

Basic Details

Publish Date

02 September 2025

Case ID#

3261

Title

Leakage from small raised reservoir

Nation

England

Regulator Reference No.

523

Legal Status

Non-statutory

Reservoir Type

Impounding

Reservoir Capacity

10M+ m3

Year of Construction

Unknown

Main Construction Type

Unknown

Dam Height

5 - 9.99 metres

Dam Flood Category

Other / Not applicable

Hazard Class

Undesignated / Unclassified

Reservoir Use

- Other

Owner Type

Unknown

Incident Details

Date & Time of Incident

09 December 2024 - 12:00

Date Incident Closed

Not provided

Observations that Caused the Incident to be Declared

- Leakage or seepage from a new leakage point

Describe the Incident

This incident occurred at an unregistered SRR. An operative from an undertaker of a nearby LRR noticed water from the SRR running through a wall and over the towpath into a canal. There was also significant leakage through an embankment and into the river. The operative contacted the Environment Agency incident team. Local Environment Agency staff attended site and confirmed the wall was bulging and leaking. As this site was unregistered, there was no knowledge of design, maintenance or any surveillance. Attempts to contact a potential landowner were unsuccessful.

Supporting Photos

Photo of leakage

Photo of leakage

Causes and Impacts

Natural Processes which Initiated or Contributed to the Incident

- Not provided

Main Contributing Factors to the Incident Occurring

Dam Factors

- Deterioration of materials
- Instability

External Factors

- None

Shortcomings

- Design shortcoming
- Maintenance shortcoming
- Surveillance shortcoming

Root Cause of the Incident

Impacts on the Reservoir

- Internal erosion (adjacent to structures)
- Settlement / deformation (outside normal or expected parameters)

Supporting Photos

No images provided.

Supporting Contributions and Studies

Human Factors which Influenced the Incident

Instrumentation at the Reservoir

Was Instrumentation Effective?

Not Applicable

Assistance by External Parties and Impacts on Downstream Population

None

Summary of Studies or Investigations Undertaken

Supporting Photos

No images provided.

Lessons Learnt

Lesson 1

- Operation and maintenance

SRR can pose risks to local infrastructure and the public. Although not required by law, they should be maintained appropriately to reduce risks of failure.

Lesson 2

- Records and studies

If the SRR were to fail, there may be impacts on a nearby LRR. Owners of LRR should be aware of hazards surrounding their site so that they can mitigate the risk.

Lesson 3

Lesson 4

Closing Comments

Supporting Photos

No images provided.

Information provided has been sent from reservoir owners and engineers, and cleansed of personal information by the enforcement authority. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the data, but if you find an error please contact the relevant enforcement authority.