

NATIONAL DAM SAFETY PROGRAM FY 2016 Year-in-Review

For 30 years, the Federal government has used the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) to protect Americans from dam failure. The NDSP is a partnership of the States, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders that encourages and promotes the establishment and maintenance of effective Federal and state dam safety programs to reduce the risks to human life, property, and the environment from dam related hazards.

FEMA NDSP began to publish this series to showcase essential NDSP accomplishments that occurred during the past fiscal year (FY). It provides the dam safety community, as well as the public, a heightened understanding of the Program's objectives: to reduce the risk associated with dams and promote the benefits of dam safety.

To encourage and promote dam safety, FEMA coordinates with Federal, State and private sector partners through:

- The National Dam Safety Review Board, comprised of Federal, State and private sector partners, advises FEMA's Administrator in setting National dam safety priorities and considers effects of National policy issues affecting dam safety.
- The Interagency Committee on Dam Safety, comprised of Federal agencies having an involvement with dams, was founded in 1980 to encourage the establishment and maintenance of effective Federal programs, guidelines and policies to enhance dam safety and security.

FY 2016 MILESTONES



The South Carolina White Paper

From October 1 5, 2015, heavy rain poured over heavy rainfall over parts of South Carolina resulted in the failure of 31 state regulated dams, one federal dam, two sections of the levee adjacent to the Columbia Canal, and many unregulated dams.

A Dam Task Force was deployed by FEMA Mitigation to assess the dams and provide their expertise and insights to the State of South Carolina, FEMA HQ, FEMA Region IV, and Joint Field Office (JFO) leadership.



Decision Support System for Water Infrastructure Security (DSS-WISE™)

Decision Support System for Water Infrastructure Security (DSS-WISE[™]) lite is a dam flood simulation platform that provides the user the ability to perform rapid simulations that can support pre-disaster planning and/or support decision making while an incident is developing. The strength of DSS-WISE Lite is its ability to conduct a sophisticated 2-D dam breach analysis in a quick manner. This project is a research/ technology development investment of the National Dam Safety Program.



Regional Roll-Out of Grants

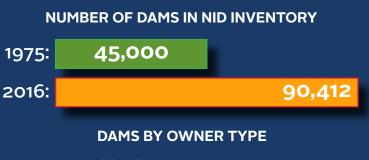
Fiscal Year 2016 saw a tremendous change in how NDSP distributes grants, resulting in a streamlined, and yet more nuanced, process. The ten FEMA Regions now distribute the grants to their state constituents.

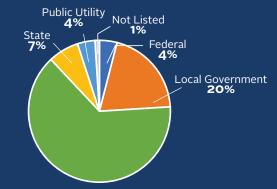
FY 2016 Update of the **NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and FEMA NDSP collaborate on The Nation Inventory of Dams (NID), a database first authorized by Congress in 1975 in pursuit of keeping a proper account of the nation's dam infrastructure.

Updated every two years, there are four criteria that enable a dam to be cataloged in the NID. One must be met to be included:

- High hazard classification loss of one human life is likely if the dam fails,
- 2. Significant hazard classification possible loss of human life and likely significant property or environmental destruction,
- 3. Equal or exceed 25 feet in height and exceed 15 acre-feet in storage,
- 4. Equal or exceed 50 acre-feet storage and exceed 6 feet in height.





FY 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



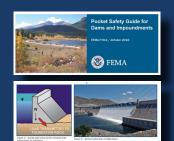
Biennial Report to Congress

All goals and objective set by the NDSP Strategic Plan were met during FY14 15. The report notes activities undertaken that related to accomplishing certain goals and objectives.



NDSP Overview Fact Sheet

FEMA NDSP released an interactive fact sheet that provides a program overview.



Pocket Guide Update

Updated in 2016, the "Pocket Safety Guide for Dams and Impoundments" was developed for dam owners and other people as a quick reference when assessing low hazard dams and impoundments.



Cooperative Technical Agreement with Association State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)

NDSP began work on defining and setting measurable performance goals that will enable the Program to more readily determine its progress into the future. The Program is currently verifying the measurability of each performance indicator. The Performance Metrics will be finalized FY17.