

WATER

Dam Safety Program

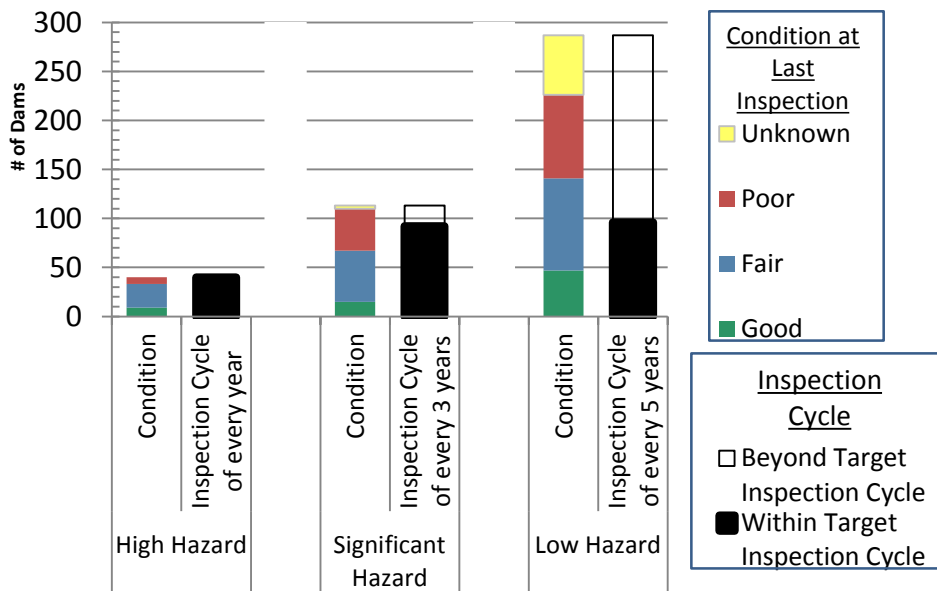
Protecting Public Safety and the Environment Through Inspections, Permits, and Informing Dam Owners

52%

OF DAMS RECEIVE
TIMELY INSPECTIONS

PERFORMANCE TREND

Summary of Dams Inspected and Hazard Class



Hazard Rating

Based on dam failure consequences downstream

- High = Loss of Life is more than a few; Economic impact is extensive to community, industry or agriculture
- Significant = Loss of life is a few; Economic impact is notable to agriculture, industry or structures
- Low = No loss of life; Economic impact is minimal (Undeveloped to occasional structures or agriculture)

DATA ANALYSIS

Vermont has 440 dams impounding greater than 500,000 cubic feet of water and subject to periodic inspections by the Dam Safety Program.

Annually the program inspects all the high hazard dams and generally meets the target number of inspections on significant hazard dams. Annual number of inspections on low hazard dams are not met due to staff resource restrictions.

Inspections determine the condition of each dam with poor being the lowest rating. More than a quarter of the significant and low hazard dams are in poor condition.

About half of the low hazard dams have not been inspected in the last decade and in some cases may have become higher hazard dams due to greater dangers in the event of a dam failure, such as recent development down-river of the dam.

Next Steps

1. Reduce the staff resources needed to manage flood control dams by transferring ownership of three dams to the Army Corps of Engineers.