

These notes refer to the Water Act 2003 (c.37) which received Royal Assent on 20th November 2003

WATER ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 3: Miscellaneous

Sections 74 to 80 Reservoirs 375.

Section 77: Flood plans: large raised reservoirs.

The Reservoirs Act 1975 makes provision in respect of escapes of water from large raised reservoirs. The emphasis of the current legislation is on prevention of escapes. But with uncertainties over the future implications of climate change and rainfall patterns further flexibility within this safety legislation, in the Government's view, should be available. Some reservoir owners already prepare flood plans voluntarily. This section enables the Secretary of State, after consultation with all interested parties, to issue a direction to the owner of a large raised reservoir in England or Wales requiring the preparation and dissemination of such a plan. Under section 77(4), the Secretary of State may also issue directions to reservoir undertakers in Wales where the Assembly has not itself done so but where it is considered necessary in the interests of public safety in England.