuate them to safety in the event of a failure; or there is a plan in place but they are not aware of it. Fema web site The purpose of a dam is to store water or other liquid-borne materials include human water supply, irrigation, livestock water supply, energy generation, stop containment of mine tailings, to stop pollution and flood control. approximately 28,000 dams in the U.S. More than 15,000 of these are considered high-hazard potential, meaning their failure would result in probable loss of life. To reduce the chances of a dam failing .....invest in building more , and repair and routine maintenance and not regulating a ditch or swamp in middle of a field. Better use of money is needed. BLM reports that some states have been deficient in reporting actual work performed, and in some cases inspections have not been performed on low hazard dams. Intermediate inspections should be conducted on all types of dams. BLM reports that many states were not able to accomplish inspections on low hazard dams due to a lack of staff but quality, experience, and training were not factors. If BLM discovered a critical finding emergency maintenance action would be taken against these states.. Actions is needed to stabilize our dams, lower and do repairs as required. USBR - USBR reports that formal inspections, referred to within USBR as comprehensive reviews (CRs), are conducted every 8 years. The CR is conducted by ateam under the combined direction of the respective Regional Director and Chief of Dam Safety Office led by a senior-level technical staff specialist and includes other specialists. USBR has several types of intermediate inspections. Fema report 2016 to congress - FWS has formal inspections every 6 years for high and significant hazard dams, every 3 years for intermediate dams and an annual checklist inspection by regional dam safety officer. Low hazard dams are inspected every 6 years. FWS conducted 134 total inspections during the reporting period. FWS reports 5 reclassifications of their dams, including 3 changes for the better and 2 changes for the worse. Formal and intermediate inspections of high, significant, and low hazard dams are performed by FWS A-Econsulting firms (Gannett Fleming, URS Corp. and W.W. Wheeler). Annual checklist inspections (informal) of high and significant hazard dams are performed by the Regional Dam Safety Officers (RDSOs) each year in which there is not a formal or intermediate Fema report 2016 to congress - NPS reports that their dams are inspected every other year if there are no concerns and had 53 inspections during the reporting period. NPS conducts their own inspections. Formal inspections are done on high hazard potential dams, intermediate inspections are done on significant hazard and low hazard potential dams. Fema report 2016 to congress - OSMRE ensures that dam inspections are conducted and reports that frequencies of inspections are dictated by dam size and hazard classification. Dependent on criteria, MSHA also participates in dam inspections. Inspections are conducted during construction, operation, and closure. During construction, inspections are more frequent. For impoundments that fall under certain MSHA criteria, impoundments are inspected weekly or as otherwise determined by an MSHA District Manager. MSHA regulations require quarterly inspections. OSMRE regulations also require all impoundments have an annual recertification that must be conducted by a professional engineer or, under certain circumstances, a professional land surveyor and must be certified by the professional ensuring that the impoundment has been constructed and/or maintained as designed and in accordance with the approved plan. In the last 30 years, changing values, political shifts, and economic constraints have resulted in major alterations in the Corps' water resources program . Approximately 95 percent of the dams managed by USACE are more than 30 years old, and 52 percent have reached or exceeded the 50-year service lives for which they were designed.