Reducing Risk and Promoting Dam Safety

National Dam Safety Program
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FEMA/Jeannie Mooney
What is the National Dam Safety Program?

**Vision**

- The benefits and risks of dams are understood and risks are managed to improve public safety, economic strength and national security, and sustain the environment.

**Mission**

- Reduce risks to life, property and the environment from dam failure by guiding public policy and leveraging industry best practices across the dam safety community.

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NDSP Authorization and FEMA

- **1979 - Executive Order 12148**
  - Established FEMA as the lead in coordinating national efforts in dam safety.

- **1986 - Water Resources Development Act**
  - Authorizes USACE to maintain and update the NID.

- **1996 - Water Resources Development Act** (Public Law 104-303)
  - Section 215 established National Dam Safety Program and named FEMA Administrator as its coordinator.

- **2002 - National Dam Safety and Security Act** (Public Law 107-310)
  - Adds security to critical dams safety issues.

- **2006 - Dam Safety Act** (Public Law 109-460)
  - Adds condition assessment rating of dams to the NID.

- **2014 – Water Resources Reform and Development Act**
  - Reauthorized the NDSP.
NDSP Authorization and Implementation

- Reduce the risks to life and property from dam failure in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective national dam safety program to bring together the expertise and resources of the Federal and non-Federal communities in achieving national dam safety hazard reduction.

  - National Dam Safety Review Board (NDSRB)
  - Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS)
NDSRB & ICODS

- **NDSRB**
  - Advises FEMA Administrator in priorities
  - Considers implications of national policy issues
  - Oversee and monitor performance of state dam safety programs

- **ICODS**
  - Encourage establishment/maintenance of effective federal programs, policies and guidelines
  - Serve as the forum for the coordination of federal activities
National Dam Safety Review Board (NDSRB)

- The Review Board advises FEMA’s Administrator in setting national dam safety priorities and considers the effects of national policy issues affecting dam safety.

- NDSRB current membership includes:
  - William Allerton – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
  - Brian Becker – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - John Bianco – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - James W. Gallagher, Jr. – State of New Hampshire
  - Peter Goodmann – State of Kentucky
  - David Gutierrez – State of California
  - Noller Herbert – U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Michelle Lemieux – State of Montana
  - Mishelle Noble-Blair – Fairfax Water (private sector)
  - John S. Wolfhope – United States Society on Dams
Components of the NDSP: Overview

- Training
- Research
- Public Safety and Awareness
- State Assistance
Components of the NDSP: Functional Activities

- **Leadership**
  - The leadership activity shall be the responsibility of FEMA.

- **Technical Assistance**
  - The transfer of knowledge and technical information among the Federal and non-federal elements.

- **Public Awareness**
  - Provide for the education of the public, including State and local officials, in the hazards of dam failures and related matters.
Components of the NDSP: Awareness and Outreach

- Included in the 2014 Reauthorization of the NDSP:

SEC. 11  PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH FOR DAM SAFETY

The Administrator, in consultation with the other Federal agencies, State and local governments, dam owners, the emergency management community, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations and associations, institutions of higher education, and any other appropriate entities shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, carry out a nationwide public awareness and outreach initiative to assist the public in preparing for, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from dam incidents.
Components of the NDSP: State Assistance

- Assistance for State Dam Safety Programs:
  - To encourage the establishment and maintenance of effective State dam safety programs.

FEMA/Josh deBerge
National Inventory of Dams
National Inventory of Dams

Dams by Hazard Potential

- High: 14,726
- Significant: 12,406
- Low: 58,956
- Undetermined: 1,271

Hazard Potential
Tools and Resources for the Public

- FEMA Dam Safety: https://www.fema.gov/dam-safety-0
- Join FEMA on social media