

Overview of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)

Dusty Myers, P.E.
ASDSO President, 2016-2017



Association of State
Dam Safety Officials

What is ASDSO?

- ASDSO is a national non-profit organization serving state dam safety programs and the broader dam safety community, which includes federal dam safety professionals, dam owners and operators, engineering consultants, emergency managers, manufacturers, suppliers, academia, contractors, and others interested in improving dam safety.



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What is ASDSO?

- Based in Lexington, KY
- Approximately 3,000 members
- Operated under the direction of a Board of Directors
- The Board forms committees, etc. to address various issues
- The state dam safety officials from each state are the voting membership in the Association.



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Current Committees

- 18 active committees
- *Inactive* - Guidance for Dam Safety Reviews of Engineering Designs - ASDSO Task Force
- Tailings Dam Regulatory Committee
 - Just formed in December of 2016
 - Charlie Cobb from Alaska is the Committee Chair
 - Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Charlie

Guidance for Dam Safety Reviews of Engineering Designs - ASDSO Task Force

- Produced a white paper on engineering certifications
- The meaning of the words “certify” and “certification” are ambiguous and have been interpreted by some as a “guarantee” or “warranty” which could elevate the engineer’s liability beyond the normal standard of practice and jeopardize the engineer’s professional liability insurance. The use of the term “**certification**” or requiring the engineer to “**certify**” does not make a dam safer or reduce the risk, but does present potential legal problems for the engineer.

Tailings Dam Regulatory Committee

- The mission of the Tailings Dam Regulatory Committee is to lead implementation of tailings dam related aspects of the ASDSO Strategic Plan, including the following:
 - the development of guidance for state programs on the unique aspects of tailings dam regulation, technical aspects of tailings dam design, operation and closure that affect safety
 - support state programs that regulate tailings dams
 - and other related work.

For more information visit:
www.damsafety.org

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