

RESERVOIRS ACT 1975

The Flood Plan (Reservoirs Emergency Planning) Direction 2021

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 12A(1) and (2) of the Reservoirs Act 1975(a), makes the following Direction to undertakers in relation to large raised reservoirs in England.

Duty to prepare a flood plan for a large raised reservoir

1. The undertaker must prepare a flood plan for each large raised reservoir in England (including any under construction) for which it is responsible, in accordance with this Direction and the requirements in section 12A and 12AA of the Reservoirs Act 1975 (“the Act”).

2. The undertaker of a large raised reservoir that has been designated as high-risk(b) must prepare a flood plan within 12 months of the date of the notice serving this Direction.

3. The undertaker of a large raised reservoir that has not been designated as a high-risk reservoir must prepare a flood plan within 12 months of the date of the notice serving this Direction.

4. The undertaker of a large raised reservoir under construction must prepare a flood plan before the construction engineer issues a preliminary certificate for the reservoir in accordance with section 7 of the Act.

5. The undertaker must prepare the flood plan in accordance with such methods of technical or other analysis as may be specified by the Environment Agency.

Matters to be included in the flood plan

6. A flood plan must include as a minimum all the following information:
- (a) a clear plan of actions that the undertaker will take in order to prevent an uncontrolled escape of water;
 - (b) a clear plan of actions that the undertaker will take in order to control or mitigate an uncontrolled escape of water;
 - (c) where this information has not already been included in the information required by paragraphs (a) or (b), instructions on how to carry out an emergency drawdown of the reservoir;
 - (d) the areas that may be flooded in the event of an uncontrolled escape of water from the reservoir, including reservoir flood risk maps published by the Environment Agency where available;

(a) “Large raised reservoir” is defined in section A1 of the Act. “Undertaker” is defined in section 1(4) of the Act.

(b) “High-risk reservoir” is defined in section 2C of the Act.

- (e) key risk factors or visual indicators that may indicate when the reservoir could fail and flooding occur;
- (f) contact arrangements for key personnel who should be contacted in the event of an emergency; and
- (g) information about the reservoir:
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) location and grid reference;
 - (iii) capacity (volume of water);
 - (iv) description of the reservoir and its structures;
 - (v) how the flow of water into and out of the reservoir is controlled;
 - (vi) whether the reservoir is under construction or modification and a description of the work taking place; and
 - (vii) access details, including maps or a diagram showing access routes, gates, key holders and rendezvous points.

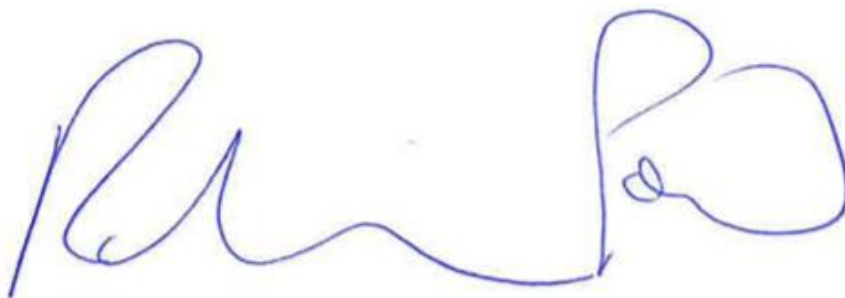
Sharing information

7. The undertaker must share the flood plan and any information about the matters contained within it with the Environment Agency, at such times as may be directed by that Agency or by the Secretary of State.

8. The undertaker must send a copy of the flood plan to the appointed engineer(**a**) as and when necessary in order to comply with the undertaker's duties, or allow the engineer to comply with the engineer's duties, in the Act.

9. The undertaker must send a copy of the flood plan to a Category 1 responder(**b**), at such times as may be requested by that Category 1 responder or as directed by the Secretary of State.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State



Rebecca Pow
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Date 12/04/2021

(a) "Appointed engineer" is defined in section 12AA(9) of the Act.
(b) "Category 1 responder" is defined in section 22D(1) of the Act.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Direction)

This Direction sets out the requirement for the undertakers of large raised reservoirs in England to prepare a flood plan for every large raised reservoir under their control, including reservoirs that are designated high-risk by the Environment Agency, reservoirs that are not designated as high-risk and reservoirs under construction.

The Direction sets out matters that must be included in the flood plan and the information to be shared with the Environment Agency, Category 1 responders and the appointed engineer.

Section 12AA of the Reservoirs Act 1975 applies where an undertaker is directed to prepare a flood plan.