



Dam Safety Permitting Fact Sheet

General Permit to Conduct Repairs and Alterations to Dams

GP-016 Approval of Filing Required 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 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.

- The non-filing category means that no filing or application is required in order to obtain authorization for the activities described in the permit. See fact sheet GP-014 for more information.
- 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 permit described in this fact sheet is the approval of filing category which requires a filing to DEEP, a notice to the municipality, a written approval of that filing be received by the filer before beginning the authorized activity. This permit authorizes the maximum quantity or complexity of work that can be authorized under a general permit and be considered a minor dam repair, alteration or removal activity. All activities authorized by this permit must be overseen by a Connecticut licensed professional engineer.

Dam Safety General Permits are administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Water Protection 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 large scale and complex projects.

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

With Professional Engineering oversight - Use form DEEP-DAMSAFETY-GP-016-3(a)

All activities authorized under the General Permit-014 and General Permit-015;
Installation of greater than 200' of engineered toe drain systems;
Repair, removal, or replacement of trash racks, gate valves, and sluice Gates;
Placing new or replacing greater than 25 cubic yards of riprap;
Removing tree root systems and restoration of earth dam crests, slopes, and abutments;
Repairs to and construction of concrete structures on dams (limited concrete volume by formula);
Repointing masonry (no volume limit);
Sliplining and grouting existing outlet pipes (no size limit);
Installing bridges over spillways which may require center support;
Installation of utility poles on the dam embankment;
Removal of low or moderate hazard class dams meeting certain criteria;
Removal of weir board or creation of a notch in a spillway to incrementally lower an impoundment;
Installation of fishways at spillways that does not reduce the capacity of the primary or auxiliary spillways and does not require excavation at the abutments of the dam;
Installation and maintenance of triploid grass carp screens meeting certain criteria;
Improvements to spillway discharge channels to allow for fish migration.

The maximum extent of repairs allowed is specified in the general permit. A Connecticut licensed professional engineer must provide engineered plans, sign and stamp the filing, oversee the work and provide a report upon completion.

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

Application Process This is an “approval of filing required” type general permit. Eligible activities are authorized under this general permit once DEEP has issued a formal letter approving the filing. A complete and sufficient filing must be made. The DEEP will review your filing for consistency with the general permit. If the filing is found to be complete and consistent with the general permit, the requester will receive a written letter approving the authorization requested in the filing. If the filing is found to be incompatible with the eligible activities, terms, and conditions of this permit, the applicant(s) will receive a notice providing an opportunity to alter the proposed work to conform to the allowable limits and extents 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.

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

Contact

Dam Safety Program, DEEP.DamSafety@ct.gov Phone: 860-424-3706

Address

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Inland Water Resources Division
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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.