

September 2006

## Hydro Plant Risk Assessment Guide

### Appendix E11: Emergency Closure Gate and Valve Condition Assessment

#### **E11.1 GENERAL**

Emergency closure gates and valves are key safety components in the power train at hydroelectric powerplants. Unexpected failure can have a significant economic impact due to the high cost of emergency repairs and lost revenues during an extended forced outage. Failure of emergency closure equipment can also affect life safety.

Determining the present condition of an emergency closure gate and valve is an essential step in analyzing the risk of failure. This appendix provides a process for arriving at an Emergency Closure Gate and Valve Condition Index which may be used to develop a business case addressing risk of failure, economic consequences, and other factors.

#### **E11.2 SCOPE / APPLICATION**

The condition assessment methodology outlined in this appendix applies to hydroelectric powerhouse emergency closure equipment. The condition assessment primarily focuses on the gates, valves, and associated operators (i.e., hoists, hydraulic cylinders, and valve operators). The appendix does not apply to closure systems that are not used for emergency purposes.

In recognition that many organizations have facility safety review programs, it is intended that the assessments described herein fully utilize information provided by such reviews to avoid duplication of work and to minimize outage time. This information may be available in the form of comprehensive facility reviews, special examinations, maintenance databases, and operational reports. If the assessment requires an additional physical inspection, then it should be coordinated with the organization's existing review program.

This appendix is not intended to define maintenance practices or describe in detail inspections, tests, or measurements. Utility-specific maintenance policies, procedures, and guidelines must be consulted for such information.

#### **E11.3 CONDITION AND DATA QUALITY INDICATORS AND EMERGENCY CLOSURE SYSTEM CONDITION INDEX**

This appendix describes the condition indicators generally regarded by hydro plant engineers as providing the initial basis for assessing the condition of the emergency closure system. The

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