

Greg Paxson

Many large or complicated dam projects have utilized an Independent Review Panel, also known as a “Board of Consultants”, to assist in review of designs and construction. Interest in the use of Review Panels by the States is growing, as an option to address a lack of resources and staffing, or to provide expert advice on complex technical issues. Review Panels were mentioned as a possible means to address several of the issues identified in the “Is It Us Against Them” design-review process Town Hall discussion at the 2016 conference. Is convening a Review Panel right for your project? There are many considerations. In this special 90 minute session, presenters will provide their perspectives while addressing the following questions:

1. Describe your experience with Review Panels.
2. What benefit do you stand to gain as a (panel member, regulator, owner)?
3. Based on your experience, how should Review Panels be organized to be most effective?
4. What lessons learned do you have for others considering (organizing, requiring, participating in) a Review Panel?
5. What is your experience with costs and effort to utilize review panels?
6. Do you have any advice to make use of Review Panels more cost effective?

Presenters/Panelists include:

Introduction / Background: Greg Paxson, Schnabel Engineering

Review Panel Member Perspective: Dr. Debora Miller, Miller Geotechnical Consultants

State Perspective (Water Storage): Jeremy Franz, Colorado Dam Safety

State Perspective (Tailings): Michele Lemieux, Montana Dam Safety

Federal Perspective: Doug Johnson, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Owner Perspective (Dam Construction and Professional Services): Roger Raeburn, PacifiCorp

Wrap up / Questionnaire / Next steps: Greg Paxson, Schnabel Engineering

The “paper” associated with this presentation will consist of written responses from each presenter for each question listed above along with a summary of pertinent references.