

Latest Dam Safety News – Association of State Dam Safety Officials, March 2010

Colorado hosts Chinese engineers; Massachusetts incident focuses attention on dam safety while budget cuts loom; Big Bay dam failure trial begins in Mississippi; Missouri governor appoints three to Dam Council; New Jersey Program inspects dams after floods; New York invites comments on EAPs; North Carolina inspecting coal ash ponds; Oklahoma tackling development below dams; South Dakota hosts dam owner workshop; Tennessee dam breached to prevent failure; Complications at Wolf Creek Dam project; Michiganders show their passion for dams; Northeast dams under watch during recent floods; Utah passes canal bill; WV bill would ban new coal waste impoundments; Fatal dam failure in Kazakhstan...

National News

[Delay in Coal Ash Decision Irresponsible Say Environmental Groups](#). The Epoch Times, 3/4/10.

[\[Testimony - Water Resources Development Act of 2007\]](#). Insurance News, 3/4/10.

Testimony by Brian Pallasch, co-chair of the Water Resources Coalition and Managing Director of ASCE Government Relations. The testimony includes remarks on levee safety, floodplain management, water resources priorities and more.

[Mass unemployment and the Current Economic Crisis](#). Global Research, 3/20/10.

Article on economic crisis includes acknowledgement that "The case for infrastructure rehabilitation is powerful" and cites ASCE's Report Card for dams.

[Unsafe Dams Threaten Communities Nationwide](#). [American Rivers Blog], 3/9/10.

State-by-State and International News

Arkansas

[Mountainburg Schools Conduct Dam Drill](#). Channel 5 News - Northwest Arkansas, 3/18/10.

If the Lake Fort Smith dam were to fail, the school that lies below would be ready to evacuate.

California

[Bureau of Reclamation awards contract for Imperial Dam sediment removal](#). HydroWorld, 2/25/10.

USBR awards \$11.8 million contract for sediment removal at Imperial Diversion Dam.

[Dam to be upgraded for more SF water storage](#). sandiego6.com- San Diego, 3/22/10.

A 120-year-old dam that holds San Francisco's water supply is getting upgrades so it can hold an extra 1.5 billion gallons. The project is estimated to cost between \$15 and \$25 million.

[Martis Creek Dam study continues, no closures expected this summer](#). Sierra Sun, 3/23/10.

The Army Corps of Engineers will back off on field work this summer on Martis Creek Dam, meaning no closures for the public.

Canada

[Cumberland's dams could liquefy in an earthquake](#). Canada.com 3/23/10.

Two of the 100-year-old dams (Stevens Lake and Cumberland Lake No. 2 dams) that store Cumberland's potable water supply could liquefy in an earthquake. \$1 million is needed for upgrades.

Colorado

Colorado Hosts Chinese Engineers (submitted to ASDSO, March 2010)

This past month, Colorado hosted 20 engineers with the China Ministry of Water Resources in Beijing. The Ministry is the national authority for various water affairs, water management and dam safety and construction. The Chinese delegation was interested in learning about dam safety risk and inspection methods, safety and performance monitoring, construction management, dam maintenance, and new technology and materials used in the design and construction of dams. Staff members of the Colorado

Division of Water Resources provided presentations on statute authority, performance of dam safety inspections, design review and construction issues of dams, and water administration in Colorado. A presentation of the design and construction of the new 200-foot high Rueter-Hess Dam under construction in the south metro area of Denver was also made and a dam site visit was made to observe the construction. The exchange of information between the two agencies was beneficial to all parties and several lively discussions occurred concerning the foundation grouting program for the Rueter-Hess dam and the need for air-entrainment in concrete.

[ARCADIS Awarded Key USACE St. Louis District Contract for Dam and Levee Monitoring.](#) PR Newswire 3/22/10.

ARCADIS, an international consulting and engineering company, today announced that they have been awarded an engineering services contract to help ensure dam and levee safety, worth approximately \$6 million, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Louis District.

[Divers Prepare For Risky Job At Cheesman Dam.](#) cbs4denver.com- Denver, 3/29/10.
Construction will soon begin work on an historic Denver Water project.

Connecticut

[6 died when dam burst, Norwich flooded.](#) Norwich Bulletin, 2/27/10.

Recounting of the Spaulding Pond dam failure of March 6, 1963, which spurred passage of laws calling for inspections of earthen dams.

[GZA GeoEnvironmental Awarded Contract for Engineering Repair at West Hartford Dam.](#)

dBusinessNews, 3/8/10.

\$295,000 design project includes seepage control and hydraulic improvements to the existing low level outlet and spillway structures.

Georgia

[Another crack on Berkeley Lake dam.](#) Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3/9/10.

Engineers found a 120'-long crack on the Berkeley Lake dam, near a 32'-long crack discovered in September. The cracks may have resulted from flood-sustained damages to the dam's internal drainage system. Repair costs are estimated at \$4 million; the city is seeking financial help from FEMA.

Iowa

[Corps: D.M. levee contract coming soon.](#) DesMoinesRegister.com 3/21/10.

Q & A session with Des Moines Public Works Director and USACE representatives.

Kansas

[Lawrence officials say dam is safe for 100 years.](#) ksnt.com- Topeka, 3/22/10.

Lawrence city officials say work on a 124-year-old Bowersock Dam in downtown Lawrence is nearly complete.

Kazakhstan

[35 villagers die in Kazakhstan flood.](#) iTAR-TASS, 3/14/10.

Kyzylagash dam failed on March 11, flooding 257 houses in the village of Kyzyl-Agash in Kazakhstan's Alma Ata region.

Kentucky

[Dam watchdogs meet with KU officials for first time.](#) The State-Journal- Frankfort, 2/28/10.

Kentucky Utilities officials met with Frankfort residents concerned about the safety of 85-year-old Dix Dam, located 50 miles upstream of the state capitol. A spokesman for the Kentucky Council for Dix Dam Safety said the meeting was productive and that the group now has more confidence in KU and its consultant. The council is still concerned about some conclusions in the inundation study, possible seepage-related damage to the rockfill dam. According to the new inundation study, floodwaters would reach Frankfort in 2.8 hours if the dam failed at a peak level, or in 5.7 hours on a fair weather day, compared with 14.7 hours in the old study.

[Corps suspends work on part of Wolf Creek Dam project.](#) Lexington Herald-Leader, 3/11/10.
Work on 600' "critical area" where embankment meets concrete dam suspended after detection of movement near dam's foundation.

Louisiana

[McMANUS v. STATE.](#) Leagle, 3/10/10.
Decision rendered on case involving 2002 drowning at Chivery Dam.

Massachusetts

[Forge Pond Dam Failure is a Wake Up Call for Dam Owners.](#) [American Rivers Press Release], 2/26/10.
300-year-old Forge Pond Dam in Freetown breached on Feb. 25, following recent storms. American Rivers said that dam owners, especially municipalities, should take a lesson from this disaster and remove their obsolete dams before they become hazards.

[Freetown's Forge Pond Dam faces demolition; State cites neglect, rising water levels for its decision.](#) Boston Globe, 2/27/10.

State officials say historic 8'-high, 260'-long Forge Pond Dam must go. Within days, work will begin on the removal, estimated to cost \$300,000. The dam's owner, who died last year, had not maintained the dam, which is located upstream of and poses threats to two other high-hazard-potential dams - Monument Pond and Tisdale. The state DCR previously lowered the water level and, with the town, developed an EAP.

[Bay State dams in deep water; Gov. Deval Patrick plans to drain \\$400G in funding.](#) Boston Herald, 2/27/10.

Governor plans to cut state's \$427,000 dam safety budget to \$27,000. On Feb. 26 the state declared a dam safety emergency after the 300-year-old Forge Pond Dam in Freetown began leaking, forcing evacuation of about a dozen homes downstream. MA DCR plans to spend \$300,000 to breach the dam, one of five rated "unsafe" - the others are Monument Dam in Freetown, Pecks Lower Pond and Bel Air dams in Pittsfield and Morey's Bridge Dam in Taunton.

[Water around Forge Pond Dam in Freetown continues to recede.](#) Wicked Local - Fall River, 2/28/10.

[Dam still under watch, but appears out of danger.](#) Taunton Daily Gazette, 3/1/10.
Flood damage to Forge Pond Dam prompted downstream evacuations on Feb. 25. Failure of the dam would have endangered two other dams, a bridge over the Assonet River, and homes and businesses.

[Local, state officials to meet about Freetown's Forge Pond Dam repair.](#) Fall River Herald News, 3/2/10.
An engineering survey for the Forge Pond Dam was conducted Monday and there will be a pre-construction meeting for an emergency repair project at the end of the week, according to local and state officials. The state will then seek a bidder to conduct the project, estimated at \$300,000 to \$350,000.

[State will help fund emergency repairs to Freetown dam.](#) Taunton Daily Gazette, 3/3/10.
State funds will be used for a partial breach of Forge Pond Dam, estimated to cost \$300,000 to \$350,000. The state usually does not repair private dams, but the dam's owner died last year, and its recent near collapse prompted the Patrick administration to provide funding for emergency repairs.

[Dam's fate brings relief, consternation.](#) Boston Globe, 3/4/10.
The state of Massachusetts has agreed to help remove hazards at Forge Pond Dam by installing a structure that effectively breaches it on the Assonet River. The cost is estimated at between \$300,000 and \$350,000

[Neglected dams pose safety hazards.](#) The Republican, 3/14/10.

[Pleasant Street closed due to dam problems.](#) Canton Journal, 3/19/10.
Town of Canton under orders to keep water levels behind Pleasant Street dam low to prevent breaching.

[Fred Contrada: Upper Roberts Meadow Reservoir Dam in Northampton defines beauty for its friends.](#) MassLive.com 3/26/10.

The Upper Roberts Meadow Reservoir Dam is in need of repair, but the city's Department of Public Works wants to take down the upper dam. In order to save it, Friends of the Upper Roberts Meadow Reservoir would have to raise \$625,000.

[State To Spend \\$190,000 To Tear Down Freetown Dam.](#) wbztv.com- Boston, 3/26/10.

The state has hired a contractor to remove a more than 200-year-old dam in Freetown that became unstable during the recent heavy rains.

[Dam bid awarded — at \\$160,000 under budget.](#) SouthCoastToday.com - New Bedford, 3/27/10.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation has awarded a Georgetown company a contract to breach Forge Pond Dam before downstream communities are affected by possible flooding.

[Many of state's 'high hazard' dams go uninspected.](#) Boston Globe 3/28/10.

A Globe review of state inspection records found that 60 "high hazard" dams, whose failure would cause serious property damage and potential loss of life, are in poor condition, with major structural deficiencies.

Michigan

Michigan Dams Inspire Music Video, Facebook Site

Michiganders are passionate about their dams. Two separate "Save the Dam" efforts have cropped up on social media sites. Facebook is home to a site started by high schools students in Corunna who want to preserve the town's dam - [Save the Corunna Dam!](#) - while a Youtube music video extols the virtues of the Argo Dam - [Save the Argo Dam Video](#)

[Troubled water ahead for Corunna dam?](#) Argus Press, 3/13/10.

The town of Corunna must decide whether to repair or remove its aging 10'-high, 200'-wide dam, built as a mill dam in the mid-1800s. MI DNRE has ordered Corunna to draw down the water behind the dam and address the dam's deficiencies. Several people have drowned at the dam, most recently in 2008. Cost estimates for alternatives: Construction of a new dam - \$1.8 million; Full dam removal - \$750,000; Partial removal - \$450,000; Repairs and upgrades to the existing structure - \$850,000, RCC upgrade - \$626,000 to \$821,000. A Facebook page called "Save the Corunna dam" has hundreds of fans.

[Ann Arbor reaches partial agreement with state over Argo Dam concerns.](#) AnnArbor.com 3/24/10.

Ann Arbor officials announced today they've reached an agreement with the state to immediately begin removing dead and overhanging trees and woody brush from the headrace embankment at Argo Dam

Mississippi

[Big Bay leaks started early.](#) Hattiesburg American 3/23/10.

The man who said Monday that he was responsible six years ago for the day-to-day operations at Big Bay Dam, testified that the structure had leaked as soon as the 1,000-acre lake formed.

[MDEQ: No sign fixes were made.](#) Hattiesburg American 3/24/10.

More than 120 plaintiffs brought suit following what was believed to be the largest earthen-dam failure in Mississippi history, and Timothy Burge was on the witness stand Tuesday afternoon in Harrison County Circuit Court on the second day of a trial that has been split into two parts.

Missouri

[Missouri Governor Makes Appointments to Boards and Commissions.](#) Kansas City InfoZine, 3/2/10.

Gov. Jay Nixon has made three appointments to the Dam and Reservoir Safety Council, which enforces the provisions of the Missouri Dam and Reservoir Safety Law and its rules and regulations:

--Patrice Boehler, VP of development for Westmore Group Inc., a provider of commercial real estate services; President of Natural Resource Consultants Inc.

--Daniel Buxton, project manager/engineer for The Doe Run Co., which owns 11 dams

--Kyle Drury, senior design engineer at Bloomsdale Excavating Co.

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Missouri Senate; only Mr. Buxton's appointment has been confirmed to date (3/28/10).

New Jersey

[Designated high hazard.](#) Trenton Times, 3/14/10.

Honey Lake may be drained if the federal government can't find a sponsor to share the cost of erosion protection measures for the 46-year-old earthen dam. Cost estimates for the project are not complete, but similar projects have cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

[DEP experts keep close eye on New Jersey's shoreline, dam safety following storm.](#) [NJ DEP Press Release], 3/15/10.

After four-day storm that brought heavy rain and high winds to much of the state, the DEP received notification from several dam owners and offices of emergency management about problems or concerns with dams on Sunday, March 14. Two teams of engineers inspected 12 dams in Sussex, Morris and Hunterdon counties on March 14, in response to reports of overtopping and other known problems in the area. All dams with reported problems were inspected by the DEP. One dam was confirmed to have a partial failure (Lake Shawnee Dam, Jefferson Township), and several dams had minor erosion from overtopping flows. Four teams of engineers inspected approximately 40 additional High and Significant hazard dams in Sussex, Morris, Passaic and Union counties.

[Dam breach possibility was far from reality.](#) North County Times, 3/17/10.

Three communities were alerted to a possible catastrophic breach of the Charlotteburg Reservoir Dam on March 14. NJ DEP inspected the 49-year-old dam the following day and found that it is in good shape.

[Public discussion leaves fate of Honey Lake uncertain.](#) The Times of Trenton 3/26/10.

Honey Lake Dam requires costly work to meet high hazard dam safety standards, but needs a "suitable local sponsor" by June to have any chance of qualifying for a 65 percent federal share of repair costs.

[Town officials, assemblymen question DEP on Pompton Lake Dam.](#) NorthJersey.com, 3/28/10.

State officials met with representatives of various affected municipalities to discuss whether flooding from the past weeks was just heavy rain or a human error at the Pompton Lake Dam that led to the fast-rising waters early on the morning of March 14.

New York

New York Invites Comments on EAPs (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

On March 3, 2010, New York announced that the public comment period for the DRAFT TOGS 3.1.3 - Emergency Action Plans for Dams will commence on March 3, 2010 and conclude on April 2, 2010. The Department is currently seeking comment on this guidance document. The document may be downloaded at the Department's web site:

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4991.html

[Madrid studies options for needed dam repairs.](#) Watertown Daily Times, 3/14/10.

100s-era Mill Dam, a 480-foot concrete dam on the Grasse River, is in an advanced stage of deterioration and needs to be repaired soon, according to the state DEC. The town of Madrid, which owns the dam, is exploring public and private funding options for fixing or replacing the structure.

North Carolina

State Inspecting Coal Ash Ponds (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

February snows hampered inspections of earthen dams and dikes but all inspections were expected to be completed by the end of March. Fourteen plant sites and one hydropower site are involved in the effort, with a total of 52 separate dam facilities. Not only ash ponds, both active and inactive, are involved, but also significantly sized cooling ponds up to 4,500 acres in reservoir size as well as other types of containment dams. With the lengthy cooling pond containment dams found at plants in the eastern part of the state, the total additional length of dams/dikes to be inspected as a result of the statute change is approximately 168,000 linear feet. Hazard classifications have ranged from low to high with a number of

facilities classified as high hazard due to environmental concerns.

North Dakota

[Bloated lake haunts North Dakota town again](#). Washington Post, 3/20/10.

Fueled by runoff from a winter of heavy snow, water is swiftly rising behind the Clausen Springs Dam. Flood worries extend beyond Fargo and other North Dakota and Minnesota communities along the north-flowing Red River.

Ohio

[Dam system topic of meeting](#). Marietta Times 3/29/10.

The 14 dam system of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and how it works to help minimize flooding was the topic of discussion at the March program of the Friends of the Lower Muskingum.

Oklahoma

State Tackles Development Below Dams (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

Residential and business development in the breach inundation areas below watershed control dams constructed by the USDA NRCS has resulted in the reclassification of 158 dams from low to high hazard-potential. NRCS estimates that mandated modifications to the reclassified dams would cost an average of \$1 million for each structure.

In 2009 the state legislature directed the state Water Resources Board and the state Conservation Commission to establish a study group to explore this issue and to recommend legislative, regulatory, or other actions that may be taken to reduce the number of low or significant hazard-potential dams that are reclassified to high hazard-potential structures. The study group was to formulate a plan to inform the public as well as local, state, and federal officials. In its report to the Oklahoma Legislature, the study group recommended several changes to Oklahoma's Dam Safety rules and regulations, which have been approved by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and now await approval by the Governor and Legislature. The report also includes recommendations for public education and outreach, mapping of breach inundation areas, and funding. [Download the report](#).

Oregon

[Bonneville Dam contract awarded for seismic mitigation work](#). HydroWorld, 2/24/10.

USACE awards \$3,182,550 contract for seismic mitigation work. The work entails filling the north wall, or Ambursen section, of the old navigation lock with concrete to form new gravity dam sections. The work includes foundation preparation, concrete and gravel placement, control and treatment of seepage water, anchoring, and grouting.

[Dam plans target early warning system](#). Statesman Journal, 3/3/10.

Additional funding for the Silver Creek Dam early- warning monitoring system may allow the city to more easily notify residents of dam failure. The monitoring system, which has been discussed in variations for years, will visually monitor the dam and collect data that could alert Silverton officials to signs of a potential emergency situation.

[Corps discusses McNary dam safety concerns](#). The Hermiston Herald 3/19/10.

U.S. Corps of Engineers representatives discussed the possible concerns warranted from a recent Dam Action Safety Classification survey. Community members, concerned about the safety of McNary Dam, were able to ask the Corps questions.

Pennsylvania

[State DEP report says longwall mining caused subsidence at dam](#). Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2/17/10.

According to an interim DEP report released Feb.16, Consol Energy's Bailey longwall mine in Greene County caused ground subsidence in July 2005 that cracked the dam in Ryerson Station State Park, which led to the draining of 62-acre Duke Lake. The estimated cost of replacing the dam exceeds \$30 million; restoring the lake will cost more than \$8 million; and damage to the park is estimated at more than \$20 million.

Rhode Island

[River rages in West Warwick](#). Kent County Daily Times, 3/15/10.

High-hazard potential Arctic Dam No. 148 on 24-7 watch; 75-100 evacuated as Pawtuxet River floods.

South Dakota

State Hosts Dam Owner Workshop (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

South Dakota hosted a Dam Safety Workshop for Owners on March 9, 2010 in Pierre. The workshop was sponsored by ASDSO and there were about 50 attendees representing the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the Office of School and Public Lands, the Office of Emergency Management, the South Central RC&D District and several cities. The workshop's objective was to teach participants basic dam types and purposes, parts of a dam and how they work together, recognize typical problem areas that require maintenance, and to learn operation and maintenance procedures and how dam failures relate to maintenance procedures. The workshop evaluation forms indicated that everyone thought the workshop was successful and the objectives were met.

Tennessee

Dam Breached to Prevent Failure (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

Caryonah Dam, a 40-foot high low hazard dam near Crossville, Tennessee, was breached in early March to prevent it from failing. This dam developed a piping leak last August and has been kept pumped down since that time. The dam will be rebuilt this summer. Crossville owns the dam and has water rights to the lake for water supply, although the lake is owned by a nearby hunting lodge.

[TVA must get input on protecting dams](#). knoxnews.com, 3/18/10.

According to a TVA manager, the analysis of measures needed to protect TVA dams in case of a hypothetical "worst-case" flood will likely take several more months to complete, but the public will have access to an environmental report on the project and a chance to voice their opinions.

[TVA chief trying to avoid deposition in ash spill](#). BusinessWeek, 3/25/10.

Attorneys for hundreds of people suing the Tennessee Valley Authority over a massive coal ash spill asked a federal magistrate Thursday to force the utility's top executive to answer their questions in a deposition.

Texas

[State Auditor John Keel scrutinizes dam safety](#). Texas Watchdog, 3/19/10.

This article discusses the reorganization of the dam safety division at the state Commission on Environmental Quality in Texas.

Utah

Utah Passes Canal Bill (Submitted to ASDSO, 3/2010)

In their 2010 session, the Utah Legislature passed HB 60 "Water Conveyance Facilities Safety Act" sponsored by Representative Fred Hunsaker. The bill requires certain water conveyance facilities (canals) to adopt a Management Plan as a condition of receiving state money. The Plan should include the general location and hazard of the canal, potential slope instability locations that could affect the canal, proof of insurance or financial responsibility against liability from failure, a maintenance and improvement plan and schedule, an emergency response plan, potential financing for maintenance, identification of affected municipalities and an estimate of the storm water contribution to the canal system from the 6 hour 25 year storm event. In addition the sharing of information is encouraged between municipalities and canal owners concerning canal hazards and storm water routing. The Management Plans will be shared with related organizations but will not be public documents. In an attempt to limit owners liability the Management Plans, or the failure to adopt one, "may not be introduced as evidence in any civil litigation on the issues of negligence, injury, or the calculation of damages." There was no fiscal note attached to this bill and it is awaiting the Governors signature.

A proposed sister Senate Bill 185 "Adoption of Canal Safety Act" sponsored by Senator Gene Davis, directs canal owners to make an assessment of risk of their canals and determine the need for repairs or

improvements. The Division of Water Rights is directed to maintain a 'canal action list' of high risk canals that need repairs and require a remediation plan to make the improvements. The Division must review and approve the remediation plans and no loans from the Board of Water Resources will be approved for canals that do not have an approved remediation plan. There was a fiscal note attached to this bill of \$77,000.00 for 2011 and \$93,000.00 for 2012 and this bill failed to gain approval by the Utah Legislature.

[Canal safety - Legislature looking, not leaping.](#) Salt Lake Tribune, 3/5/10.

Editorial says HB60 will not ensure safety of state's canals; calls SB185 "a reasonable and necessary measure that would establish a risk-assessment and inspection regimen and require canal companies to draft remediation plans for dangerous sections of canals."

Virginia

[Bill that would OK LOW dam advances.](#) Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/4/10.

A House committee yesterday approved a bill that will allow Lake of the Woods to keep its dam as-is. Sen. Edd Houck, D-Spotsylvania, submitted the bill because he said the state's revised dam regulations were excessive.

[Virginia dam legislation clears House panel.](#) NBC 29 News, 3/4/10.

The House Agriculture Committee voted unanimously in favor of a bill, which applies to private dams like some in Albemarle County and eases regulations on private dam owners. (Video posted).

[LOW homeowners relish dam decision.](#) Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/4/10.

Lake of the Woods Association board of directors voted to issue a stop-work order to Faulconer Construction Co. and to halt all work on the spillway construction project. This occurred in anticipation of the passage of a new bill concerning dam repairs.

[\[Legislative Update\] Owners of small dams.](#) Charlottesville Daily Progress, 3/4/10.

Del. David J. Toscano's bill to provide relief to small dam owners has now passed both chambers of the legislature. The bill requires the Soil and Water Conservation Board to conduct a damage analysis for potentially hazardous dams, requires the board to consider the impact of limited-use or private roads in its hazard classification and allows dam owners to submit alternative remediation plans to VA DCR.

VIRGINIA HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTES DOWN DAM SAFETY. ASCE - This Week in Washington, 3/5/10.

SB 276 passed out of the House Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources committee unanimously on 3/3. The bill will reduce dam safety requirements in Virginia so as not to require dams currently classified as High Hazard to upgrade their spillways to pass a rainfall event greater than the maximum recorded within the Commonwealth, deemed to be 90 percent of the PMP. In addition, these High Hazard dams would also be considered compliant with spillway requirements if they are able to pass two-thirds of this already reduced precipitation requirement so long as the dam meets certain conditions. Testifying at the hearing on behalf of ASCE was Ingrid Stenbjorn P.E., who recently chaired the Dams and Stormwater sections of the Report Card for Virginia's Infrastructure produced by the Virginia Section of ASCE last year. The Report Card graded Virginia's dams at a D- and noted that as many as 50,000 residents of Virginia live in dam break inundation zones of noncompliant dams in Virginia.

[Assembly eases dam standards.](#) Washington Examiner, 3/7/10.

Virginia's House of Delegates has backed a measure that would ease state safety standards for more than 130 dams.

[GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE: State legislature wrapping up work.](#) Culpeper Star Exponent, 3/9/10.

An overview of the 2010 General Assembly, including a brief description of SB 276.

[Senate gives OK to LOW's dam measure.](#) Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/10/10.

On March 9, the VA Senate agreed to the amended bill to ease dam safety standards in Virginia. One of the amendments put an emergency clause on the bill, so it takes effect as soon as Gov. Bob McDonnell signs it. The emergency clause allows the Lake of the Woods HOA to avoid upgrading its high-hazard-

potential dam, as previously ordered by the state dam safety program. As amended, the bill allows dam owners to forego upgrades to dams that partially meet safety, inspection and insurance criteria.

[LOW dam deferred](#). Orange County Review, 3/18/10.
SB276 is only a signature away from becoming law.

[LOW dam bill could well endanger lives](#). Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/21/10.
ASDSO letter expressing opposition to Virginia legislation.

[Lowering dam standards risks lives](#). Culpeper Star Exponent, 3/22/10.

[Metro columnist Dan Casey: New regulations could spell doom for dam - and Rainbow Forest Lake](#).
Roanoke Times, 3/23/10.

For nearly 50 years, Rainbow Forest Lake has been an asset to its community. State dam regulations have changed, however, and now it may be too costly to remain.

[Scare tactics about LOW dam are wrong](#). Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 3/25/10.
Response to ASDSO letter expressing opposition to Virginia legislation.

Virginia Legislation Weakens Safety Standards (ASDSO Newsletter, 3/31/2010)
ASDSO, along with our partners at ASCE and American Rivers, worked to defeat a bill in the Virginia General Assembly that would have effectively eliminated dam safety regulation in the Commonwealth. As reported in previous eNews articles, the original Senate Bill 276 would have stripped the state of authority to require dam owners to correct deficiencies in dams if those dams have approved EAPs or until the state designates state funding for upgrades. ASDSO, our members, and our partners sent letters to Virginia legislators and state officials urging them to defeat this bill. Because of opposition to the original, a substitute was offered in the Virginia House of Delegates to keep dam safety regulation intact, but with changes to the inflow design flood for high hazard potential dams. ASDSO also opposed this substitute version, but we do believe it is a far superior alternative to the original bill. The substitute version reduces the inflow design standard for high hazard potential dams to 90% of the PMP (deemed to be the largest precipitation event recorded in the state) and then allows for a reduction of two-thirds of this amount if the dam owner meets certain considerations such as having and exercising an EAP and having sufficient insurance to compensate downstream owners for damages. ASDSO opposed this "compromise" worked out between legislators, state officials and dam owners on the basis that it erodes dam safety standards and jeopardizes lives and property.

ASDSO would like to thank all our members who took the time to write letters and blog entries and our partners at ASCE and American Rivers for their support. We are pleased that our efforts supported our state member in helping to preserve dam safety regulation. ASDSO will continue to support state dam safety programs through our state advocacy initiative.

Washington

[Interactive model of dam removal coming to marine center in Port Angeles](#). Peninsula Daily News, 3/1/10.
A hands-on, interactive model of the Glines Canyon Dam and the Elwha River -- and what is expected to happen when it is removed -- will be on display at the Arthur D. Feiro Marine Life Center in time for the summer season.

[New policy could mean Army Corps of Engineers may pull thousands of trees from Green River levees](#).
Kent Reporter, 3/4/10.

Thousands of trees might have to be removed along the Green River levees because of a USACE draft policy that states the roots of trees can damage the levees. The Corps planted nearly 10,000 trees and bushes last fall along three rebuilt levees in Kent and one in Tukwila at a cost of about \$500,000.

[FEMA's new flood maps go too far, some cities say](#). Seattle Times 3/7/10.

New federal flood-plain maps to be released in coming months redraw those areas across Western Washington most likely to be inundated by a 100-year flood.

[Army Corps Seeks More Funding, Repairs For Howard Hanson Dam](#). kuow.org 3/19/10.

The US Army Corps of Engineers says it will seek money to expand ongoing repairs at the Howard Hanson dam in southeast King County. The Corps is also seeking \$44 million to extend the grout curtain installed at the dam last year.

[Mayor Law makes pitch in D.C. for federal dollars for dam repairs, Renton projects](#). Renton Reporter 3/24/10.

Renton mayor asks state's congressional delegation and federal officials to fund Howard Hanson Dam rehab and other projects, including Green River levees.

West Virginia

[After feds step in, DEP cites Massey dam](#). West Virginia Gazette, 2/8/10.

DEP cites Massey Energy for problems with the expansion of its controversial Brushy Fork coal-slurry impoundment.

[Environmentalists hope safety violation sends message to state officials](#). West Virginia Public Broadcasting, 2/9/10.

Department of Environmental Protection inspectors recently found serious safety violations at a Massey Energy impoundment in Raleigh County.

[Bill would ban new coal waste impoundments, 38 years after Buffalo Creek](#). West Virginia Public Broadcasting, 2/26/10.

House Bill 3279 would eliminate permit renewals on current impoundments, ban any new permits, and also ban underground slurry injections. It has been in the Committee on Energy, Industry labor, and Economic Development and Small Business since January 13, with no movement.

Wisconsin

[FEMA won't provide money to fix crack in Wyocena dam](#). Wisconsin State Journal, 3/10/10.

FEMA will not provide funding to fix Lake Wyona dam. Village officials say the damage was almost certainly caused by flooding in June 2008, and that they can't afford the estimated \$100,000 cost of the work without FEMA funding.