



Delaware Dam Safety Program Fact Sheet

- On July 19, 2004 Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed House Bill 514, which established a dam safety program under the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. The legislation was to become effective upon availability of funding. At the time, Delaware and Alabama were the only states in the country without a dam safety program.
<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title7/c042/index.shtml>
- Program funding was initiated by Gov. Minner and the Delaware General Assembly in 2005, with general fund appropriations for a dam safety engineer position and start-up funding for program implementation.
- Delaware's draft Dam Safety Regulation has been undergoing development since 2005, with assistance from URS Corporation, a nationally recognized dam engineering firm.
- Guidance has been provided by a 17-member Dam Safety Regulatory Advisory Committee comprised of federal, state and local agency experts and dam owners.
- The regulation is being developed utilizing model dam safety regulation language provided by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Regulations from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland were also reviewed and incorporated into Delaware's draft.
- The first complete Delaware Dam Inventory was conducted from 2006 – 2008 by URS Corporation. Initially, 323 dams were identified and 97 field-reviewed. An extensive screening process was used to determine that 53 dams met the requirements for regulation under Delaware Law: that they be publicly owned, with a high or significant hazard classification. No private dams are authorized for regulation.
- In 2007, DNREC received an appropriation of \$1 million to begin development of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) to inspect, perform a dam breach analysis, emergency notification plan, and operation and maintenance plan for 25-30 high-hazard dams. These plans will be completed in 2010.
- Current efforts underway to evaluate dams for possible rehabilitation or improvements include: Haven Lake and Silver Lake in Milford; Hearns Pond and Williams Pond in Seaford; and Chipmans Pond and Records Pond in Laurel.