

## Does your Dam Require Permits from the Dam Safety Program?

If your dam meets the following criteria, you may be required to obtain permits from the dam safety program:

### Criteria 1 Storage capacity

Dams with a storage capacity greater than 50 acre feet, measured to normal reservoir capacity, could be required to obtain permits. Normal capacity is normally measured to the crest of the lowest ungated spillway. For many reservoirs this is the top of the trickle tube or drop inlet. For others, this is the crest of the auxiliary spillway. For flood control structures, normal operating pool is always the crest of the auxiliary spillway. For off stream reservoirs, normal operating pool is determined on a case by case basis. Dams with a storage capacity of less than 50 acre feet are not required to obtain permits.

### Criteria 2 Ownership of Property Dam is Located On

Dams that are located on non federal property could be required to obtain permits. This includes state, private, irrigation districts, cities, towns and counties. Exempt from permitting requirements are dams located on designated superfund sites or dams subject to the permitting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for hydropower generation.

### Criteria 3 Hazard Classification

If you have a dam that meets criteria 1 and 2 above, you should be aware of the hazard classification of the dam. Hazard classification refers to the potential for loss of life downstream. A High Hazard dam could cause loss of life, should the dam fail. High hazard dams are required to obtain operation and construction permits from the Dam Safety Program. Dams classified as “not high hazard” are not required to obtain permits.

If a classification has not been done on your dam, then you should apply submit an *Application for Determination of Hazard Classification*. An engineer from the Dam Safety Program will visit your dam site and make an assessment of the potential for loss of life downstream using survey data and dam break models.

### Other Criteria

- Previously classified “not High Hazard Dams” that are planning repairs or rehabilitation are required to apply for a new hazard classification, even though one has been done in the past. Please contact the Dam Safety Program to discuss further....if it is obvious that no additional development has occurred downstream, the requirement for a reclassification may be waived.
- Dams that have never been classified that are planning repairs or rehabilitation are required to apply for a hazard classification.
- Even if you are not planning repair or rehabilitation, you should know the hazard classification of your dam.