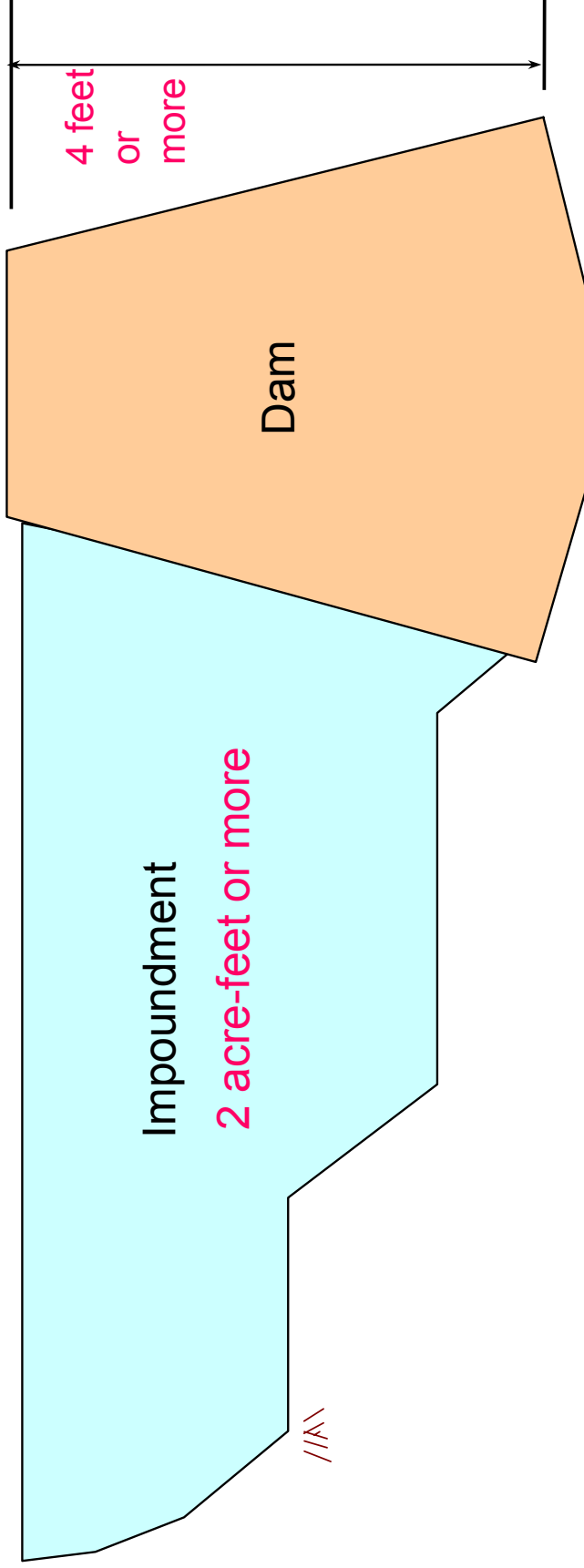


**Appendix C.**  
**New Hampshire Reservoir and**  
**Dam Safety Standards:**  
**Defining a Dam**



# New Hampshire's Definition of a Dam

(RSA 482:2, II & Env-Wr 101.12)



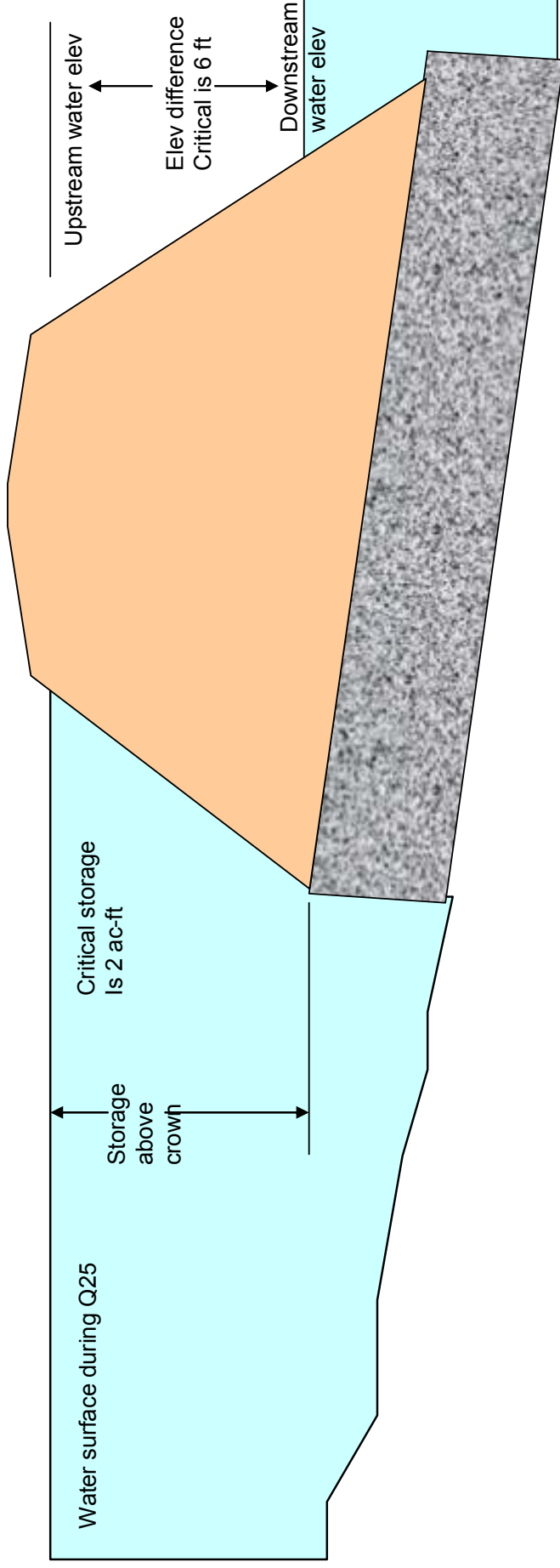
A **Dam** is any artificial barrier which impounds or diverts water which:

- has a height of 4 feet or more
- or
- a storage capacity of 2 acre feet or more
- or
- is located at the outlet of a great pond
- or
- is an artificial barrier which impounds liquid Industrial or liquid commercial wastes, or septage or sewage, regardless of height or storage.

Some Roadway Culverts are considered dams.  
Certain Storm Water Detention Ponds are exempted. (See attached pages)

# When is a Roadway Culvert NOT a Dam?

(Env-Wr 101.12 & 301.03)



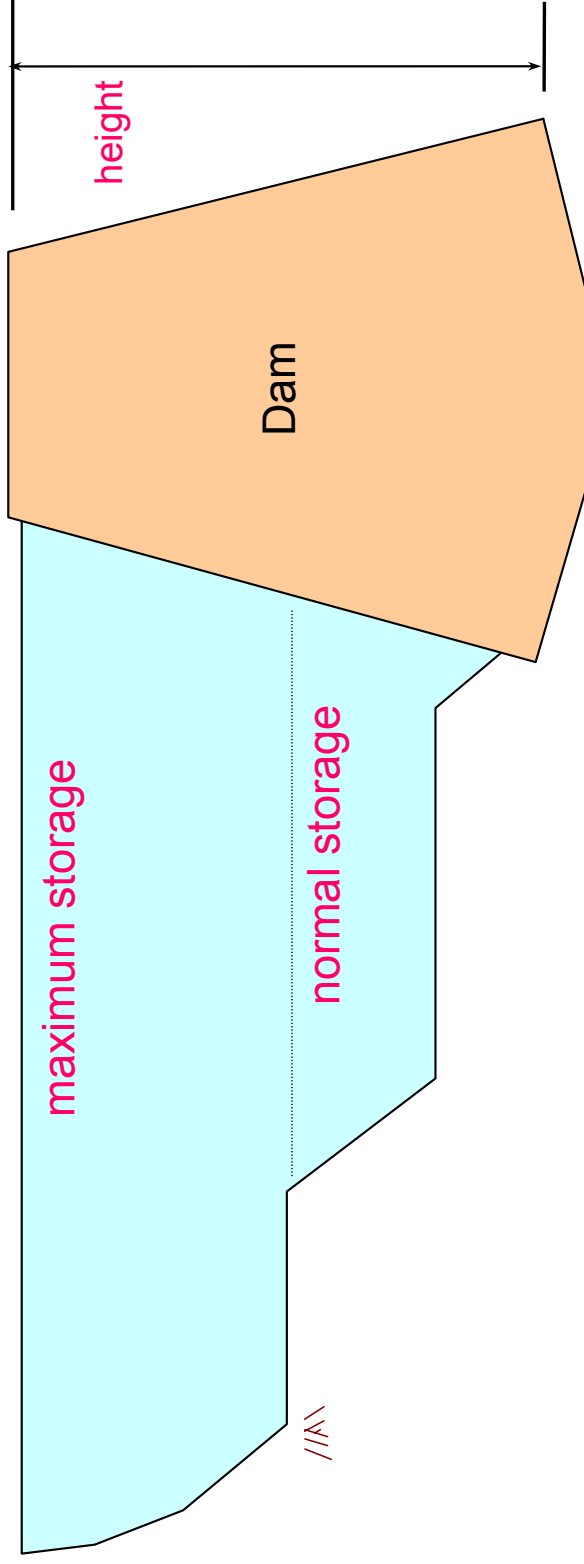
A roadway culvert is not a dam if:

- its invert is at the natural streambed and
- it has adequate discharge capacity and
- it does not impound water under normal circumstances

A roadway embankment whose culvert is set at the natural streambed shall be a dam if during the 25 year storm:

- the water surface elevation at the culvert inlet is 6 feet above the water surface elevation at the culvert outlet and
- It impounds 2 ac-ft or more of water over the crown of the culvert.

## When is a Storm Water Detention Pond NOT a Dam?



An artificial barrier at a **storm water detention** which impounds 0.50 acre-feet or less of water during normal conditions, shall not be considered a dam unless its height is 10 feet or greater or its maximum storage is 6 acre-feet or greater.

Effective 08/18/06



## REVISED DAM DEFINITION

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2006

**WORDING IN BOLD ITALIZED FONT IS NEW  
WORDS THAT ARE STRIKEN OUT HAVE BEEN DELETED**

Dam; Certain Storm Water Detention Basins Exempted. Amend RSA 482:2, II to read as follows:

II. **(a)** "Dam" means any artificial barrier, including appurtenant works, which impounds or diverts water, and which has a height of 4 feet or more, or a storage capacity of 2 acre-feet or more, or is located at the outlet of a great pond. A roadway culvert shall not be considered a dam if its invert is at the natural bed of the water course, it has adequate discharge capacity, and it does not impound water under normal circumstances. Artificial barriers which create surface impoundments for liquid industrial or liquid commercial wastes, **septage**, or ~~[municipal]~~ sewage, regardless of height or storage capacity, shall be considered dams.

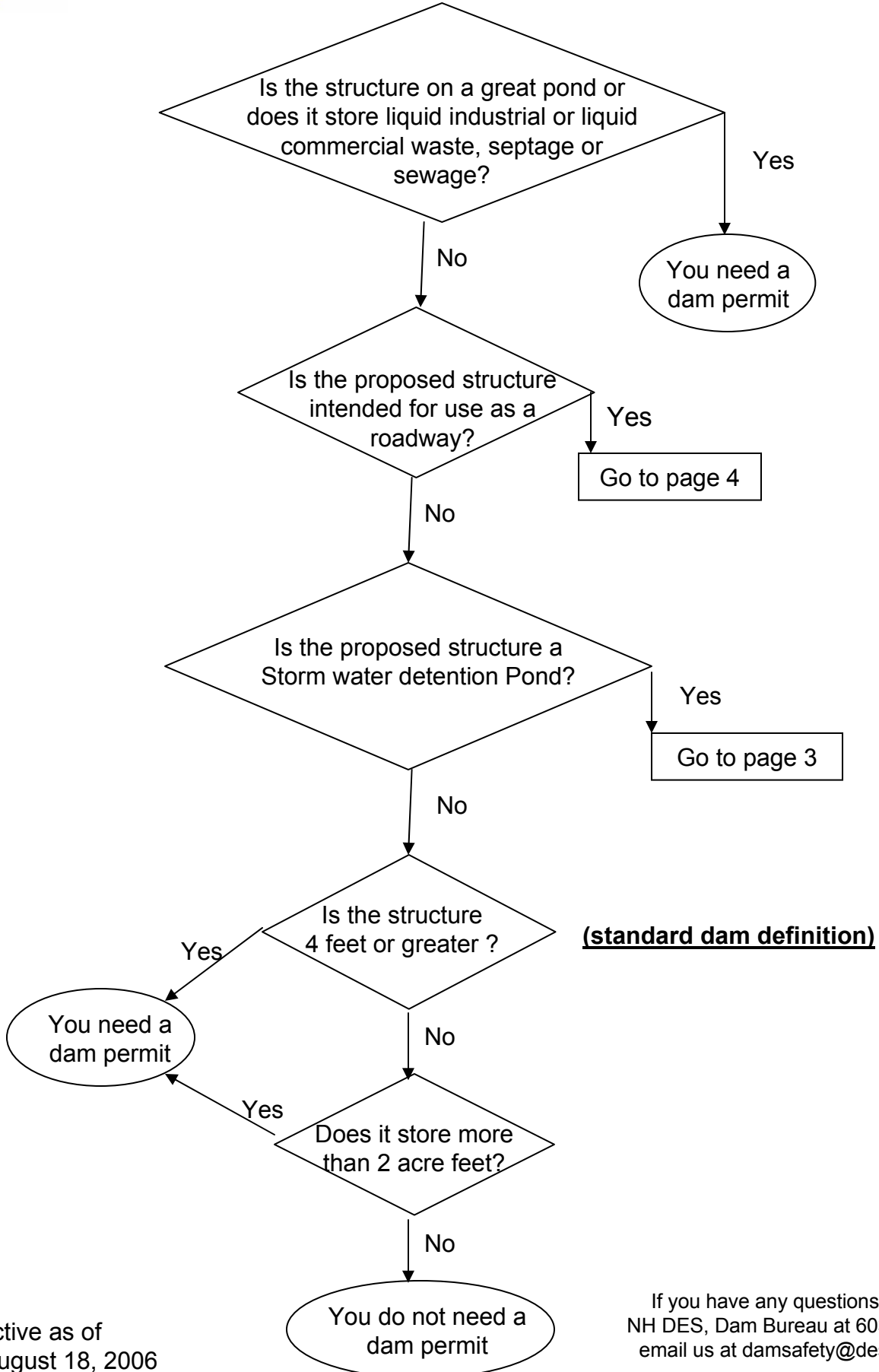
***(b) An artificial barrier at a storm water detention basin, which impounds 0.5 acre-foot or less of water during normal conditions, shall not be considered a dam unless its height is 10 feet or greater or its maximum storage is 6 acre-feet or greater.***

Attached is a flow chart to assist in determining if a dam application is required.

If you have any questions please call NH DES, Dam Bureau at 603-271-3406 or email us at [damsafety@des.state.nh.us](mailto:damsafety@des.state.nh.us)



# Do you need a dam permit ?



Effective as of  
Friday, August 18, 2006

If you have any questions please call  
NH DES, Dam Bureau at 603-271-3406 or  
email us at [damsafety@des.state.nh.us](mailto:damsafety@des.state.nh.us)

## Is your Storm Water Detention Pond a dam?

