

Dam Upgrading

Background

The Division of Water Resources Water Structures Program permits more than 6,000 dams. When state regulation requires owners to modify or repair dams, a 2-100 permit to modify the dam from DWR is needed before work can be performed.

Requirements

Owners of state-regulated dams should contact the Water Structures Program within the DWR to find out if permit is required before starting any modification or repair. In some situations, DWR learns about a dam needing upgrading and will send a letter to the dam owners notifying them of needed improvements and required 2-100 permit. The permitting process is as follows:

1. Dam owner hired engineer to evaluate the dam.
2. Owners and engineer may meet with DWR staff to discuss requirements.
3. Engineer develops plans and application package.
4. Engineer submits 2-100 permit application package and fees.
5. DWR reviews application, requests any necessary changes, and issues a permit when requirements are met.
6. Construction begins. DWR engineers may inspect construction at critical phases.
7. Engineer submits Notice and Proof of Completion report within 30 days after construction is completed along with as-built drawings.
8. DRW engineer may inspect final construction.

Permit applications are processed in order received. Each application, too, must be accompanied by the proper fee. If the application package fails to meet requirements, applicants will be notified in writing and given 60 days to send required items. If these are not provided within the

60-day period, then the application is dismissed, the filing fee forfeited, and the process begins again. Permit applicants may request an extension of time before the deadline.

Permitting Example

Since the Franklin Creek dam was permitted in 1972, DWR and consulting engineers have periodically inspected it and issued maintenance recommendations. Recently, its dam hazard classification changed.

This required the dam's height to be increased by three feet. DWR staff sent a letter to the owner informing of the classification change and upgrade requirements, including increased dam elevation. The land owner hired a consulting engineer who met with DWR to better understand current regulation requirements. After the meeting, the engineer developed plans to increase dam height based on DWR staff input. Those plans and other documents were submitted to DWR along with the necessary fee.

DWR staff reviewed the application package, found three minor irregularities, and sent a letter to the landowner and engineer requesting certain changes in the plan to make it comply with state requirements. A month later, DWR received revised plans addressing the minor problems in the application.

Staff again reviewed the plans to ensure all requirements were addressed. (If they were not, another letter would have been sent mentioning the problems and granting another 60 days for plan revision.) Because plans for Franklin Creek dam met all requirements, the DWR Chief Engineer issued the permit, which was then sent to the landowner. The landowner hired a contractor to do the repair. Upon completion, DWR did a final inspection to ensure the work was done as outlined in the 2-100 permit.