

## **Questions from Audience from May 1, 2014 Informational Meeting.**

On May 1st 2014, over 80 attendees came to DEEP to learn about changes to the Dam Safety Program. Presentations were given regarding new inspection requirements, emergency action plan regulations, and proposed new general permits. The meeting was also broadcast over the internet to 25 additional attendees. These questions were from attendees live or by internet messaging.

### **Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Regulations Questions**

**1. Will there be a template for EAPs on the Dam Safety website?**

The Dam Safety Website [www.ct.gov/deep/dams](http://www.ct.gov/deep/dams) will post links to be EAP guidance and EAP templates once those documents are available. The revisions to the Dam Safety Regulation must first be finalized and promulgated before the guidance and template will be available.

**2. Will a “wet” scenario, as defined in the regulations, change depending on dam’s hazard class?**

There will be a variety of breach analysis models to use for different scenarios that will be explained in the EAP guidance currently being developed by contractors hired by CT DEEP. Our goal is to have this guidance document available when the proposed regulation goes into effect sometime within the next 12 to 16 months.

**3. Shouldn’t the EAP regulations allow the best contact for dam owners depend on the town?**

The proposed regulation requires the dam owner to notify the local authority that is responsible for acting on a warning, or determine when to evacuate people downstream within the inundation zone. The agency contacted may vary from town to town. The owner is required to coordinate with the agencies responsible for providing emergency services when developing their EAP. This coordination effort will create the opportunity for the owner to find out which agency the owner should contact in an emergency, as well as how the emergency agencies intend to notify one another under a “warning” or “evacuation” scenario.

**4. Is it appropriate for the dam owner to decide when evacuation is necessary? In some states, the dam owner does not have authority to issue evacuations.**

The dam owner does not issue warnings or evacuations to people impacted downstream. The dam owner is responsible for notifying the appropriate emergency authority when conditions develop at the owner’s dam that the owner feels warrant a warning or evacuation. The local emergency authority is responsible for issuing the warning or evacuation notice to people in the inundation area.

**5. Is there a non-state owned dam watch list (monitoring for dam failure)?**

There are no dams on a watch list. The DEEP Dam Safety Program does not maintain watch lists. There are a small number of dams in unsatisfactory condition for which reservoir restrictions are in place, wherein the pond is kept much below the normal pond level, which in these cases provides some additional measure of safety to the dams allowing them to store runoff from heavy rains without the pond rising to normal level.

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**6. Will you post the list of attendees?**

The list of attendees has been posted along with this list of questions and answers.

### **Proposed General Permits Questions**

**7. Did you consider basing the non-filing category on hazard class and/or dam height?**

The non-filing category authorizes activities that can be done on any dam. The activities must be minor and have minimal environmental impact. Some of the activities listed may require local inland wetland permitting if being conducted in regulated wetlands. The advantage of issuing this permit is that the statutory exemption from local wetland permitting associated with this permit will apply and allow dam owners to conduct these activities without local permitting. We did not want to limit this to only small or lower hazard dams.

**8. Is there anything about water handling incorporated in the General Permit?**

No. More complex projects requiring coffer dams, diversions, or long term drawdowns are not minor activities with minimal environmental impacts. If the work can be accomplished during a normal fall or winter drawdown for weed control or dock maintenance then it was included. It is also permissible to draw down an impoundment to inspect a dam or conduct repairs provided that best management practices are incorporated into the drawdown and no impacts to listed endangered species or fisheries occur.

**9. How did we arrive at the size criteria?**

The size and storage criteria were an attempt on the part of CT Dam Safety to select reasonable break points in regulatory restrictions. They are subject to adjustment during the public outreach and hearing stages before the permits are issued. Feedback on the practicality of these criteria is vital to successful permits. In some cases the size criteria are used in formulas which determine the maximum quantity of work that can be done and still be a minor activity.