

## Basic Details

**Publish Date**

13 February 2026

**Case ID#**

3343

**Title**

Hydraulic erosion incident during discontinuance works triggered by unexpected rainfall events

**Nation**

Wales

**Regulator Reference No.**

76

**Legal Status**

Statutory

**Reservoir Type**

Impounding

**Reservoir Capacity**

100,000 - 499,999m<sup>3</sup>

**Year of Construction**

1850 - 1899

**Main Construction Type**

Earth fill embankment

**Dam Height**

15 - 29.99 metres

**Dam Flood Category**

A

**Hazard Class**

High-risk reservoir

**Reservoir Use**

- Water supply

**Owner Type**

Limited company

# Incident Details

## Date & Time of Incident

30 September 2024 - 12:00

## Date Incident Closed

25 October 2025

## Observations that Caused the Incident to be Declared

- Water flowing outside of engineered channels

## Describe the Incident

During planned discontinuance works, an unexpected rainfall event led to elevated water levels and flow through a newly constructed channel. This resulted in erosion at the downstream toe where temporary protective measures had been removed to facilitate construction. The incident was managed promptly through pre-established site controls, including valve operations and temporary pumping. No uncontrolled release of water occurred, and subsequent remedial actions were implemented to reinforce exposed areas.

## Supporting Photos

No images provided.

# Causes and Impacts

## Natural Processes which Initiated or Contributed to the Incident

- Heavy/persistent rain (no flood)

## Main Contributing Factors to the Incident Occurring

### Dam Factors

- Other dam factors (describe below)

### External Factors

- Other external factors (describe below)

## Shortcomings

- Process or procedural shortcoming

## Root Cause of the Incident

Removal of erosion protection during construction and subsequent rainfall.

## Impacts on the Reservoir

- External erosion

## Supporting Photos

No images provided.

## Supporting Contributions and Studies

### Human Factors which Influenced the Incident

Quick contractor response, strong collaboration, MIOS deadline pressure, environmental constraints

### Instrumentation at the Reservoir

Instrumentation removed or obsolete; no active monitoring during incident

### Was Instrumentation Effective?

Not Applicable

### Assistance by External Parties and Impacts on Downstream Population

SE, QCE, Enforcement Authority notified; no emergency services contacted; no downstream impact

### Summary of Studies or Investigations Undertaken

No formal studies; lessons learned exercise conducted

### Supporting Photos

No images provided.

## Lessons Learnt

### Lesson 1

- General design and construction
- Human factors
- Records and studies
- Regulatory
- Structural

Importance of flood contingency planning during construction.

Better engagement with regulators to avoid delays.

Earlier completion of critical works could reduce risk exposure.

### Lesson 2

### 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.