

POL 5601

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM POLICY

Resource Contact: Dam Safety Office

Effective Date: 07-01-91

References: RCW 43.21A.064
RCW 86.16.035
Chapter 173-175 WAC

Revised: 07-01-1999

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANUALS AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR EXISTING DAMS

POLICY STATEMENT:

As described in WAC 173-175-510, owners are required to develop an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual, within 180 days following completion of a periodic inspection by the DSO. For those facilities whose failure could result in loss of life or cause extensive damage to property or interruption of critical services to a community, an Emergency Action Plan must also be submitted within 180 days following completion of a periodic inspection by the DSO.

For new construction and for modifications of existing dams, O&M Plans and EAPs will be required prior to authorizing commencement or resumption of project operation (see WAC 173-175-240 and Policy POL 5201).

Basic emergency procedures should be developed for those facilities where a failure would cause limited property damage but no loss of life is expected. It is recommended that these procedures be incorporated into the Operation and Maintenance Manuals.

DISCUSSION:

Both Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manuals and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) are considered important elements for proper and safe operation of an impounding facility. Current staffing levels limit the ability of the DSO to properly regulate these activities. However, the importance of these activities warrants that the owner of the facility be required to develop these plans. The EAP is particularly important where there is the potential for loss of life, extensive property damage, or disruption of critical services to the community in case of dam failure.

PROCEDURES:

The DSO will provide facility owners with information and guidance on the development of O&M Manuals and EAPs during the planning stage for new facilities or the modification of existing facilities. Owners will be directed to contact their county emergency services representatives for assistance in developing and review the EAPs.

For existing dams, O&M plans and EAPs will be reviewed as part of the periodic inspection process and required to be completed within 180 days following completion of a periodic inspection by the DSO. "Completion of a periodic inspection" is defined as the date the letter transmitting the DSO periodic inspection report is received by the project owner.

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