

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR**news release**

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Hughes - 343-4662

For Release May 20, 1978DAM SAFETY PROGRAM ADVANCED BY INTERIOR'S BIA/BuREC

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, both of the U. S. Department of the Interior, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further the cause of dam safety.

The purpose of the memorandum, according to Commissioner of Reclamation R. Keith Higginson, is to identify those areas where Reclamation can provide technical expertise to assist BIA in developing a formalized program for dam safety.

The memorandum points out that the BIA will retain ownership of its dams and continue to be responsible for their safety. The responsibility for correcting any safety problems will also be that of the BIA.

Services to be provided by Reclamation upon request would include:

oTechnical expertise for review of existing structures including studies of hydrology, hydraulics, geology, seismology, seepage, inundation maps and structural stability.

oTechnical expertise to perform inspections of dams with recommendations for corrective work if necessary.

oTechnical training to establish a program for periodic surveillance.

oRecommendations for establishing emergency preparedness plans, installing monitoring instruments, developing communication and warning systems.

Similar Memorandums of Understanding between the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service respectively, are currently under consideration.

#