

**ICOLD2026 Guadalajara, Mexico, International Symposium**  
**Theme | Water, Energy, and Society: The Evolving Role of Dams in a Changing World**  
**ABSTRACT TEMPLATE**

**PAPER TITLE** (Capitalize the first letter of all major words)

Guidelines for Carrying Out Probable Maximum Flood Studies  
Directrices para la realización de estudios de Inundación Máxima Probable

**Relevant Topic:** (Highlight Selected Topic in Bold font)

- *Water Planning, Water Management, and Climate Resilience*
- ***Dam Safety Policy and Governance***
- *Dam Construction and Rehabilitation: Innovation and Lifecycle Extension*
- *Dam Performance Monitoring*
- *Flood Resiliency in Developed and Developing Countries*
- *Sedimentation Management and Reservoir Longevity*
- *Fish Passage, Biodiversity & Environmental Integration*
- *Community Engagement in Dam Development*
- *Tailings Dam Safety*
- *Dam Decommissioning & Removal*

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Is Primary Author a Young Professional? YES / NO (Highlight YES in Bold font if under 40 years old)

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**ABSTRACT:** Abstract shall be no more than 300 words and cannot include figures, tables, drawings, references, or equations. Abstracts should provide a brief overview of the paper, highlighting relevance to the selected topic, key findings/conclusions, and significance to the industry. Provide Spanish translation of abstract in the provided space to aid in review and selection.

**PUBLISHED PAPER**

or

**PRESENTATION ONLY**

(Highlight Choice of Published Paper or Presentation Only in Bold font)

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**ENGLISH VERSION OF ABSTRACT:**

BC Hydro has recently completed an internal guideline document that establishes a procedure for applying Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) and for deriving Probable Maximum Flood Estimates (PMF) for its dams and reservoirs. Other dam owners and consulting engineers may also find these guidelines useful when performing PMF studies as part of their dam safety policy and governance efforts.

Considering the physical complexity of land-atmosphere interactions in a watershed, as well as uncertainties and number of parameters involved in the process of simulating an extreme flood, engineers carrying out PMF studies will always need to make various assumptions and use a significant degree of judgement in deriving PMF estimates. As a result, PMF studies throughout the world are inconsistent in application of PMF inputs and modelling procedures.

The main objective of this document is to recommend procedures which, if followed by different engineers/analysts using the same input data, would result in reasonably close and consistent PMF estimates. The process of deriving a PMF estimate should be transparent, repeatable and analyst-independent as much as possible.

**SPANISH TRANSLATION OF ABSTRACT:**

BC Hydro completó recientemente un documento interno que establece un procedimiento para aplicar la Precipitación Máxima Probable (PMP) y derivar estimaciones de Inundación Máxima Probable (PMF) para sus presas y embalses. Estas directrices también pueden resultar útiles para otras agencias responsables de presas y para ingenieros consultores que realicen estudios de PMF como parte de sus políticas de seguridad y gestión de presas.

Considerando la complejidad física de las interacciones tierra-atmósfera en una cuenca hidrográfica, así como las incertidumbres y la gran cantidad de parámetros involucrados en la simulación de una inundación extrema, los ingenieros que llevan a cabo estudios de PMF deben formular diversas hipótesis y aplicar un alto grado de juicio ingenieril al estimar la PMF. Como resultado, los estudios de PMF a nivel mundial presentan inconsistencias tanto en los datos de entrada como en los procedimientos de modelación empleados.

El objetivo principal de este documento es recomendar procedimientos que, de ser aplicados por distintos ingenieros o analistas utilizando los mismos datos de entrada, conduzcan a estimaciones de PMF razonablemente cercanas y consistentes. Se enfatiza que el proceso de derivación de una PMF debe ser transparente, repetible y, en la medida de lo posible, independiente del analista.