



Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Flood Plain Management Program  
**Water Supply Structures**

Use this guidance to ensure that your flood plain application is complete. To view a complete version of the state's flood plain management and dam safety criteria, visit <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov>.

**Technical Assistance Help Line: 866-849-0321**

Provide documentation that your project meets the following criteria.

**To determine floodway offsets:**

- ✓ Establish a floodway. This is the area of the flood plain which must be reserved for the conveyance of flood flows so that flood heights and velocities will not be substantially increased by future encroachment on the flood plain.
- ✓ Ensure that the cumulative increase in the water surface elevation of Q100, which would result from confining the flood flows to the floodway, shall not exceed 1 foot.
- ✓ Ensure that the location of the offsets provide for equal and opposite conveyance of flood flows.

**To protect structures:**

- ✓ Structures shall be protected to the Q100 plus 1 foot
- ✓ Structures adjacent to an impoundment shall be protected to the elevation of the top of dam.
- ✓ Structures downstream from a dam shall be protected to a level determined by the department.

**Acquisition of property interest:**

- ✓ Required where protection of an existing structure necessitates prohibition of development in an area which could otherwise be developed under the encroachment limits.