

2D Dam-Break Analysis of L Lake and PAR Pond Dams Using HEC-RAS

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Introduction



- In 1991 a dam-break study by Bechtel Savannah River Inc. was conducted for the high hazard dams located at L Lake and PAR Pond on the Savannah River Site. Two scenarios were considered, over topping from a Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), and a fair-weather dam-break for either or both dams. Unfortunately, no inundation map was developed from the study. The purpose of this project was to redo the original dam-break study with improved data and methodology to generate Inundation maps to assist with emergency response and evacuation plans.
- The Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) is a free to download river analysis modeling program developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers capable of 1D and 2D hydraulic calculations. Version 5.0.7 (released March 2019) was used for this project.



Geometric Data



- The 1991 study used cross section data to model the river.
 - Some cross-sections were synthesized.
 - Old input data not 100% compatible with HEC-RAS and incomplete.
- Instead of cross sections, DEM data from the USGS was used for floodplain.
 - 1/3 arc-second (~10m) DEM.
 - No bathometry data.



https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/



Geometric Data



- 2D flood basin was drawn based on terrain contours.
 - Elevation range ~60-300 ft.
 - Single Manning's n value.
 - 250x250 ft grid size.
- Storage areas were inputted as 1D.
 - No bathometry data.
 - Inflow, outflow, volume vs surface area, and initial water surface elevation (WSE) data was available.





Flow Data



- Taken directly from original 1991 study:
 - Storage areas
 - Inflow hydrographs
 - Elevation vs volume curves
 - Outlet rating curves
 - Initial WSE
 - Savannah River
 - PMF: 87,100 cfs
 - Fair-weather: 9,000 cfs





The Dams



- Earthen rockfill dams
- The Steel Creek dam at L Lake has 6 ft diameter conduit with an upper and lower sluice gate.
- PAR pond dam consist of a weir and sluice gate connected to an 8x8 ft channel.







http://www.revimage.org/types-of-filters-in-earth-dams/



The Dams





Steel Creek Dam

https://www.google.com/maps/@33.1621883,-81.634219,688m/data=!3m1!1e3

PAR Pond Dam



https://www.google.com/maps/@33.2355833,-81.5193664,1133m/data=!3m1!1e3



Dam Failure Examples





https://theconstructor.org/water-resources/causes-failures-earthfill-dams/2287/



Breach Processes used in HEC-RAS





• Overtopping (left) and Pipe Failure (right)









https://www.hec.usace.army.mil/publications/TrainingDocuments/TD-39.pdf



Breach Parameters



Parameter	Definition
B _t	Top width of breach
B _{ave}	Average width of breach
W _b	Bottom width of breach
V/H	Side slope
h _b	Height of Dam
h _w	Water surface elevation
t _b	Breach formation time





Dual Dam Failure Under PMF Conditions

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Dual Dam Failure Under Fair-Weather Conditions







Steel Creek Dam Failure Under Fair-Weather Conditions







PAR Pond Dam Failure Under Fair-Weather Conditions







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