

NRCS Assistance on Existing Dams





NRCS is the Engineer of Record (EOR)

1. **NRCS may provide technical assistance on dams where NRCS is the EOR. This includes all structures planned, designed and implemented under various programs, mainly:**
 - a. **Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CO-01)**
 - b. **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
 - c. **State Cost Share Program (NRCS in Partnership with the State of Iowa)**
 - d. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**
 - e. **National Watershed Program (PL 78-534, PL 83-566, RC&D, and Pilot Watershed Program)**





Requesting Assistance

2. The owner of a dam who is seeking technical assistance with operation, maintenance or repair, and believes their dam may have been designed and constructed with assistance from NRCS, should:

- a. **First contact the NRCS office in their county at the local USDA Service Center to determine if they have a record of the dam being implemented by a previous owner, or if the dam is part of a local Watershed Plan.**
- b. **If there is no record locally, NRCS staff may make a request to the NRCS State Office to see if the dam is in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam Inventory of Dams database.**
- c. **If there is no record of the dam at either of these sources it is unlikely the dam was implemented with technical or financial assistance from NRCS.**





What Assistance May Be Provided

3. Assistance is subject to funding. It may include:

- a. Information on Program roles and responsibilities**
- b. Information on the availability of financial assistance funding for existing dams**
- c. Information and guidance on the design, operation and maintenance of dams**
- d. Engineering assistance for the maintenance and repair of dams**
- e. Updated assessment of potential hazard classifications when development occurs downstream of a dam**





The National Watershed Program

4. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance under the Watershed Rehabilitation Program

- a. **The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns. Since 1948, the Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing 11,845 project dams.**
- b. **Funding currently only covers dams that have undergone a change in potential hazard classification from Low to High due to development.**
- c. **Funding for formal assessments of project dams is included in the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.**





DamWatch

5. **NRCS funds the development and maintenance of DamWatch**
 - a. **DamWatch is a Web-based application developed for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist watershed project sponsors with monitoring and managing NRCS-assisted dams. This tool provides real-time monitoring of rainfall, snowmelt, stream flow, and seismic events that could pose potential threats to dam safety.**





DamWatch

5. **NRCS funds the development and maintenance of DamWatch**
 - b. **DamWatch alerts essential personnel via email, fax, or text message when dams experience one or more of the potentially hazardous monitored conditions. This allows for the coordinated deployment of personnel and resources at the right time and place.**





DamWatch

5. NRCS funds the development and maintenance of DamWatch

- c. **DamWatch provides a “one-stop” source for accessing critical documents, databases, onsite electronic monitoring devices, and geospatial information through a secure interactive web interface. This allows NRCS and watershed project sponsors to manage a proactive response. Important project dam information includes as-built plans, operation and maintenance agreements, emergency action plans, inspection reports, photos, videos, and assessment reports.**





QUESTIONS?