A Dam is any artificial barrier which impounds or diverts water which:
• has a height of 6 feet or more
  or
• is located at the outlet of a great pond, regardless of height or storage,
  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)
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.

The NHDES Dam Bureau Home Page:
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.

Any storm water detention dam less than 6 feet in height shall not be considered a dam, regardless of maximum or normal storage.

**The NHDES Dam Bureau Home Page:**