

Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Investment Division - Dam Safety Program

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3

Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

Agency of Natural Resources

dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety

ANR.DamSafety@vermont.gov

Dam Safety Program Newsletter

Spring 2023

Greetings! We hope this newsletter finds you happy and healthy. The Dam Safety Program (DSP) is growing, and we are excited to share some updates with you.

New Staff

At the start of 2022, we welcomed Engineers Andrew Sampsell and Russell McGinnis to our team; and just last month, Environmental Analyst Tessa Schneider joined us, bringing our program's staff count to 5. We are excited to be expanding our capacity and collaborating on projects new and old.

Dam Safety Rules

In 2018, the Legislature enacted *Act 161: An Act Relating to the Regulation of Dams and the Testing of Groundwater Resources* which required the DEC to adopt "Administrative" and "Standard" rules for dams under the DSP's jurisdiction.

The Administrative Dam Safety Rule is now in effect as of August 1, 2020. The DSP is in the process of developing the Technical Standards with guidance from an interest group made up of dam owners, dam safety engineering consultants, non-government organizations (NGOs), environmental advocates, state and local officials, and others. We plan to have the working draft of the rules peer reviewed by a group that specializes in dam safety regulation as well as hold a public meeting to introduce the rule and take public questions/comments prior to initiating formal rulemaking through the Legislative and Interagency Committees.

The Dam Safety Rules, once completed, will change the way dams in Vermont are regulated with a greater emphasis on safety and risk reduction. You can read the Administrative Rule and learn more about the rulemaking process on our website.

Dams Inventory

Recently, the Vermont Dams Inventory (VDI) became accessible to the public!

The VDI is a database containing spatial, structural, historic, and regulatory information on most dams in Vermont. Data contained within VDI is managed by the DSP.

The goal of the DSP is to make the data as comprehensive and accurate as possible. If you are navigating the VDI and notice any discrepancies or outdated information, please send an e-mail to our general mailbox - ANR.DamSafety@vermont.gov.



Waterbury Dam auxiliary spillway. (Summer 2022)

High Hazard Potential Dam Program (HHPD) Grant

With funding from FEMA, we have contracted an engineering firm to develop a risk assessment for seven high-hazard-potential dams in Vermont. The risk assessments will provide better understanding of the vulnerabilities and consequences of these dams. This work will also be useful in future assessment and rehabilitation design of these dams, aid in prioritizing dams for future HHPD Grant funding, and be helpful in dam safety risk reduction objectives.

As always, the Dam Safety Program encourages dam owners to maintain their dam(s) and keep us informed of any changes. For more resources, visit the "Dam Ownership and Responsibility" section of our webpage: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety/dam-ownership-and-responsibility>.

To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve VT's natural resources, and protect human health, for the benefit of this and future generations.



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Dear <ContactName>,

It is almost time to pay the annual fee to register your dam(s). We are moving to an **online registration process** through ANR Online with limited exceptions.

As we prepare for registration, please inform us if the contact information we have on file is incorrect and/or incomplete.

<Contact info>

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Email ANR.DamSafety@vermont.gov or call 802-261-5446 to inform us of updates to your information.

If you do not have access to email, you can send this document back to us with your updated information. Additionally, if you are unable to register your dam online, you may request a waiver form.