



**TECHNICAL DICTIONARY ON DAMS  
DICTIONNAIRE TECHNIQUE DES BARRAGES  
TECHNISCHES WÖRTERBUCH FÜR TALSPERREN  
DICZIONARIO TECNICO DE PRESAS  
DIZIONARIO TECNICO DELLE DIGHE  
DIZIONARIO TECNICO DAS BARRAGEMS**



APPENDIX - ANNEXE

**A GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND PHRASES RELATED TO DAMS  
GLOSSAIRE DE TERMES RELATIFS AUX BARRAGES**

Published by the  
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**EDITION 1978**

English — Français — Deutsch — Español — Italiano — Portugês

Appendix - Annexe  
English - Français



It is recommended to the users of this Dictionary to also consult:

*Compendium of Dam Symbols*  
(1977 and 1979 editions).

*ICOLD Guide for International System of Units (S.I.)*  
(1979 edition).

*World Register of Dams*  
(And updatings).

*Abstracts of ICOLD Publications*  
(Vol. I, 1978, etc.).

Il est recommandé aux utilisateurs de ce Dictionnaire de consulter également :

*Recueil de symboles pour barrages*  
(Éditions 1977 and 1979).

*Guide CIGB du système international d'unités (S.I.)*  
(Édition 1979).

*Registre mondial des barrages*  
(Et mises à jour).

*Résumés des publications CIGB*  
(Vol. I, 1978, etc.).

ENGLISH

DEVELOPEMENT OF DICTIONARY

*[Faint, illegible text from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper.]*

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# ENGLISH

## DEVELOPMENT OF DICTIONARY

Publication of an ICOLD Technical Dictionary was planned for 1940, but because of the War the first edition was not published until 1950. It was written in French, English (with American usage) and German. The original framework and illustrations were established by the French Committee.

A second edition which included an expanded section on constructional plant was published in 1958 in French, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

These two editions were published with the financial assistance of Unesco.

Arising from a proposal of the Finnish Committee initial steps to issue a third improved and enlarged edition were taken at the 35th Executive Meeting in Istanbul in 1967. A draft edition was prepared by Mr. Bellier (France) and presented to the 40th Executive Meeting in Canberra in 1972. At the 41st Executive Meeting held in Madrid in 1973, the Committee on the Technical Dictionary was dissolved. It was resolved to pass the incomplete draft to the Central Office and to appoint an ad hoc Committee on the Dictionary to assist Central Office to complete compilation and publication.

At the 44th Executive Meeting in Mexico City in 1976, the Committee on the World Register of Dams, whose term of office had just terminated, and the ad hoc Committee on the Dictionary were dissolved. A new Committee was appointed, the Committee on the Dictionary, the Glossary and the World Register of Dams.

Representation on the new Committee is, in 1978, as follows:

Czechoslovakia	Prof. Dr. Ing. Ladislav Votruba
Egypt	A. Samaha
France	Joannès Cotillon
Greece	Kimón Vlastos
Italy	Prof. Ing. Filippo Arredi
Japan	Shigeru Ichiura
Mexico	Vicente Casales Lattuada
Portugal	Fausto Teixeira Direito
South Africa	J.G. du Plessis (Chairman)
Spain	Dr. Ing. Rodolfo Urbistondo
United Kingdom	R.T. Gerrard W.P. McLeish
United States	T.W. Mermel (Honorary Chairman)
West Germany	Prof. Dr. Ing. Hans Bretschneider
Yugoslavia	Vlastimir Puric (Associate Member)

The desirability of achieving consistency between the Glossary, the Dictionary, and the Compendium of Dam Symbols, the latter being ready for publication, prompted the new Committee to:

1. Review and amend the terminology in the Compen-

dium of Dam Symbols to make it consistent with the Glossary.

2. Review and amend the draft third edition of the Dictionary for the same purpose and to re-arrange and enlarge it.

3. Design the Glossary to supplement the Dictionary and hence to enlarge and arrange the Glossary in order to achieve the required presentation.

A revised table of contents of the Dictionary was drawn up at the first meeting of the new Committee in Mexico.

At a Committee meeting in October 1976 in Paris, words and phrases to appear in the Dictionary were selected, and agreement was reached on the basic principles of arrangement. Subsequently ten meetings between the British and French representatives were held to complete the basic English-French text.

Finalisation of the Glossary was co-ordinated with compilation of the Dictionary, and a seventh of the words and phrases in the Dictionary which required a definition have been included in the Glossary. As the Dictionary was completed after printing of the Glossary, some definitions have had to be introduced into the Dictionary, as footnotes.

This third edition contains 2 478 numbered entries including numerous synonymous terms and nuances where dictated by common usage. Many deletions from the second edition have been made and more than 1 000 new words and phrases are introduced into the third edition.

Compilation of the Dictionary was executed under the mutual leadership of Mr. J. Cotillon (France) and Mr. W.P. McLeish (United Kingdom) with the able assistance of Mr. S.J. Farnsworth (United Kingdom). The sketches were prepared by Prof. Arredi (Italy) and Mr. V. Puric (Yugoslavia) who was also in charge of drawings in the previous committee. Co-ordination was greatly facilitated by the energetic direction of Mr. J. Cotillon who also guided compilation of the Glossary on the French side.

Members of the Committee responsible for preparation of the other language versions were:

German	Prof. Dr. Ing. Hans Bretschneider Dipl. Ing. Dr. tech. Wolfgang Pircher.
Italian	Prof. Ing. Filippo Arredi
Portuguese	Fausto Teixeira Direito
Spanish	Dr. Ing. Rodolfo Urbistondo

February 1978  
J.G. du Plessis  
Chairman

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\* Österreichischer Begriff.

## SUMMARY

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## PREFACE

This Glossary of words and phrases related to dam engineering is written in the two official languages of ICOLD : English and French.

It has been compiled with three objectives in mind :

1. To encourage English-speaking and French-speaking engineers to adopt a uniform and correct usage in their own language and to offer guidance to those engineers whose native tongue is neither English nor French.

2. To provide as precise an equivalent as possible in the two languages and to draw attention to differences and thereby help to prevent the misunderstandings which can occur through inaccurate translation.

3. To assist those who provide or use data appearing in the World Register of Dams. The symbols and column numbers used in the Register are referred to at appropriate places throughout the Glossary.

The Glossary has been designed to supplement the new edition of the ICOLD Dictionary (1978), in which no definitions are given and in which it has not always been possible to explain briefly the exact equivalent in English and French. In particular the Glossary supplements Chapters 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the ICOLD Dictionary as these are closely related to dam engineering. Words whose engineering meaning can readily be found or deduced from an ordinary dictionary without fear of misunderstanding have not been included in the Glossary.

Where synonyms are available in either English or French, the Glossary sometimes recommends the preferred alternative. For certain terms there is no corresponding term in the other language.

Terms which are not commonly used outside North America appear in the English text with the note (Am). Swiss and Canadian nuances in French are given in footnotes.

Some long phrases appear in some chapters (1-1, 2-2, 3-1, 11-3); they are not referred to in the index.

Words and phrases appear in the singular except where language usage demands the plural e.g. a term may be in the singular in English and in the plural in French, where usage of the plural is more frequent.

It is hoped that National Committees of ICOLD will prepare, from the English-French Glossary, equivalent versions in other languages to suit their convenience.

Suggestions for improving the Glossary should be addressed to the Secretary General ICOLD Bureau Central : 22 et 30 avenue de Wagram, 75008 Paris.

## PRÉFACE

Ce glossaire de termes et d'expressions relatifs aux barrages a été rédigé dans les deux langues officielles de la CIGB, l'anglais et le français.

Les auteurs et le Comité responsable se sont fixés trois buts :

1. Inciter les ingénieurs de langue anglaise et ceux de langue française à utiliser correctement le même vocabulaire et donner aux autres ingénieurs, dont la langue maternelle n'est ni l'anglais ni le français, une référence précise.

2. Indiquer des équivalents aussi rigoureux que possible dans les deux langues, signaler les divergences et éviter ainsi les erreurs ou difficultés de compréhension dues à une traduction littérale; ce glossaire cherche donc à établir un pont entre deux langues qui reflètent des mentalités différentes.

3. Fournir une aide aux utilisateurs du Registre mondial des barrages et à ceux qui en assurent la mise à jour. Ainsi les symboles et numéros de colonnes qui figurent dans le Registre sont rappelés à leur place dans le texte.

Le Glossaire a été conçu comme un supplément à la nouvelle édition du Dictionnaire de la CIGB (1978), dans lequel aucune définition ne figure et où il n'a pas toujours été possible d'expliquer en quelques mots l'exacte équivalence de l'anglais et du français. Il concerne particulièrement les chapitres 3, 4, 7 et 8 du Dictionnaire qui traitent plus précisément du domaine des barrages. On n'a pas retenu ici les termes dont le sens technique ressort en général sans ambiguïté d'un dictionnaire courant.

Pour les synonymes, et aussi bien en anglais qu'en français, les auteurs ont formulé parfois une préférence. De même ils ont signalé, le cas échéant, l'absence d'équivalent dans l'autre langue.

Les expressions typiquement nord-américaines figurent dans le texte anglais avec la mention (Am). Les nuances suisses et canadiennes des expressions françaises sont indiquées en renvoi en bas de page.

Quelques phrases, assez longues, figurent dans certains chapitres (1-1, 2-2, 3-1, 11-3); on n'y fait pas référence dans l'index alphabétique.

Les expressions sont données au singulier, sauf quand l'usage commande leur emploi au pluriel. Elles peuvent être ainsi au singulier en anglais et au pluriel en français, le pluriel étant plus fréquent en français qu'en anglais.

Peut-être les Comités Nationaux de la CIGB compléteront-ils ce travail en lui adjoignant, dans leur langue, une version appropriée.

Toute suggestion pour améliorer ce Glossaire peut être adressée au Secrétaire général de la CIGB, 22 et 30, avenue de Wagram, 75008 Paris.

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\* The table of contents is that appearing in the ICOLD Dictionary. The chapters for which there are no definitions in the Glossary are not given here but they appear in the Classification on pages 19 to 26.

\*La table des matières est celle du Dictionnaire CIGB. Toutefois on n'a pas répété ici les chapitres pour lesquels aucune définition n'est donnée dans le Glossaire mais ils figurent dans la Classification donnée pages 19 à 26.

CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASES ACCORDING TO THE SECTIONS  
IN WHICH THEY APPEAR IN THE ICOLD DICTIONARY

CLASSEMENT DES TERMES SUIVANT LES CHAPITRES  
DANS LESQUELS ILS APPARAISSENT DANS LE DICTIONNAIRE DE LA CIG B

1-1 GEOMORPHOLOGY  
OR TOPOGRAPHY

Slope (see 4-1)  
Versant (see 4-1)  
Catchment area or Drainage area  
Catchment boundary or Basin boundary (Am).  
Watershed or Divide  
Axis of stream  
Axis of streambed  
Thalweg  
Bank  
Shore  
Side (of a river)  
Surroundings

1-2 SURVEYING AND PREPARATION  
OF PLAN

Surveying  
To measure the dimensions  
Preparation of plan  
Cartography  
Photogrammetry  
No English equivalent

1-3 GEOLOGY  
AND SITE INVESTIGATION

Overburden  
Top soil  
No English equivalent  
No English equivalent  
Compactness  
Consolidation  
Consolidation  
Compaction (from 5-2)  
Seismic intensity  
Intensity scale  
Intensity grade  
Magnitude  
Richter scale  
Focus or Hypocentre  
Epicentre or Epicenter (Am)  
Test pit (see 9)  
Geophysical methods  
Sounding  
Boring  
Drilling  
Borehole  
Drillhole

2-1 CLIMATOLOGY

Ice cover or Consolidated ice cover  
Floating ice  
Anchor ice  
Frazil  
Frazil slush or Slush of frazil  
Ice jam  
Ice run  
Ice sheet

2-2 HYDROLOGY

Phreatic surface or Water table  
Flow gauging weir or Measuring weir

Sharp-crested weir  
Broad-crested weir  
Drowned weir or Submerged weir

(see  
4-1)

1-1 GÉOMORPHOLOGIE

Flanc (voir 4-1)  
Versant (voir 4-1)  
Bassin versant  
Limite du bassin versant.  
Ligne de partage des eaux  
Axe du cours d'eau  
Axe du lit  
Talweg  
Berge, rive, bord  
Rivage  
Rive  
Rives, bords

1-2 TOPOGRAPHIE

Pas d'équivalent français  
Relever les dimensions  
Topographie  
Cartographie  
Photogrammétrie  
Plan de base

1-3 GÉOLOGIE  
ET RECONNAISSANCES

Mort terrain ou Terrain de couverture  
Terre végétale  
Roche de couverture  
Compacité  
Compaction  
Compaction  
Consolidation  
Compactage (vient de 5-2)  
Intensité sismique  
Échelle d'intensité  
Degré d'intensité  
Magnitude  
Échelle Richter  
Foyer ou hypocentre  
Épicentre  
Puits de reconnaissance (voir 9)  
Méthodes géophysiques  
Sondage  
Forage  
Forage (rotation)  
Trou de forage (percussion)  
Trou de forage (rotation)

2-1 CLIMATOLOGIE

Couverture de glace  
Glace flottante  
Glace de fond  
Sorbet  
Glace visqueuse  
Embâcle  
Débâcle  
Miroir de glace

2-2 HYDROLOGIE

Niveau de la nappe phréatique  
Déversoir de jaugeage ou seuil de  
mesure  
Déversoir en mince paroi  
Déversoir à large seuil  
Déversoir noyé ou déversoir à nappe  
noyée

(voir  
4-1)