

Are dams inspected regularly and, if not, what can we do about existing dams that we think may be dangerous?

Most dams in the State are not inspected with any regularity due to lack of resources to carry out a systematic program. The responsible state agency **may**, upon its own motion, or **shall**, if petitioned by at least ten interested persons or by the legislative body of a municipality, conduct an engineering investigation of a dam. Findings of the investigation shall be presented at a warned hearing and the agency shall issue an order for repair or other appropriate action if the dam is “unsafe or is a menace....” If the owner does not carry out the order, enforcement proceedings may proceed in superior court. If, after the investigation but before the hearing, the dam is held to be “an imminent threat to human life or property”, the state agency shall act through eminent domain to “take whatever action it considers necessary....” 10 V.S.A. 1095.

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