

ICE Reservoirs Committee Minutes

Meeting

Date	Thursday 9 th June 2022
Time	14.00 - 17.30
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Richard Coackley

Panel members

Sub-Committee 1

Chris Scott (Chair)
David Brown
Tom Wanner
Martin Airey
Anthea Peters

Sub-Committee 2

Kenneth Barr (Chair)
Dave Crook
Matthew Hill
Andrew Kirby
Jeremy Benn

Philip Killingley – DEFRA
Jan Kiernan – DEFRA
Tony Deakin – Environment Agency
James Ashworth – SEPA
Mary McKeown – Department of Infrastructure, NI
Fiona Lennon - Department of Infrastructure, NI
Quentin Campbell - Department of Infrastructure, NI

By Invitation

Apologies

Matt O'Brien – Natural Resources Wales
Jeremy Parr – Natural Resources Wales
Shaun Donnelly - Department of Infrastructure, NI
Claire Dodd – Scottish Government
Lori Frater – Welsh Government

Secretariat

Rabinder Phull (ICE)
Kerrie McPeake (ICE)

Summary of Applications in June 2022

New Applications

7 new applications were submitted to the Supervising Engineers Panel and 1 new application was submitted to the All Reservoirs Panel this cycle.

3 Supervising Engineer applicants have been recommended for appointment in England and Wales and 1 Supervising Engineer applicant has been recommended for appointment in England, Wales and Scotland.

Re-applications

10 re-applications were made to the Supervising Engineers Panels and 1 re-application was made to the All Reservoirs Panel.

1 All Reservoirs Panel re-application has been recommended for re-appointment to England, Wales and Scotland.

9 Supervising Engineers Panel re-applications have been recommended for re-appointment and; 5 of which are re-appointed to England, Wales and Scotland, 3 to England and Wales, 1 to Scotland.



Item No.	Part 2	Action
2217	Legislative changes and jurisdictional impacts	
	<p>Update on current legislative situation in each of the jurisdictions:</p> <p>i. England – Jan Kiernan JK raised two points: a) the one year grace period for emergency onsite flood plans came to an end and there had been a good take up of plans. Approximately 93% of all reservoirs have plans. Grateful to Tony’s team and all engineers who were involved in putting plans together and getting them certified. The outcome is worthwhile as it means that engineers are better prepared if the need arises. TD’s team will now work in getting the rest into compliance. There was a good take up of high risk reservoirs. TD stated that 98 owners covering 140 reservoirs had not submitted certificates, 40 of which are not high risk. His team will work with them.</p> <p>b) Work is ongoing with preparing a response to the reservoir safety review. Defra is hoping to make an announcement in the near future through various channels.</p> <p>TD stated that following the update from the last meeting, they were hoping to publish six guidance documents at the end of March/April. However, due to various factors including the Easter shutdown and local elections, the aim is to publish by end June.</p> <p>The Symposium evening went ahead in March. Some technical issues were encountered with the online questionnaire so were limited with some of the questions. However, answers were provided after David Littlemore, BDS manually forwarded the questions.</p> <p>ii. Scotland - James Ashworth JA Informed the committee that CD was ill. There was nothing to report on legislative or guidance changes at this moment in time. Emergency onsite plans are on the agenda and Scotland will bring this forward. Currently, they are regarded as best practice as that aspect of the legislation has not been implemented.</p> <p>Reassessment of reservoir categories is ongoing. RC has spoken to JA</p>	



	<p>about getting the reservoir safety stakeholders group (RSS) up and running again. Alex McDonald has been the ICE representative on the RSS for a number of years. Martin Hewitt will possibly take over this position. RC and JA to take forward.</p> <p>iii. Northern Ireland - Mary McKeown Nothing new to report from the last meeting. Work is progressing. RC has spoken to ICE regional directors who will provide support once the legislation goes through.</p> <p>iv. Wales - Matt O’Brien MO’B had sent an email as he was unavailable for the meeting. Wales will continue considering options for a response to David Balmforth’s first report.</p>	
2218	Reports	
	<p>i. British Dams Society (BDS)</p> <p>MA provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The last BDS meeting was held in April and coincided with the AGM. BDS membership and finances are still very strong. -The committee and society’s members are looking forward to getting back to some normality after the last couple of years. The Congress went ahead in Marseille the previous week and although it coincided with the Jubilee, there was still very good attendance from the UK. A large number of young professionals attended, some of whom have been assisted with bursaries from the BDS. -Looking ahead, the BDS conference is returning and will be held at the University of Nottingham in September. The interest is high and registration details will be sent soon. There is a strong agenda with interesting discussions and workshops. -Final note is that there has been a positive response from BDS regarding the setting up of the Panel Engineers Consultative Group and BDS will look into setting up a portal for community contributions. <p>ii. Reservoir Safety Research Advisory Group (ReSRAG) ReSRAG minutes from the meeting held in March had been circulated to the</p>	



	<p>group.</p> <p>TD added that following an action assigned to him from the last committee meeting, TD had raised and discussed membership period for the ReSRAG group. The principles are very similar to the ICE where they look to appoint engineers/universities for a three-year period. However, certain research projects may be more relevant to some members. They will remain in the group as needed according to the work, priority and their skills and knowledge to deliver these projects.</p> <p>TD stated that the ResRAG meeting was a face-to-face with the option to join online and suggested something similar for the next reservoirs committee meeting. See AOB.</p>	
2219	<p>Reservoir Safety Review – 2nd report</p>	
	<p>i. Update on progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RC mentioned that as part of the report’s recommendations, Robert Mair was leading the project to look at the future supply of panel engineers, with the help of consultant Andrew Crudgington (ex Head of Policy at the ICE). - A Call for evidence/consultation Webinar was held on 7 June with good attendance from engineers although RC was abroad and unable to attend. - JK stated that this work was important to make improvements and to make reservoir engineering more attractive to engineers in future years. It is critical that we are able to maintain a good number of qualified engineers who can help maintain the safety of these structures, develop ways of being more effective and more efficient in future, particularly while facing climate change risks. - Many good ideas had been received including insight into commercial arrangements for companies. At this stage, information was being gathered and will be reviewed after the consultation closes at the end of June. - JK mentioned that the ICE was hosting an NCE Flood Risk conference on 23 June. - RC wrote an article that appeared in the NCE which included why being a reservoirs engineer is a prestigious role. This should generate interest from younger engineers and how they can create change as a lifelong part of their professional careers in the construction of reservoirs, particularly with extreme changes in climate. 	



	<p>ii. Panel Engineer Committee (PEC)</p> <p>The PEC currently comprises 6 people. RC has been attempting to confirm the date of the first meeting, which has proved to be difficult due to work commitments, leave and events etc. However, the inaugural meeting is now confirmed for 23rd June. The meeting will determine the development of the panel and hopefully appoint a new Chair. RC will temporarily chair the committee.</p> <p>RC is hoping to have a Scottish representative and will accept direction from Defra.</p> <p>The PEC will be meeting with Andrew Crudgington tomorrow afternoon to discuss the committee’s views. Most of the members attended the consultation webinar on Tuesday. RC is hoping that the PEC will move forward with their thoughts and helpful views on the recommendations, and their involvement at this early stage with the call for evidence.</p> <p>RC gave a brief summary to BDS and will keep them informed for their members.</p> <p>TD stated that there are 6/7 pieces of work in the pipeline so Defra/EA will need to capitalise on people to be involved in these projects.</p> <p>RC hopes the PEC will be available to Defra/EA as a representative body for the panel engineer community and can be called upon to be involved. Certain members of the committee might be involved in specific areas of interest. Defra should define how this process might work.</p> <p>JK would be interested to get views on how many engineers in practice, use the principles that are provided by the guidance. RC agreed that the PEC will consider the topics raised and report back after the 23rd June meeting.</p>	
2220	Interview Review Process	
	<p>i. Interview review</p> <p>JB had previously reviewed the interview process although no further updates have happened on that process. TD had mentioned that he was comfortable in how the interviews were being conducted.</p> <p>RC wants to ensure we are applying the latest interview techniques that the institution uses and are incorporating best practice in the induction process for new members.</p>	

	<p>Feedback was received in the consultation webinar on whether interviews were too tough and whether they were fair. RC stated that interviews have to be tough considering the nature of the work but AP replied at the time of the webinar that interviews have independent observers followed by discussions, so these points are considered as a matter of course.</p> <p>RC is comfortable that a robust process is carried out when interviewing. He would like to double check the induction process is correct, including committee members having the correct knowledge and experience of interviewing. We can also follow up in due course on any specific points raised by Robert Mair’s consultation. JB can review his initial comments and provide feedback as processes may have changed since he first took on the role.</p> <p>Action: RP/RC to produce a paper clarifying above and have it for reference as a point of discussion.</p> <p>ii. Re-interview intervals for re-applicants</p> <p>Reference paper 2220 (ii) Re-interview intervals for re-applicants was circulated to committee members.</p> <p>This paper showed all the points raised in the previous meetings.</p> <p>RC stated that the topic is part of a bigger system i.e. recommendations from the call for evidence and the recommendations on the risk assessments for dams.</p> <p>We can look at how other institutions are dealing with this and then make it a standard.</p> <p>There was some debate on the most appropriate interval i.e. 5 or 10 years taking into account the total number of SuPE and AR panel engineers. RC asked KMP to look at the reappointments over the past 3 years. In 2020, there were 29 reapplications and 4 interviewed, in 2021, there were 25 reapplications and 2 interviewed and so far in 2022, 20 reappointments with 1 interviewed. RC took the committee through several scenarios.</p> <p>Two main questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) how often should we reinterview people compared with other professions?b) how do we resource the extra interviews? Would need more interviewers to take on more work. It is an increase in work and interviewers volunteer their time.	RP
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	<p>RC has already approached Scotland for more independent observers and MO'B has offered somebody.</p> <p>TD mentioned that he is setting up a government 'Standards and Incidents' team so as part of Balmforth's recommendations, this will look at raising standards of reports, addressing education and gaps, provide training and development etc., so rather than this committee reviewing that part, TD would report to RC. RC thanked TD for the update.</p> <p>It was suggested to have some sort of verification process and ask people to provide more information. Currently we ask the enforcement agencies for concerns on any applicant before interviewing etc. so much of what was discussed is already taking place in the due process.</p> <p>Action: RC will review figures in more detail and produce a paper with RP and KMP for the next meeting. RC welcomes further comments and feedback from committee members.</p> <p>iii. Applications and proposed/revised application form</p> <p>Revised forms were circulated but committee members need time to review.</p> <p>Action: RP to put on sharepoint and send a note to the committee for review [Post meeting note: Actioned]</p>	
2221	Reservoirs Committee membership	
	<p>Notice of elections was sent for vacancies for 2 ARPEs and 2 SupEs (one of these as owner's rep).</p> <p>AP became an ARPE in the last round so suggested only 1 ARPE required. All agreed. Therefore, voting will be for 1 ARPE and 2 SupEs.</p> <p>RC is coming to the end of his chairmanship at the end of October 2022. The incoming ICE president has been contacted.</p> <p>MH, KB, MA and DB will be stepping down from the committee.</p>	
2222	Any Other Business	
	<p>i. RP to book a room for the next committee meeting for a face-to-face. RP to</p>	



	<p>send details.</p> <p>[Post meeting note: next meeting confirmed <u>as Teams online</u>. The meeting in February 2023 will be face-to-face]</p> <p>ii. JK wanted to formally thank and express gratitude for the knowledge, time and effort given by all committee members. The standards and robust processes give Defra confidence in the appointments of panel engineers.</p> <p>iii. RC thanked all the committee members, knowing how much voluntary work goes into committee duties.</p>	
	<p>Future meeting dates: 6th October 2022, 2.00pm to 5.30pm</p>	

