An aerial photograph of a large reservoir in a desert landscape. The water is a light blue-green color, contrasting with the brown, arid terrain. The reservoir is surrounded by a mix of natural and man-made features, including roads and some structures. The sky is hazy, suggesting a clear but slightly overcast day.

# **SEISMIC STABILITY EVALUATION FOR UTE DAM, NEW MEXICO**

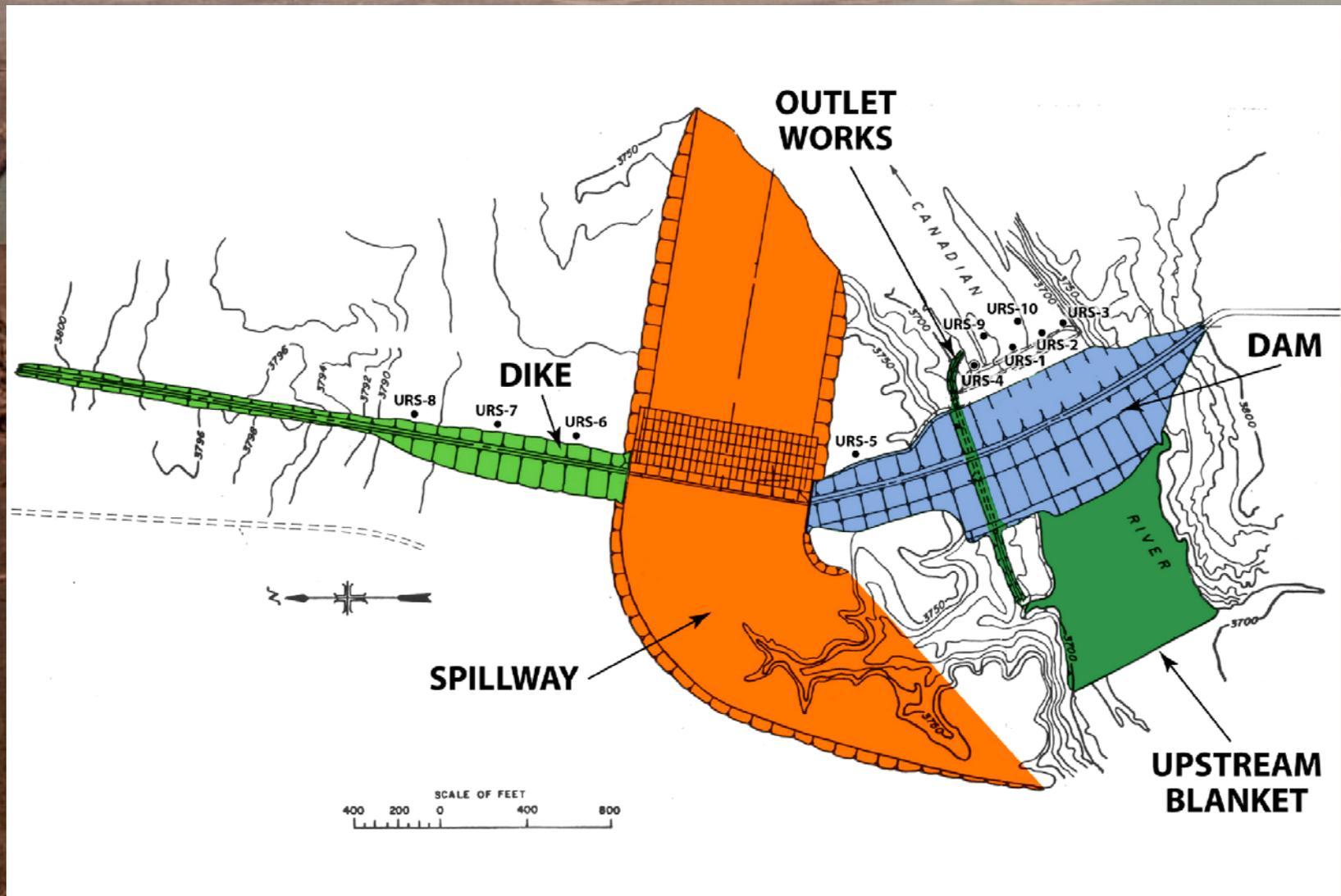
**Presented by  
John W. France, P.E.  
URS Corporation  
Denver, CO**

**2005 Tri-Service Infrastructure Conference &  
Exhibition  
“Re-Energizing Engineering Excellence”  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August 2 through 4, 2005**

# PROJECT LOCATION



# PROJECT FEATURES



# PROJECT HISTORY

- Originally designed by Bechtel for State of New Mexico
- Originally constructed 1962-63
- Outlet works modified twice: 1971 and 2000
- Embankment and spillway modified in 1984

# ORIGINAL PROJECT

- 121-foot high zoned embankment dam:
  - crest elevation = 3801
  - crest length = 2,050 ft
- 27-foot high, 2,860-foot long dike
- Concrete ogee crest spillway:
  - crest elevation = 3760
  - crest length = 840 ft
- Conduit outlet works through base of embankment

# ORIGINAL OUTLET WORKS

- Inlet structure on reservoir floor
- 60-in diameter concrete-encased steel conduit to gate chamber
- Gate chamber and 7-foot diameter horseshoe tunnel
- 42-in butterfly valve
- 36-in diameter steel pipe
- Concrete-lined discharge channel

# 1971 OUTLET WORKS MODIFICATIONS

- 48-in Howell-Bunger valve downstream
- Energy dissipation structure
- New outlet controls
- Lighting and ventilation



# 2000 OUTLET WORKS MODIFICATIONS

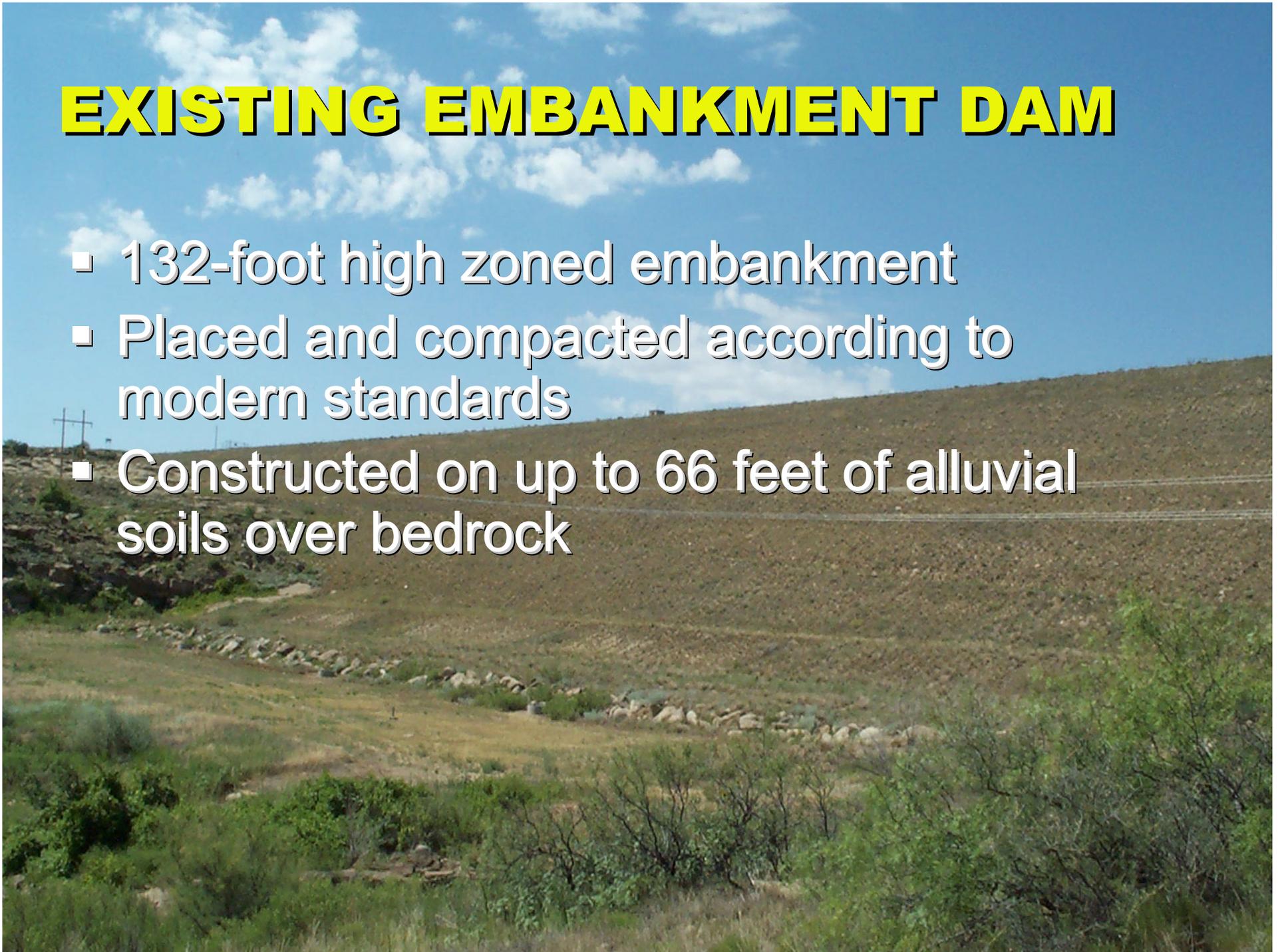
- Replacement of:
  - 36-in diameter pipe with 42-in diameter pipe
  - 42-in butterfly valve with new valve of same size
  - Ventilation blower and tunnel lighting
- Designed by USACE

# 1984 EMBANKMENT AND SPILLWAY MODIFICATIONS

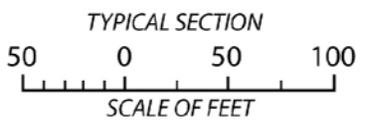
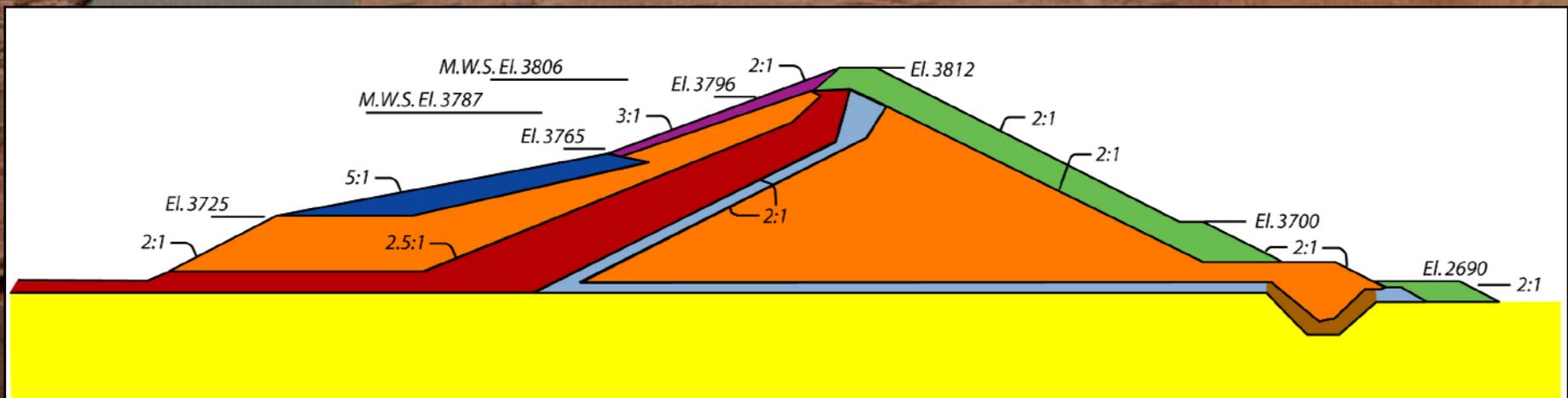
- Raised embankment and dike crests 11 feet to elevation 3812
- Raised spillway crest 27 feet to elevation 3787
- Constructed labyrinth weir upstream of ogee weir
- Increased storage by 160,000 af to 229,000 af
- Designed by the Bureau of Reclamation

# EXISTING EMBANKMENT DAM

- 132-foot high zoned embankment
- Placed and compacted according to modern standards
- Constructed on up to 66 feet of alluvial soils over bedrock



# EMBANKMENT DAM CROSS SECTION



## LEGEND

 Core	 Pervious Shell	 Toe Drain	 Soil Cement
 Transition	 Random Shell	 Misc. Fill	 Alluvium

# EXISTING DIKE

- 38-foot high zoned embankment
- Placed and compacted according to modern standards
- Constructed on up to 40 feet of alluvial soils over bedrock

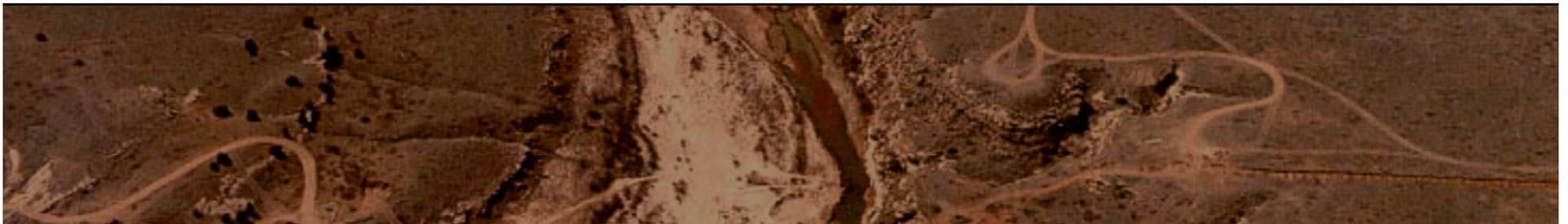
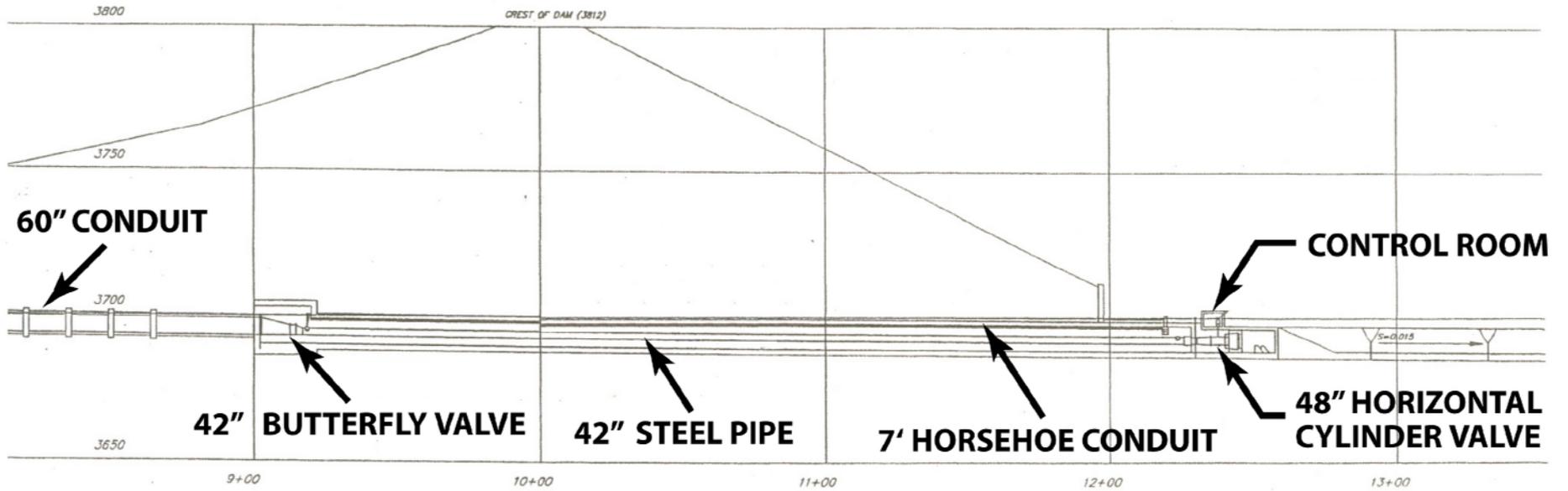


# EXISTING SPILLWAY

- Labyrinth weir
- Ogee crest
- Concrete chute
- Excavated rock channel



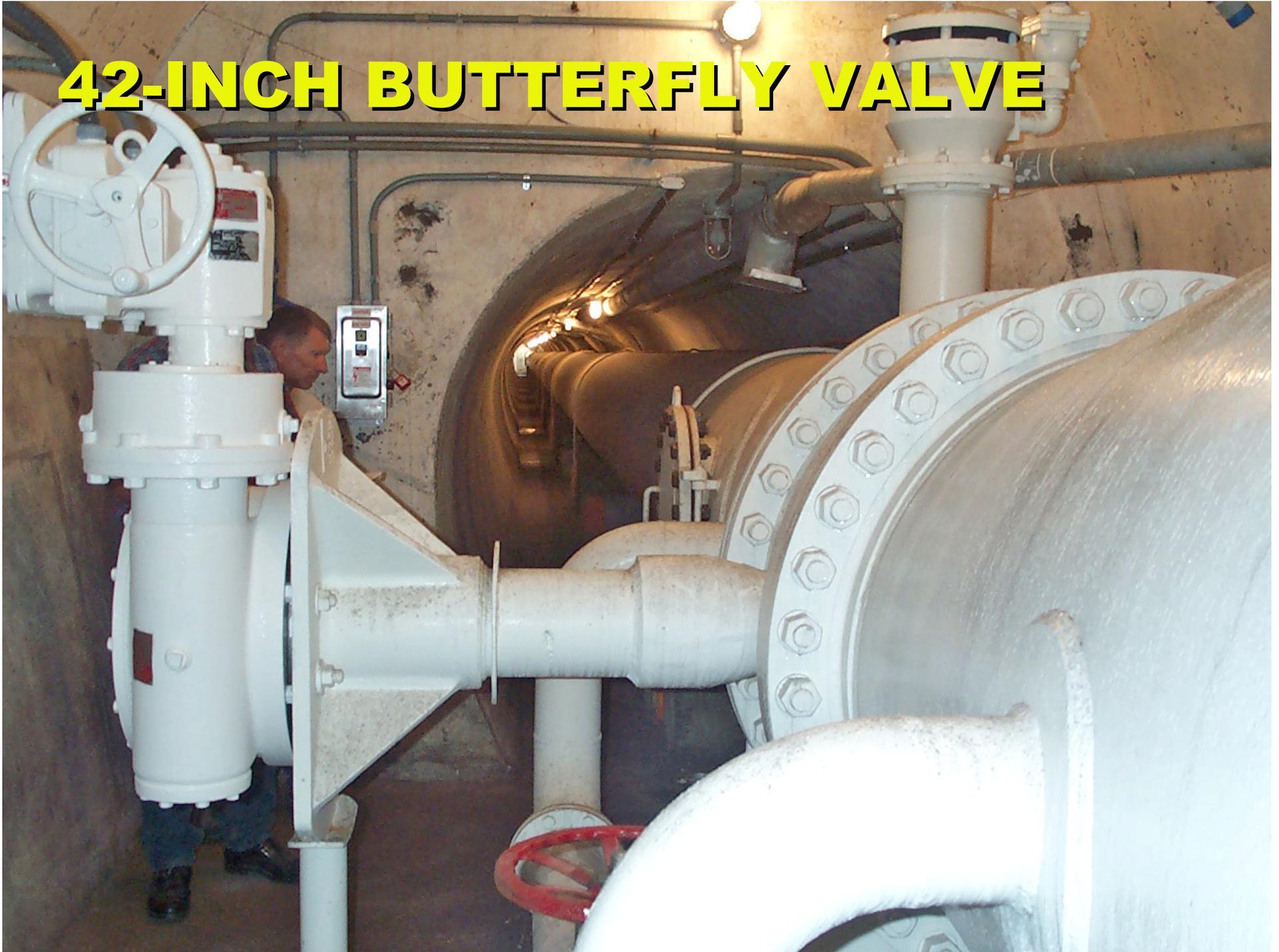
# EXISTING OUTLET WORKS



# 42-INCH BUTTERFLY VALVE



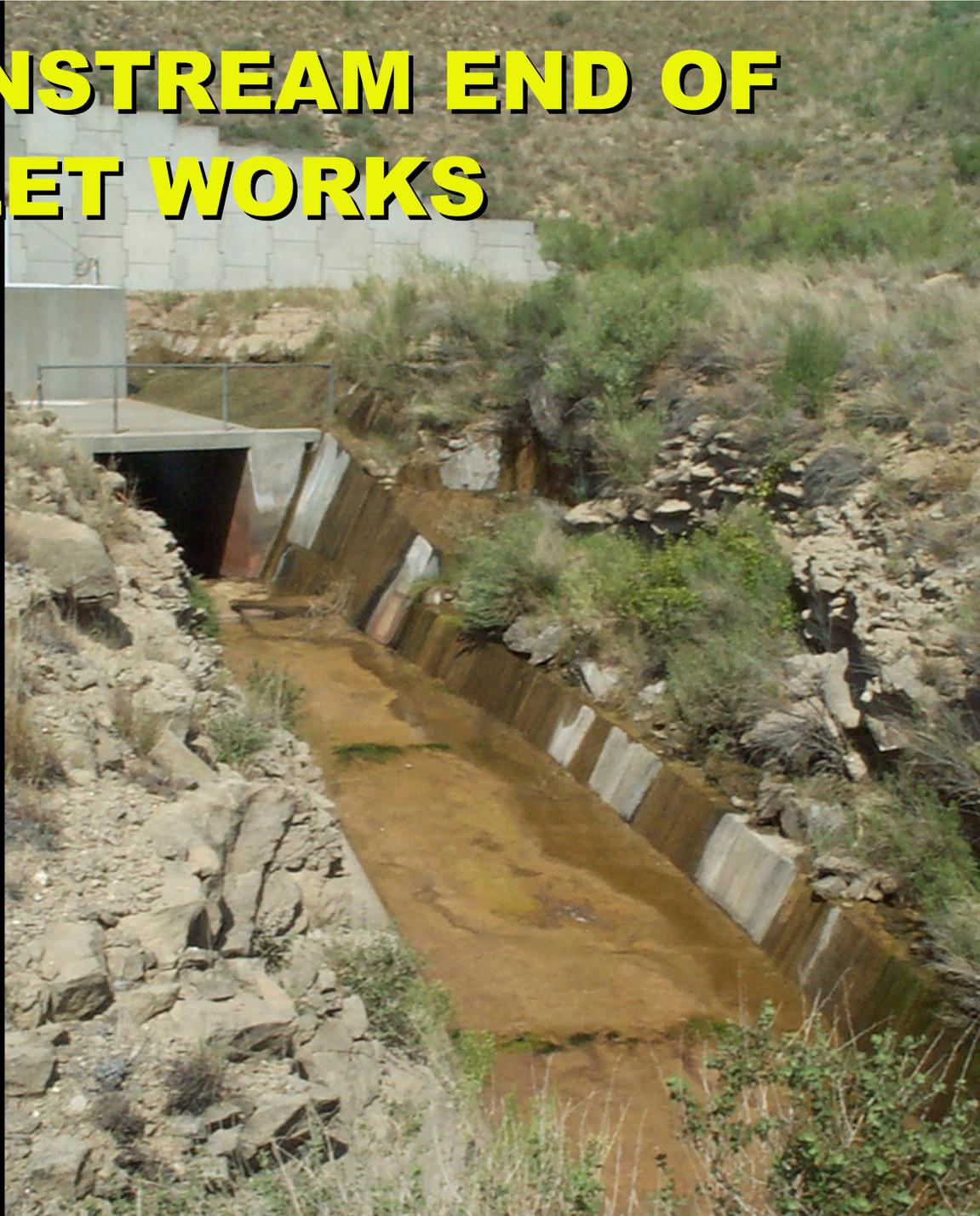
# 42-INCH BUTTERFLY VALVE



# 42-INCH STEEL PIPE



# **DOWNSTREAM END OF OUTLET WORKS**



# **OUTLET WORKS DISCHARGE CHANNEL**



# REASONS FOR SEISMIC STABILITY EVALUATION

- No up-to-date assessment of earthquake ground motions
- No data for evaluation of liquefaction potential of foundation alluvium
- No record of state-of-the-practice seismic stability analysis of dam or appurtenant structures

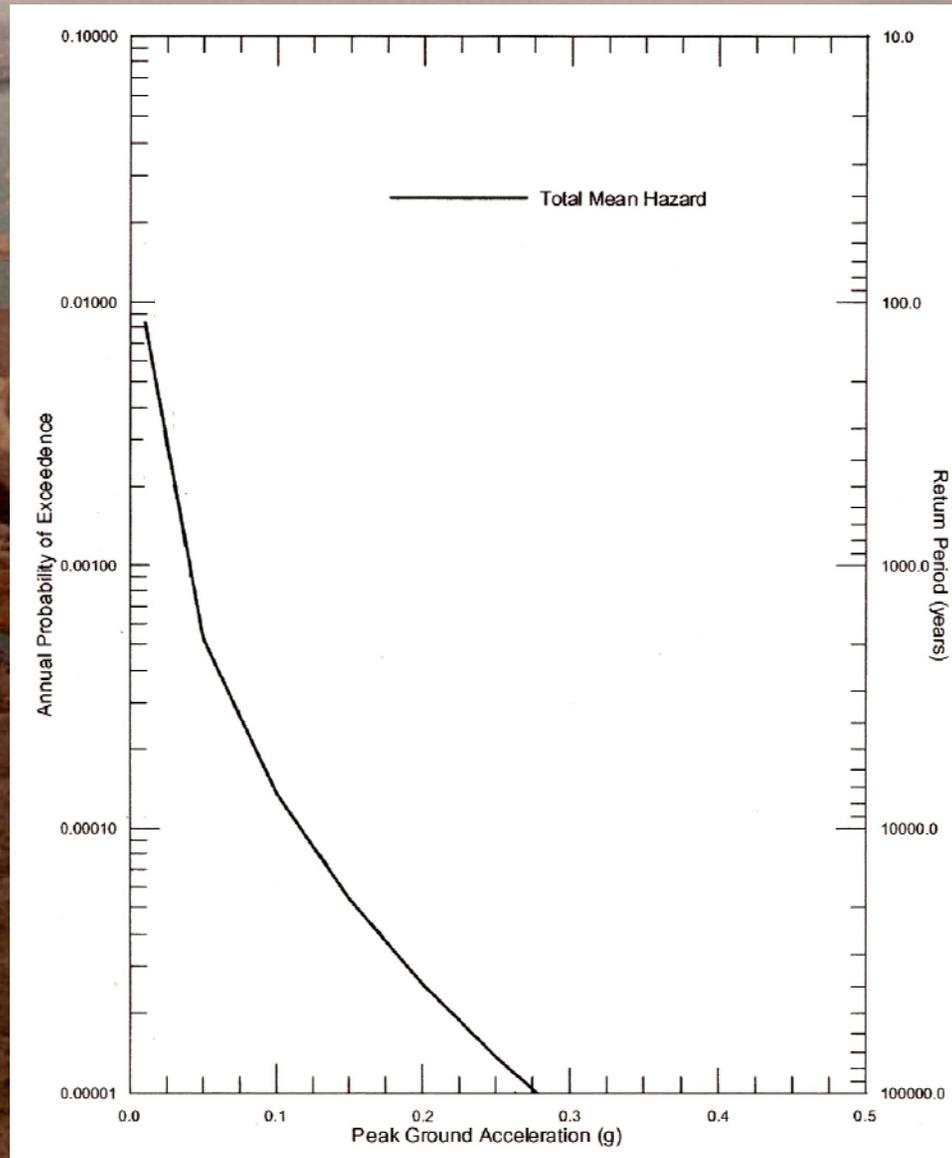
# SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- Probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA) – ground motion study
- Field and laboratory investigation
- Liquefaction potential evaluation
- Embankment seismic stability evaluation
- Appurtenant structure seismic stability analysis

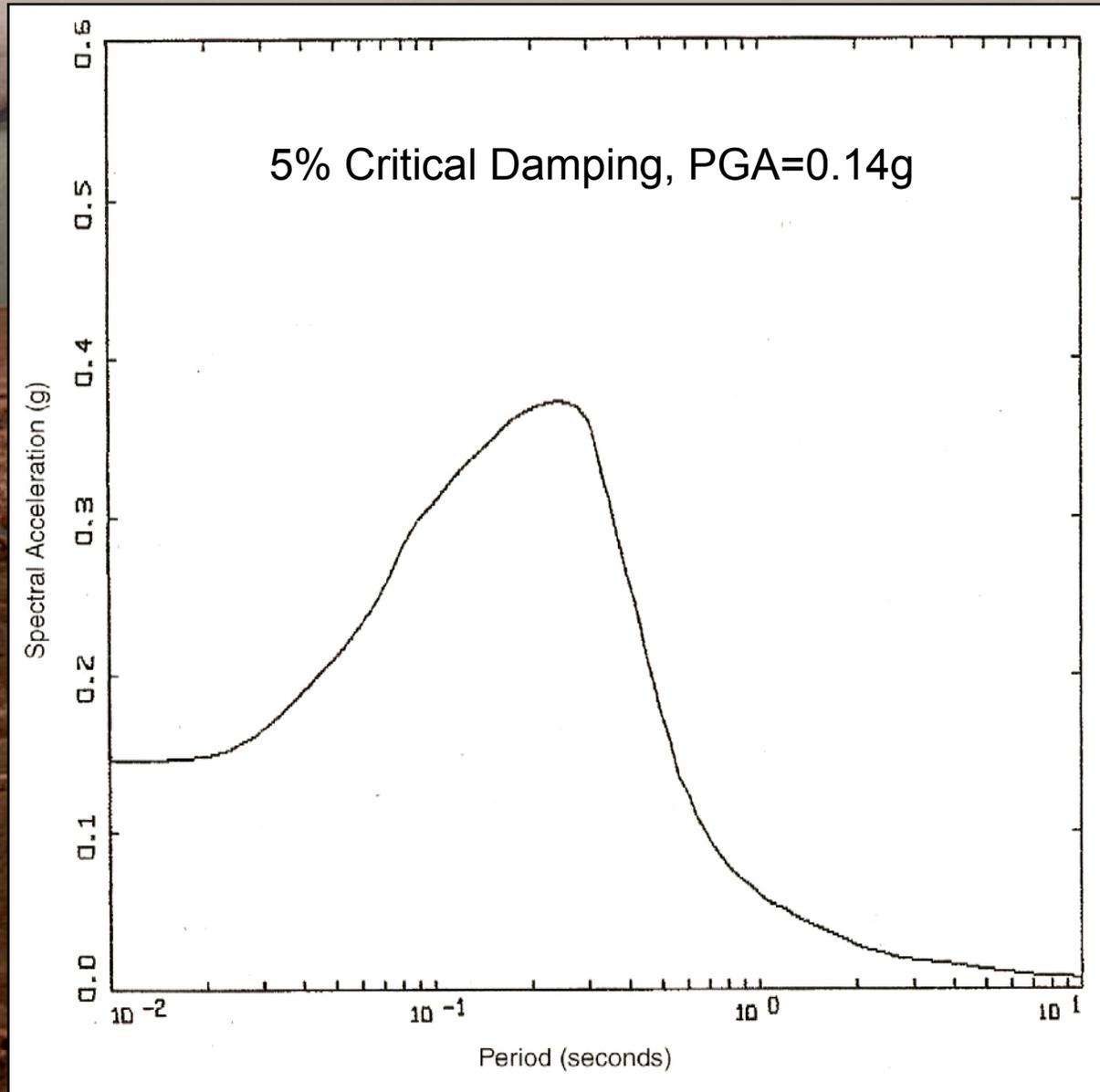
# PSHA - SCOPE

- Evaluate historical seismicity
- Review available data and aerial photography
- Complete quantitative PSHA
- Develop site response recommendations

# PSHA – SEISMIC HAZARD CURVES



# PSHA – RESPONSE SPECTRA



# PSHA – MEAN PEAK GROUND ACCELERATIONS (PGAs)

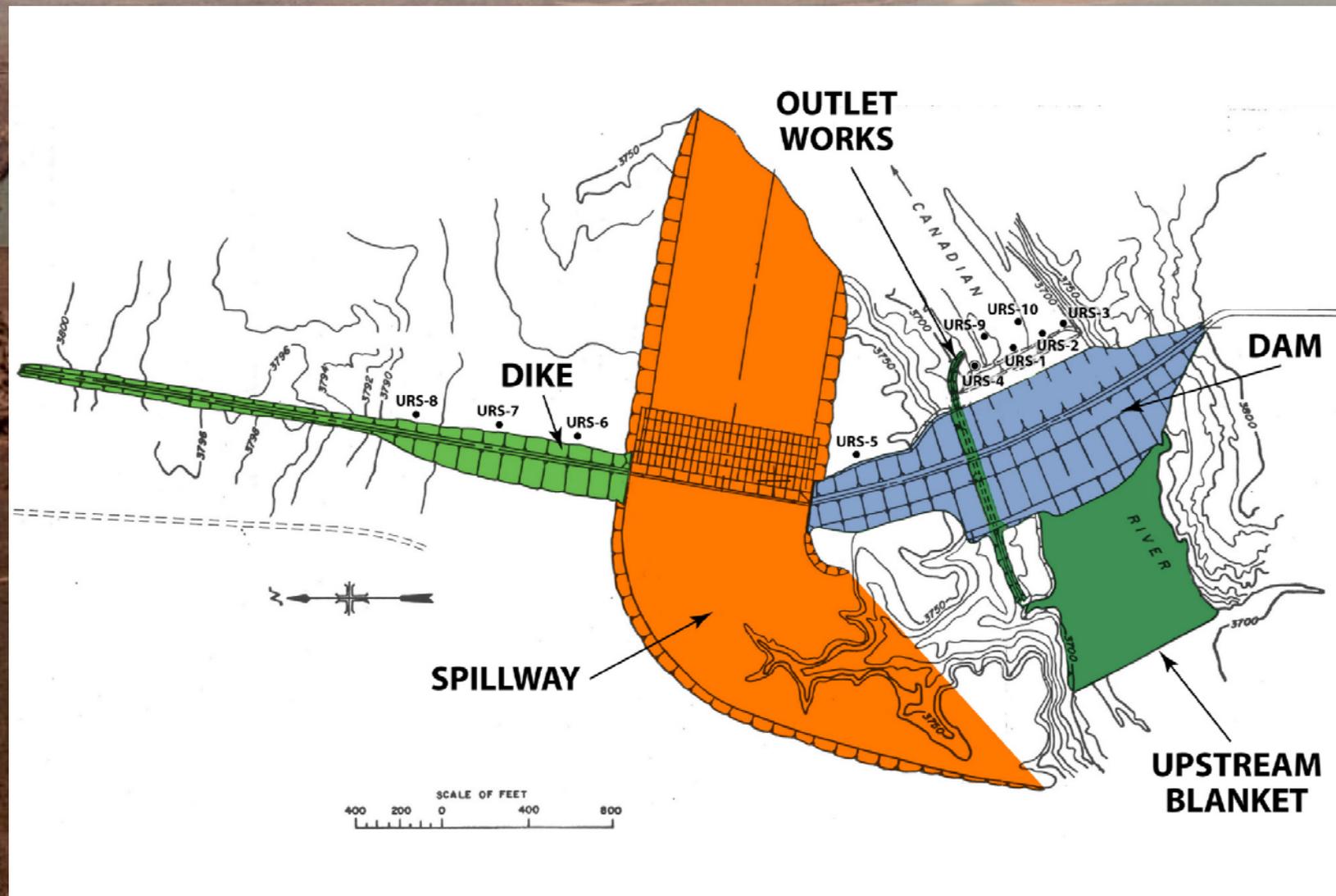
Return Period	Alluvium	Soft Rock
2,500 years	~0.10g	0.06g
5,000 years	0.14g	0.08g
10,000 years	0.20g	0.12g

**All PGAs are for M 5.5 events**

# **PSHA – REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED PGAs**

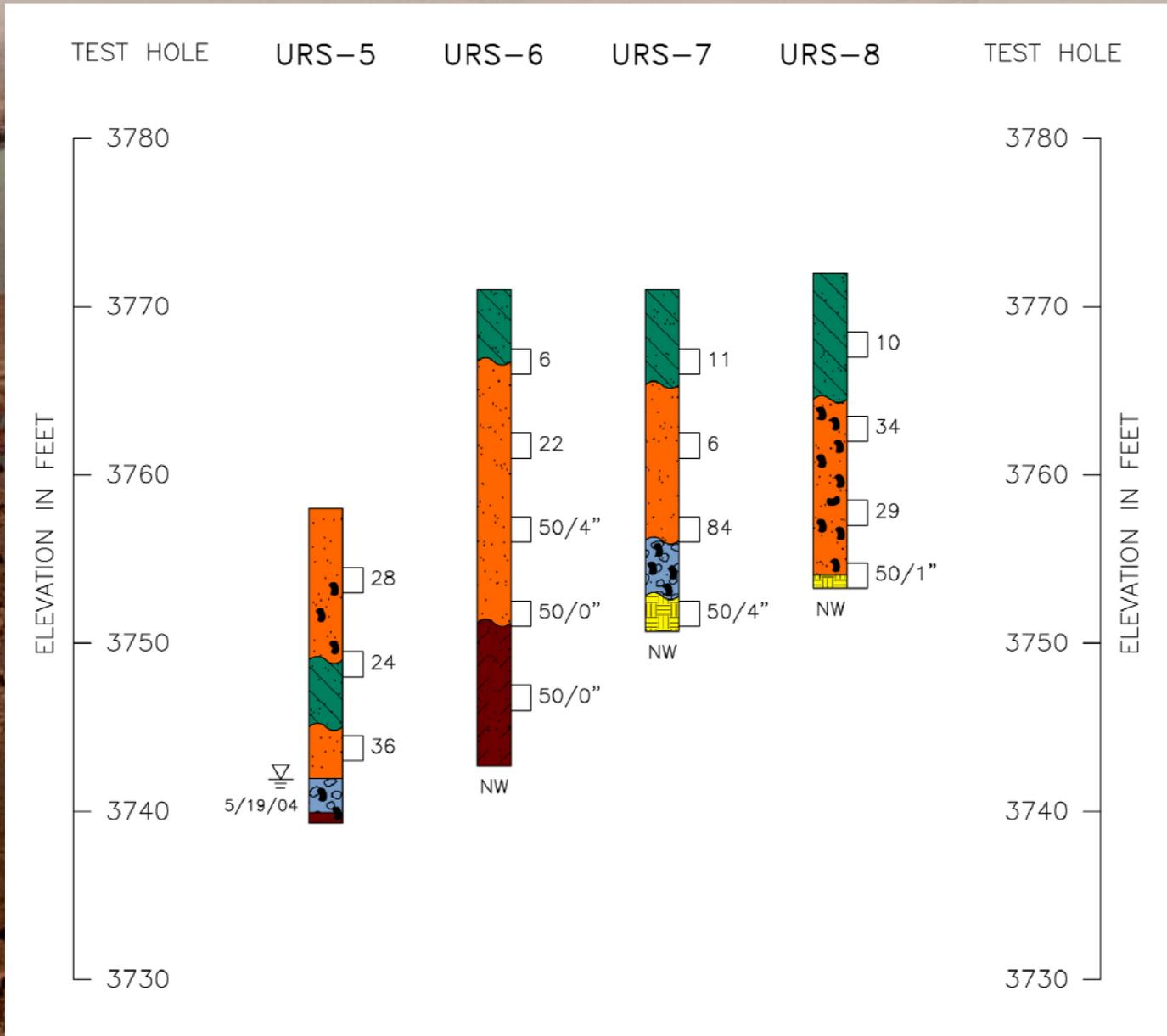
- New Mexico OSE requires at least 2,500 year PGA for Ute Dam
- ICOLD recommends 3,000 to 10,000 year event
- 5,000 year and 10,000 year PGAs considered in this study

# FIELD INVESTIGATIONS





# TEST BORINGS - DIKE

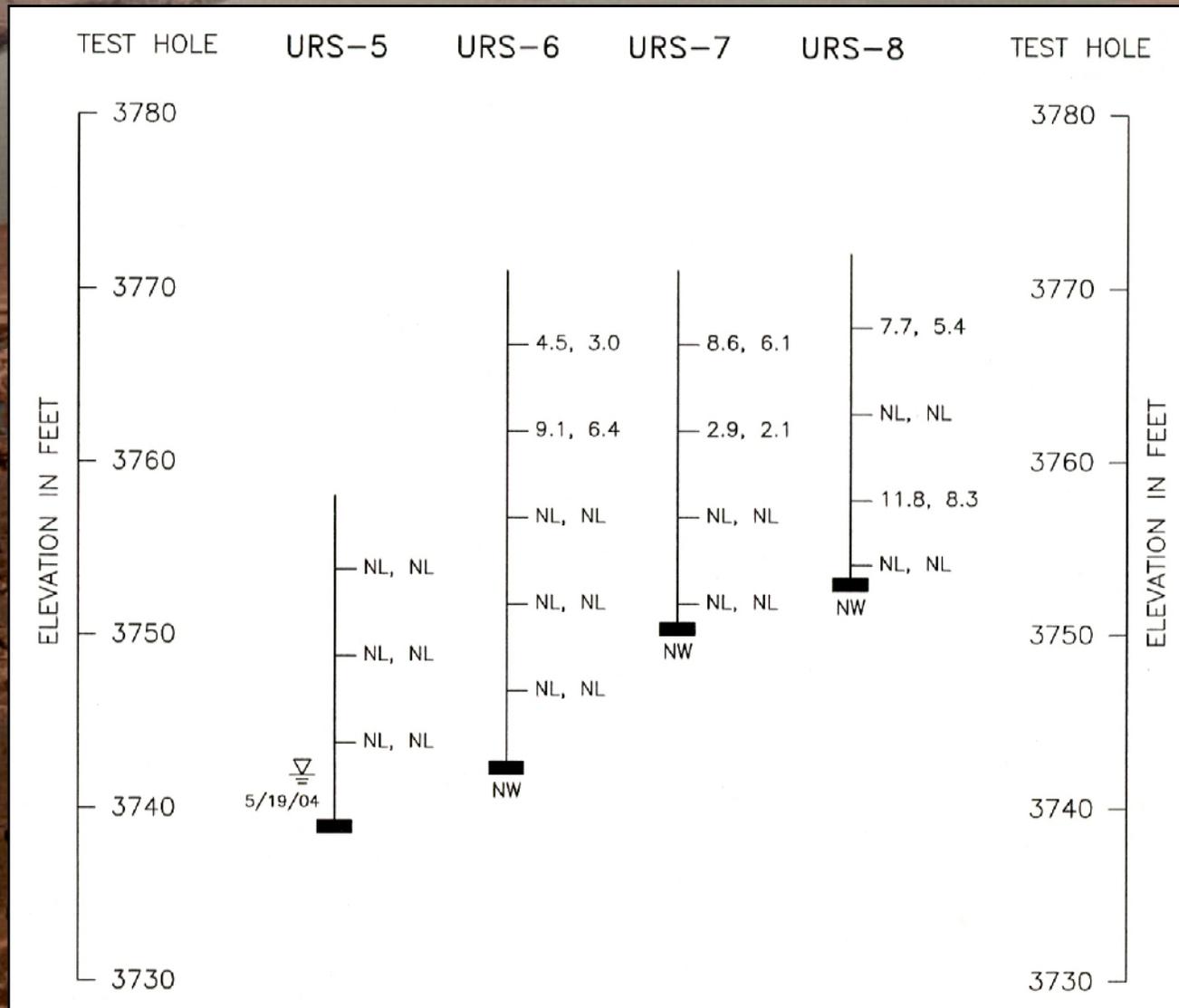


# LIQUEFACTION ANALYSIS METHOD

- Procedures based on SPT blowcounts and empirical charts, Youd et al, 2001
- Comparison of cyclic resistance ratio (CRR) with cyclic stress ratio (CSR)
- Analysis included adjustments for:
  - earthquake magnitude
  - fines content
  - overburden pressure
  - depth
  - SPT hammer
- Consideration of gravel effects



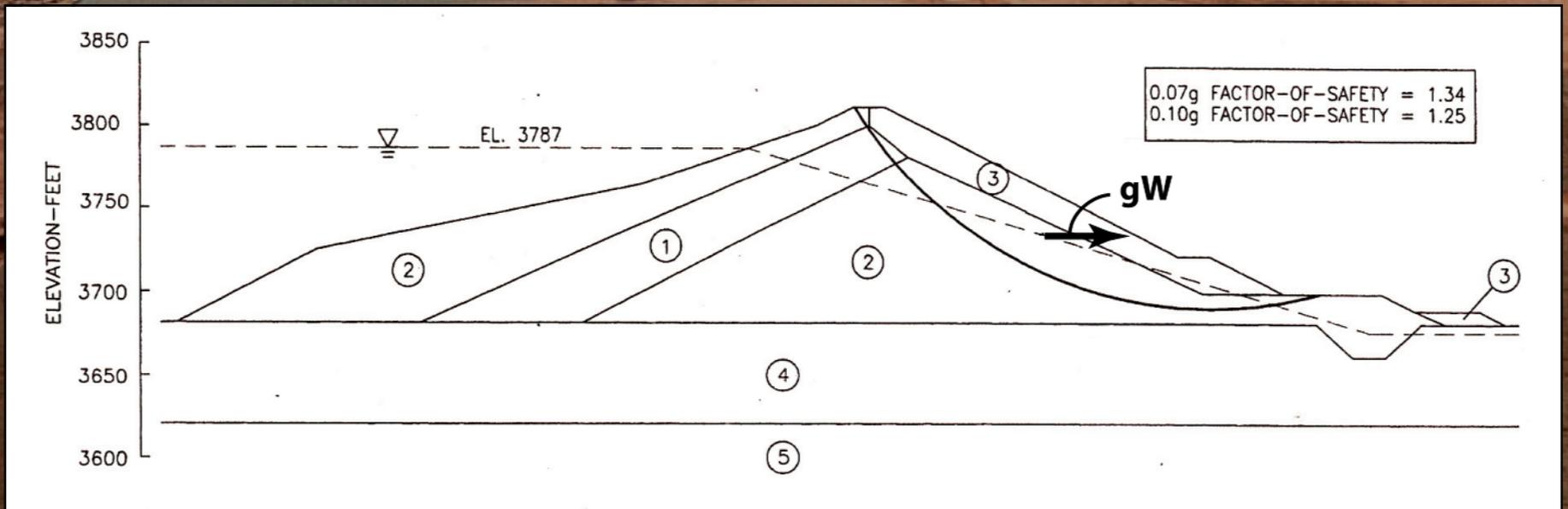
# LIQUEFACTION ANALYSIS RESULTS - DIKE FOUNDATION



# PSUEDO-STATIC STABILITY ANALYSES

- Pseudo-static coefficients:
  - 5,000 year: 0.07g
  - 10,000 year: 0.10g
- 50% of alluvium PGAs
- NMOSE requires “50% of bedrock acceleration, but not less than 0.05g”
- Analysis coefficients are conservative

# EXAMPLE P-S STABILITY ANALYSES



# PSUEDO-STATIC ANALYSIS RESULTS

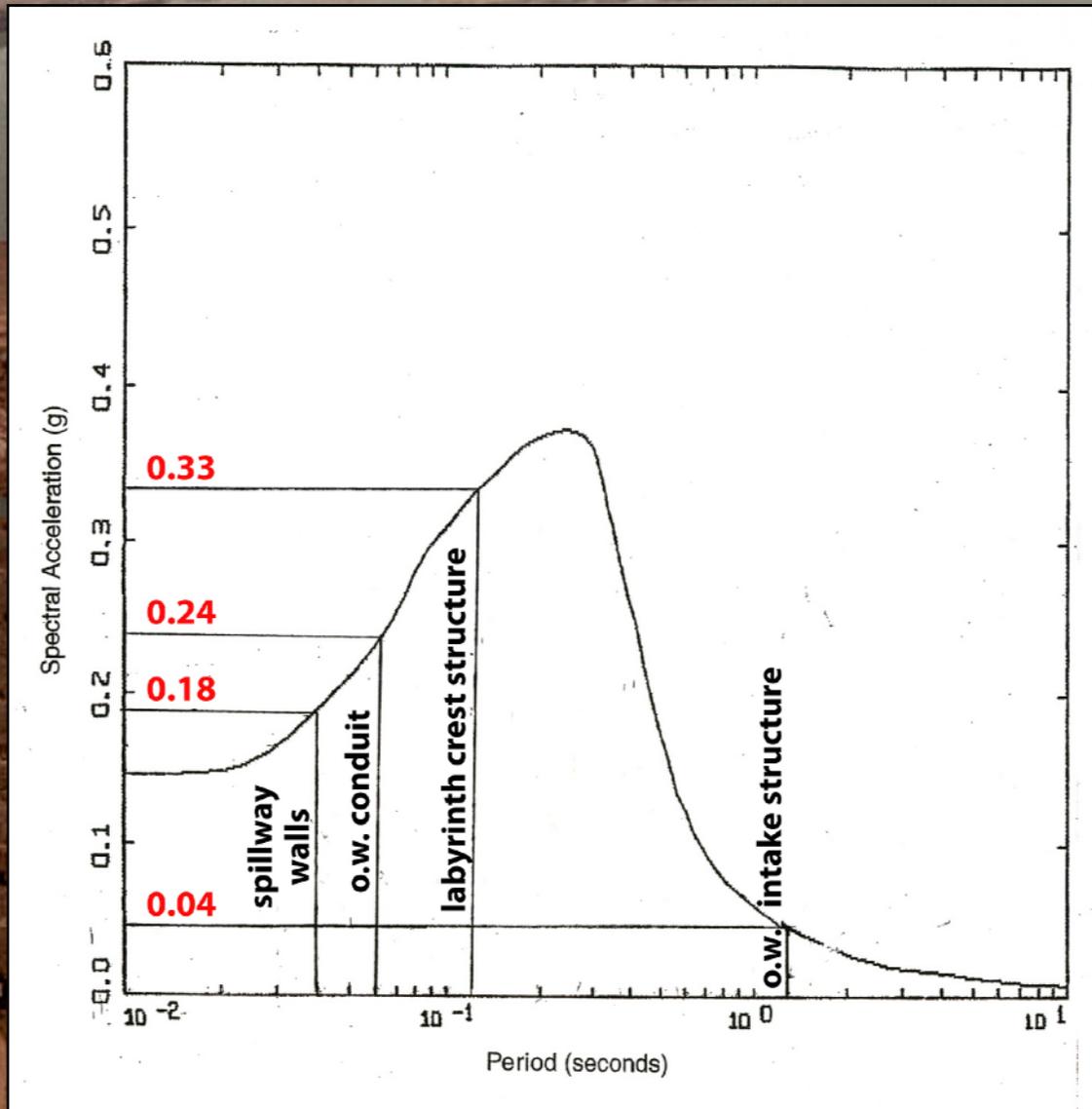
Case	Calculated Factors of Safety	
	5,000 year 0.07g	10,000 year 0.10g
Downstream	1.34 to 1.48	1.25 to 1.36
Upstream	1.77 to 1.85	1.54 to 1.62

**NMOSE requires FS  $\geq$  1.1**

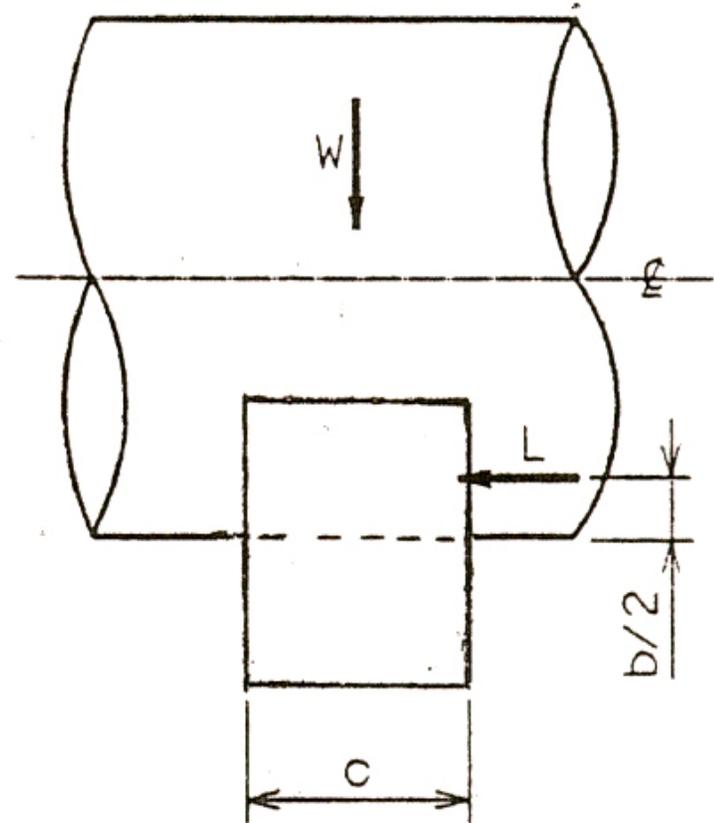
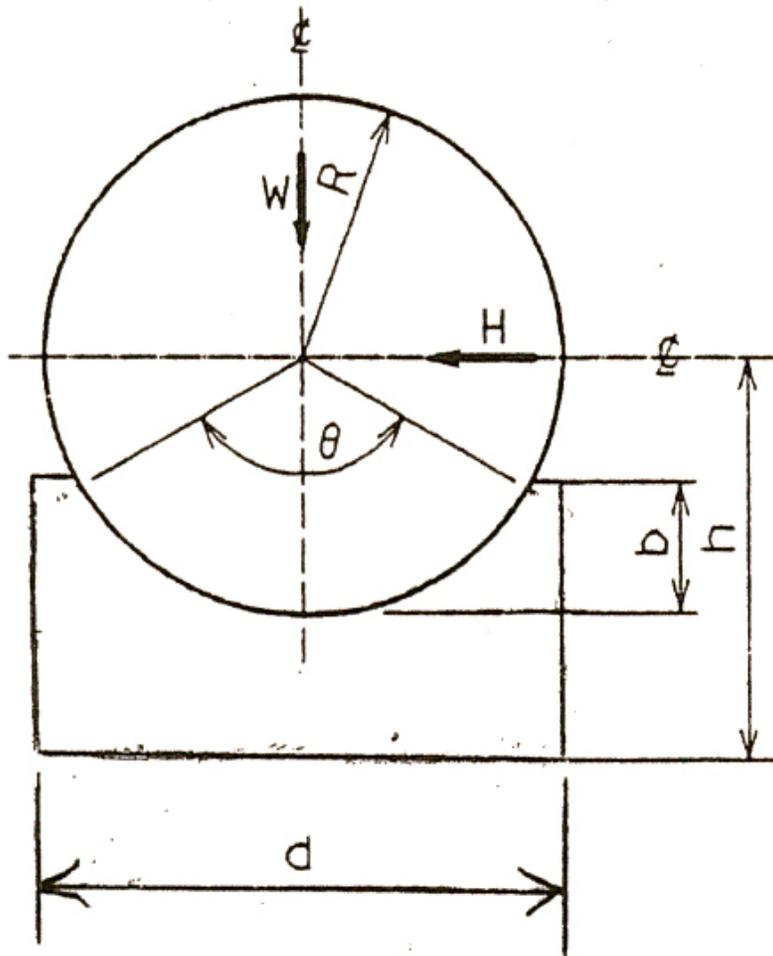
# OUTLET WORKS SEISMIC STABILITY ANALYSIS

- Psuedo-dynamic analysis
- EQ load based on response spectrum
- Components analyzed:
  - Intake structure
  - 42-inch steel pipe and saddles
  - Valves
- Components not analyzed:
  - Upstream conduit
  - Horseshoe tunnel

# PSHA - RESPONSE SPECTRUM - 5% CRITICAL DAMPING



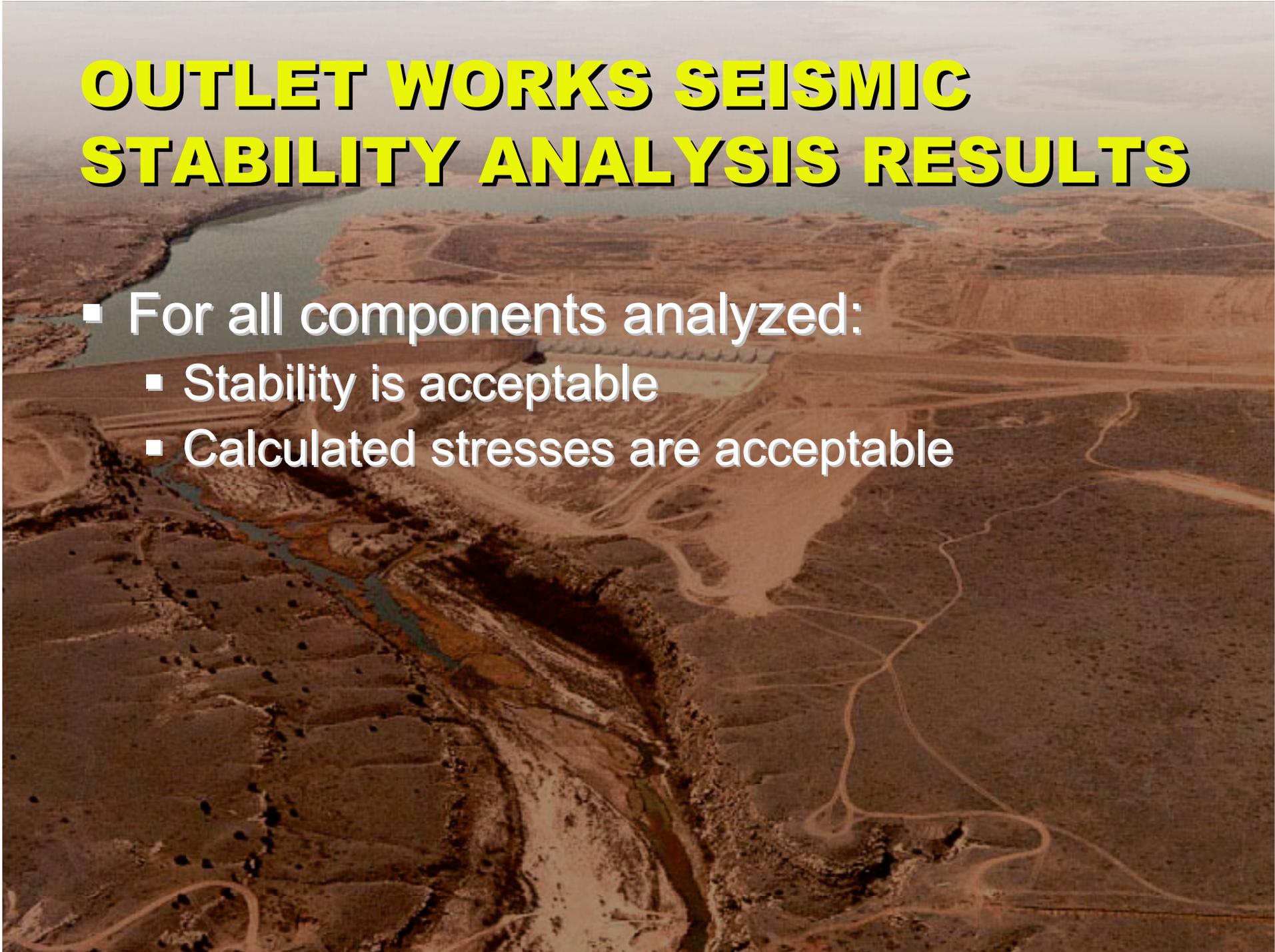
# ILUSTRATION OF METHOD



**SADDLE SUPPORT SATBILITY DIAGRAM**

# OUTLET WORKS SEISMIC STABILITY ANALYSIS RESULTS

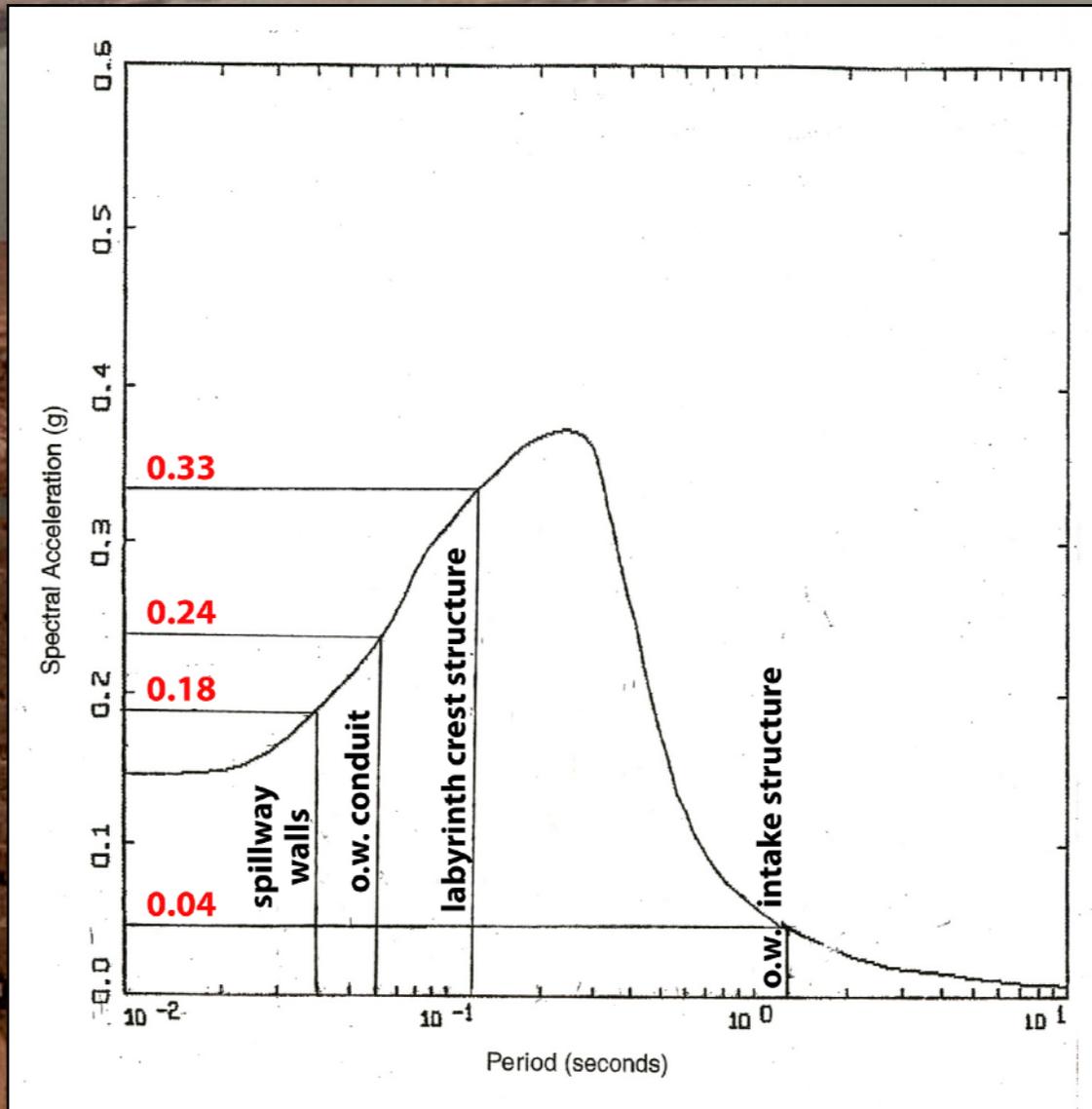
- For all components analyzed:
  - Stability is acceptable
  - Calculated stresses are acceptable



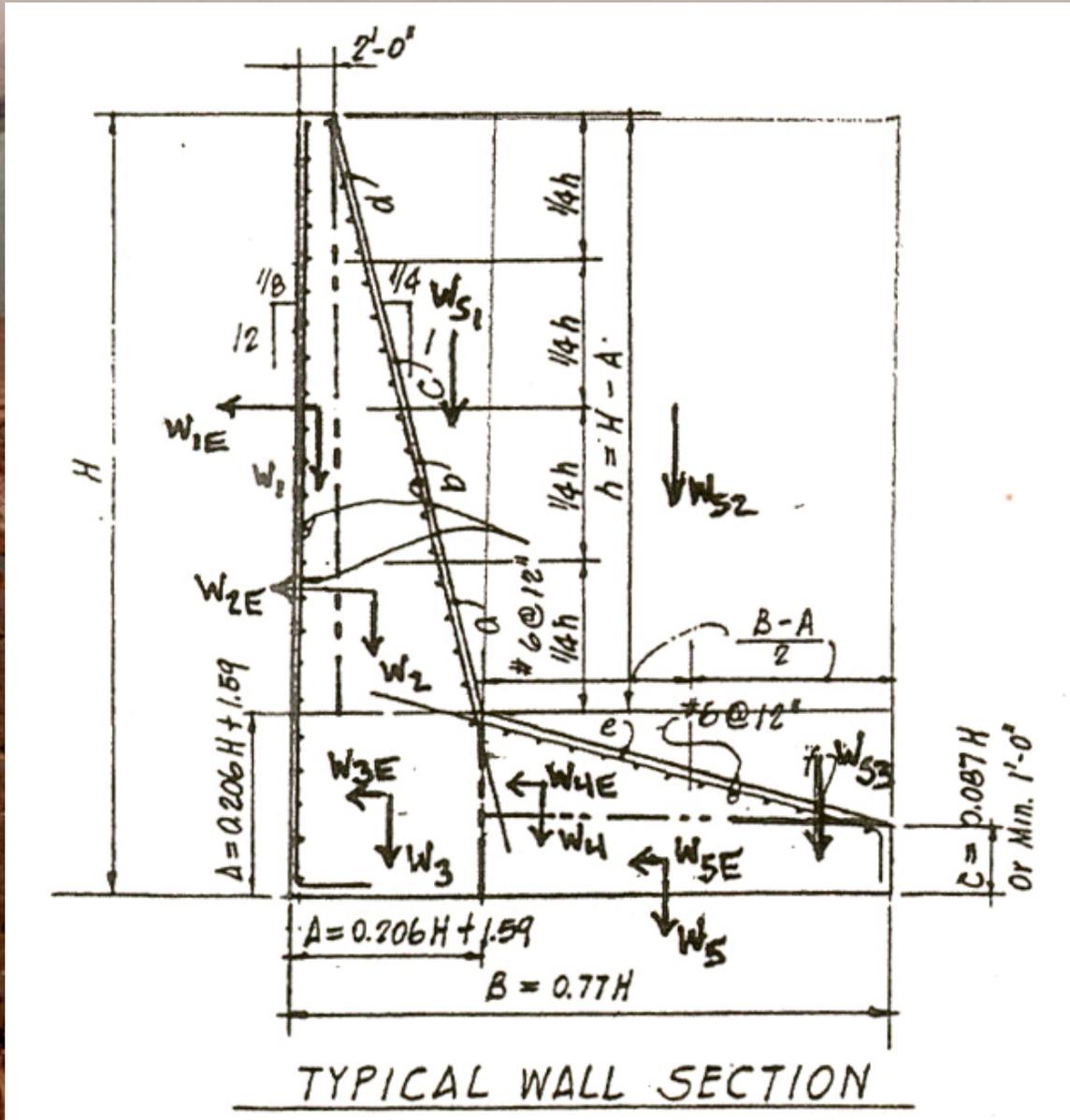
# OUTLET WORKS SEISMIC STABILITY ANALYSIS

- Same method of analysis used for outlet works
- Components analyzed:
  - Labyrinth crest structure
  - Spillway gravity side walls
- Components not analyzed:
  - Ogee crest structure
  - Downstream chute

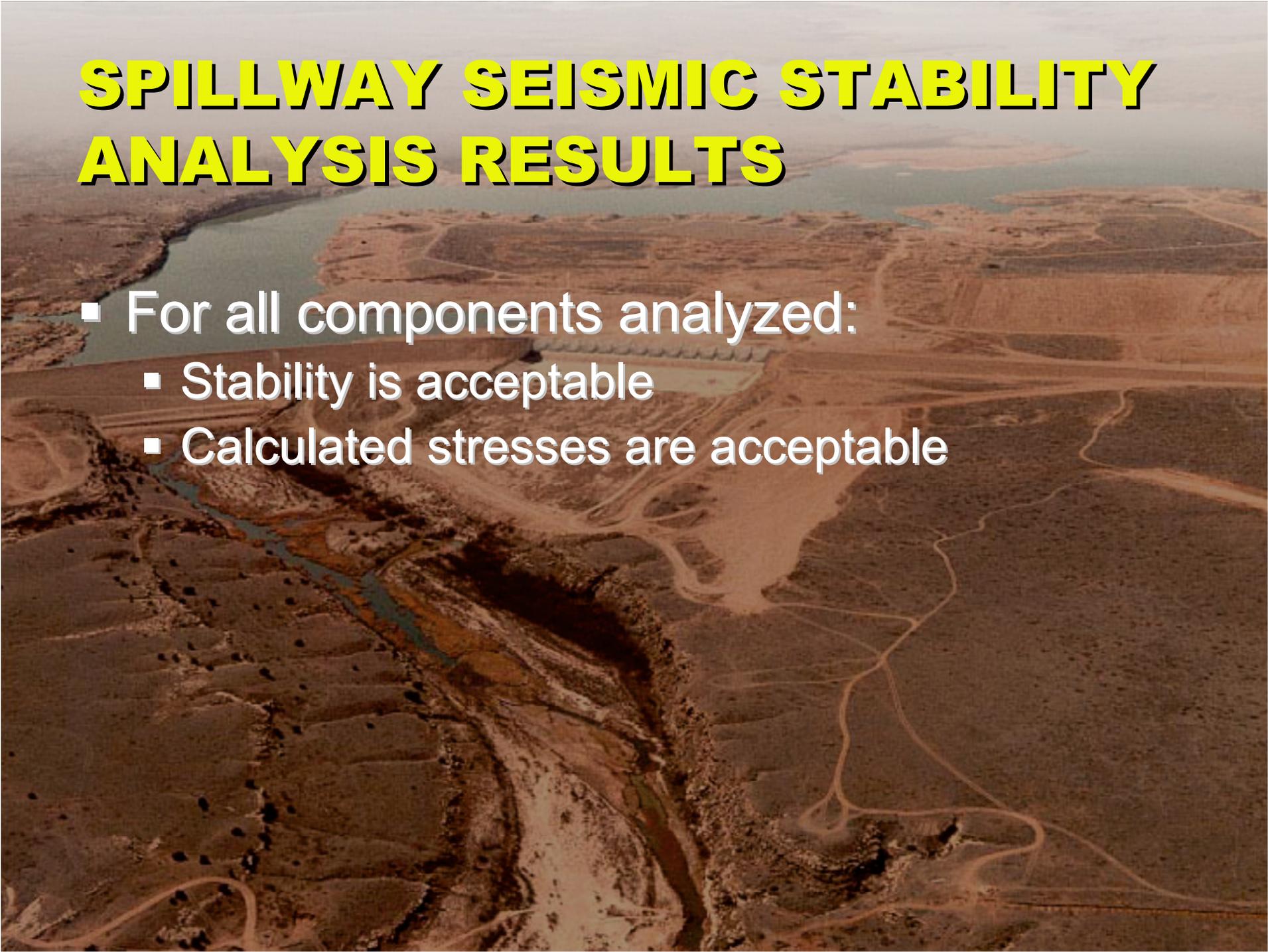
# PSHA - RESPONSE SPECTRUM - 5% CRITICAL DAMPING



# ILUSTRATION OF METHOD



# **SPILLWAY SEISMIC STABILITY ANALYSIS RESULTS**

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir with a spillway structure in the foreground. The water is a light blue-green color, and the surrounding land is brown and arid. The spillway structure is a long, low wall with several small openings. The terrain is hilly and shows signs of erosion.

- For all components analyzed:
  - Stability is acceptable
  - Calculated stresses are acceptable

# **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

- Site seismicity is relatively low
- Liquefaction potential judged to be low
- Embankment psuedo-static stability is adequate
- Appurtenant structure expected seismic performance judged to be acceptable
- No remedial action required



**QUESTIONS?**

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir or dam in a desert landscape. The water is a light blue-green color, and the surrounding land is brown and arid. The reservoir is surrounded by a concrete dam structure. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, yellow font.

**Contact Information:**

**John W. France**

**URS Corporation**

**Phone: 303-740-3812**

**email: [john\\_france@urscorp.com](mailto:john_france@urscorp.com)**