

Fees for New Dam Construction or Modifications

Fees for both new and modification dam construction are based on dam height and crest length (the length of the top of the dam). Fees for new construction were originally developed in 2005 (Table 4 in WAC 173-175-370), and are also the basis for modification fees.

The fees for new construction are adjusted yearly by the *fiscal growth factor*.** To see the updated Table 4 with the fiscal growth factor already calculated in, refer to the Ecology web page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/Fees2B.html>.

For **new construction fees** for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010), refer to the updated new construction fee table on the Ecology web site (see above).

For **modifications to existing dams**, the current fee is a percentage of the updated new construction fee (see Ecology web page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/Fees2B.html>) based on the feature to be modified and the extent of the modification (the “significant enlargement” factor). See Table 1.

- For modifications of existing dams with **significant impoundment**

enlargements,* fees are the percentages shown in Table 1 applied to the new construction fees for the current year, but no less than \$1,400.

- For **less than significant enlargements**,* fees are the percentages in Table 1 applied to the current new construction fees.
- For **dam safety deficiency repairs** required by Ecology, fees are \$1,400.
- For **removal of a dam** with safety deficiencies, fees are \$10.
- For **reclamation of mining operation dams**, fees are \$1,400.
- There is no fee for routine maintenance, normal replacement, or minor repairs.

- No fees are required for review of conceptual plans, changes required during review, or construction change orders.

Construction fees are charged on a per project basis.

Construction permit fee payment procedures allow dam owners to make an initial payment of \$1,400 for either a new dam or modification of an existing dam or project. Ecology will then bill the unpaid balance.

**The *fiscal growth factor* is the average growth in state personal income for the prior 10 fiscal years. It is determined annually by the State of Washington Expenditure Limit Committee. (<http://www.elc.wa.gov/sub/fgf.htm>)

**Table 1: Dam Modification Fees
Modification Fee as Percentage of Fee for New Dam Construction**

Feature Modified	With Significant Enlargement*	Without Significant Enlargement*
Spillway(s)	35%	25%
Impounding Barrier	35%	25%
Appurtenant Works and Miscellaneous Construction Elements	10%	10%

* **Significant Enlargement** means any modification of an existing dam that results in the dam height or normal pool height being increased by an amount greater than 5 feet, and which also represents a 10% or greater increase in dam height or normal pool height over that which existed prior to the modification. (WAC 173-175-030)

Dam Inspection Fees

Periodic inspection fees are collected annually for inspection of significant and high hazard dams. *Hazard levels* refer to the number of homes (or equivalent population) at risk downstream in event of dam failure: one or two homes for significant, three or more for high.

Fees for Fiscal Year 2010 (starting July 1, 2009), for 5-year inspection cycles, are:

- \$856 per year for high hazard dams.
- \$625 per year for significant hazard dams. (Note: a proviso in the 2009 budget passed by the Legislature requires these dams are inspected every five years; previously it was every ten.)

There are exceptions to the normal periodic inspection fees shown above:

- For dams less than 10 years old, no fees are charged.
- For dams more than 10 but less than 20 years old, fees equal the fee for significant hazard dams.
- For impoundments with multiple dams, a single facility fee is charged based on the dam with the highest hazard.
- For multi-cell impoundments, such as multi-cell wastewater lagoons, a single facility fee is charged based on the highest hazard cell.

- For non-routine and public request inspections, no fees are charged.

Paying Fees

The dam owner of record is responsible for paying all fees.

Fees must be paid by check or money order payable to the Department of Ecology and mailed to:

Department of Ecology
Dam Safety Inspection Fee Program
P.O. Box 47611
Olympia, Washington 98504-7611

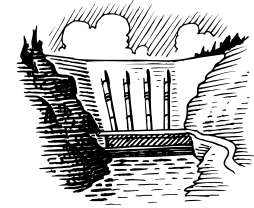
Fee balances are due within 45 days after Ecology mails your invoice. Ecology considers your fees as delinquent if we do not receive them by the due date. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, we consider the invoice unpaid.

Ecology may issue an enforcement order to dam owners with delinquent accounts, or refer the account for collection.

Paid fees are nonrefundable.

For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/dss.html>

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6872. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.



Dam Safety Fees

This brochure describes the two primary types of dam safety fees that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) must collect:

- **Construction permit fees** for examining plans and specifications for dams before they are built or modified.
- **Periodic inspection fees** for inspecting dams after they are built.

Other fees

To enforce dam safety requirements, Ecology may also impose sanctions through regulatory orders or civil penalties.

When an emergency condition poses an imminent threat to life, Ecology may take necessary actions. All costs incurred by Ecology are charged to the dam's owner.

The cost of an expert opinion is negotiable.

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