

Dam Safety Program

Overview:

- Mission, ***Public Safety relative to dams.***
- Small staff, 2 full-time engineers, occasional temporary staff.
- Responsible for both Dam Safety Regulation and Dam Ownership.

Dam Safety Regulation:

- Regulate non-hydropower, non-federal dams, ~1,000 state-wide.
- State Statute 10 VSA Chapter 43: Dams
 - Underwent updates in the 2018 session as Act 161.
 - First ever Dam Safety Rules under development, Administrative and Technical Standards.
 - New Requirements:
 - Dam Owner Responsibilities/Obligations.
 - Recording Dams in the Land Records.
 - Hazard Potential Classifications.
 - Hybrid Periodic Inspection Program (State and/or Owner Responsible).
 - Comprehensive Inspections.
 - Compliance with Inspection Results.
- Vermont Dam Inventory
 - Access database, Natural Resources Atlas mapping interface (~1,200 records).
- Inspection Program
 - Periodic inspections historically by Program Staff based on hazard potential.
 - **HIGH** (2-years), **SIGNIFICANT** (5-years), **LOW** (10-yrs), **MINIMAL** not required.
 - Report generated and forwarded to Owner with recommendations.
- Annual Registration Program
 - Annual fee for Dams capable of impounding > 500,000 cf. Fees help fund program.
 - **HIGH** (\$1,000), **SIGNIFICANT** (\$350), **LOW** (\$200), **MINIMAL** (none)
- Dam Orders
 - Authorization/Permits/Application required for dams that impound > 500,000 cf.
 - Order (Permit) with General/Special conditions as well as F&W and water quality conditions.
 - Average around 4 to 6 per year.
- Unsafe Dam Proceedings
 - Quasi-judicial process to require dams be repaired or removed to make them safe.
 - Can be initiated by DSP or Public via petition, followed by investigation and hearing.
 - Funding assistance available up to \$50,000 (account has ~\$250k)



Waterbury Dam, Spring 2019

Dam Ownership:

- DEC State owner representative at 14 dams (including the 3 Winooski River Flood Control Dams)
 - Owner Responsibilities:
 - Flood operations/monitoring at Waterbury Dam, Wrightsville Dam, East Barre Dam
 - Operation and maintenance
 - Maintain dams in compliance with new Dam Safety Rules
 - Emergency Action Planning
 - Capital Planning