

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | June 02, 2023

## Department of Water Resources Issues Final Legacy Dam Policy

The North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) has issued its final version of the Hazard Classification and Legacy Dams Policy. Dam Hazard Classification definitions were updated in North Dakota Administrative Code § 89-08-01-01 effective January 2023. The DWR developed this policy to explain how those updates will be applied to both new and existing dams.

Under this new policy, dams will be automatically assigned a legacy designation if their hazard classification changes due to DWR-initiated modifications to rules, statutes or policies. The legacy designation will remain in effect until the dam owner initiates a permissible action. Once a construction permit is requested, the dam will be subject to the revised dam hazard classifications. This policy goes into effect June 2, 2023.

"Dam safety is of the utmost importance to the residents of North Dakota," regulatory division director Aaron Carranza said. "This policy builds upon the DWR's commitment to transparency, accountability and life safety within the Dam Safety Program."

The DWR issued its draft policy for a 30-day public comment period on March 20, 2023. The DWR received 60 comments, including representatives from the North Dakota Water Resource District Association and the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota. The DWR carefully reviewed and considered all comments received for potential policy revision, resulting in numerous updates reflected in the final policy.

The final policy can be found on DWR's website at [https://www.swc.nd.gov/reg\\_approp/dam\\_safety/](https://www.swc.nd.gov/reg_approp/dam_safety/)

Please send comments or questions regarding this policy to Karen Goff at [kgoff@nd.gov](mailto:kgoff@nd.gov) or 701-328-4953. For more information and updates, please visit [dwr.nd.gov](http://dwr.nd.gov).

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