

Dam Safety Program (DSP) Newsletter

Spring 2025

Greetings from DSP! This newsletter contains important program updates. As a reminder, the DSP is responsible for regulating approximately 1,000 non-power, non-federal dams in Vermont through initiatives including rulemaking, inspection, permitting, and registration.

Post-July 2024 Flood Events

On the one-year anniversary of the July 2023 flood, remnants of Hurricane Beryl hit Vermont, causing additional flooding. The DSP conducted around 30 inspections in impacted areas, with no dam failures reported. However, several dams were damaged or overtopped.



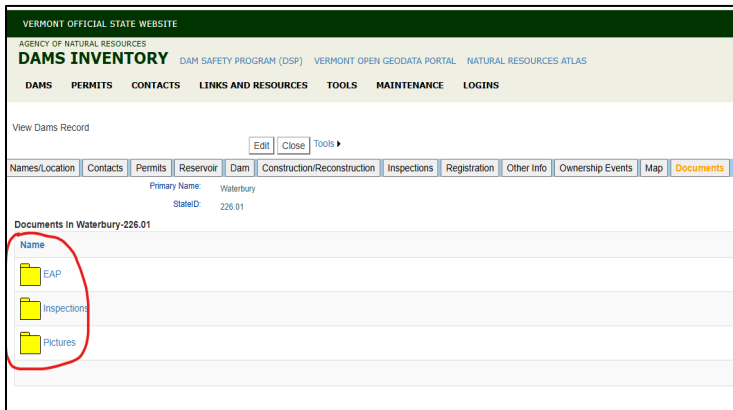
Vermont Dam Inventory (VDI) Updates

Since early July 2024, dam inspection reports, Emergency Action Plans, inundation mapping, and photos have been made available to the public through VDI.

VDI can be accessed through this link:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety/VDI>

Type in the name of the dam you are looking for, select it, and then navigate to the Documents tab. From there, you can download the abovementioned information.



Dam Safety Rules and Legislation

Technical Standard Rulemaking

This rulemaking has resumed this year, with a working draft to be circulated soon for internal review. The draft will proceed to interest group meetings and peer review.

A workshop for dam owners will be hosted by the DSP to review the technical rules and provide dam safety education later this year. More information will follow.

Additional Legislative Activity

During the 2024 Legislative Session, additional requirements were placed on the DSP, including creation of a Dam Safety Revolving Loan Fund, Jurisdictional transfer of approximately 20 dams to the DSP from another State Agency, and required participation in a Committee to the Legislature to study and provide recommendations on Dam Emergency Operations Planning in Vermont.

Likely most impactful to Dam Owners is the Revolving Loan Fund, some details:

- Requires rulemaking that is targeted to be complete in 2026.
- It will be a low-interest fund provided based on risk prioritization of applications to help dam owners finance emergency and non-emergency dam safety projects.
- Eligible projects will include engineering analysis, design, and construction of dam safety projects, including dam repairs, rehabilitation, and removal.
- Should be initially seeded with \$4M.

New Staff and Open Positions at DSP

In February 2025, we welcomed two new staff members. Michael Nahmias accepted the position of Program Manager, and Kevin Sheehan accepted the position of Technician. These new hires will help facilitate the DSP's tasks and responsibilities. Additionally, we still have two Engineering positions available for those interested in joining our team. For more details, please visit: <https://careers.vermont.gov/>

Here's to a safe and hopefully flood-free 2025!