

Vermont Dam Safety Program



Waterbury Dam

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

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Brief Dam Safety Program Overview

- Located in the Water Investment Division (WID) within VTDEC
- **"The mission of the DSP is to reduce risks to life, property, and the environment from dam incidents and dam failure through effective communication, education, regulation, and dam ownership"**
- RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - dam regulation
 - dam ownership
 - lands management
- CURRENT STAFFING:
 - (2) licensed engineers
 - (2) staff engineers
 - (1) program administrator/analyst
 - 4 new positions coming!
- HISTORY:
 - 1876 VT Enacts 1st in Nation Dam Safety Law
 - 1929 VT Dam Permit Program Enacted
 - 1981/1982 Chapter 43: Dams Enacted
 - 2018 – Act 161, Dam Safety Rule Authority
 - 2023 – Act 121, RLF, increased staffing, PUC Dams, EOP Committee
- REGULATORY:
 - 10 V.S.A Chapter 43: Dams, Non-federal, Non-power dams (Rules in development)
- DEC DAM OWNERSHIP: 14 dams including the (3) Winooski River Flood Control Dams (FPR + F&W = ~80).



Lake Groton Dam

Capital Construction Proposal – Dam Safety Projects

FY26-FY27 Capital Bill - Gov Rec												
Agency of Administration												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	FY26-FY27 CAPITAL BUDGET						Governor's Recommend			10 Year Plan		
Line #	Agency/Department: Project Description	FY26	FY26	FY27	Total	Total	FY28-FY29	FY30-FY31	FY32-FY33	FY34-FY35	FY28-FY35 Total	10 Year Total
56	DEC: Dam Safety and Hydrology Projects	500,000	-	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	40,000,000	41,000,000

2. DEC: Dam Safety and Hydrology Projects.....\$1,000,000
 FY26: \$500,000 | FY27: \$500,000

The Agency of Natural Resources owns approximately 100 dams and recently completed an initial risk assessment of a subset of those dams which pose the greatest safety risk to the public. FY26 & FY27 funds will be used for comprehensive assessment and final design of the Kent Pond Dam (classified Significant Hazard potential dam) located in Killington and owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Lowell Lake Dam (classified High Hazard Potential dam) located in Londonderry and owned by the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. Any remaining available funds may be used for the planning and development of future high-priority dam projects.



Knapp Brook Site No. 1 Dam, Cavendish



Knapp Brook Site No. 2 Dam, Cavendish



Lowell Lake Dam, Londonderry



Kent Pond Dam, Killington



Crystal Lake Dam, Barton



Colton Pond Dam, Killington

Dam Safety Projects (continued)



Gale Meadows Dam and Dike, Londonderry



Silver Lake Dam Barnard



Fairfield Swamp Dam, Swanton



Little Hosmer Dam, Craftsbury



Noyes Pond Dam, Groton

Ongoing/Planned Projects

Dam Name	Project	Type	Location	Est. Project Cost	Status	Comment
Multiple	DEC Dams Instrumentation Installation	Assessment and Design	Varies	\$170,000	In-Progress	Funding from ARPA 22 Funds
Waterbury Dam	Tunnel, Penstock, and Gate Assessment	Inspection/Assessment	Waterbury	\$1,226,000	In progress	Funding from ARPA 22 Funds
Lake Carmi Dam	Rehabilitation Project	Construction Phase	Franklin	\$622,000	In progress	Funding from Capital FY22, FY24, and ARPA 22 Funds
Waterbury Dam	Spillway Project	Study/Design Phase	Waterbury	\$1,500,000	In-Progress	Capital FY21, FY22, FY23, 7.1% Cost Share
Little Hosmer Dam	Comprehensive Assessment	Assessment Phase	Craftsbury	\$150,000	In progress	Funding from Capital FY21 and FY23
Noyes Pond Dam	Rehabilitation Project	Design Phase	Groton	\$497,353	Contract Development	Funding from FY23, Eng services through construction
Multiple	6 Dam Comprehensive Assessment	Assessment Phase	Varies	\$1,000,000	Bid Phase	Funding FY23. Knapp 1, 2, Colton, Kent, Crystal, Lowell
Wrightsville Dam	Geotechnical Assessment	Assessment/Risk Phase	Montpelier	\$500,000	Bid Phase	Funding FY23
Wrightsville Dam	Flood Operations Flexibility Study	Study Phase	Montpelier	\$350,000	Pre-agreement Phase	50% Cost Share with USACE, Funding FY23
Multiple	DEC Dams Instrumentation Installation	Construction/Installation	Varies	\$400,000	Pre-bid phase	Funding FY23, design underway
East Barre	Geotechnical Assessment	Assessment/Risk Phase	Barre Town	\$500,000	Pre-bid Phase	Funding FY23 (pending available funds)
Wrightsville Dam	Tunnel and Outlet Rehabilitation	Design & Construction	Montpelier	\$1,700,000	Pending funding	Funding TBD
*Highlighted "Est. Project Cost" column are associated with FY23 \$3,115,000 funds.				TOTAL	\$8,615,353	

Upcoming Projects

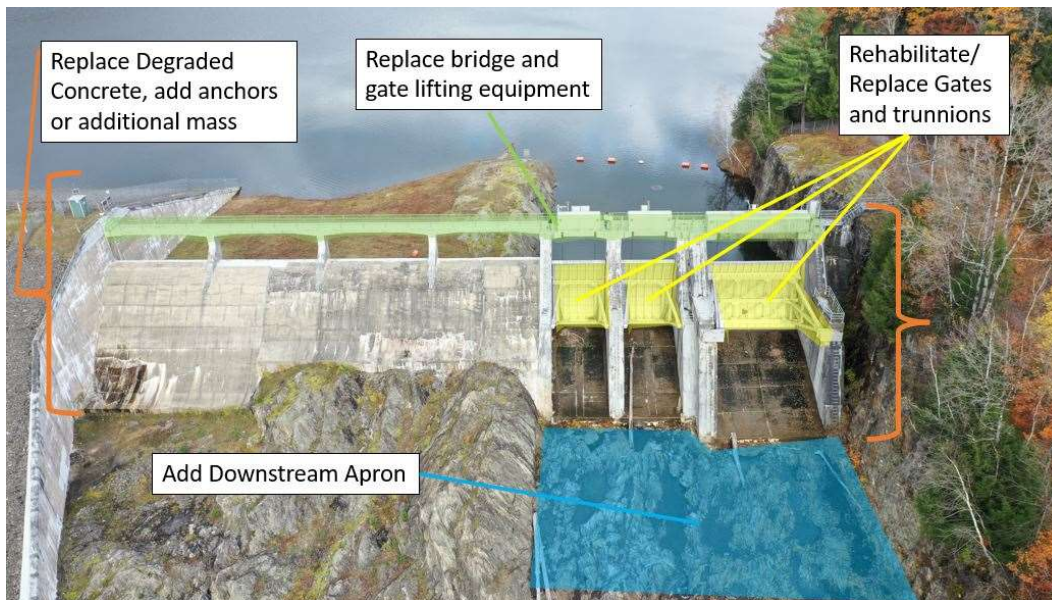
Dam Name	Project	Location	Placeholder Est. Cost
Noyes Pond Dam	Rehabilitation Construction	Groton	\$1,800,000
Silver Lake Dam	Rehabilitation Design and Construction	Barnard	\$1,500,000
Waterbury Dam	Penstock Rehabilitation Design & Construction	Waterbury	\$2,500,000
Wrightsville Dam	Outlet Works Design & Construction	Montpelier	\$6,000,000
Gale Meadows Dam and Dike	Rehabilitation Design and Construction	Londonderry	\$1,500,000
Little Hosmer Dam	Design and Construction	Craftsbury	\$1,000,000
Fairfield Swamp Dam	Design and Construction	Swanton	\$1,000,000
Kent Pond Dam	Rehabilitation Construction	Killington	\$750,000
Lowell Lake Dam	Rehabilitation Construction	Londonderry	\$750,000
Fairfield Swamp Dam	Design and Construction	Swanton	\$1,000,000
TOTAL			\$17,800,000



Lake Carmi Dam, Franklin

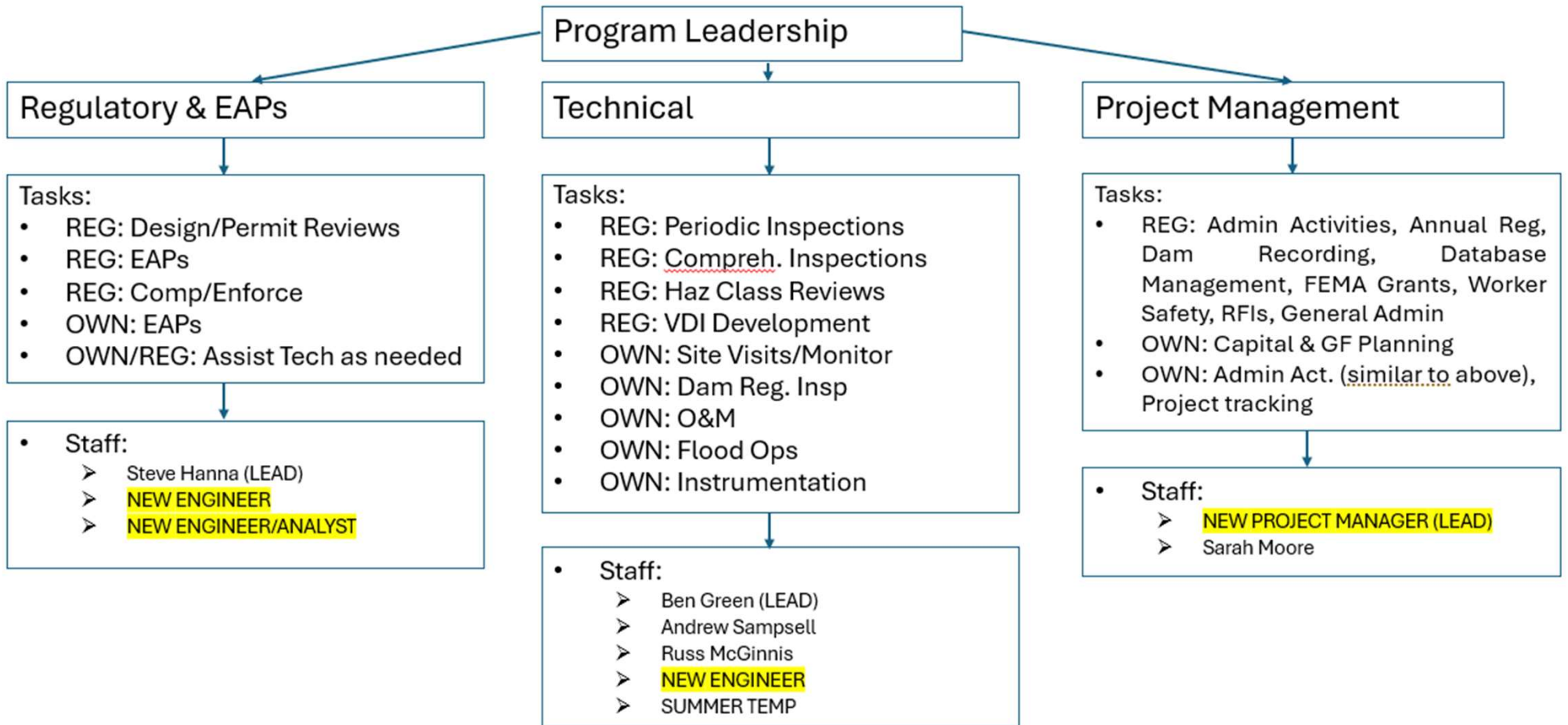
Waterbury Dam Spillway Project

- In 2000s Radial Arm Flood Gate jamming, leading to Flood load restrictions on gates
- Section 1177, WIIN 2016 Funding, \$70-100M Project, US Army Corps New England
- General Assembly has allocated match needed for up to \$60M in Federal Funds
- Improvements to gates, concrete spillways, bridge, lifting equipment, discharge channel
- Mod. Study Draft under review, Design ~2025/2026, Construction ~2027/2028
- Tunnel and Penstock inspection project
- <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety/dec-owned-dams/waterbury-dam-spillway-project>



Head Gate in closed position during Fall 2024 pre-cleaning entry

Dam Safety Program - Staffing Plan and Updates



Thank you! Questions?

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Wrightsville Reservoir