



Year-in-Review

National Dam Safety Program Calendar Year 2023

March 2024



FEMA

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

Message from the Director	3
Year-in-Review	4
1. Strategic Priorities	4
1.1. National Dam Safety Program Strategic Plan: Fiscal Year 2024-2029	4
1.2. FEMA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Listening Sessions	5
1.3. National Dam Safety Program Research Summit.....	6
2. Program Leadership	7
3. Grants	8
3.1. 2023 State Assistance Grants.....	8
3.2. Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Projects.....	8
3.2.1. Wellsville Dam in Ohio	8
3.2.2. Lake Lynn Cartlage Dam.....	9
4. Partnership Engagements	10
4.1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....	10
4.2. High Hazard Potential Dam Risk-Informed Approach Task Group	11
5. Training	12
5.1. Emergency Management Institute: National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar – Feb. 22-23, 2023	12
5.2. Collaborative Technical Assistance	13
6. Outreach and Engagement	14
6.1. National Dam Safety Awareness Day	14
7. Publications/Reports/Resources	14
7.1. Model State Dam Safety Program Manual.....	14
7.2. National Dam Safety Program General and High Hazard Potential Dam Specific Publications	14
7.3. National Dam Safety Program Federal Guidelines Updates	15
8. Conferences and Presentations	16
8.1. 2023 United States Society on Dams Annual Conference – Charleston, South Carolina.....	16

8.2. Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference – Raleigh, North Carolina.. 16

8.3. Association of State Dam Safety Officials Regional Conference – Portland, Maine 16

8.4. Dam Safety 2023: Association of State Dam Safety Officials – Palm Springs,
California 16

8.5. 2023 International Association of Emergency Managers Conference – Long Beach,
California 17

8.6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Workshop – Charleston, South Carolina 17

Message from the Director

The FEMA National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) achieved significant milestones in 2023, notably the release of the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan. Our initiatives in grants, outreach awareness, research and training have advanced current FEMA Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

Among these accomplishments, FEMA hosted the NDSP Research Summit and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Listening Sessions, where participants provided invaluable feedback. I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to these events.

Through collaborative efforts involving the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety, National Dam Safety Review Board, states, territories, and partners, we are poised for continued success in the years ahead.

With the additional funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, an additional accomplishment in 2023 is that our program resources and staff increased. We now have three new branches and introduce each of the branch chiefs to you in this report.

Sincerely,

Kayed Lakhia
Director, National Dam Safety Program



Year-in-Review

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) is a partnership of public and private sector stakeholders that 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.

The program began publishing this series to highlight essential program accomplishments. This document is devoted to accomplishments during 2023. It provides the dam safety community and the public with a heightened understanding of the program’s objectives: to reduce the risk associated with dams and promote the benefits of dam safety.

To promote dam safety, FEMA coordinates with federal, state and private sector partners through these two entities:

- Founded in 1986, the National Dam Safety Review Board, comprised of federal, state and private sector partners, advises FEMA’s administrator in setting dam safety priorities. The board also consults the administrator on the effects of dam safety policy.
- 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.

Program Highlights for 2023

Total Training/Collaborative Technical Assistance Sessions	15
Training Participants	268+
Listening Sessions Participants	547+
New/Updated Guidance or Tools	7

1. Strategic Priorities

1.1. National Dam Safety Program Strategic Plan: Fiscal Year 2024-2029

Developed in partnership with the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety and the National Dam Safety Review Board, this [five-year strategy](#) focuses on results for the program to reduce risks to life, property, and the environment from dam failure by guiding public policy and leveraging industry best practices across the dam safety community.

It also builds the foundation for what the program will look like in five years to ensure the benefits and risks of dams are understood and managed equitably, as well as enhancing public safety, national security, and the environment while adapting to climate change.

The Strategic Plan provides details for each of the strategic priorities, beginning with identifying the goals and objectives to be achieved and then describing the activities and coordination points that will be pursued in support of those outcomes. Each objective also includes an associated performance metric that represents meaningful progress toward achieving the outcome.

Table 1. NDSP Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Reduce risks to life and property associated with dams.	Goal 2: Increase awareness of the benefits and risks associated with dam infrastructure	Goal 3: Advance the state of practice of dam safety and dam risk management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objective 1: Support the development of a national dam risk assessment methodology. ▪ Objective 2: Advance community resiliency to dam related flood hazards and loss of benefits through emergency planning and risk awareness. ▪ Objective 3: Provide federal assistance to reduce the risks associated with dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objective 1: Assist federal and state dam safety programs in effectively communicating and sharing information with those that have a role and responsibility in dam risk management throughout disaster planning, response, and recovery. ▪ Objective 2: Develop guidance, resources and tools that educate and raise public awareness of dam related benefits and risks associated with their community. ▪ Objective 3: Educate dam owners on effective risk reduction, risk communication and information sharing strategies related to dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objective 1: Develop and deliver dam safety education and technical assistance for those that have a role and responsibility in dam risk management. ▪ Objective 2: Promote research to facilitate effective dam risk management. ▪ Objective 3: Develop continuing education and advancement of dam safety engineers (public and private) based on a national standard program of study, training, and credentialing. ▪ Objective 4: Promote the integration of emergency management to build effective risk management.

1.2. FEMA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Listening Sessions

President Joseph R. Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, on Nov. 2, 2021. The Act increased funding for FEMA dam safety about 100-fold from prior years, with \$585 million for the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant, \$148 million for the State Assistance Grant, and \$67 million total for operations and support.

With this increase in funding, FEMA's National Dam Safety Program hosted a total of seven listening sessions (virtually and in-person) covering various topics, including:

- Visionary Opportunities for State Dam Safety Programs, with a focus on grant funding overall.
- Assessment Prioritization, Decision Making (Resiliency-Understanding and Addressing Risk)
- Grants Applications and Grants Management (Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams and State Assistance)
- Dam Rehabilitation and Removal Projects / Historic Preservation (EHP) Requirements Review and Needs Assessment / Floodplain Management Requirements

The overall goals of the Listening Sessions were to:

- Understand the needs of the stakeholders that the National Dam Safety Program is intended to support.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful input to shape decisions and outcomes on program design, components, and products.
- Ensure that the unique challenges related to dams faced by disadvantaged communities and tribes are well understood and incorporated into solutions.
- Identify the challenges future climatic issues pose to dam safety.

The feedback from the listening sessions helped to identify program areas to enhance or improve, streamline grant processes, and create solutions and opportunities for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. A [report](#) of the listening session findings was published in August 2023 on FEMA's website. The sessions had a total of 547 participants.

1.3. National Dam Safety Program Research Summit

The National Dam Safety Program Research Summit took place Feb. 8-9 at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC.

The mission of the Research Summit was to evaluate near-term industry needs for dam safety and to outline a path forward for the future. This event provided a venue to bring a total of 55 key dam safety industry research leaders from across the United States and from all sectors (federal, state, academia and industry partners). The objectives outlined prior to the summit were as follows:

- Identify firm and defined research deliverables funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that must be completed in a three-year cycle.
- Identify and forecast future research needs for long-term execution. For each research need, develop a description, justification and pathway to move those ideas forward.

Due to the research summit, the National Dam Safety Program selected 31 projects to begin in 2023-2025. The [Research Summit Report](#) summarizes each phase of the process taken to identify these priorities.



Figure 1. (Left) NDSP Director, Kayed Lakhia, addresses the group at the NDSP Research Summit. (Right) A Research Summit attendee facilitates a breakout session during the Research Summit.

2. Program Leadership

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided additional funding leading to an expansion of the National Dam Safety Program. As a result, the program evolved into several branches, with the appointment of individuals to serve as Branch Chiefs.

Jena'i Jordan is the new Chief for the Grants Section. Prior to accepting this position, Jena'i was a Senior Program Lead for the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams grant program where she provided technical assistance and support for that program and all other grants related activities. A native of North Carolina, Jena'i started her career with FEMA in 2009 working in FEMA's Disaster Assistance Employee Cadre, then became a Reservist in the Mitigation Cadre, and later worked in FEMA Headquarters in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division with both the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant programs.

Steve Snell was recently selected Engineering Branch Chief. He previously served eight years as a Regional Dam Safety Engineer for the state of Virginia. While attending college earning an engineering degree, Steve worked as a fire fighter and did summer internships at flood control dams with the Army Corps of Engineers. He began his career working for private consultants for many years in Pennsylvania doing structural engineering. He also spent time in Puerto Rico assessing hurricane damage as a contractor for FEMA. Steve worked for the city of Richmond, Virginia as the Stormwater Program Manager and as the Assets Engineer overseeing the maintenance of large structures including bridges, floodwalls and dams. His leadership was instrumental in the creation of Richmond's Stormwater Utility division.

Kent Huizinga is the new Branch Chief for the Training and Communications Section of the National Dam Safety Program. Prior to joining FEMA, Kent was a Director for KPMG, working in their state and local government group where he assisted with numerous emergency management and grants related activities. Kent started his career with FEMA Region 5 in 2009 working in the Individual Assistance Branch and held several roles within the region's Recovery Division through 2022.

3. Grants

3.1. 2023 State Assistance Grants

The State Assistance Grant provides financial assistance to states for strengthening their dam safety programs. In spring 2023, \$6.25 million was distributed to 49 states and Puerto Rico. In fall 2023, the National Dam Safety State Assistance Grant Program made approximately \$26 million available for programs. The funding opportunity application period was Nov. 6, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024.

3.2. Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Projects

3.2.1. WELLSVILLE DAM IN OHIO

The Wellsville Dam in Little Yellow Creek, Ohio, was the first dam removal project using funds from this grant program. The town was first notified of the need for maintenance in June 2019, and engineers finished renovations in August 2022.

In a letter stating that the operation and maintenance of the dam violated state dam safety laws and put downstream residents' lives at risk, Wellsville was ordered to take immediate action. Since the reservoir was no longer being used for water, the town decided removing it would be most effective. Removal cost nearly \$1 million.

According to the Wellsville Reservoir Dam Project proposal, the dam removal consisted of:

- Draining the remaining water within the existing reservoirs
- Removing of a portion of existing earthen dam's embankment
- Temporary erosion control and permanent erosion control including seeding and mulching, rock channel protection, and slope erosion protection
- Removing structural components such as the existing gate house structure and walkway bridge, as well as existing valve vaults engineering

With assistance from this FEMA grant program, the village of Wellsville worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Water to finish this project. Also, with funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission, these awards covered the cost of the project with no out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the village of Wellsville.

3.2.2. LAKE LYNN CARTLAGE DAM

In 2023, the Lake Lynn Cartlage Dam in Mississippi finished their rehabilitation project with program funds.

The Lake Lynn Cartlage Dam was built in the mid-1960s and expanded with the surrounding neighborhood in the 1980s. Originally classified as low hazard, the dam was upgraded to high hazard after a review of downstream hazards in 2017 indicated the probable loss of life in the event of failure.

After this assessment, Mississippi state dam safety officials and county officials began considering the dam for a rehabilitation project. Forrest County accepted ownership and responsibility for the dam, as well as the road that runs across it, which the state submitted an application for HHPD grant funding in 2020.



Figure 2. Lake Lynn Cartlage Dam before removal (left) and after removal (right).

To bring the dam up to current state dam safety standards for high hazard dams, multiple actions were taken, including:

- installing a 60-inch concrete riser with a 48-inch conduit welded steel pipe
- raising, widening, re-sloping, and armoring the existing auxiliary spillway
- raising the top of the dam height
- flattening upstream and downstream slopes to a final 3:1 grade
- adding grouted riprap to the upstream slope for wave wash protection
- adding a riprap plunge pool downstream of the outlet conduit

The full rehabilitation, from design and planning to completion, spanned the full three-year period of performance and overcame supply shortages and cost increases during the COVID pandemic and

inconsistent community support, despite best efforts by local officials to champion the project. Coordination and communication among Forrest County officials, Mississippi dam safety officials, FEMA regional and headquarters grants staff are credited with the successful rehabilitation.

4. Partnership Engagements

4.1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The FEMA strategic plan outlines a bold vision and three ambitious goals designed to address critical challenges the agency faces during a pivotal moment in emergency management. Working towards our second strategic goal of climate resilience, program staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services connect through the impact of climate change and fish and aquatic organism passage with dam removal. Part of this involves maintaining and improving our nation's dam infrastructure.

Investing in proper dam safety measures is crucial to saving lives and bolstering the resilience of the nation. By taking proactive steps to ensure the safety of our dams, catastrophic failures can be prevented while protecting communities from devastating floods. Fortunately, the National Dam Safety Program is able to further invest in dam safety with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which appropriated \$585 million to FEMA for the Rehabilitation of the High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. From this amount, at least \$75 million is targeted for dam removal projects.

- The program is taking the following steps to increase interagency coordination on dam removal:
 - Reviewing dam removal data from the American River Association,
 - Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Inventory of Dams, and

Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) brought forth an opportunity for the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Headquarters to support dam removal efforts under the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program:

- Provide support, expertise, and guidance
- Support FEMA across other components within this program
- Support service efforts to coordinate across the federal government on dam removals, fish passage and barrier removal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

At the USFWS, Lee Holt was appointed as a detailee to FEMA and worked on a Fish Passage Considerations & Dam Removal Guidance, amongst many other efforts and products. Lee was instrumental in collaboration and coordination while also playing a key role in the funding opportunity process and disseminating information on fish and aquatic passages, coordinating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on sea water vs fresh water, and other various

tasks. Lee became an essential part of the National Dam Safety Program as he connected FEMA with USFWS initiatives through a number of the agency's programs including Environmental and Historic Preservation, Floodplain Management, and Risk MAP.

In addition, the National Dam Safety Program assigned a staff member to the USFWS Fish Passage Task Force Communications Working Group to participate in crafting messaging and talking points across federal agencies for fish passage.

4.2. High Hazard Potential Dam Risk-Informed Approach Task Group

The [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act](#) authorizing the Rehabilitation of the High-Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program required FEMA in consultation with the National Dam Safety Review Board (NDSRB) to develop a risk-based priority system for use in identifying eligible high hazard potential dams for which grants may be made.

A team of NDSRB members comprised of all state voting members and key federal agencies met nearly monthly over the past two years and recommended the framework for the risk-based priority system that also included the need for tools to assist the states. The full NDSRB approved the recommendation at the April 2023 Board meeting.

Although the Risk-Prioritization Methodology and tools are being developed for the program grant efforts, the methodology and tools may also be used by state programs that are planning to incorporate risk-based decision making in the management of their regulated dam inventories.

FEMA is performing pilot applications of the supporting tools in nine states to refine them and to use lessons learned to develop guidance documents and document training program needs.

In 2023, FEMA conducted two listening sessions to obtain input from all state programs and was informed that:

- States currently do not have the capacity to do portions of the grant application processes that FEMA assumes they can.
- More clarity is needed on whether program grant funds cover certain project types.
- There is a lack of information about the dam screening process. Stakeholders want clearer guidance on who conducts the screening, the tools used to do so, and how certain dams are categorized.
- More knowledge is needed about the approvals required to do a dam removal project and how lengthy the process will be.

FEMA announced the results of the listening sessions and presented an overview of the risk priority methodology and tools. FEMA also presented the framework of the system which consists of two parts.

- Part One was designed to address states’ concerns about the capacity to identify dams considered eligible for grant program funding to simplify the application process.
- Part Two occurs after the states apply for HHPD grants and know their funding allocation. It also helps states assess and document the risk prioritization for the few select dams under consideration for said funds. Much discussion took place about the need for FEMA to demonstrate how the prioritization methodology is applied by the states and how to incorporate state-specific methods developed to comply with past program grants.

The Board recommended methodology provides a means for the states to perform secondary screening for risk prioritization, where states can use the Decision Support System for Water Infrastructure Security Lite software results or their own state-specific ranking methods.

5. Training

5.1. Emergency Management Institute: National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar – Feb. 22-23, 2023

The National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar (NDSPTS) held its 30th annual two-day seminar in 2023. The National Dam Safety Review Board’s Task Group focused on Dam Safety Training and highlights relevant dam safety issues.

The session was held in-person at FEMA’s training facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Nearly 200 participants from the dam safety community across the nation. The theme for this year’s seminar was: “Managing and Regulating Dams into The Future.” It brought in perspectives from various dam and levee safety experts and included topics such as new challenges, technologies, and approaches.



Figure 3. Dam Safety Professionals Nathaniel Gee (Left) and Victor Hare (right) present at the National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar.

5.2. Collaborative Technical Assistance

The FEMA Collaborative Technical Assistance (CTA) series helps communities at risk of dam-related flooding better understand their risk landscape and the potential consequences of dam-related emergencies. This is accomplished through planning for emergencies related to operational discharges or dam-related infrastructure failure.

In Fiscal Year 2023, Albemarle County in Virginia was the recipient of this assistance. Overall, Virginia had 12 learning sessions and two virtual office hours with 68 participants, including 18 different federal and non-federal organizations.



Figure 4. (Left) The Virginia Collaborative Technical Assistance cohort after successfully completing their Tabletop Exercise. (Right) Participants touring the Ragged Mountain Dam in Charlottesville, Virginia.

For the next competitive fiscal year cycle, which began in October 2023, 21 applications were evaluated for FEMA’s Planning for Dam Emergencies Collaborative Technical Assistance Program.

All applications were reviewed and scored by a panel of Collaborative Technical Assistance Subject Matter Experts who met virtually in July 2023. The review panel scored applications based on specific criteria described in [Fiscal Year 2024 Planning for Dam Emergencies Collaborative Technical Assistance Application](#) and Fiscal Year 2024 CTA Application Criteria / Evaluation Sheet.

The panel also identified the [Community Resilience Challenges Index \(CRCI\)](#) score for the applications. The CRCI represents the relative level of a community’s resilience (at the county level) compared to all other communities at the same level. It also measures a particular county’s national rank and is inversely proportional to a community’s risk, such that higher percentiles represent areas facing greater challenges to resilience.

Those selected to participate in the upcoming fiscal year technical assistance have been notified, and an announcement of the new cohorts has been publicized.

6. Outreach and Engagement

6.1. National Dam Safety Awareness Day

On May 31, 2023, FEMA and other agency partners, including the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety and the National Dam Safety Review Board, honored National Dam Safety Awareness Day. This day commemorates the tragic failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on May 31, 1889. This was the worst dam failure in United States history and resulted in the loss of more than 2,200 lives and left thousands homeless. For more information about National Dam Safety Awareness Day and to stay up to date with plans throughout 2024, visit the [Dam Safety Day webpage](#).

7. Publications/Reports/Resources

7.1. Model State Dam Safety Program Manual

In collaboration with the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the program developed the [Model State Dam Safety Program Manual](#) to enhance national dam safety. It encourages progressive safety standards and procedures state agencies use to regulate dam site investigation, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency planning and preparedness. The manual also provides guidance on the development of more effective and sustainable state programs that will mitigate major risks facing dams across the nation.

7.2. National Dam Safety Program General and High Hazard Potential Dam Specific Publications

The following list of publications were developed by the program in 2023:

- General Outreach NDSP Publications
 - [NDSP Overview Brochure](#)
- NDSP Grant Specific Publications
 - [State Assistance Brochure](#)
 - [Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program Brochure](#)
 - [High Hazard Potential Dams: Local and Tribal Planning Tips – Region 3](#)
 - [Detection Equipment Eligible for Purchase with National Dam Safety Program Grants](#)
 - [Priority System Process for the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grants](#)
 - [501\(c\)\(4\) Homeowner Associations Now Eligible for FEMA Dam Safety Grant](#)

7.3. National Dam Safety Program Federal Guidelines Updates

The FEMA NDSP, in coordination with ICODS and NDSRB, formed four task/work groups and continued to work on updating the following Federal Guideline documents:

- FEMA P-64 – *Emergency Action Planning for Dam Owners*
- FEMA P-65 – *Earthquake Analyses and Design of Dams*
- FEMA P-148 – *Glossary of Terms*

FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR DAM SAFETY, FEMA P-93 PUBLISHED

The program released an updated [FEMA P-93, *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*](#). These guidelines apply to dam safety management practices for all federal agencies responsible for the planning, emergency preparedness, design, construction, operation, regulation of dams, and response to dam incidents. Reasonable application of these principles should be made in recognition of a dam’s size, complexity, and hazard potential.

Since 1979, the *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety* have provided guidance and structure for the continued improvement and coordination of dam safety activities among federal agencies. Changes in dam safety practices have occurred over the last four decades, based on science and best practices, and this document has been updated to reflect those changes.

The *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety* encourage strict safety standards in the practices and procedures employed by federal agencies or required of dam owners regulated by federal agencies. It provides the most complete and authoritative statement available on the desired management practices for promoting dam safety in the United States and U.S. territories. These guidelines apply to federal practices for dams with a direct federal interest. They do not attempt to establish technical standards and are not intended to replace or conflict with state, tribal, or local government responsibilities for the safety of dams under their jurisdiction.

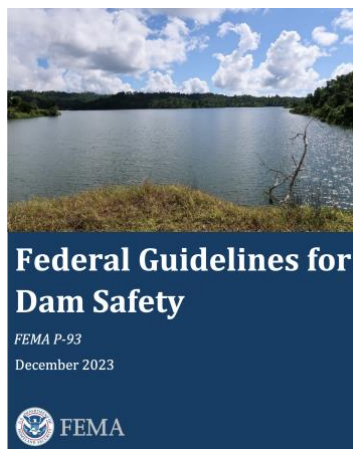


Figure 5. Cover of FEMA P-93, *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*

8. Conferences and Presentations

8.1. 2023 United States Society on Dams Annual Conference – Charleston, South Carolina

The program also participated in the United States Society on Dams (USSD) Annual Conference from April 17-21, 2023, in Charleston, South Carolina. The program also gave two presentations at the conference which included “*Dam Safety Is a Shared Responsibility & the Nation’s Infrastructure Depends on It*” and “*Dam Safety CTA Program: How Tabletop Exercises are Transforming Preparedness.*”

8.2. Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference – Raleigh, North Carolina

FEMA participated in the Association of State Floodplain Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, May 7-11, 2023. The Director of the NDSP also presented “*Dam Safety is a Shared Responsibility and the Nation’s Infrastructure Depends on it.*”

8.3. Association of State Dam Safety Officials Regional Conference – Portland, Maine

Members of the National Dam Safety Program team attended the Northeast Association of State Dam Safety Officials conference in Portland, Maine May 22-25, 2023. At the conference, a recap of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act listening sessions was provided by FEMA.



Figure 6. IIJA Listening Session Recap at Northeast Association of State Dam Safety Officials conference

8.4. Dam Safety 2023: Association of State Dam Safety Officials – Palm Springs, California

FEMA NDSP attended and exhibited at the Association of State Dam Safety Officials Annual Conference in Palm Springs, California from Sept. 17-21, 2023. The program had several

presentations/sessions including the “*NDSP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation Progress/Updates.*”

Another session, “*HHPD Tools for Project Prioritization Demonstration,*” was offered twice at the conference and provided the 85 attendees with an overview of the HHPD project prioritization requirements and demonstrations of tools being developed to aid in the process of project ranking.

The project priority system includes a screening level methodology to compare risk reduction for multiple projects under consideration for funding and two tools, the HHPD Project Prioritization Tool and the USACE Dam Screening Tool. The HHPD Project Prioritization Tool and the USACE Dam Screening Tool were demonstrated on several example dams to give attendees familiarity with the data input requirements, the functionality of the tools, and to give states insight on best practices for project ranking.

The FEMA National Dam Safety Program Director was a panelist in the “*Detangling the Web of Federal Funding Opportunities for State and Local Dam Safety Professionals*” workshop.

8.5. 2023 International Association of Emergency Managers Conference – Long Beach, California

The FEMA NDSP attended the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference from Nov. 6-8, 2023, in Long Beach, California. Members of the NDSP participated in a poster session where the Collaborative Technical Assistance Program was highlighted in a presentation titled “*Dam Risks in Disasters: A Puerto Rico Case Study for Hurricane Fiona.*”

8.6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Workshop – Charleston, South Carolina

The NDSP Director participated in the second annual Partnership Workshop on Fish Passage and Aquatic Connectivity from Dec. 5-7, 2023, in Charleston, South Carolina. Building upon the 2022 meeting attended by over 100 representatives from federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations, the workshop aimed to advance ecological and socioeconomic goals in fish passage projects supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Following the initial meeting, 13 federal agencies established a Federal Interagency Fish Passage Task Force to streamline processes and enhance outcomes for fish, wildlife, conservation, and communities. This year's workshop focused on assessing progress and broadening involvement in fish passage initiatives, including those related to transportation, flood risk management, dam safety, and community revitalization.