

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: MAY 13, 2010
TO: Kansas Water Authority Members and Advisors
FROM: Earl Lewis
SUBJECT: Flood Management and Dam Safety Policy

During the January 2010 meeting of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA), the Reservoir Roadmap was reviewed prior to submittal to the legislature. The Roadmap contains a section on flooding and dam safety issues as they relate to reservoir management and sustainability. Discussion took place regarding hazard class changes to dams triggered by downstream development and other activities. With hazard class change comes more stringent design standards which is of concern to dam owners as upgrades can be costly.

During the May KWA meeting a presentation that will provide a general overview of the Flood Management Policy Section of the *Kansas Water Plan* (KWP) is on the agenda. Additional information will be provided about the Dam Safety and Rehabilitation Policy Section adopted into the KWP in 2005. Four major issues were identified in this policy section:

1. Expenditure of funds appropriated for dam safety and rehabilitation in fiscal year 2006;
2. Dam hazard class changes due to development;
3. Limitation of dam owner liability for damages due to dam failure; and
4. Financial assistance for small dam rehabilitation and upgrades.

From these four major issues, 21 recommendations were developed to implement changes in the dam safety and rehabilitation program. A status report on implementation activities will also be provided.

Finally, an action plan to address un-implemented recommendations and to provide continued stability to the program to ensure that dam owners have a clear understanding of requirements will be suggested. KWO staff will solicit comments from KWA members to further develop the action plan.

No action is necessary from the Kansas Water Authority.