

Latest Dam Safety News – ASDSO Resource Center, June 2008

"MegaDisasters" highlights dam failures, American Legion Magazine cover story features dam safety, NPR examines U.S. infrastructure challenges, further complications at Wolf Creek, gate malfunction at new dam in Ontario, NY dam owners concerned over implications of new regs...

National News

[Floods engulf archaic levee system; The Midwest's patchwork of levees wasn't adequately monitored or maintained.](#) Christian Science Monitor, 06/20/2008

To qualify for the National Flood Insurance Program, structures need to be behind a levee built to a 100-year standard. In the Netherlands, levees for ocean flooding are built to a 10,000-year standard, and inland levees are designed at least to a 250-year standard and usually in excess of 1,250 years...

[Why Floods Are Getting Worse.](#) Christian Science Monitor, 06/25/2008

[America's Crumbling Infrastructure.](#) National Public Radio (NPR). Weekend Edition, 06/01/2008

As part of a monthlong series on America's infrastructure, NPR interviewed Robert Fishman, Historian, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, about the history and planning of U.S. infrastructure.

[Engineers Report More U.S. Dams Deteriorating.](#) National Public Radio (NPR). Weekend Edition, 06/08/2008

As part of a monthlong series on America's infrastructure, NPR interviews ASCE Deputy Executive Director Larry Roth.

[Philanthropy's Role in Improving U.S. Infrastructure.](#) National Public Radio (NPR). Weekend Edition, 06/08/2008

As part of a monthlong series on America's infrastructure, NPR interviews Judith Rodin, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. Quote: "I think here philanthropy's role, as it is in so many areas, is not to be a direct funder of the work. The needs are really in the billions and trillions of dollars. And no philanthropy has those resources. Philanthropy's role is to bring together stakeholders from across these various sectors to invest in new policy solutions, to bring these issues before the general public and to take the longer view."

[Government tries to determine condition of U.S. levees.](#) Scripps Howard News Service, 06/21/2008

The USACE is responsible for 2,000 levees. In 2006 the USACE identified 122 levees with major maintenance problems, 18% of which the Corps owns and maintains; however, information about levees not owned by the Corps is sparse as few states inventory or regulate levees. The National Levee Safety Program Act gives the Corps authority to inventory, but not inspect, levees. The Act authorized up to \$120 million over 6 years on the inventory, but Congress has yet to appropriate any money for the work. Next year, the corps' budget calls for spending \$10 million on the inventory. The Corps' budget for operations and maintenance of levees along with new construction has been shrinking or flat for much of the past decade. It has been authorized to spend \$1.5-\$2 billion per year for about \$60 billion in needs and authorized projects. Congress approved \$2.2 billion for 2008; the Corps has asked for \$2.6 billion for FY 2009.

[Midwest floods expose aging, weak protection; Years of neglect of dams, levees put many folks at risk.](#) Chicago Tribune, 06/12/2008

Midwest deluged, more floods feared. Chicago Tribune (IL), 06/11/2008
Midwest faces worst flooding since 1993.

State-by-State and International News

Arizona

[Tempe could get soaked on dam replacement](#); Price tag rose \$8 million, to \$22 million, in past year. The Arizona Republic, 06/13/2008

Arizona, Nevada

[ADOT chief: Please open Davis Dam](#). Mohave Valley News, 06/26/2008

Request to USBR asks that Davis Dam bridge be opened when Laughlin Bridge is closed. The Davis Dam bridge has been closed since 9/11 and the Laughlin Bridge was been closed twice last month after truck accidents.

Canada - Ontario

[Gate malfunctions on newly restored Springbank Dam](#). London Topic, 06/21/2008

One of four gates malfunctioned during testing; reservoir lowered to allow underwater investigation.

China

[U.S. expert echoes Chinese concerns about dam-induced earthquakes](#). Probe International, 06/05/2008

Colorado

[Dam security firm uses bullhorns to ward off boaters](#). Summit Daily News, 06/-7/2008

Denver Water has a one-year contract with a security firm to keep boaters at least 100 feet away from the dam. A line of buoys and warning signs will soon be placed around the dam. Ongoing security needs will be reassessed next spring..

Connecticut

[Staffordville Dam Needs Repairs, Officials Say](#). The Hartford Courant, 06/20/2008

Reservoir will be lowered for repair of 10' x 18" sinkhole on upstream face of spillway wall.

Indiana

[Prince's Lakes residents cut off by washed-out bridge](#). Indianapolis Star, 06/08/2008

Residents of about 100 Johnson County homes were stranded when East Lake spillway washed out. In 2007, the homeowner's association that owns the dam spent \$120,000 to dredge the lake.

[State: Dams were faulty; Agency had warned owners but hadn't required repairs](#). Indianapolis Star, 06/16/2008

Earlham Lake Dam in Johnson County failed and three others were damaged by June floods. Over 10 inches of rain fell in parts of the state, overwhelming a number of spillways previously termed inadequate by the state. The dam failure washed out a road, eliminating road access to 78 homes for 5 days. Dams severely damaged: (1) a dam in Morgan County owned by the Victor Conservation Club; (2) Graybrook Dam in Owen County owned by the Graybrook Conservation Association (~40-acre lake emptied); (3) East Lake Dam in Johnson County, owned by the East Lake Lot Owners Association. The dam overtopped, damaging 100 houses and cutting off about 120 homes from the town of Prince's Lakes.

[Bad dams no surprise to state](#). (AP), 06/16/2008

[A dam shame](#). Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, 06/18/2008

Editorial calls for more resources for Indiana dam safety program.

Iowa

[Flooding could set records in Iowa](#). Quad-City Times, The (IA), 06/11/2008

[Sandbagged levee holds in Iowa, protects city](#). Morris Daily Herald (IL), 06/11/2008

Spillway begins overflowing. Iowa City Press-Citizen, 06/11/2008

Kentucky

[*Some work on Wolf Creek Dam halted; Corps investigates rapidly settling area.*](#) Louisville Courier-Journal, 07/27/2008

USACE has temporarily stopped grouting the area where the 4,000-foot-long earthen portion of Wolf Creek Dam meets a concrete dam and hydropower plant. During the past year, the dam has settled nearly an inch, compared with an average settlement rate of about an eighth inch per year since surface monitoring began in 1981. The Corps will investigate the cause of the settling over the next several months; grout injection could be a factor, but grouting in other areas continues. The delay is not expected to put the project behind schedule, but it could impact the decision on whether to raise the water level of Lake Cumberland. The Corps is spending more than \$300 million over seven years to repair the dam and is evaluating a contract for installing a 275-foot-deep concrete wall along the entire earthen portion of the dam.

Louisiana

[*Golden Glen dam is falling.*](#) St. Tammany News, 05/27/2008
Already-ailing weir collapses following 7 inches of rain in one hour.

Maryland

[*Repairs to Lake Needwood Dam are complete; Dredging project up next.*](#) Business Gazette - Gaithersburg, 06/04/2008

Grout curtain installed below dam that sprouted leaks during June 2006 flooding. Lake will be dredged to remove sediment that has accumulated since the early 1990s.

Michigan

[*Newaygo County holds dam disaster drills.*](#) WOODTV - Grand Rapids, 06/03/2008

Newaygo County officials staged a flood disaster scenario on June 3, with local command centers, a triage for injured residents, periodic news conferences, and evacuation officials knocking on doors throughout the county. Video of the exercise posted on the WOOD TV website.

[*Work starts on new Dead River dam after 2003's \\$100M break.*](#) (AP), 06/10/2008
UPPCO replacing Silver Lake Dam, which failed in May 2003.

Missouri

[*Dam is intact after pipe failure, inspectors say.*](#) Warrenton Journal, 06/04/2008

[*Storms, small dams, and possible problems.*](#) Missouri Net, 06/17/2008

Hundreds of unregulated dams could have been damaged by recent floods. Missouri regulates only dams that are at least 35' high.

State, local officials converge over Innsbrook dam incident. Warrenton Journal, 06/18/2008
<http://warrentonjournal.stltoday.com/articles/2008/06/18/news/sj2tn20080618-0618war-dam0.ii1.txt>

New York

[*Dam regs could cripple owners.*](#) Oneonta Daily Star, 05/30/2008

Small dam owners worry about implications of proposed changes to state dam safety regulations drafted following the July 2005 failure of Hadlock Pond Dam. States estimates the Class C dam inspection costs under new regulations at \$4,000 to \$80,000 every two years; 10-year engineering assessment at \$8,000 to \$50,000, aside from normal maintenance and operational costs.

[*Dam Inspection Data Withheld From Press Under Patriot Act.*](#) Editor & Publisher, 06/25/2008

According to the Investigative Reporters and Editors Data Base Library Director, at least a dozen news outlets requested data on dam inspections from IRE in the last week, in contrast with the usual three or four per year. Since 2002, much of the information requested has been removed from the public NID due to security concerns.

North Dakota

[Construction crew works to repair Tolna Dam](#). Grand Forks Herald, 06/18/2008
Seepage control project at Tolna Dam will cost about \$60,000.

Oklahoma

[Tulsa gets \\$25 million for dams](#). Tulsa World, 06/05/2008
SB 1374 authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue \$75 million in bonds, divided evenly for three purposes: (1) repair and replacement of flood-damaged dams throughout the state; (2) improvements on Tulsa's Zink Dam, stream bank stabilization and construction of two additional low-water dams on the Arkansas River in Tulsa County; and (3) completion of the Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City.

Oregon

[Feds to study effect of big quake on Hagg Lake dam; Bureau of Reclamation to take seismic measurements at Scoggins Dam west of Gaston](#). Forest Grove News-Times, 06/03/2008
33-year-old, high-hazard-potential earthen dam is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which has the potential to experience very large magnitude earthquakes with long durations of strong shaking.

Pennsylvania

[Group to Hold Public Meeting on Proposed Dam Repairs](#). [PA Department of Environmental Protection Press Release], 06/06/2008

[Reading has dam woes](#). Reading Eagle, 06/17/2008
State DEP wants city of Reading to remove century-old Bushong's Mill Dam and upgrade a city-owned dam at Egelman's Park.

Tennessee

[County Will Upgrade Hazardous Eads Dam -- Proactive Project Seeks to Head Off Flood Threat](#). Memphis Commercial Appeal, 06/17/2008
Upgrades costing about \$440,000 required after subdivision built downstream of Mary's Creek Dam.

Texas

[West Texas dams need inspections](#). KVIA ABC-7 I-Team, 06/24/2008
Only 8 dam inspectors are responsible for Texas' more than 7,000 dams, over 1600 of which are classified as High- or Significant-Hazard potential.

United Kingdom

[Councillor's fears over terrorism at dam near Llanidloes](#). Powys County Times - Welshpool, Wales, 06/04/2008
Concerns arise over dam operators' decision to discontinue nightly security staffing in favor of computer monitoring at Clywedog Dam, the tallest concrete dam in the UK

Utah

[Watkins Dam to be fixed](#). Salt Lake Tribune, 05/30/2008
USBR awards \$17.43 million contract for seepage remediation at Arthur V. Watkins Dam.

Virginia

[Corps of Engineers gives its blessing to dam, pipeline](#). Charlottesville Daily Progress, 06/04/2008
Charlottesville City Council backs \$142 million plan to build a new dam at Ragged Mountain;

USACE approves project.

Wisconsin

[Council agrees to hire engineer for Udey Dam.](#) Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, 06/04/2008
Columbus City Council will pay Mead & Hunt \$23,500 for field survey, rehab design and estimating the complete project cost. The council previously approved \$500,000 for dam repairs.

[Water washes away homes, forces evacuations in Wisconsin.](#) (AP), 06/09/2008

[3 problematic dams haven't been checked since '93; DNR reports show lack of inspections.](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 06/09/2008

Several dams significantly affected during June floods had been inspected during the past year, but at least 230 of Wisconsin's 926 state-regulated dams have not been inspected for over 10 years. Of these uninspected dams, 67 are high- or significant-hazard. The state's dam safety program has set a target of inspecting all high- and significant-hazard-potential dams within a year. Among the dams affected in June 2008 floods:

1. Fall River Dam, on the Crawfish River in Columbia County. Dam overtopped. Last full inspection roughly 9 years ago.
2. Danville River Dam, a low hazard dam in Dodge County. Dam overtopped. Last inspection in 1989.
3. Wyocena Dam in Columbia County (low hazard). Dam failed. Last formal inspection over 14 years ago.
4. Lake Redstone Dam in Sauk County, upstream erosion, last inspected in September 1992.
5. Lowell Dam on the Beaver Dam River (significant-hazard), required sandbagging, was inspected in September.
6. Dell Creek Dam on Lake Delton dam near Wisconsin Dells (high hazard). The dam held, but the lake cut a new channel through a narrow strip of land, destroying five homes. The dam was inspected in August 2007.

[Wis. lake drains; overflow washes away houses.](#) (AP), 06/10/2008

245-acre Lake Delton empty after embankment breached on 6/9.

[CLEANUP UNDER WAY IN WISCONSIN, BUT MORE RAIN COMING.](#) Capital Times, 06/11/2008

Owners of homes damaged or destroyed by collapse of embankment at Lake Delton were ineligible for the National Flood Insurance Program because the village didn't adopt an updated map in 2001.

The great lake robbery - Heart of Wisconsin Dells bursts bank, flushes away - How a lake went down the drain. Chicago Tribune, 06/11/2008

[Officials debate best way to repair lake.](#) Sauk Valley Newspapers (Dixon-Sterling, IL), 06/11/2008

[Dam openings pile on to flood troubles; More water flows into parts of Waukesha County.](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 06/13/2008

Rising water levels Friday on Nagawicka Lake in Delafield prompted officials to open the floodgates on two stressed dams. The high-hazard-potential Nemahbin millpond dam, built in the 1840s, has been under a state repair-or-removal order. Damage in the county related to flooding has reached \$65 million, officials said.

[State fund to fix stressed dams has been empty for years.](#) LaCrosse Tribune, 06/15/2008

State fund for dam maintenance long depleted. The program began in 1989 and provided \$12.1 million for dam repairs up through the 2001-2003 budget. The budget passed in 2001 was the last time the state included any money for the 50 percent cost-share grants, up to \$200,000, for dam repair or removal for local governments under state orders. That budget provided only enough funds for one dam repair. The state DNR's subsequent requests for funding have been

denied.

Most dams in Wisconsin hold up under pressure. Daily Reporter - Milwaukee, 06/16/2008
Dam safety staff of 13 responsible for 3,800 state-regulated dams.

[State struggles with dam repair funds.](#) LaCrosse Tribune, 06/17/2008

Extreme makeover: Violent weather spurs redesign of infrastructure. Capital Times, 06/18/2008