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Climate Change: Benefits of Dams & Reservoirs

By Robert May

The impact of climate change on water resources is a complex and multi-faceted issue. It is not just about the amount of water available, but also about the timing and quality of that water. Dams and reservoirs play a crucial role in managing these resources, providing a buffer against the variability of natural water cycles. They can store water during wet periods and release it during dry periods, ensuring a steady supply of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Additionally, dams can help improve water quality by filtering out sediments and pollutants. In the face of a changing climate, dams and reservoirs are becoming increasingly important for ensuring water security and resilience.

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As discussed in the editorial, the work of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) is a vital part of the global effort to address the challenges of climate change. The World Bank, the United Nations, and other international organizations are working together to support dam and reservoir development and operation. This is because dams and reservoirs are essential for water security in a world where climate change is increasing the variability of natural water cycles. They provide a buffer against the variability of natural water cycles, ensuring a steady supply of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Additionally, dams can help improve water quality by filtering out sediments and pollutants. In the face of a changing climate, dams and reservoirs are becoming increasingly important for ensuring water security and resilience.

As various dam design disciplines are impacted by climate change, the dam industry must take a long-term view on climate change. The impact of climate change on water resources is a complex and multi-faceted issue. It is not just about the amount of water available, but also about the timing and quality of that water. Dams and reservoirs play a crucial role in managing these resources, providing a buffer against the variability of natural water cycles. They can store water during wet periods and release it during dry periods, ensuring a steady supply of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Additionally, dams can help improve water quality by filtering out sediments and pollutants. In the face of a changing climate, dams and reservoirs are becoming increasingly important for ensuring water security and resilience.