

# **Vermont Dam Safety Program**



*Waterbury Dam*

**Senate Committee on Institutions**

**April 4, 2025**

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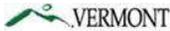
## Brief Dam Safety Program Overview

- 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) technician
  - (1) program manager, (1) administrator
  - Recruiting for 2 new Engineers!
- 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						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
36	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

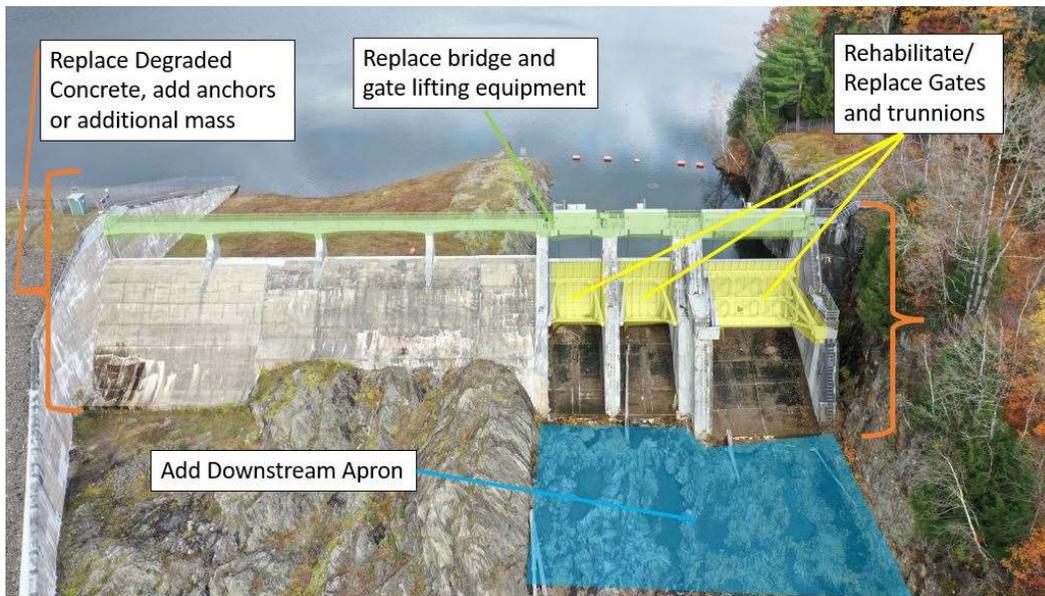
2. DEC: Dam Safety and Hydrology Projects.....\$1,000,000  
**FY26: \$500,000 | FY27: \$500,000**

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.

<b>VTDEC Dam Safety Program</b>	<b>Date:</b>	Update 4/4/25							
<b>CAPITAL FUNDED PROJECTS PLANNING</b>	<b>By:</b>	BTG							
<b>Updated from 3/20/2024 Version (updates are highlighted)</b>									
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Dam Name</b>	<b>Town Name</b>	<b>Dam Owner</b>	<b>Hazard Class</b>	<b>Status as of 4/4/25</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>
Wrightsville Dam Engineering Assessment - Geotechnical Explorations and Internal Erosion Study	Engineering Assessment	Wrightsville Dam	Montpelier/East Montpelier	DEC	HIGH	-The RFP has been posted on the bid board and proposals are due 4/18/25. FY23 at \$500k of \$3.115M.	\$500,000	-	-
Crystal Lake Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Crystal Lake Dam	Barton	DEC	SIGN	-Contracting underway with 3 consultants to complete project. An additional dam added (Knapp 2) for efficiency. Based on received bids, funding planned using FY23 for \$1M of \$3.115M and FY26 for \$130k of \$500k.	\$1,000,000	\$130,000	-
Kent Pond Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Kent Pond Dam	Killington	F&W	SIGN				
Lowell Lake Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Lowell Lake Dam	Londonderry	FPR	HIGH				
Knapp Brook Site No. 1 Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Knapp Brook Site No. 1 Dam	Cavendish	F&W	SIGN				
Knapp Brook Site No. 2 Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Knapp Brook Site No. 2 Dam	Cavendish	F&W	SIGN				
Colton Pond Dam Assessment	Comprehensive Assessment	Colton Pond Dam	Killington	F&W	SIGN				
Noyes Pond Dam Final Design Engineering, Permitting, Construction Phase Engineering - Pare Corporation	Final Design and Construction Phase Engineering	Noyes Pond Dam	Groton	DEC	SIGN	-Currently in contracting phase and should be underway soon. 16 month duration scheduled,. Funding through FY23, \$497,353 of \$3.115M.	\$497,353	-	-
Gale Meadows Dam and Dike Comprehensive Assessment - F&W MOA/GZA GeoEnvironmental	Comprehensive Assessment	Gale Meadows Dam and Dike	Londonderry	F&W	SIGN	-Project currently underway due for completion later in 2025. Funding through FY23, \$199,765 of \$3.115M.	\$199,765	-	-
Wrightsville Dam Flood Operations Flexibility Study USACE Cost Share	Engineering Assessment	Wrightsville Dam	Montpelier/East Montpelier	DEC	HIGH	-Waiting to learn availability of Federal Funding in July 2025 or need to pivot to engineering consultant. Funding through FY23, \$350k of \$3.115M and FY26, \$37,882 of \$500k.	\$350,000	\$37,882	-
DEC Dams Instrumentation Installation/Startup	Equipment purchase/ Installation/ Construction	Multiple	Multiple	DEC	Varies	-Project targeted for bidding summer 2025. Funding through FY23, \$400k of \$3.115M.	\$400,000	-	-
Silver Lake Dam Final Design, Permitting, and Construction Phase Engineering	Final Design Phase Engineering	Silver Lake Dam	Barnard	DEC	HIGH	Project targeted for bidding spring/summer 2025. Funding through FY23, \$167,882 of \$3.115M and FY26, \$332,118 of \$500k.	\$167,882	\$332,118	-
Kent Pond Dam Final Design, Permitting, and Construction Phase Engineering	Final Design Phase Engineering	Kent Pond Dam	Killington	F&W	SIGN	Project targeted for FY27 Funds, \$250k of \$500k plus additional future funds.	-	-	\$250,000
Lowell Lake Dam Final Design, Permitting, and Construction Phase Engineering	Final Design Phase Engineering	Lowell Lake Dam	Londonderry	FPR	SIGN	Project targeted for FY27 Funds, \$250k of \$500k plus additional future funds.	-	-	\$250,000
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>\$3,115,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

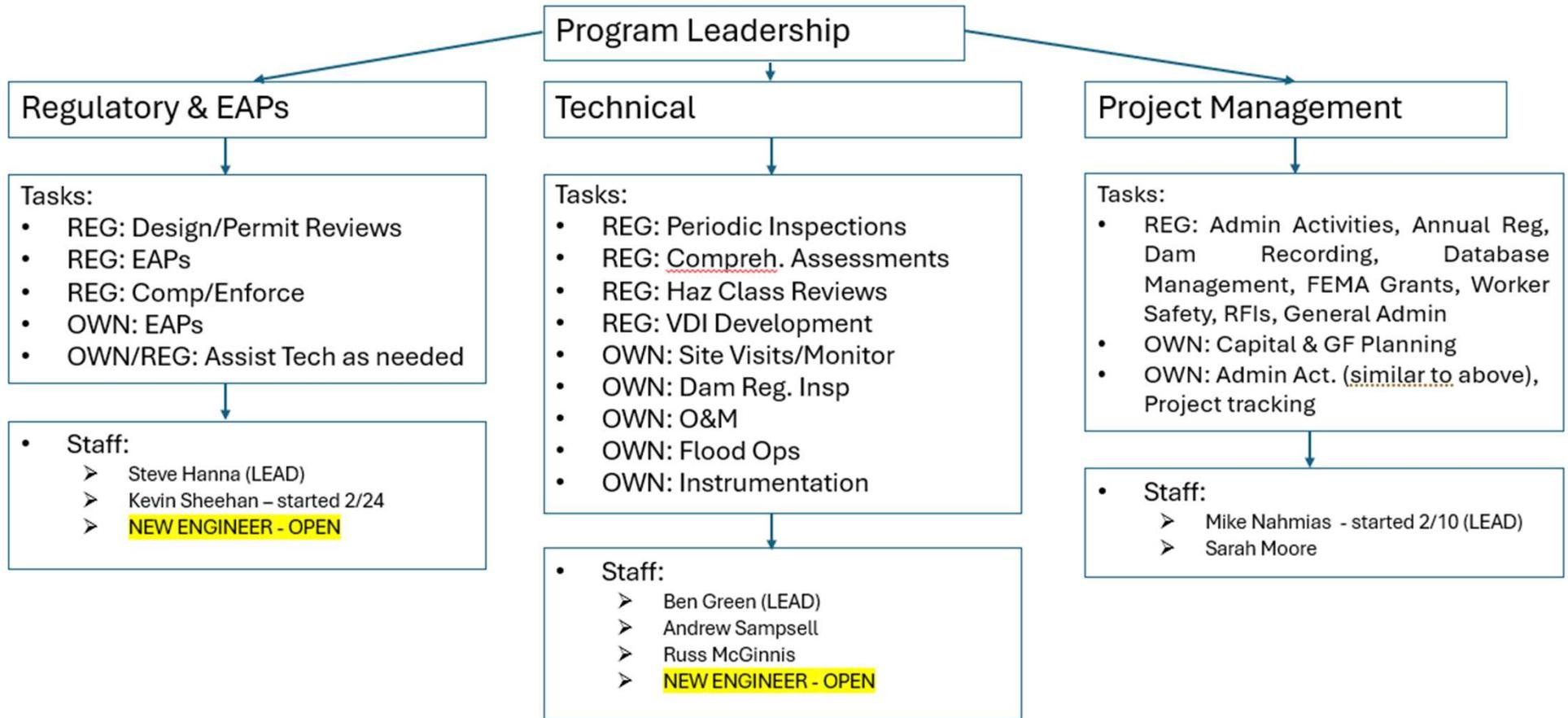
## Waterbury Dam Spillway Project

- 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