Appendix C.
New Hampshire Reservoir and Dam Safety Standards:
Defining a Dam
A **Dam** is any artificial barrier which impounds or diverts water which:
- has a height of 4 feet or more
- a storage capacity of 2 acre feet or more
- is located at the outlet of a great pond
- 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)
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.
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.
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
Do you need a dam permit?

Is the structure on a great pond or does it store liquid industrial or liquid commercial waste, septage or sewage?

Yes → You need a dam permit

No → Is the structure 4 feet or greater?

Yes → You need a dam permit

No → Does it store more than 2 acre feet?

Yes → You do not need a dam permit

No → You need a dam permit

Is the proposed structure a Storm water detention Pond?

Yes → Go to page 3

No → Is the proposed structure intended for use as a roadway?

Yes → Go to page 4

No → You do not need a dam permit

(standard dam definition)
Is your Storm Water Detention Pond a dam?

- Is the permanent storage 0.50 acre feet or less?
  - Yes
  - No

- Is the height less than 10 feet?
  - Yes
  - No

- Is the maximum storage less than 6 acre feet?
  - Yes
  - No

You do not need a dam permit

You may need a dam permit. See standard dam definition on page 2

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
Is your Roadway culvert a dam?

Does the structure include a straight culvert, with no upstream or downstream controls, at natural streambed?

Yes

Does it impound water under normal circumstances?

No

You may need a dam permit. See standard dam definition on page 2

Yes

Does the culvert impound 2 acre feet or more over the crown during the Q25?

No

You do not need a dam permit

Yes

Is the peak Q25 upstream water elev 6 feet or more above the water surface at the culvert outlet?

No

Yes

If you have any questions call
NH DES, Dam Bureau at 603-271-3406 or
email us at damsafety@des.state.nh.us

Effective as of
Friday, August 18, 2006