

MAINE DAM SAFETY PROGRAM



STEVEN MALLORY

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS &
RESPONSE

TONY FLETCHER

ACTING STATE DAM INSPECTOR

TARA AYOTTE

DAM SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR

ANNA POPPLEREITER

ASSISTANT DAM ENGINEER

Who We Are

Maine Dam Safety Program is administered through the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Program reports to the MEMA Director of Operations and Response

Steven Mallory

Two, Full-Time Engineers

State Dam Inspector: Tony Fletcher, P.E.
(acting)

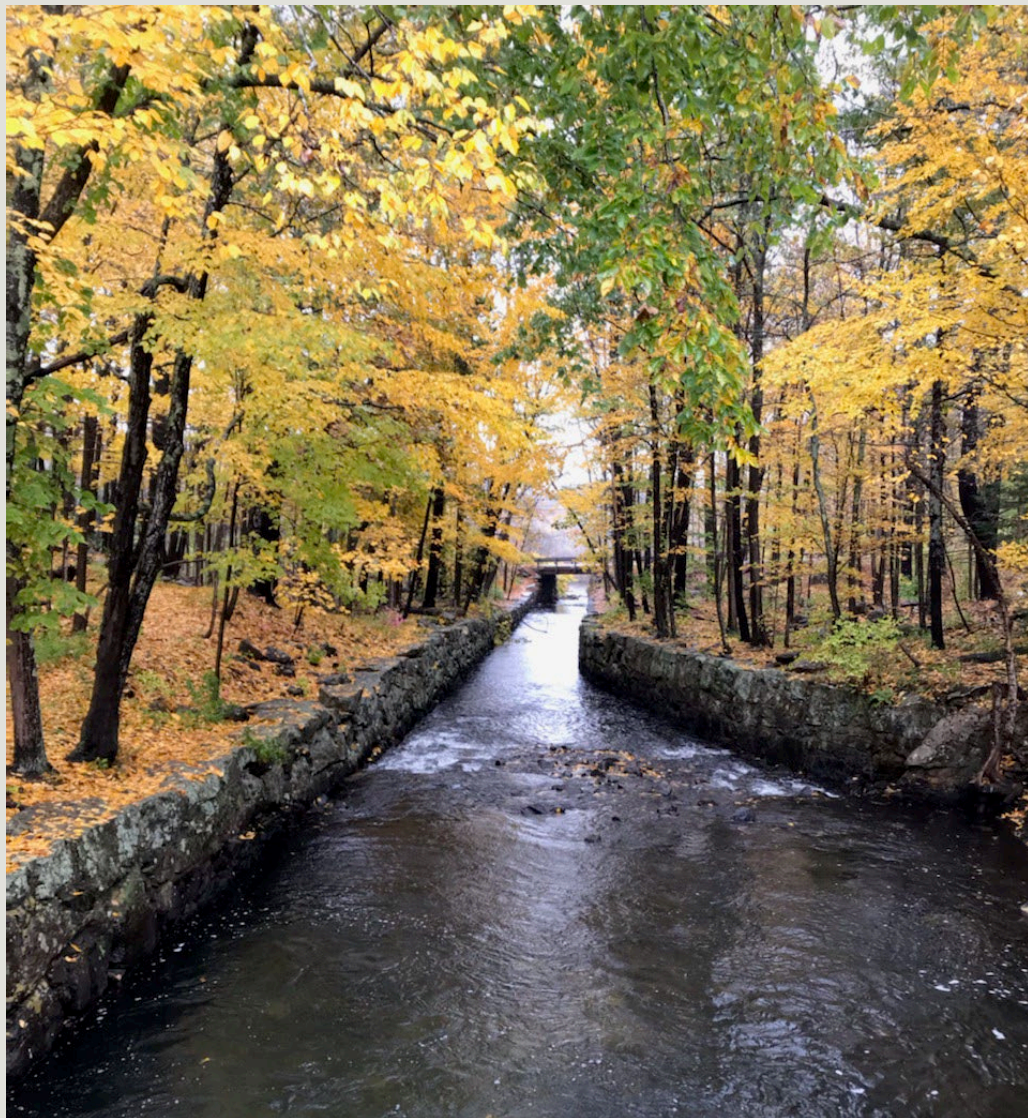
Assistant Engineer: Anna Poppelreiter

One, Half-Time Administrator Tara Ayotte



What We Do

- Enforce Title 37-B MRSA Ch. 24: Dam Safety Law
- Perform Inspections of all MEMA jurisdictional dams
- Condition Assessment of all Significant and High Hazard Dams at least once every 6 years
- Hazard Assessment of all jurisdictional dams at least once every 12 years



What We Do (Cont'd)

- Review designs for new dam construction and reconstruction projects
- Assist Significant and High Hazard Dam owners with Emergency Action Plans (EAP)
- Facilitate Tabletop Exercises of EAPs
- Produce inundation maps for dam breach events
- Administer National Dam Safety Grant, and Repair and Reconstruction Fund

Maine Dams

Maine Definition:

- "An artificial barrier that impounds or diverts water that is at least 25 feet in height and impounds at least 15 acre-feet of water at maximum storage elevation or is more than 6 feet in height and impounds more than 50 acre-feet of water at maximum storage elevation."

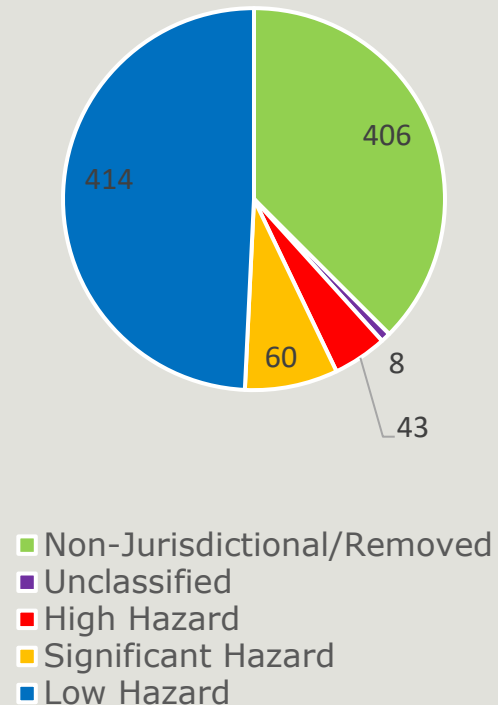
Hazard Classification:

- *Low Hazard* – Dam failure or misoperation will result in minimal property damage, low environmental impacts, and no probable loss of human life
- *Significant Hazard* – Dam failure or misoperation will result in significant property damage and environmental impacts, but no probable loss of human life
- *High Hazard* – Dam failure or misoperation will result in probable loss of human life

Maine Dams

- 1,140 Dams on database (60 are in New Hampshire)
- More are found each year!
- 931 Dams are regulated by MEMA
 - FERC Dams are not under MEMA jurisdiction (147)
 - Maine DEP and IFW also monitor dams
- Of those 931 Dams...

MEMA Regulated Dams





Overview of Maine Dam Safety in 2024

- 46 EAPs completed, updated, and/or reviewed
- 6 Tabletop Exercise completed
- 24 required Condition & Hazard Inspections completed (HH&SH)
- 5 required condition & Hazard inspections NOT completed (HH&SH)
- 82% High and Significant Inspections & Assessments and 5% written reports
- 100% compliance EAP Updates
- Acting State Dam Inspector

Maine Dam Safety in 2025-2026

Hazard Inspections:

- Approximately 30 planned

Condition Assessments:

- Approximately 30 planned

6 Potential Reclassifications

Continued Inundation Mapping

11 Potential Classifications

60 Potential EAP Updates

8 Potential Tabletop Exercises





Challenges

Funding

- Approximately \$205,000 in program funding each year

Staffing

- 2.5 Employees for all MEMA dams when fully staffed

Coverage Area

- Geographic area of Maine is about as large as all other New England States combined

Weather

- Inspection season is shortened

Other MEMA Assignments

Future of Maine Dam Safety Program

- Maintain Dam Compliance and Enforce Title 37-B MRSA Ch. 24: Dam Safety
- Integrate more technology via databases, field apps, drones, etc.
- Strengthen and Standardize Hydrology/Hydraulic Analyses through HEC products
- Draft dam construction guidelines and specifications
- Increase public outreach and education on dam safety
- Promote coordination between other State of Maine departments for information sharing
- Potential for rule change(s)
- Increase presence at dam safety meetings, conferences, and trainings
- Promote funding mechanisms for construction and remedial actions, such as the High Hazard Dam Grant

TODAY

- ▶ Complaints
 - ▶ LD 1488
 - ▶ LD 1848 Improve Dam Safety
 - ▶ LD 1382 Dam Repair
 - ▶ LD 1698/LD 62 Ownership
 - ▶ Partnerships
 - ▶ USACOE
 - ▶ IF&W
 - ▶ DEP
 - ▶ Companies
 - ▶ Municipalities
- 

TRIVIA QUESTION

▶ How many electric utilities are there in Maine?

▶ Note*** not electrical supply companies***

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against the blue background.

11

CMP

Versant

Eastern Maine Electric (Calais)

Fox Island (Vinalhaven)

Houlton Water Co

Isle-Au-Haut Electric

Kennebunk Light & Power

Madison Electric

Matinicus Plantation Electric

Monhegan Plantation Power

Van Buren Light & Power







Questions?

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