

Instructions for Requesting Financial Assistance with Five Year Dam Evaluation Expenses

1. Address the letter to the Montana Dam Safety Program, attention Dam Safety Program Manager
2. Describe the public benefits of the dam in the letter. Include:
 - Description of public access to the site for recreation / fishing / boating. If fisherman visit your dam, <https://myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore> is a good place to obtain information on fish species and fishing pressure.
 - Include boat ramps, picnic and camping sites at the reservoir.
 - Note if the reservoir irrigates enough acres to provide beneficial late season return flow.
 - For municipal water systems, list the number of residences served and define other public benefits.
3. Provide Information on your Five-Year Evaluation:
 - Name of engineer/firm hired to conduct the Five-Year Visual Inspection.
 - Date(s) of visual inspection(s) (completed or planned)
 - Engineer's estimated billable hours to complete five-year evaluation (according to [ARM 36.14.602](#)) and report writing (according to [ARM 36.14.603](#)).
 - Engineer's hourly billable rate

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Please Note:

- The goal of this program is to provide financial assistance to owners of DNRC regulated high hazard dams with Five Year Evaluation expenses, as set forth in the Administrative Rules of Montana [ARM 36.14 Five Year Dam Evaluations](#). Funding is through a FEMA grant to DNRC.
- To be eligible for the funding, the dam/reservoir must provide clear public benefits. Wildlife habitat without associated public access does not qualify as a public benefit for this program.
- Dam owners are responsible for expenses related to the visual inspection and other components of the Operation Permit Application (EAP & O&M update). DNRC will pay for expenses related to the Engineer's Evaluation & Report.
- DNRC will contract directly with your engineer. Your engineer must accept the standard contract language in the State of Montana's contracts. For more information and example contracts, please go to: https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/WOB/Contracting_DNRC_WOB
- The DNRC contract will require engineers to use the Safety Evaluation Report Template available at: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Dam-Safety/Engineer-Evaluations>
- Contract values are limited to 40 billable hours. Dam owners are responsible for expenses in excess of 40 hours.
- Funds are limited and DNRC reserves the right to prioritize requests. Submitting a request does not guarantee funding will be available.
- An engineer's failure to perform does not relieve the dam owner of their responsibility to provide an adequate Five-Year Evaluation report. It is important for dam owners to verify your engineer has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to complete a Five-Year Evaluation. For more information on hiring an engineer, please refer to: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Dam-Safety/For-Dam-Owners>

By submitting a request to DNRC for assistance, you are acknowledging and agreeing to the above.