

*Scientific American's* [60-Second Science blog](#) is reporting, picking up on a news story from [Science](#), that last year's devastating earthquake in southern China may have been caused by the filling of an enormous reservoir behind a dam built in 2004. The weight of the water in that reservoir, located just over 3 miles from the quake's epicenter, may have increased stress on the nearby fault enough to trigger its rupture. The Chinese government denies any connection.