



State of Vermont
PERMIT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

DAMS

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT A permit is required to ensure that the construction, reconstruction, alteration or removal of dams is carried out to serve the public good and provide adequately for the public safety.

Owners of dams capable of impounding more than 500,000 cubic feet of water are responsible for the payment of the **annual fee**, based on the hazard class of the dam: low hazard dams \$200/year, significant hazard dams \$350/year, and high hazard dams \$1,000/year.

EXAMPLE OF REGULATED ACTIVITY Construction, enlargement, raising, lowering, remodeling, reconstruction, breaching or otherwise altering any dam, pond or impoundment not related to generation of electric energy for public use or part of a public utility system which is or will be capable of impounding more than 500,000 cubic feet of water or other liquid, as measured to the top of the dam.

INFORMATION REQUIRED Requires submittal of completed application form, fee, plans and specifications and design data. May require public information meeting [10 VSA Chapter 170](#).

WEB ADDRESS <http://dec.vermont.gov/facilities-engineering/dam-safety/dam-ownership-and-responsibility/dam-orders>

**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
 FACILITIES ENGINEERING DIVISION**

CONTACT: Ben Green, P.E. Dam Safety Engineer
 802-622-4093 benjamin.green@vermont.gov
 Steven Hanna, Dam Safety Engineer
 802-490-6123 steven.hanna@vermont.gov

ADDRESS: Facilities Engineering Division
 1 National Life Drive
 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3510

AUTHORITY [10 VSA Chapter 43](#)

APPLICABLE RULES If dam impounds less than 500,000 cubic feet it may require a [Stream Alteration Permit](#) (10 VSA Chapter 41, Subchapter 2), or [Stream Obstruction Permit](#) (10 VSA Chapter 111, § 4607) (Issued by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife). If hydroelectric project, it is regulated under 10 VSA Chapter 43 of the Public Utility Commission. May also require a [Conditional Use Determination](#) under Wetlands Rules and US Army Corps of Engineers permit. See general information about pond construction on [Sheet 32.1](#).

**APPEAL
PROCESS**

Within 30 days of the date of an act or decision, any person aggrieved by an act or decision of the secretary, or any party by right, may appeal to the environmental court in accordance with the provisions of [10 VSA Chapter 220](#).