SELECTED PROBLEMS OF FLOOD EMBANKMENTS SAFETY IN GERMANY

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Summary

Basic and oldest form of protecting flood threatened areas is river embankments. Most important legal regulation in Germany on construction, restoration, exploitation and additional ad hoc protection of embankments is the German norm DIN 19712. Moreover, there are many other acts and recommendations on the safety status of embankments like: directive of the State Institute of Water Engineering in Germany (BAW), a set of recommendations issued by the Association of Water Management, Waste Handling and Building Engineers (BWK) and the German Association for Water Management and Waste Handling (DVWK).

The paper presents basic legal regulations pertaining to the construction, exploitation and control of flood embankments in Germany including classification of embankments and methods of estimating the safety status of constructions. Measures for estimating technical status of embankments are described in details. Recommendations on ad hoc protection of embankments made directly before flood control action or during the flood are also discussed.

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