

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION**

**1.1 What is the purpose of this chapter?** This chapter describes policies, objectives, and responsibilities for the administration of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Dam Safety Program.

**1.2 What is the Service policy?**

**A.** We will comply with the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, Part 753 of the Departmental Manual, and all applicable Federal dam safety regulations.

**B.** In addition, each Service facility will adopt the procedures in this Part with regard to planning, designing, constructing, repairing, operating, and maintaining dams.

**1.3 What are the objectives of the Dam Safety Program?**

**A.** To ensure that no dam creates an unacceptable risk to public safety and welfare, property, the environment, or cultural resources.

**B.** To maintain high standards in the practices and procedures the Service uses for planning, engineering design, construction, repairs, operation, maintenance, and evaluation of existing dams, and emergency preparedness.

**1.4 What are the authorities for the Dam Safety Program?** The Service's Dam Safety Program is conducted in accordance with:

**A.** National Dam Inspection Act of 1972 (Public Law. 92-367).

**B.** Presidential Order, October 4, 1979.

**C.** Water Resources Development Act, Dam Safety Act of 1986 (Public Law. 99-662).

**E.** Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law. 104-303).

**F.** Federal Guidelines for Selecting and Accommodating Inflow Design Floods for Dams, Federal Emergency Management Agency 97, Interagency Committee on Dam Safety, October 1998.

**G.** Recommended Guidelines for Dam Safety--Inspection of Dams, Corps of Engineers, 1974.

**H.** The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-146). Congressional criteria for use of Resource Management

maintenance funds removes the dollar limit and makes it possible to handle many remedial emergency dam repairs with Resource Management funds rather than waiting until Construction funds are appropriated. However, in nonemergency situations, Resource Management funds should not be used when extensive project planning and engineering design are required.

**I.** 753 DM 1.

**1.5 Who is responsible for the Dam Safety Program?**

**A. Assistant Director--Business Management and Operations** is responsible for the overall integrity of the Service's Dam Safety Program.

**B. Chief, Division of Engineering** is responsible for:

**(1)** Implementation and oversight of the Service's Dam Safety Program.

**(2)** Development of dam safety policy for approval by the Director.

**(3)** Discretion and interpretation of Dam Safety policy.

**(4)** Appointment of the Service Dam Safety Officer (SDSO).

**C. Service Dam Safety Officer** is responsible for:

**(1)** Formulating and recommending plans, technical guidelines, standards, and procedures necessary for the effective implementation of the Service's Dam Safety Program.

**(2)** Ensuring that the Service's Dam Safety Program complies with all applicable laws, policies, directives, and technical recommendations governing Federal dam safety activities.

**(3)** Preparing technical guidelines and standards for, and carrying out, the Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) inspection and rehabilitation programs.

**(4)** Managing the SEED Program for all dams, performing periodic formal SEED inspections, managing and maintaining an inventory of dams, managing and maintaining a comprehensive database on all Service dams. Serves as liaison with other agency programs.

**(5)** Preparing budget requests for project planning, engineering design, analysis and studies, and construction management for emergency repairs, dam safety rehabilitation and construction for all high and significant hazard dams.

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**Part 361 Dam Safety**

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(6) Providing independent review of project planning, engineering design, and construction management for dam safety rehabilitation and construction for low hazard dams.

(7) Serving as the Service's representative on dam safety technical committees and Departmental working groups and as liaison with other Government agencies.

(8) Developing Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Emergency Actions Plans (EAPs).

(9) Project planning, design, and construction for new high and significant hazard dams and for rehabilitation, modification, or emergency repairs to existing high and significant hazard dams.

(10) Assisting Regional Dam Safety Officers (RDSOs) in implementing SOPs and EAPs.

(11) Performing periodic EAP exercises as defined in 361 FW 2.

(12) Providing technical engineering support and expertise to the Regions.

(13) Providing Dam Safety training to the Regions, project leaders, and dam operating staff.

(14) Updating EAPs associated with major repair or rehabilitation to high and significant hazard dams.

**D. Regional Directors** are responsible for:

(1) The safety and operation of all facilities in the Region, including dams, dikes, levees, and all other water diversion and control structures.

(2) Budget requests for maintenance funding for dams, including routine annual maintenance and Priority 1 and Priority 2 deficiencies identified in the SEED inspections.

(3) Appointment of a Regional Dam Safety Officer (RDSO).

**E. Regional Dam Safety Officers:**

(1) Must have experience in and knowledge of the planning, design, construction, safety inspection, and operation of dams.

(2) Provide technical support to the Regional Director to ensure that the Region's dam safety program complies with all applicable laws, policies, directives, and technical recommendations governing Federal dam safety activities.

(3) Provide technical assistance to project leaders for dam operation and maintenance.

(4) Update and implement SOPs and EAPs.

(5) Are the designated emergency planning officers, and as such, perform EAP annual testing verification and certification. Provide technical and decision making support to the project leader during an unusual or emergency event.

(6) Provide technical leadership and oversight of project planning, engineering design, and construction management for dam safety rehabilitation and construction for all low hazard dams.

(7) Project planning, design, and construction for new low hazard dams and for rehabilitation, modification, or emergency repairs to existing, low hazard, inventory dams.

(8) Receive and review observations and instrumentation data from dams and forwards them to the Division of Engineering for consultation as appropriate.

(9) Assist the SDSO in developing SOPs and EAPs.

**F. Assistant Regional Directors--Budget and Administration** are responsible for providing advice and guidance to the Regional Engineer and the RDSO (at the discretion of the Regional Director) in exercising Regional dam safety responsibilities.

**G. Regional Engineers** (at the discretion of the Regional Director, through the Assistant Regional Director--Budget and Administration) are responsible for:

(1) Implementation and oversight of the Region's Dam Safety Program and supervision of the RDSO.

(2) Technical support and assistance to the Regional Director, Regional Office supervisors, and project leaders for the operation and maintenance of all dams within the Region.

(3) Assisting the RDSO in developing and implementing SOPs and EAPs.

**H. Project Leaders** are responsible for:

(1) The operation, maintenance, and safety of all inventory and noninventory dams.

(2) Preparing initial funding requests for routine annual maintenance and all maintenance, operations and

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monitoring, Priority 1 and Priority 2 deficiencies identified in SEED inspections for high and significant hazard dams (361 FW 2).

(3) Preparing initial funding requests for routine annual maintenance and Priority 1 and Priority 2 deficiencies identified in SEED inspections for all low hazard dams.

(4) Ensuring operating staff is adequately trained on all relevant dam safety matters.

(5) Ensuring the safety of the employees and visitors who may be impacted by dam failure or misoperation.

(6) Implementing EAPs and SOPS.

(7) Monitoring and recording dam instrumentation.

(8) Performing periodic informal inspections.