

Consequence Classification Ratings for Dams and Canals

Consequence Classification	Population at Risk	Incremental Consequences of Failure		
		Loss of Life	Environmental and Cultural Values	Infrastructure, Economics, and Other Property
Extreme	Permanent ¹	More than 100	Major loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) critical fisheries b) critical wildlife habitats c) rare or endangered species, or d) unique landscapes e) sites of cultural significance, Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages is impossible.	Extremely high economic losses affecting critical infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or damage to residential areas.
Very High	Permanent ¹	100 or fewer	Significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) critical fisheries b) critical wildlife habitats c) rare or endangered species, or d) unique landscapes e) sites of cultural significance, a) Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages possible but impractical.	Very high economic losses affecting important infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or severe damage to residential areas.
High	Permanent ¹	10 or fewer	Significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) important fisheries b) important wildlife habitats c) rare or endangered species, or d) unique landscapes e) sites of cultural significance, Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages highly possible.	High economic losses affecting infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or severe damage to scattered residential buildings.

¹ The population at risk is ordinarily or regularly located in the dam breach inundation zone, whether to live, work, or recreate.

Consequence Classification	Population at Risk	Incremental Consequences of Failure		
		Loss of Life	Environmental and Cultural Values	Infrastructure, Economics, and Other Property
Significant	Temporary only ²	Low potential for loss of life	No significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Important fisheries b) important wildlife habitats c) Rare or endangered species, d) Unique landscapes, or e) Sites of cultural significance. Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages highly possible.	Low economic losses affecting limited infrastructure and residential buildings, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or damage to locations used occasionally and irregularly for temporary purposes.
Low	None Identifiable	Only possible through unforeseeable misadventure	Minimal short-term loss or damage and no long-term loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Fisheries c) Wildlife habitats d) Rare or endangered species, e) Unique landscapes, or f) Sites of cultural significance 	Minimal economic losses mostly limited to the dam owner's property, and no potential for development within the dam inundation zone.

² People are only occasionally and irregularly in the dam breach inundation zone, for example stopping temporarily, passing through on transportation routes, or participating in recreational activities.