

## **10.5 Dams**

### **10.5.1 Background**

National responsibility for the promotion and coordination of dam safety lies with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as enacted by the National Dam Safety Program Act. State responsibility for administration of the dam safety criteria lies with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### **10.5.2 National Dam Safety Program Act**

The National Dam Safety Program Act has as its mission to "reduce the risks to life and property from dam failure in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective national dam safety program to bring together the expertise and resources of the federal and non-federal communities in achieving national dam safety hazard reduction."

### **10.5.3 State Regulations**

Rules and regulations relating to applicable dams are authorized by Connecticut General Statute 22a-401 through 411.

Under Connecticut statutes, DEP regulates all dams, dikes, or similar structures, where failure may endanger life or property.

Dams are classified as either new or existing, by hazard potential, and by height for regulatory purposes. Hazard potential categories are listed in the ConnDEP/Bureau of Water Management, Regulations Concerning Dam Safety Inspection (RCSA Section 22a-409-2).

The DEP also regulates all dam construction within the state. Contact DEP Inland Water Resources Division early in the planning process to determine the potential need for a dam construction permit pursuant to CGS Section 22a-403.

In accordance with CGS-22a-403 inland wetland, diversion and SCEL permits are **NOT** required to alter, repair or remove an existing dam if a dam permit is required. However, the construction of a new dam which requires a dam safety permit is exempt from inland wetland permitting but not exempt from diversion or SCEL permitting requirements.

Information and regulations that should be consulted for further details and engineering requirements are given in the Environmental Permit Application Package instructions for completing a permit application for programs administered by the Inland Water Resources Division, ConnDEP.