



Dam Safety Permitting Fact Sheet

General Permit to Conduct Maintenance, Repairs, and Alterations to Dams

GP-014 Non-Filing Categories

General Permits Overview. General permits are issued to authorize in advance, certain defined categories of minor activities which are expected to have minimal environmental impacts. This “general” authorization is valid throughout a prescribed geographic area for the duration of that permit.

Those wishing to conduct an activity which conforms with the activities described and authorized by a general permit must meet the terms and conditions contained within that general permit. A general permit sets terms and conditions for conducting an activity which, when complied with, are protective of the environment and public safety. General permits are a faster and more cost-effective way to permit specific activities. Because these permits have already been publically noticed and issued, persons utilizing general permits are not required to publish newspaper notices of application and the authorization is granted without additional newspaper notice, comment period, or hearing.

There are three types of general permits in use.

- The permit described in this fact sheet is a non-filing category meaning that no filing or application, or fee is required in order to obtain authorization for the activities described in the permit. In addition, the activities it authorizes may be conducted without professional engineering oversight. This authorizes dam owners to take care of a variety of maintenance and minor repair or alteration activities, while adhering to the limitations within the permit, with a minimal additional cost.
- The filing with confirmation of eligibility category permit requires that a filing with DEEP be made before beginning the authorized activity. See fact sheet GP-015 for more information.
- The approval of filing category authorizes more work than the non-filing or filing with confirmation of eligibility and requires a filing to DEEP, a notice to the municipality, and a written approval of that filing be received by the filer before beginning the authorized activity. See fact sheet GP-016 for more information.

Dam Safety General Permits are administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Water Planning and Management Division. DEEP uses both individual and general permits to regulate activities. Individual permits are issued directly to an applicant in response to detailed applications and can authorize complex projects.

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This non-filing general permit authorizes the following minor categories of activities on a dam:

Without Professional Engineering oversight – No filing form is required

Minor repair or replacement of trash racks in kind within inlet or outlet or drop inlet structures;
Removing debris, wreckage, or other similar materials blocking spillways, intake areas, and channels at dams by mechanical means;
Removal of recently accumulated sediment from areas ancillary and adjacent to dams including spillways, intake areas, channels, and areas designed to capture sediment;
Replacing weir boards;
Installing security and safety fencing;
Replacing elastomeric sealant in concrete construction joints;
Placing topsoil and establishing grass cover on existing riprapped embankments;
Maintenance of existing toe drain systems and repairing or installing seepage measurement or soil movement monitoring devices;
Exercising and maintenance of gates and valves;
Replacing up to 1,000 square feet of missing and storm scoured riprap;
Cutting and removing woody vegetation (no removal the root systems of trees larger than 3 inches diameter at breast height);
Restoration of grass cover;
Eradication of woody and invasive vegetation on dams by the use of herbicides;
Filling up to 10 animal burrows in downstream slopes only;
Quantity limited concrete and masonry repairs allowed each year.

Authorizing Statutes This general permit is issued under the authority of sections 22a-6 and 22a-411 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Application Process This is a “non-filing” type general permit. The eligible activities are authorized under this general permit provided the subject activity complies with all provisions, requirements, and conditions of this general permit. A notification to the municipality and the DEEP is required at least two weeks prior to undertaking the activities authorized by this permit. There are permit conditions and requirements that specific actions must be completed before starting the work. There is no application fee required for this permit.

Permit Duration This general permit is effective on October 17, 2025 and expires ten years from this date.

Contact

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Address

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This overview is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statutes and regulations for the specific regulatory language of the different permit programs. This document should not be relied upon to determine whether or not a Dam Safety permit is required. It is *your* responsibility to ensure that all required permits have been obtained.