

Dam Safety News

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SUMMER 2018

A DAM

A dam is a barrier that impounds water and generally serves the primary purpose of retaining water. Wisconsin law defines a dam as "any artificial barrier in or across a watercourse which has the primary purpose of impounding or diverting water and includes all appurtenant works, such as a dike, canal or powerhouse".

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2018 Dam Owner Information Sessions

The DNR will be hosting Dam Owner Information Sessions throughout the state in July. The workshops will cover responsibilities of dam owners, how to complete inspections and operation practices, and permitting requirements.

The workshops will also provide an opportunity for dam owners/operators to meet one-on-one with Regional Dam Safety Staff.

No RSVP required.

Registered Professional Engineers can earn 4.5 Professional Development Hours by attending the entire workshop.



LOCATION INFORMATION AND AGENDA

All sessions are 9am-3pm

- Tuesday, July 24 @ DNR Eau Claire Service Center
1300 W. Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
- Wednesday, July 25 @ DNR Green Bay Service Center
2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313
- Thursday, July 26 @ DNR Fitchburg Service Center
3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711

9:00 – 9:30	Check in
9:30 – 10:30	Introduction + Dam Terminology
10:30 – 11:30	What are my responsibilities as a dam owner?
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch (Please bring your own lunch or \$10 cash to contribute to a group lunch order.)
12:30 – 1:30	How do I inspect and operate my dam?
1:30 – 2:30	What do I do when want to sell, repair, maintain, reconstruct, or abandon my dam?
2:30 – 3:00	Questions + Wrap Up

Bill Sturtevant Retires after 32 years!

Bill Sturtevant started working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 1986 as an Assistant State Dam Safety Engineer. His entire 32-year career at the DNR was spent in the Dam Safety Program, the last 11 as the State Dam Safety Engineer. Bill helped dam owners find reasonable solutions to their problems and mentored many regional staff. His departure leaves a big void in the Dam Safety Program.

A message from Bill:

The mountains are calling!

After 32 years with the DNR in the Dam Safety Program, I am making a change. I will be officially retired on August 3, 2018 and have accepted a job with Colorado Springs Utilities. My new job takes me into the mountains a couple of days per week to work with dam operators. So far, my wife, Angie and I have made it to a couple of different reservoirs to enjoy some kayaking, fishing and hiking with the dogs.

I am at a loss for words when it comes to the Wisconsin Dam Safety and Floodplain Team. It has really been fun and an honor to work with such an amazing team of qualified engineers. The constant challenges of a complex program kept me wanting to come to work every day. I am proud to have been a small part in the evolution of a program that has become one of the best and most recognized programs in the country.

It is hard to leave the state I love and will always call Wisconsin home. I am hopeful the Dam Safety Program's mission of protecting life, health and property will carry on through efforts of the team, dam owners, and knowing people of the state.

Please feel free to contact me should you make your way west to Colorado.

Take care and be dam safe.

Bill



Updates on Hiring

The DNR is currently in the process of hiring two regional Water Management Engineers. The positions will be located in La Crosse and Spooner and they will hopefully be on board by August. County coverage will be updated on our website and in future newsletters. Regional engineers are your go-to contacts for dam and floodplain questions, including inspections, Emergency Action Plans, maintenance, and other engineering and technical issues. The DNR will also be hiring a State Dam Safety Engineer. This position will hopefully be posted within the next few months. This position will assist the regional engineers, review dam plans and dam failure studies, and assist with developing statewide policy and guidance.



Minong Dam

The DNR recently hired Mia Van Horn as the FEMA Grant Specialist for the Dam and Floodplain Section. Mia will help the Department stay on track with the projects that are funded by FEMA grants which support our core dam safety and floodplain activities.

A little about Mia:

Mia graduated with a BS from the College of Natural Resources - Stevens Point and an MA from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Mia spent 8 years in south Florida working for The Nature Conservancy and the South Florida Management District in positions in the wetlands regulation area and environmental inventory and monitoring.

Mia began working for the Department of Natural Resources in 2012 and during the last 4 years wrote Emergency Action and Inspection Operation and Maintenance Plans for Department-owned dams. In this role she had the opportunity to work with DNR dam safety engineers and property managers across the state.



Update your EAP!

When is the last time you updated your Emergency Action Plan? When is the last time you found and read your EAP?

Take a few minutes to look over your EAP and update contacts and other relevant information. More information on EAPs can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/dams/documentsEAP.html>

Emergency: Who do you call?

If despite your best efforts at maintaining your dam, an emergency arises, the first thing to do is to open your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and follow the steps outlined. If for some reason, you do not yet have an EAP for your dam and failure is imminent, then call 911 and prepare to provide the following information to the 911 operator:

- Name and title of the person reporting the incident;
- Call back number of the person reporting the incident;
- Name/location of the dam, including: county, waterbody, and nearest road;
- Present condition of the dam such as perceived problem, gate status, or level of pond in relation to the low point in the embankment

Link to County Emergency Managers:

http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/counties/county_directors.asp

**Under any circumstance, if failure is imminent, call 911 first!
Then call the Wisconsin Emergency Hotline to reach
Dam Safety Staff.**

Wisconsin Emergency Hotline
1(800) 943-0003 (24-hour)
Press "1"
Ask for "DNR Duty Officer"

"Dam Safety News" is published by the WDNR, Bureau of Watershed Management. Its purpose is to inform dam owners and operators as well as others concerned about dam safety issues. Comments or contributions are welcome.

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For further information regarding the WI Dam Safety Program, please visit our website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/dams/> or email: dnr damsafety@wisconsin.gov.



Dells Lake Dam

DAM SAFETY / FLOODPLAIN CONTACTS



CENTRAL OFFICE

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