(2) Any earlier date specified by the Commission or its authorized representative.

(d) For good cause shown, the Regional Engineer may grant an extension of time for filing all or any part of an emergency action plan.

§ 12.24 Review and updating of plans.

(a) The emergency action plan must be continually updated to reflect any changes in the names or titles of project operators and attendants and other personnel with specified responsibilities for actions in an emergency and any changes in names of persons to call, telephone numbers, radio call signals, or other information critical to providing notification to affected persons, Federal, state, and local agencies, and medical units.

(b) An applicant or licensee has continuing responsibility to review the adequacy of the emergency action plan in light of any significant changes in upstream or downstream circumstances which might affect water flows or the location or extent of the areas, persons, or property that might be harmed in a project emergency.

(c) Promptly after an applicant or licensee learns of any change in circumstances described in paragraph (b) of this section, the applicant or licensee must:

(1) Inform the Regional Engineer of that change in circumstances;

(2) Consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies responsible for public health and safety to determine any advisable revisions to the emergency action plan; and

(3) File with the Regional Engineer three copies of any revisions to the appropriate studies, maps, plans, procedures, or other information in the emergency action plan itself or its appendices that have changed as a result of that consultation.

(d) An applicant or licensee must conduct a comprehensive review of the adequacy of the emergency action plan at least once each year.

§ 12.25 Posting and readiness.

(a) A copy of the current emergency action plan itself must be posted in a prominent location readily accessible to the licensee's or applicant's operating personnel who are responsible for controlling water flows and for notifying public health and safety agencies and affected persons.

(b) Each licensee or applicant must annually test the state of training and readiness of key licensee or applicant personnel responsible for responding properly during a project emergency to ensure that they know and understand the procedures to be followed throughout a project emergency.

Subpart D—Inspection by Independent Consultant

§ 12.30 Applicability.

This subpart applies to any licensed project development that has a dam:

(a) That is more than 32.8 feet (10 meters) in height above streambed, as defined in § 12.31(c);

(b) That impounds an impoundment with a gross storage capacity of more than 2,000 acre-feet (2.5 million cubic meters); or

(c) That has a high hazard potential and is determined by the Regional Engineer or other authorized Commission representative to require inspection by an independent consultant under this subpart.

§ 12.31 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Independent consultant* means any person who:

(1) Is a licensed professional engineer;

(2) Has at least 10 years experience and expertise in dam design and construction and in the investigation of the safety of existing dams; and

(3) Is not, and has not been within two years before being retained to perform an inspection under this subpart, an employee of the licensee or its affiliates or an agent acting on behalf of the licensee or its affiliates.

(b) *Dam that has a high hazard potential* means any dam whose failure, in the judgment of the Commission or its authorized representative, might endanger human life or cause significant property damage, or which meets the criteria for high hazard potential as defined by the Corps of Engineers in 33 CFR part 222.

(c) *Height above streambed* means:

(1) For a dam with a spillway, the vertical distance from the lowest elevation of the natural streambed at the downstream toe of the dam to the maximum water storage elevation possible without any discharge from the spillway. The maximum water storage elevation is:

(i) For gated spillways, the elevation of the tops of the gates;

(ii) For ungated spillways, the elevation of the spillway crest or the top of any flashboards, whichever is higher;

(2) For a dam without a spillway, the vertical distance from the lowest elevation of the natural streambed at the downstream tow of the dam to the lowest point on the crest of the dam.

(d) *Gross storage capacity* means the maximum possible volume of water impounded by a dam with zero spill, that is, without the discharge of water over the dam or a spillway.

(e) The Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing may, for good cause shown, grant a waiver of the 10 year requirement in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. Any petition for waiver under this paragraph must be filed in accordance with § 1.7(b) of this chapter.

[Order 122, 46 FR 9036, Jan. 28, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 29370, July 20, 1984]

§ 12.32 General inspection requirement.

In accordance with the procedures in § 12.35, the project works of each development to which this subpart applies, excluding transmission and transformation facilities and generating equipment, must be periodically inspected and evaluated by or under the responsibility and direction of at least one independent consultant, who may be a member of a consulting firm, to identify any actual or potential deficiencies, whether in the condition of those project works or in the quality or adequacy of project maintenance, surveillance, or methods of operation, that might endanger public safety.

§ 12.33 Exemption.

(a) Upon written request from the licensee, the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing may grant an exemption from the requirements of this subpart in extraordinary circumstances that clearly establish good cause for exemption.

(b) Good cause for exemption may include the finding that the development in question has no dam except dams that meet the criteria for low hazard potential as defined by the Corps of Engineers in 33 CFR part 222.

[Order 122, 46 FR 9036, Jan. 28, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 29370, July 20, 1984]

§ 12.34 Approval of independent consultant.

At least 60 days before the initiation of an inspection under this subpart, the licensee must submit to the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing for approval, with a copy to the Regional Engineer, a detailed resume that (a) describes the experience of the independent consultant; and, (b) shows that the consultant is an independent consultant as defined in § 12.31(a).

[Order 122, 46 FR 9036, Jan. 28, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 29370, July 20, 1984]

§ 12.35 Specific inspection requirements.

(a) *Scope of inspection*. The inspection by the independent consultant shall include:

(1) Due consideration of all relevant reports on the safety of the development made by or written under the direction of Federal or state agencies, submitted under Commission regulations, or made by other consultants;

(2) Physical field inspection of the project works and review and assessment of all relevant data concerning:

(i) Settlement;

(ii) Movement;

(iii) Erosion;

(iv) Seepage;

(v) Leakage;

(vi) Cracking;

(vii) Deterioration;

(viii) Seismicity;

(ix) Internal stress and hydrostatic pressures in project structures or their foundations or abutments;

(x) The functioning of foundation drains and relief wells;

(xi) The stability of critical slopes adjacent to a reservoir or project works; and

(xii) Regional and site geological conditions; and

(3) Specific evaluation of: