

## **Reservoirs Briefing Note 05**

### **Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011: Reservoir Inundation Maps for use in emergency response**

#### **In this briefing you will find information about:**

- The use of SEPA's reservoir inundation maps for Emergency Response
- Contact Information for any further enquiries

#### **1. Background to Reservoir Inundation Maps for use in Emergency Response.**

The Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 places a number of statutory duties on SEPA including:

- Produce and maintain a Controlled Reservoirs Register
- Assign a risk designation of high, medium or low to each controlled reservoir

In order to assign a risk designation to each reservoir, SEPA produced reservoir inundation maps which show the area of land that is likely to be flooded during an uncontrolled release of water. The Act also enables SEPA (in the absence / inability of a reservoir manager) to take action to protect persons or property from an uncontrolled release of water from a controlled reservoir.

It is recognised that although their primary purpose is to support risk designation, the reservoir inundation maps contain information that would be useful to Category 1 responders during an emergency. Following on from this, PDF versions of the inundation maps have been made available to Category 1 responders via Resilience Direct to support emergency response.

#### **2. Controlled Reservoirs Register**

A low resolution version of SEPA's reservoir inundation maps can be viewed by members of the public through the Controlled Reservoirs Register which is hosted on the Reservoirs sections of the SEPA Website.

The Controlled Reservoirs Register contains geographic information on the reservoir itself including the risk designation. It also contains contact details of the current and previous reservoir managers, the current supervising engineer, and the contact details of the engineer who carried out the last inspection.

#### **3. How to access the maps**

To enable Category 1 responders to directly access the PDF versions of the inundation maps to support emergency response, the maps are also hosted on Resilience Direct™.

Resilience Direct is the UK's secure web-based platform for real time sharing of information across the emergency responders, public and private sector organisations.

This enables it to host PDF versions of the inundation maps which are then directly available to Category 1 responders. At least one reservoir inundation map has been created for each dam, on each reservoir.

- **To Access the Maps (For Category 1 and 2 Responders)** Each individual should submit an access request to SEPA at Resilience@sepa.org.uk
- This request will be reviewed by SEPA's Resilience team
- Once access is granted the maps should be reviewed and checked for issues such as missing maps or unexpected outlines.

#### **4. What the maps don't show**

The maps show the area of land that is likely to be flooded during an uncontrolled release of water. However, due to the strategic nature of the maps, they are indicative only. **It is important to note that the details of flooding shown on the maps may differ to those in reality.**

The maps do not:

- Reflect the structural integrity of the dam or chances of it failing
- Relate to any particular probability of dam breach flooding
- Show flood risk at an individual property scale
- Show initial or peak flood arrival times

#### **Contact information for further enquiries**

For enquiries relating to the current regulation of a particular reservoir and further information about the 2011 Act and its implementation please visit SEPA's website : <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/reservoirs/> or contact reservoirs@sepa.org.uk