



Dam Permit Guidance

Purpose

To protect and regulate the water levels of lake and ponds and the flow of water for fire prevention, lessen flood damage, the maintenance and improvement of recreational facilities, and to ensure that dams are maintained in a manner so that public, health, safety and the environment are protected.

Applicability

Applies to non-permitted existing dams, the repair or reconstruction of dams, and the construction of new dams and hydro-energy production facilities. An application to construct a dam must be filed by the property owner(s) on which the proposed dam is located. An application to reconstruct a dam, including an application relative to emergency measures described in Env-Wr 401.02(a)(2), must be filed by the owner(s) of the dam. An application to register the dam must be filed by the property owner(s) on which the proposed dam is located.

Statute and Administrative Rules

[RSA 482 Dams, Mills and Flowage](#)

[Env-Wr 100-700 Dam Rule](#)

Applications

[Application to Register an Existing Dam](#)

[Application to Construct or Reconstruct a Dam](#)

Fee

A \$2,000 filing fee is required to accompany the application. An additional fee may be required upon determination of hazard classification or if the dam is for hydropower production.

Additional application fees are:

Low hazard – \$1,000

Significant or high hazard – \$2,000

Hydropower development – \$100 deposit

Annual dam registration fee bills are sent to dam owners in October, with payments due by January 1 of the following calendar year. The annual dam registration fee schedule is:

Low Hazard – \$400

Significant Hazard – \$750

High Hazard – \$1,500

Processing Time

Typically within 60 days upon receipt of a complete application.

Term/Renewal

Term is two years. Renewal may be requested by submitting a written request to the [Dam Bureau](#) at least 30 days prior to expiration of the existing permit.

Modification/Amendments

Minor modifications may be requested in writing to the [Dam Bureau](#).

Transferability

Dam owners may transfer permits to a new owner by providing the [Dam Bureau](#) written notification that includes the name and address of the new owner.

Appeals

Any person aggrieved by a final decision can appeal the decision to the [Water Council](#) in accordance with [Env-WC 200](#).

Status of Current Applications

Contact the Dam Bureau at damsafety@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3406.

More Information

[Dam Bureau](#)

[New Hampshire's Definition of a Dam \(9/11/2009\)](#)

[Dam Construction and Reconstruction: How to Proceed](#) (Fact Sheet WD-DB-3)

[What is the "Annual Dam Registration Fee"?](#) (Fact Sheet WD-DB-21)

[Acquiring a Dam](#) (Fact Sheet WD-DB-20)

Contact Us

damsafety@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3406.