



Nepal Engineering Council Registration Examination

8. HYDROPOWER

[as per Civil Engineering Syllabus (ACiE08)]

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8. Hydropower

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8.1 Planning of hydropower projects: power potential (gross, technical, economic) of Nepal and the world; stages of hydropower development, hydropower development in Nepal (history, policy, acts & regulation.) (ACiE0801)

8.2 Power and energy potential study: power and energy potentials; methods of fixing installed capacity of a plant; types of hydropower plants on various basis; components of different types of hydropower projects; reservoirs and their regulation. (ACiE0802)

8.3 Headworks of storage plants: components of a typical storage plant; dams (types, functions, selection, design, failure modes and remedies); stability analysis of gravity dam, seepage control and foundation treatment in dams; design of intake, spillway and energy dissipaters; gates (types and locations). (ACiE0803)

8.4 Headworks of run-of-river (ROR) plants: components of a typical ROR plant; design of intake; methods of bed and suspended load handling; design of settling basin (practice and concentration approach), estimation of sediment volume in settling basin, flushing of deposited sediment, estimation of flushing frequency for sediments. (ACiE0804)

8.5 Water conveyance structures: hydraulic tunnels, x-sections, and hydraulic design (velocity and sizing); tunnel lining; design of forebay and surge tanks; design of penstocks and pressure shaft; hydraulic transients (water hammer). (ACiE0805)

8.6 Hydro-electric machines and powerhouse: hydro-mechanical equipment and their functions; types of turbines and performance characteristics; selection of turbine and their specific speed; preliminary design of Francis and Pelton turbines; scroll case and draft tubes; generators (types, rating); governs; pumps and their performance characteristics; powerhouse (types, general arrangements, dimensions). (ACiE0806)



8.3 Headworks of Storage Plant

- Components of typical storage plant
- Dams(types, functions, selection, design, failure modes and remedies)
- Stability analysis of gravity dam
- Seepage control and foundation treatment in dams
- Design of intake, spillway and energy dissipaters
- Gates(types and locations)





Based on layout storage plants can be:

- Storage projects with powerhouse at the dam toe
- Storage projects with powerhouse
 located certain distance downstream
 from the dam



8. HYDROPOWER 8.3.1 Components of Typical Storage Plant







- Dam or reservoir
- Spillway
- Intake structure
- Headrace Tunnel
- Surge Tank
- Penstock
- Powerhouse
- Tailrace Tunnel
- Switchyard





Dam or Reservoir	Stores water to create hydraulic head for power generation.		
Spillway	Controls excess water release to prevent dam overtopping.		
Intake Structure	Diverts water from the reservoir to the headrace tunnel, filtering debris.		
Headrace Tunnel	Transports water from the intake to the surge tank, minimizing energy loss.		
Surge Tank	Absorbs pressure fluctuations to stabilize water flow.		
Penstock	Channels pressurized water to the turbines in the powerhouse.		
Powerhouse	Contains turbines and generators for converting hydraulic energy to electricity.		
Tailrace Tunnel	Discharges water from the powerhouse back into the river.		
Switchyard	Distributes electricity from the powerhouse to the grid.		







Where is the intake structure typically located in a storage plant?

A) Inside the powerhouseB) At the tailrace tunnel exitC) At the base of the damD) In the switchyard

Which component is responsible for transporting water from the intake structure to the surge tank while minimizing energy loss?

- A) Headrace Tunnel
- B) Tailrace Tunnel
- C) Powerhouse
- D) Switchyard

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Where is the intake structure typically located in a storage plant?

A) Inside the powerhouse
B) At the tailrace tunnel exit
C) At the base of the dam
D) In the switchyard
Answer: C) At the base of the dam

Which component is responsible for transporting water from the intake structure to the surge tank while minimizing energy loss?

- A) Headrace Tunnel
- B) Tailrace Tunnel
- C) Powerhouse
- D) Switchyard
- Answer: A) Headrace Tunnel



What is the primary purpose of a pumped storage power plant?

A) To generate electricity from solar energy

- B) To store excess electricity for future use
- C) To convert wind energy into electricity
- D) To pump water uphill for later release to generate electricity

What is the function of the upper reservoir in a pumped storage power plant?

A) It stores excess electricity.

- B) It filters debris from the water.
- C) It absorbs pressure fluctuations.
- D) It stores potential energy in the form of elevated water.



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Answer: D) To pump water uphill for later release to generate electricity

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Answer: D) It stores potential energy in the form of elevated water.



What is the advantage of using pumped storage for energy storage compared to other methods:

- A) It has higher efficiency.
- B) It can store more energy.
- C) It is environmentally friendly.
- D) It is less expensive to build.

In storage projects with a powerhouse at the dam toe, where is the powerhouse typically situated?

- A) At the top of the dam
- B) Below the dam, near the reservoir
- C) Several miles downstream from the dam
- D) Next to the spillway



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- A) At the top of the dam
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- C) Several miles downstream from the dam
- D) Next to the spillway

Answer: B) Below the dam, near the reservoir



What is the primary advantage of locating the powerhouse at the dam toe in storage projects?

- A) It minimizes environmental impact.
- B) It reduces transmission losses.
- C) It allows for greater water storage capacity.
- D) It increases water flow rate.

In storage projects with a powerhouse located a certain distance downstream from the dam, what is the primary purpose of this layout?

- A) To improve water quality downstream
- B) To enhance flood control capabilities
- C) To increase the total head for power generation
- D) To reduce construction costs



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Answer: C) To increase the total head for power generation



Function of DAM:

Dams are barriers across river with primary function of:

- Forming a reservoir which has capacity to store water
- Raising head to divert water flow into the conveyance system.





A) Based on Function

	- To store water for various purposes, such as:
Storage Dams	- Municipal water supply - Irrigation and agriculture
	- Hydropower generation - Recreation and tourism
	- To redirect the flow of a river or stream for:
Divorcion Dama	- Irrigation and agriculture
Diversion Dams	 Water supply to cities and industries
	- Navigation and shipping
Detention Dams	 To temporarily hold and control stormwater runoff, reducing downstream flooding.
Coffer Dams	 Temporary structures to create a dry work area in a water environment, such as a river or lake To facilitate construction or repair activities.



Types of dams:

B) Based on Construction Material

Concrete Dams	- Concrete, cement, and aggregates.		
Earth Dams	- Soil, rock, gravel, and clay.		
Masonry Dams	- Cut stone, rubble, or bricks in mortar.		
Steel Dams	- Steel plates, beams, and components.		
Timber Dams	- Timber or wooden materials, e.g., logs/planks.		
Rubber Dams	- Rubber or flexible materials.		







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Types of dams | C) Based on Structural Load Transfer Method(based on design Principle)

• **Rigid Dam**: Whole body of the dam acts as a single body and

Gravity Dams	- Transfer the load of impounded water and other forces directly to the foundation through their mass. Retained water thrust is restricted by the action of gravity.	
Arch Dams	- Transfer the load to the abutments primarily through arch action, which resists compressive forces. An arch dam is a dam that is designed to have a single curved wall, shaped like an arch and having its convexity towards the upstream direction	
Buttress Dams	- Use a series of supports (buttresses) on the downstream side to transfer water pressure and other loads to the foundation. This dam restrict water thrust with the help of buttresses.	
Non Rigid Dam	(Embankment DAM): Earth or Rock fill Dam.	

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Embankment Dam:

- Types:
- A) Earth Dam
- i. Homogeneous Earth Dam
- ii. Zone Earth Dam
- iii. Diaphragm type Earth Dam- Thin core
- B) Rock fill Dam
- C) Composite Earth & Rock fill Dam



Types of dams

D) Based on Hydraulic Design

Overflow (Weir) Dams	- Designed to allow water to flow over the dam's crest, also called weir or low dam.	
Non-Overflow Dams	- Designed to control water flow without allowing it to spill over the dam's crest.	
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Types of dams:			
E) Based on Head			
Low-Head Dams	Few meters to 15 m		
Medium-Head Dams	15 m to 50 m		
High-Head Dams	Exceeding 50 m		







Selection of Dams

S.N	Character of Site	Condition of site	Type of Dam
1	Availability of Construction materials	Ingredient of concrete ie. Sand gravel and cement – locally available	Concrete gravity Dam
		Locally available of the previous and impervious soil and stone	Earth/Rock-fill Dam
		Available stone in required size and specific gravity	Stone Masonry Dam
2	Foundation Character	Impervious solid rock such as schist and gneiss	Any type
		Poor rock, Gravel and coarse sands	Earth ort Rock fill dam
		Sand and Silt Clay	Earthen Dam
		Very fine and Uniform sands	Earthen Dam
		Silt and fine sand	Low gravity dam or earthen dam



Selection of Dams

S.N	Character of the Site	Condition of site	Type of Dam
3		V-shape narrow gorge Narrow deep valley	Arch Dam Arch dam
	Topography	U shaped narrow gorge	Overflow concrete Dam
		Low wide George Wide valley	Earth/Rock Fill Dam Embankment Dam
4 Spillw		Spillway location separate from main dam	Earthen Dam
	Spillway requirement	Adequate width for dam only	Gravity dam with overflow spillway
		Large spillway requirements	Overflow concrete dam
5	Character of the region	Seismic Zone	Earth dam &concrete gravity dam
		Excessive uplift pressure exerted	Arch dam



What type of dam is typically chosen for water storage reservoirs, hydropower projects, and flood control in areas with strong foundations and ample(enough) construction materials?

A) Arch Dams
B) Buttress Dams
C) Gravity Dams
D) Embankment Dams

In narrow canyon(deep gorge) locations with strong abutments, which type of dam is often selected due to its efficient use of materials and space?

A) Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Dams

- B) Spillway Dams
- C) Composite Dams
- D) Arch Dams





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C) C) Gravity Dams
D) D) Embankment Dams
Answer: C) Gravity Dams

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For projects in areas with weaker foundation materials and challenging terrains, which dam type is suitable to effectively transfer loads and ensure stability?

- A) Embankment DamsB) Timber Dams
- C) Composite Dams
- D) Buttress Dams



Which type of dam is versatile and adaptable to various site conditions, making it a common choice for different project requirements?

A) Diversion Dams

- B) Gravity Dams
- C) Embankment Dams

D) Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Dams



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Answer: D) Buttress Dams

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In scenarios where a cost-effective, durable, and quickly constructed dam is needed, which type of dam may be chosen? A) Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Dams B) Diversion Dams

- C) Composite Dams D) Timber Dams
- In which type of terrain or geological condition are gravity dams often preferred due to their strong foundation requirements?
- A) Rocky mountains
 B) Alluvial plains
 C) Weak soil conditions
 D) Desert regions




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Answer: A) Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Dams

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A) Rocky mountains
B) Alluvial plains
C) Weak soil conditions
D) Desert regions
Answer: A) Rocky mountains



What is the primary load-bearing mechanism in arch dams that makes them well-suited for narrow canyon locations?

- A) Sheer massB) Arch actionC) Buttress support
- D) Embankment design

In which type of topographical setting are arch dams typically most efficient in terms of material usage?

- A) Flat plains
- B) Narrow canyons
- C) Plateaus
- D) Coastal areas





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A) Sheer mass
B) Arch action
C) Buttress support
D) Embankment design
Answer: B) Arch action

In which type of topographical setting are arch dams typically most efficient in terms of material usage?

- A) Flat plains
- B) Narrow canyons/valley
- C) Plateaus (large area of flat land that is higher than other areas of land)
- D) Coastal areas

Answer: B) Narrow canyons



In which type of terrain or geological condition are buttress dams often preferred due to their effective load distribution?

- A) Rocky mountains
- B) Coastal regions
- C) Alluvial plains
- D) Plateaus

Which if the following is a type of Arch Dam:

A. Constant Radius Arch Dam
B. Variable Radius Arch Dam
C. Constant Angle Arch Dam
D. All of the above





In which type of terrain or geological condition are buttress dams often preferred due to their effective load distribution?

- A) Rocky mountains
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- C) Alluvial plains
- D) Plateaus
- Answer: C) Alluvial plains

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D. All of the above

Answer: D) All of the above



What is the primary purpose of a cofferdam in construction and engineering projects?

- A) To store large quantities of water
- B) To create a temporary dry work area within a water body
- C) To generate hydropower
- D) To regulate water flow in rivers



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Answer: B) To create a temporary dry work area within a water body

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Design of Gravity Dam:

Forces acting on Dam

1. Primary load

a. water Pressureb. Seepage or uplift Pressurec. Self weight load

2. Secondary load

- a. Sediment Load or Silt Pressure
 b. hydrodynamic load
 c. wave load
 d. Wind Load
 e. Ice Load
- 3. Exceptional Load: a. Seismic Loads





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VERTICAL FORCES

- V1: GRAVITY ACTING ON MASS OF DAM
- V2: GRAVITY ACTING ON MASS OF WATER ON UPSTREAM
- V3: UPLIFT FORCE
- V4: INERTIA FORCE DUE TO EARTH QUAKE

HORIZONTAL FORCES

- H1: HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE ON UPSTREAM FACE
- H2: INERTIA FORCE OF WATER DUE TO EARTHQUAKE
- H3: Excess fluid pressure DUE TO SILT ON THE UPSTREAM FACE
- H4: IMPACT OF WAVES
- H5: HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE OF TAIL WATER ON DOWNSTREAM FACE
- H6: INERTIA FORCE DUE TO EARTHQUAKE.



Forces acting on Gravity Dam:

1. Primary load

- A. Self weight load
- B. Water Pressure
- C. Seepage or uplift Pressure



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8.3.2 Dams (types, functions, selection, design, failure modes and remedies)



A) Self Weight of Dam:



Weight of Dam = $W_1+W_2+W_3$ W_1 = Weight of triangular portion (ΔABM) = Y_c x Area of $\Delta ABM \times 1$ m W_2 = Y_c x Area of \Box MNCD x 1 m W_3 = Y_c x Area of $\Delta EFN \times 1$ m These loads act through C.G. of the area

 Y_c = Unit Weight of Concrete (24 KN/m³)



B) Water Pressure:



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8.3.2 Dams (types, functions, selection, design, failure modes and remedies)



C) Seepage or Uplift Pressure:





What is the main function of a drainage gallery in a dam?

A) To store water for future use
B) To provide access for maintenance workers
C) To facilitate the drainage of seepage water from the foundation
D) To regulate the flow of the spillway

How can uplift pressures be minimized or controlled in dam design?

- A) By increasing the weight of the dam
- B) By reducing the seepage through the foundation
- C) By enlarging the spillway
- D) By increasing the height of the dam



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Answer: C) To facilitate the drainage of seepage water from the foundation

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D) By increasing the height of the dam

Answer: B) By reducing the seepage through the foundation



Intensity of Uplift pressure is maximum at

A) U/S end of damB) D/S end of damC) Constant throughout

D) None of the above

The recommended uplift at the face of the drainage gallery is equal to....., where H and H' are water head at u/s and d/s respectively A) $\gamma k [H' + (H - H')/3]$ B) $\gamma k H'$ C) $\gamma k (H - H')/3$ D) $\gamma k [H - (H - H')/3]$





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A) U/S end of dam
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Answer: A) U/S end of dam

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Failure Modes in Gravity Dam

- 1. Overturning of Dam
- 2. Sliding of Dam (shear failure)
- 3. Crushing of Dam (compression)
- 4. Development of Tension in Dam







Stability Analysis:

1) Stability against overturning:

Factor of Safety (F.S) = $\frac{\text{Resisting Moment (Mr)}}{\text{Overturning Moment (Mo)}}$ Should not be less than 1.5

2) Factor of safety against sliding

In Case of low masonry dam









In Case of large high dam

Shear Friction Factor (S.F.F) :

In case of large high dams, the shear strength of the joint should also be considered along with static coefficient of friction, In this case the factor of safety is known as **Shear Friction Factor (S.F.F)**

S. F. F =
$$\frac{\mu\Sigma V + Bq}{\Sigma H}$$

B= Width of joint or section

q=Shear strength of joint usually taken as 14 kg/cm2

Safe value of S.F.F should lie between 4 and 5.





3) Crushing or Compression Failure

$$P_n \le fc$$

 $P_n = \frac{\Sigma V}{B} \left(1 \pm \frac{6e}{B}\right)$

Where ΣV is sum of vertical forces, B is width of Dam, e is eccentricity, Pn = Normal Stress,

fc = Allowable compressive stress for foundation material

4) Tension Failure

Since concrete and masonry are very weak in tension, tension is not allowed to be developed





Middle Third Rule

- For no tension condition, the resultant must lie in the middle third
- Maximum eccentricity that can be allowed on either side from center is equal to B/6
 Where eccentricity (e) ,

$$e = B/2 - \overline{X}$$
, $e < = B/6$
 $\overline{X} = \frac{\Sigma M}{\Sigma V}$







Stability Analysis:

Shear Friction Factor (S.F.F):

(FoS against shear failure)

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8.3.3 Stability analysis of Gravity Dam

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Minimum Base width of DAM:

1) Minimum Base width for no tension at the hell is given by,

• B=H/√(G-K)

Where,

- H= Height of water level on u/s end
- G= Specific gravity of the material
- K= Coefficient of uplift pressure
- μ = coefficient of friction (0.6 to 0.75)
- 2) Minimum base width for no slide condition is,
 - B=Η/ μ(G-K)

Q) Calculate the base width of gravity dam for no tension condition if ht of dam is 150 m, sp. Gravity of dam material is 2.4, consider no or zero uplift pressure
a) 96.82 m
b) 150 m
c) 100 m
d) 95.82 m



What is the Middle Third Rule in the context of dam engineering?

A) A guideline for designing spillways

- B) A principle for estimating live loads
- C) A rule of thumb for determining the proper location of the dam's center of gravity
- D) A criterion for ensuring the structural stability of a dam's cross-section



According to the Middle Third Rule, where should the center of gravity of the dam crosssection ideally be located?

A) In the upper third of the cross-sectionB) In the middle third of the cross-sectionC) In the lower third of the cross-sectionD) At the crest of the dam

he dam



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B) In the middle third of the cross-section

C) In the lower third of the cross-section

D) At the crest of the dam

Answer: B) In the middle third of the cross-section



Design of Earth Dams

1. Height of dam : High flood level(HFL) + Free Board (FB)

2. Top width of dam:

Top width should be minimum 3 m and is generally govern by the minimum roadway width requirements.

Thumb rule:

a) W = H/5 + 3 for very low dams,

b) For dams lower than $30m W = 0.55(H)^{0.5} + H/5$

c) For dams higher than 30m, W = $1.65(H + 1.5)^{1/3}$



Design of Earth Dams

3. Fixation of Free Board

Difference between top of dam and normal reservoir level. Depends on wave height. Should be atleast 1.5 times wave height.

4. Upstream and Downstream slopes

The u/s and d/s slopes should be flat enough to provide sufficient base width at the foundation

Sl. No.	Types of material	u/s slope	d/s slope
1.	Homogenous well graded material	$2\frac{1}{2}:1$	2:1
2.	Homogenous coarse silt	3:1	$2\frac{1}{2}:1$
3.	Homogenous silty clay or clay a) Height less than 15 m b) Height more than 15 m	$2\frac{1}{2}:1$ 3:1	2:1 $2\frac{1}{2}:1$
4.	Sand or sand and gravel with clay core	3:1	$2\frac{1}{2}:1$
5.	Sand or sand and gravel with R.C. core wall	$2\frac{1}{2}:1$	2:1



Design of Earth Dams

5. Central Core of dam : Minimum width of central core should be 3m

6. Drainage from downstream side of dam:

The seepage line (phreatic line) should remain within the downstream face of the dam, so that no sloughing of the

face occurs.





Failure in Earthen Dam:

- 1. Hydraulic Failure
- 2. Seepage Failure
- 3. Structural failure

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a) slope stability failures



c) overtopping failure





Hydraulic Failure

- 1. Overtopping
- 2. Erosion of U/s face
- 3. Erosion of D/s face by rain wash
- 4. Erosion of downstream toe by tailwater
- 5. Cracking due to frost action





8.3.2 Dams (types, functions, selection, d

Seepage Failure

- Piping through dam body 1.
- Piping through the foundation 2.





Piping through dam body.


8.3.2 Dams (types, functions, selection, design, failure modes and remedies)

Structural Failure

- 1. Sliding due to weak foundation
- 2. Sliding of upstream face due to sudden drawdown
- 3. Sliding of downstream face due to slope being too steep
- 4. Faulty construction
- 5. Failure of dam by burying animals



8.3.4 Seepage Control & Foundation Treatment in Dams

Seepage Control:

- 1. Seepage control through the dam
- 2. Seepage control through the dam foundation





8.3.4 Seepage Control & Foundation Treatment in Dams

Seepage Control | Seepage control through the dam

- 1. Rock toe or toe filter
- 2. Horizontal blanket drains
- 3. Chimney drains



By providing horizontal drainage filter L = 3*H or 25 to 100% of horizontal

distance between the centre line of the top width to the toe.

Phreatic Line in Embankment Dams



Fig: Phreatic Line in Embankment Dams



Phreatic line is a divide line between dry and saturated (submerged) soil.

By providing filter drainage - filter in inclined to the toe height of the rock toe 25 to 30% of H



8.3.4 Seepage Control & Foundation Treatment in Dams

Seepage Control | Seepage control through the dam foundation



8.3.4 Seepage Control & Foundation Treatment in Dams



- A. Preparation of Surface
- B. Foundation Grouting
- a. Consolidation
- grouting b. Curtain grouting
- C. Foundation

Drainage



GROUT HOLES



FOUNDATION

GALLERY

LINE ALONG BOTTOM

OF GROUT HOLES



What is the primary function of horizontal blanket drains in dam engineering?

- A) To increase the dam's height
- B) To facilitate hydroelectric power generation
- C) To promote seepage through the foundation
- D) To intercept and divert seeping water away from the dam



- A) To add stability to the dam's crest
- B) To provide an outlet for floodwaters
- C) To control seepage and uplift pressures in the dam's core
- D) To create a pathway for hydroelectric power generation





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- C) To promote seepage through the foundation
- D) To intercept and divert seeping water away from the dam

Answer: D) To intercept and divert seeping water away from the dam

What is the primary purpose of chimney drains in dam construction?

- A) To add stability to the dam's crest
- B) To provide an outlet for floodwaters
- C) To control seepage and uplift pressures in the dam's core
- D) To create a pathway for hydroelectric power generation

Answer: C) To control seepage and uplift pressures in the dam's core









Intake is the hydraulic structure provided at the mouth (entrance) of a water conveyance system to withdraw water from the reservoir or river to power house.

Location of intake:

It has to be decided based on following primary considerations:

- Adequate inflow
- Less silt inflow
- Least head loss
- Least Environmental impact
- Best location for intake is outer or concave bank to avoid sediment load



Depending upon the type of power plant and its layout:

A) ROR type plant

-draw water from fresh continuous river flow without any appreciable pondage B) Reservoir Intake

i. Dam Intake

ii. Shaft or Glory hole intake

iii. Tower intake

- i. Side (lateral) intake
- ii. Frontal intake
- iii. Drop intake/ bottom/ trench



Design of intake structure

(i) Selection of Type of intake:

Based on site and hydraulic conditions either side, frontal, trench, pressure, nonpressure intake is adopted.

ii) Determine the capacity of intake

The design discharge should be taken as 10-20% more than that of turbine discharge

iii)Fixing intake invert level:

Based on sediment content (bed load) in the river and experience on design and construction, invert level shall be 0.5 m to 2 m above the under sluice level according to the site condition



Design of intake structure

(iv) Satisfy velocity Criteria:

The entrance velocity should be less than 0.6m/s to 0.8m/s however upto 1m/s for small system.

(v) Determination of number of opening

(vi) Account the contraction loss due to the pier, abutment: generally effective length is taken as 0.9-0.95 times the actual opening.





(vii) Intake opening/orifice- is designed as broad crested weir with submergence or free flow condition depending upon the water level at u/s, d/s and on the weir. The intake opening under the gate control can also be designed based on orifice flow equation: $Q_d = A^*C^*\sqrt{2g^*(H - h)}$

Where, H=river water level =depth of river water in front of intake

h=canal water level=depth of water in canal

C=constant depends on the shape of opening. For sharp edge and roughly finished opening=0.6 and for carefully finished=0.8

(viii) Calculate hydraulic loss: trash rack loss entrance loss transition loss gate loss



Spillway:

A spillway is a structure constructed near the dam/weir site to dispose surplus water from the reservoir to the channel downstream.

It acts as a safety valve.



Types of Spill Way:

- 1. Based on control of water flow:
- a) Controlled spillway with gates
- b) Uncontrolled spillway no gates
- 2. Based on structures :
- a) Straight drop spill way:





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8.3.5 Design of intake, Spillway and Energy Dissipator



b) Overflow (Ogee) spill way:



 $Q = CLH^{2}$ (1) where, L is effective crest length. $H = \left(h + \frac{V^{2}}{2 g}\right)$ is total head at crest including velocity approach. C is a variable coefficient of discharge, whose value varies from 2.1 to 2.5 depending on the various factors.

c) Chute Spillways/ trough spillways:
d) Side Channel spillways: (C=2-2.1)
E) Shaft Spillways/ Drop Inlet
/Morning Glory Spillway
F) Siphon spillways



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Design of Spillway

The mostly used spillway in concrete gravity dams, arch dams are Ogee or Overflow spillway.

It is also called as nappe shaped spillway as the downstream face of the spill way is provided to follow the lower face of free flow nappe.

The design discharge Q of the spillway is given by

 $Q = C L_e H_0^{3/2}$ or $q = C H_0^{3/2}$

Where, C = coefficient of discharge approximately equals to 2.2[range of 2.1-2.5] H0 measured head over the crest including velocity head = $H_0 = h_0 + V^2/2g$, L_e = effective length of the crest weir



Energy Dissipater:

When flood discharge passes over the spillway crest, it has high potential energy which gets converted into kinetic energy as it slides down. It causes erosion at the downstream toe of the dam. So, Energy dissipaters are placed at such places.

A spillway provided in the dam site always consists of an energy dissipating structure at the toe of the dam. It kills the excess energy of surplus water and thus prevents damages to the dam and any other appurtenant structures in the downstream by creating hydraulic jump.







$$y_2 = \frac{y_1}{2} \left[\sqrt{1 + 8F_1^2} - 1 \right]$$
 $F_1 = V_1 / \sqrt{gy_1}$

1Y



Tail water depth and characteristics of hydraulic jumps govern the choice of energy dissipating structures.

Energy dissipation of water passing over the crest of spillway may be achieved by one of the following methods:

- a) Hydraulic Jump Type Stilling Basin
- b) Roller Bucket
- c) Deflector Bucket / Flip Bucket / Ski Jump Bucket / Trajectory Bucket





1. Hydraulic Jump Type Stilling Basin

A stilling basin is a structure provided at the toe of spillway in order to dissipate the energy of excess water coming from spillway by formation of hydraulic jump within the confines of the basin. The flow passing at critical depth over the crest of spillway becomes super critical at dam toe which when meets the normal flow at subcritical depth in the downstream side. The stilling basin consists of,

- i. Chute blocks
- ii. Baffle blocks
- iii. End Sills







2. Roller Bucket

Roller bucket is used to dissipate the energy in situation when the tail water depth is much more than the post jump depth.

Roller bucket is spoon type structure at the toe of the spill way

When high velocity sheet of water slides down the spillway, it gets arrested by the tail water.



3. Deflector Bucket / Flip Bucket / Ski Jump Bucket / Trajectory Bucket

Used when the tail water depth is insufficient for the formation of hydraulic jump. i.e. tail water depth is much less than post jump depth.

Suitable for the situation where foundation rock is of good quality and can withstand the erosive action of striking jet.

The trajectory bucket deflects the high velocity jet into the air and is made to strike the river bed at a considerable ______ distance from the structure.

The energy dissipation is achieved due to combined action of air resistance, viscous effect and turbulence due to impact on the river bed.





USBR Recommendation

USBR has standardized stilling basin for the different ranges of Froude numbers. The important of these basins are:

i)USBR type basin I (Fr < 1.7 and incoming velocity (V_1) < 15 m/sec.)

ii) USBR type basin II (Fr \geq 4.5 and incoming velocity (V₁) \geq 15 m/sec.); L_{sb}=4.3y₂

iii) USBR type basin III (Fr \geq 4.5 and V₁ < 15 m/sec.); L_{sb}=2.7y₂

iv) USBR type basin IV (2.5 < Fr <4.5 and V_1 < 15 m/sec); L_{sb} =6.1 y_2



8.3.6 Gates (types and location)

The barrier installed over the permanent crest of the spillway, for storing additional water during dry weather season.

The small flows in excess above the spillway gates is allowed to pass over the gates, but in case of large flood, the spillway gates are opened and the full capacity is used to remove excessive flood water.

Spillway gates can be provided on all types of spillways except siphon spillway.





8.3.6 Gates (types and location)

Based on the gate operations, the gates can be of two types i.e.

- a) Manual type and
- b) Machine operated gates.
- The machine operated gates are of heavy and of large size.



8.3.6 Gates (types and location)

Following types of spillway gates are commonly used:

- a) Flash board gates
- b) Stop logs or needle gates
- c) Radial gates
- d) Vertical lifts gates i.e. ordinary gate
- e) Rolling gate like a shutter
- f) Drum gate
- g) Bear and trap gate











Let's move to, Multiple Choice Questions

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- 1. What is the primary function of an embankment dam?
- A) To generate hydroelectric power
- B) To store large volumes of water
- C) To prevent flooding
- D) To regulate water flow for irrigation purposes
- 2. What is the most suitable type of dam for narrow valleys with steep slopes?
- A) Concrete dam
- B) Rock fill dam
- C) Arch dam
- D) Earth fill dam



- 3. Which of the following factors is NOT considered when selecting a dam site?
- A) Large storage capacity
- B) Good hydrological conditions
- C) Proximity to urban centers
- D) Low silt inflow
- 4. In case of non availability of space due to topography, the most suitable spillway is,
- A) Straight drop spillway
- B) Shaft spillway
- C) Chute spillway
- D) Ogee Spillway



- 5. The function of a cut off in an earth dam is to
- (a) Support the dam
- (b) prevent undermining of foundation
- (c) Reduce uplift pressure of dam
- (d) increase loss of stored water
- 6. An arch dam is constructed with
- (a) Earth
- (b) concrete
- (c) Boulders
- (d) None of above



- 7. The self weight of gravity dam
- (a) Favors stability
- (b) causes uplift
- (c) causes overturning
- (d) causes sliding
- 8. A site where there is a requirement of large capacity spillway, what type of dam is suitable
- (a) Arch dam
- (b) Earthen dam
- (c) Rock fill dam
- (d) Over flow dam



- 9. What is the highest elevation of water level that can be maintained in the reservoir without any spillway discharge either with gated or non-gated spillway?
- a) Normal Water level
- b) Minimum Water level
- c) Weighted average level
- d) Operating head
- 10. Trash racks are built for.....
- a) discharging the water freely from the turbine exit to tailrace
- b) preventing the turbine from the floating and other materials
- c) creating artificial head to store sufficient potential energy of water
- d) controlling the opening of valves


- a) buttress dam
- b) arch dam
- c) earth dam
- d) solid gravity dam

12. Spillway discharges the overflow water to the downstream side when the reservoir is full.

a) True

b) False





- 13. In a hydro-electric plant, spillways are used
- a) To dissipate energy of surplus water
- b) To discharge surplus water on the downstream side of dam
- c) Water is not available in sufficient quantity
- d) None of the above
- 14. Gross head is the difference between
- a) head race and tail race
- b) head race and net head
- c) head race and friction losses
- d) net head and friction losses



- 15. What is the main component of a hydropower system?
- a) Dam
- b) Turbine
- c) Generator
- d) All of the above
- 16. Which of the following is not a potential failure mode for a dam?
- a) Overtopping
- b) Seismic activity
- c) Erosion
- d) Volcanic eruption



- 17. What is the purpose of seepage control in dams?
- a) To prevent water from flowing under the dam
- b) To prevent water from flowing over the top of the dam
- c) To prevent water from eroding the sides of the dam
- d) To prevent water from entering the reservoir too quickly

18. Which of the following is a type of foundation treatment used in dam construction?a) Grouting

- b) Piling
- c) Blasting
- d) All of the above



- 19. Which of the following is not a type of energy dissipater?
- a) Stilling basin
- b) Roller bucket
- c) Flip bucket
- d) Inverted umbrella
- 20. A ski-jump bucket is also known as
- a) flip bucket
- b) solid roller bucket
- c) slotted roller bucket
- d) flexible bucket



- 21. What is the function of a spillway in a dam?
- A) To generate hydroelectric power
- B) To regulate water flow for irrigation purposes
- C) To provide an emergency release for excess water
- D) To prevent water seepage
- 22. What is the primary cause of dam failure due to overtopping?
- A) Inadequate spillway capacity
- B) Poor design of the dam foundation
- C) Natural disasters such as earthquakes
- D) Human error during construction or maintenance



- 23. What is an energy dissipater in a dam structure?
- A) A device that generates hydroelectric power
- B) A structure that reduces the velocity of water flowing downstream of the dam
- C) A gate that regulates the flow of water through the dam
- D) A mechanism that controls the water level in the reservoir
- 24. A site where spillway location is available separate from dam, what dam is suitable
- (a) Arch dam
- (b) gravity dam
- (c) Ogee dam
- (d) earth dam



25. A Dam with crest level of 1510masl has water elevation of 1505 msl. What is the elevation at which the point of application of horizontal component of hydrostatic pressure acts if the base of the dam is at 1450 msl.

- **a)** 1458.28
- b) 1479.55
- **c)** 1468.33
- d) None of the above
- 26. The recommended uplift at the face of the drainage gallery is equal to....., where H and H' are water head at u/s and d/s respectively
 - a) $\gamma_w k [H' + (H H')/3]$
 - **b**) γ_w k H'
 - c) $\gamma_{w} k (H H')/3$
 - d) $\gamma_{\rm w} \, k \, [H (H H')/3]$

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THANK YOU

PANA ACADEMY

Hydropower Engineering

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