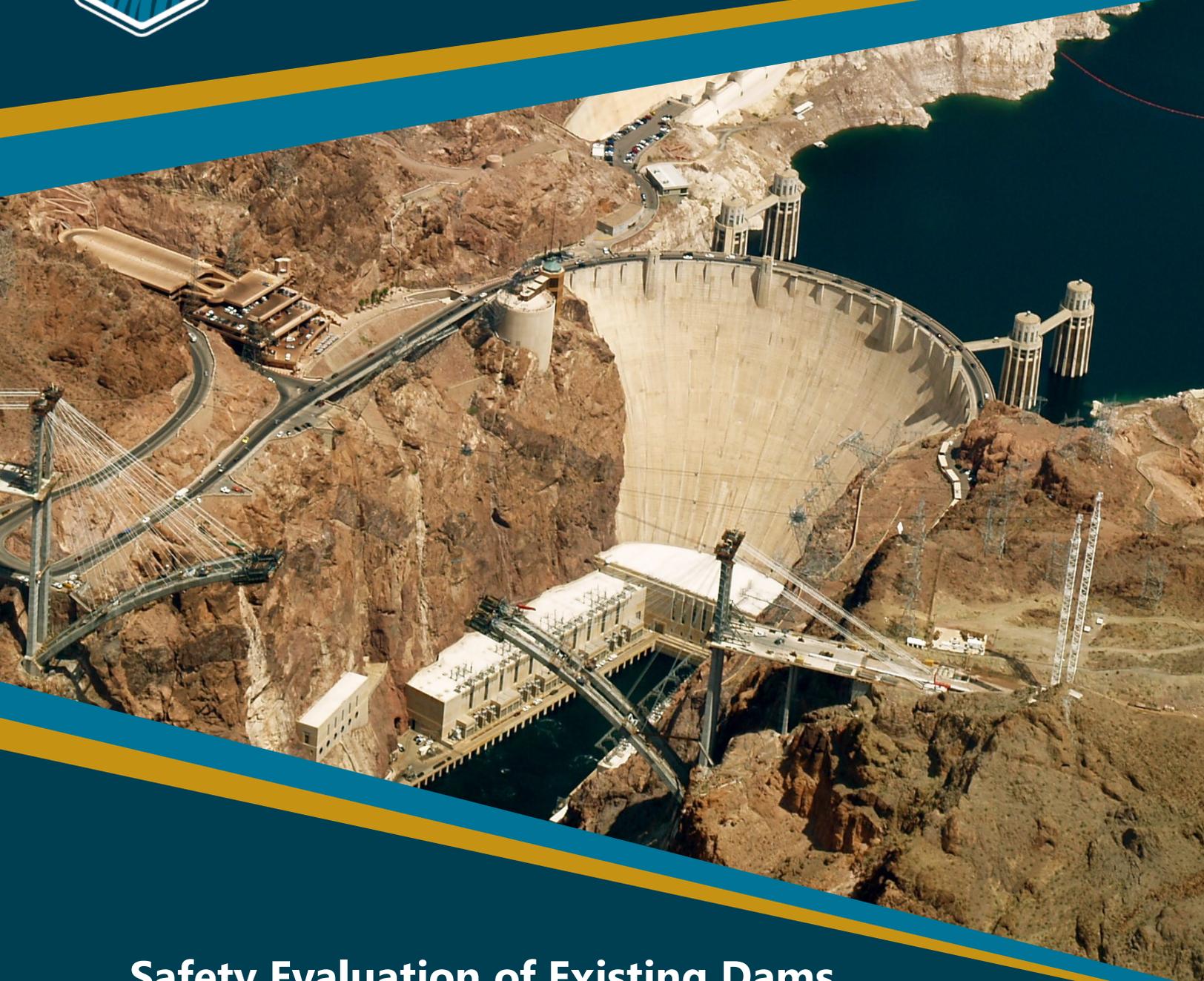




— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams International Technical Seminar and Study Tour

August 3-13, 2026

U.S. Department of the Interior

Introduction/Seminar Objectives

Itinerary details described below may be subject to change.

In most countries throughout the world, interest in the safety of dams has risen significantly in recent years. Aging dams, new hydrologic information, and population growth in floodplain areas downstream from dams has resulted in an increased emphasis on dam safety evaluation as well as operation and maintenance related to the safety of dams. Those responsible for the safety of existing dams must implement policies and procedures that warrant public confidence. This demands professional practices that incorporate the lessons of the past and conform to the most advanced technical state-of-the-art. The need for trained personnel is essential. This seminar will provide professional personnel with a comprehensive guide to establishing or enhancing a visual inspection/evaluation program and increase the technical capabilities of those responsible for safety evaluations.

Bureau of Reclamation officials will provide training for the seminar. Reclamation is responsible for the proper operation, maintenance, and structural safety of more than 400 dams and distribution systems. Reclamation has conducted similar seminars for its own staff, as well as for more than 6,000 technical and administrative officials from other domestic and international agencies.

Who Should Attend?

The seminar is designed for managers, administrators, engineers, and geologists responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and safety of dams. Policymakers and planners, as well as those with technical responsibilities, may also benefit from the seminar. All presentations, discussions, and printed materials will be in the English language. **Participants should have a good command of general and technical English usage.**

Due to the technical nature of the program and limited space on the motorcoach, spouses are not encouraged to accompany participants during the study tour. Space will be given to participants first.

Study Tour Agenda

August 10 – Site Visit to Green Mountain Dam, CO

August 11 – Site Visits to Granby Dam and Shadow Mountain Dam, Driving Tour of Rocky Mountain National Park

August 12 – Mock/Abbreviated Dam Examination of Olympus Dam in Estes Park, CO

August 13 – Fly from Denver to Las Vegas, VIP Tour of Hoover Dam, Closeout Dinner and Ceremony (airline ticket included in registration fee)

Photo to right: Olympus Dam in Estes Park, CO. Participants will conduct an abbreviated mock dam examination of Olympus Dam during the Study Tour.

Seminar Topics

The first portion of the seminar, August 3-7, will consist primarily of classroom presentations and discussions. Lectures, case histories, and structured discussions covering all aspects of a dam safety examination program will be led by Reclamation engineers or geologists with extensive experience and knowledge in the areas of design, construction, operation, maintenance, and dam safety. The course outlines the hydrologic, seismic, geotechnical, electrical, mechanical, and structural considerations of dam safety, as well as operation, maintenance, surveillance, and emergency preparedness. Presentations, case histories, and a walk-through abbreviated examination are used to present the multidiscipline approach to an effective safety of dams program. A tour of the Bureau of Reclamation Research Laboratories will also be featured.

Registration Form available here:

[Registration Form SEED 2026](#)

If you have any difficulty using the above link to register, please contact: bor-sha-internationalaffairs@usbr.gov

Participant Presentations

During the first week of the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to give a 10-15-minute presentation on dam safety activities within their organization or country.

Please note on the registration form if you are interested in giving a presentation.

Study Tour and Simulated Exam

The Study Tour, August 10-13, will take participants through the states of Colorado and Nevada. The study tour will include site visits to Green Mountain Dam, Granby Dam, and Shadow Mountain Dam. On August 12, Reclamation staff will lead participants in a mock abbreviated simulated examination at Olympus Dam, located in the Missouri Basin Region, Reclamation's largest and most ecologically diverse region, encompassing all or parts of nine western states and extending from the Canadian border to the southern tip of Texas. On Wednesday, August 13, participants will travel by air to Las Vegas, Nevada and conclude the event with a VIP tour of Hoover Dam and close-out luncheon.



(Jeff Ticknor, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

Location and Venue

The technical session will take place in Denver, Colorado. Denver is the capital of Colorado and one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Denver is nicknamed the Mile-High City because its official elevation is exactly one mile (5280 feet or 1609 meters) above sea level, making it the highest major city in the U.S.

Arrival and Departure Information

International travel should be arranged to Denver, Colorado, no later than Sunday, August 2, 2026

Return travel should be arranged out of Las Vegas, Nevada, no earlier than Friday, August 14, 2026

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel accommodations in Denver, Colorado, August 2 through 9 (check out August 10), must be paid for by the participant. A block of rooms has been reserved in Denver CO at a special rate of US \$189 per night. The special rate is available until July 1. Participants will be provided with a link to make their hotel reservation after registering for the seminar.

Letters of Invitation / U.S. Visa

If you require a visa to enter the United States, it is strongly recommended to apply as soon as possible to allow adequate time for visa processing. Reclamation will only send invitation letters to those registered for the seminar.

Dietary Needs

Please provide dietary restrictions /needs on the registration form.

Medical Insurance

Accidental injury/medical emergency insurance is strongly recommended and should be purchased prior to traveling to the United States. Reclamation is not financially responsible for any illnesses or injuries that may be incurred by participants.

Climate and Clothing

Participants should expect warm weather during the study tour (90-105°F / 32-40°C). Business casual attire is recommended during the technical session. Long pants and sturdy closed-toed shoes are required during the study tour. Sun protection is recommended.

Registration Fee

The registration fee is US \$4000 per person. Registrations received before May 30 will receive a discounted "Early Bird" registration fee of \$3800.

The registration fee includes:

- Technical Sessions
- Course materials (electronic versions only)
- Hotel accommodations during the Study Tour, August 10-13 (check out August 14, 4 nights)
- Breakfasts
- Welcome Reception, August 4
- Lunches (except August 8, 9, and 10)
Transportation for organized group events and Study Tour
- One-way airline ticket during study tour (Denver-Las Vegas)

Participants are responsible for:

- Transportation from Denver International Airport to hotel
- Accommodations at Denver hotel, August 2 through 9 (check out August 10)
- Lunches on August 8, 9, and 10
- Dinners

The registration and final payment deadline is **July 1**. Due to contractual arrangements with hotels and airlines, no late registrations will be accepted.

A legible copy of your passport must be submitted with the registration form.

Payment

The preferred method of payment is a credit card. Wire transfer and checks are accepted. Checks should be in U.S. dollars and made payable to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Funding is not available from the seminar organizers.

Further Information

<https://www.usbr.gov/international/seminars.html>

Contact Bureau of Reclamation International Affairs:

E-mail:

bor-sha-internationalaffairs@usbr.gov

Phone: +1-303-242-9281

