

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Water Resources Division

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To: Montana Dam Owners, Engineers, and Interested Others

From: The Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Dam Safety Program

Subject: Proposed Modifications to Dam Safety Administrative Rules

Date: July 8, 2022

The Montana Dam Safety Program is proposing modifications to the Administrative Rules of Dam Safety and requests your involvement and feedback. Attached is the formal notice of public hearing for the proposed changes. The rule modifications fit into three categories:

- 1) Clarifying Rule Updates
 - Add definitions for important terminology
 - Update rule titles to better reflect content
 - Move a rule that is located incorrectly
- 2) Simplifying Rule Updates (Red Tape Reduction)
 - Repeal a redundant rule
 - Remove outdated prescriptive language that is not needed
 - Provide waiver option for certain situations
- 3) Public Requested Update
 - Provide flexibility with scheduling visual inspection to better coordinate with reservoir operation.

The proposed rule updates do not add additional requirements; rather the updates are intended to make existing requirements easier to understand and follow. For a complete set of Administrative Rules and associated Statute, please refer to our website at:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/dam-safety/rules-and-regulations>.

A plain talk description of the updates and associated reasoning can be found in a short video accessible from the following link: <https://youtu.be/FOW8BburUsM>

This update of the Administrative Rules is part of a larger effort to improve dam inspections. More information on this effort can be found in the following video link: https://youtu.be/8Rc9_wgkiTk

This video also presents the results of the survey of dam owners and engineers we conducted in January 2022.

You can provide comments on the proposed modifications either orally or in writing. Detailed instructions for submitting comments are contained in the notice of public hearing. For more information, please contact Michele Lemieux at 406-444-6613 (mlemieux@mt.gov).

Attachment