



<b>RCRS Secondary:</b>	GOV-02	<b>Effective Date:</b>	2009-OCT-19
<b>Policy Number:</b>	COU-181	<b>Amendment Date/s:</b>	2013-SEP-09 COUNCIL
<b>Title:</b>	Dam Safety Policy	<b>Repeal Date:</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Legislative Services	<b>Approval Date:</b>	2009-OCT-19 COUNCIL

**PURPOSE:**

Under the *Provincial Water Act*, the B.C. Dam Safety Regulation places responsibility for dam safety on the dam owner.

The purpose of this Dam Safety Policy (the “Policy”) is to set out the City of Nanaimo’s (the “City’s”) commitment to dam safety for all dam structures.

**DEFINITIONS**

N/A

**SCOPE**

Delegated to Staff

**POLICY**

The City will:

- design and construct new dams in a conservative manner in accordance with regulatory requirements and consistent with industry standards;
- manage, inspect, maintain, improve and decommission existing dams in a manner which meets the Dam Safety Regulation;
- use its Dam Safety Management Program to identify, assess and manage risks;
- reduce Dam Safety risks to as low as reasonably practicable.

**PROCESS**

- the Manager of Water Resources is responsible for administering the dam safety management program and ensuring all dams owned by the City meet regulatory requirements;
- the General Foreman – Waterworks is responsible for managing the daily operations of staff who maintain, inspect, measure, and report the performance of all City dams;
- the Manager of Water Resources is responsible for maintaining current Emergency Response Plans, providing timely notification to agencies, downstream facilities and stakeholders, and providing clear response procedures for site personnel;
- the Director of Engineering and Public Works reports to City Council annually on the status and safety of all the City’s dams, and any regulatory changes which impact dam safety;
- the Director of Engineering and Public Works will inform City Council in a timely manner of any significant dam safety incident or emerging issue which either violates or has the potential to breach the intent of this policy.

## DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

The City will maintain a dam safety management program that meets regulatory requirements and considers the Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines. The current City of Nanaimo [Dam Safety Management Program](#) is available on the City's website or through the City's Department of Engineering and Public Works.

The key elements in the dam safety management system include:

- program planning;
- safety assessment and risk management;
- review, program assessment, and ongoing training for continuous improvement;
- detailed inspection and surveillance practices;
- documented Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance procedures;
- documented and detailed Emergency Response Plans (the Middle and Lower Chase River Dams [Emergency Action Plan](#) and other emergency plans are available on the City's website and maintained by the City's Department of Engineering and Public Works as well as the Emergency Coordination Centre);
- dam security;
- regulatory communications;
- external oversight and independent review; and
- appropriate document management.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines  
Dam Safety Management Program  
Emergency Action Plan

## **REPEAL/AMENDS**

N/A