Status Report &Thoughts on the FERC RIDM Process

Status Report

- FY 2010 – Develop Action Plan - **Complete**
- FY 2011 – Complete Portfolio Risk Assessment - **Complete**
- FY 2012 – Determine if RIDM is consistent with regulatory process - **Complete**
- FY 2013 – Finalize Policy and Technical guidelines
  - Initial Chapters posted on FERC Web Site for comments
  - Risk Analysis and Risk Assessment Chapters in coordination with USBR / USACE
- FY 2014 – Implement
  - Pilot Projects being selected

Thoughts on Implementation

- We are talking about Risk-Informed decision-making not risk-based decision-making
- We will continue to need "traditional" analyses as part of our risk-informed decision-making process

Thoughts on What's Required

- Risk-Informed Decision-Making will:
  - require a change in mind set for FERC staff, licensees and consultants
  - require extensive training for FERC staff, licensees and consultants

Implementation

- Will be rolled out over an extended period of time (not 5 years like PFMA)

Now to 2-3 Years Out

- Trial Period
  - Owners may request use of the Risk-Informed process by letter to the Regional Engineer.
  - Not all projects will be accepted into the trial program due to resource constraints. (FERC, Consultants, etc.)
  - Some projects underway (Mid-Columbia Seismic Study)
  - Some projects lined up (Upper Baker Hydrologic Study)

5 to 10 Years Out

- Use of Risk-Informed Process used on an "exception" basis. In the early years most projects use a deterministic approach. Some owners will request use of the Risk-Informed approach. In a very few cases FERC may request use of the Risk-Informed approach (mostly likely dams with very high consequences)
- As resource constraints relax over time due to training and experience, more projects will utilize a risk-informed approach.

10-20 Years Out

- Increasing use of Risk-Informed Decision Making
- Over time, more projects are assessed using risk than deterministic methods

20+ Years Out

- At some future point, (20 years out?) risk-informed decision-making will likely become the state-of-practice in dam safety with deterministic analyses the exception.
- Systems analysis techniques begin to enter the dam safety profession as risk did in the late 1990s.

Scalability

- Level of effort in a Risk Analysis should be commensurate with the risk

Implementation

- FERC will be a full player at any risk analysis of a regulated dam that will be submitted to the FERC
  - A Representative from the FERC RIDM team will attend all RA sessions to assure consistency
  - Other FERC staff will attend as necessary/ appropriate
- The risk assessment report would be prepared by the licensee and their consultant(s)

Implementation

- FERC will continue to provide training classes
  - Level 3 RIDM training this year
  - Will develop a facilitator training course in the not too distant future (after we gain some experience ourselves)