



16 June 2020

Dear Consultees

Consultation on reservoir emergency on-site flood plans

1. In a written statement to Parliament on 16 March 2020 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stated that the Government would consult on making a requirement for all large raised reservoirs (registered reservoirs) to have an emergency contingency plan (also known as an on-site flood plan) in place. The Government considers such plans essential for maintaining public safety, and is considering making the requirement for such plans a legal obligation in England
2. I am writing to invite views on the scope and content of a requirement on reservoir undertakers (owners) to have and maintain an emergency on-site flood plan for their reservoir. The Reservoir Act 1975 makes provision for the Secretary of State to serve a written notice on undertakers (owners), in relation to a large raised reservoir, to direct them to have an emergency on-site flood plan. Before making such a direction, the Secretary of State has to consult reservoir undertakers (owners and operators) concerned, the Environment Agency, local authorities in whose area the reservoir is situated, emergency services in whose area the reservoir is situated and others as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
3. This Consultation seeks your views on aspects of how a requirement might operate.
4. The following documents may be found on the Defra website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>
 - Consultation letter
 - Consultation document
 - Reservoir survey December 2019: Summary of Responses to Emergency On-site Flood plan Questions

Responses

5. The consultation will be launched on 16 June, and the survey mechanism to gather responses will be online through Citizen Space. The Consultation will last for 8 weeks with the closing date being 10 August 2020. We welcome your views and comments.
6. The link to the survey will be available on the gov.uk page, however if there is any specific reason you would like to get in touch, please use the following email ReservoirFM@defra.gov.uk
7. **All responses should be completed online by 10 August 2020**

Consultation Criteria

The consultation is in line with the code of practice for Consultations.

8. When the consultation ends, we will hold a copy of all the responses for 6 months with the intention of publishing a summary of the responses on gov.uk.
9. We will summarise all the responses and publish them on gov.uk. The summary will include a list of the names of organisations that responded. We will not include people's personal names, addresses, or other contact details.
10. If you have any comments or complaints about the Consultation process, please address them to Craig Stevenson, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, 6th Floor, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk
11. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation, if you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely

Jan Kiernan

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