

567—73.10(455B) Review and approval process for dam construction, modification, abandonment, or removal.

73.10(1) *Application process.* Application materials are provided by the department. The application shall be submitted by or on behalf of the person or persons who will be the future dam owner or owners. The application shall be signed by the applicant or a duly authorized agent. Completed applications along with supporting information shall be submitted to the department through an online application system or mailed to Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Joint Application, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. For dam repairs, abandonment, or removal, the department may waive the requirements of the application process outlined in this rule if the requirements are unnecessary for the application approval or if the dam has been designated as unsafe and immediate temporary emergency stabilization repairs are required to prevent failure of the dam. Permanent repairs or modifications will require review and approval.

73.10(2) *Preliminary application packet.* The preliminary application packet includes the joint application form and requires submittal of preliminary design data prepared by or under supervision of a professional engineer licensed in the state of Iowa or by an engineer working for the United States government. The preliminary design data packet shall contain a report summarizing the preliminary design, hydrologic data and reservoir routing, a hazard potential analysis, preliminary design drawings, the soils and geotechnical engineering analysis, and a list of the engineering references used as the basis for design and construction.

73.10(3) *Project review.* The department shall review a preliminary application packet and provide feedback or concurrence on the initial design and assumptions. After concurrence with the preliminary application packet and upon reception of the final submittal as required by 73.10(4), the department will review the final submittal and issue a decision based on whether the project meets criteria for approval outlined in this chapter.

73.10(4) *Final submittal.* After the department's review of and concurrence with the preliminary submittal, the engineering plans and other engineering information shall be certified by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Iowa, unless prepared by an engineer working for the United States government, and submitted with the following information:

- a. One complete set of certified construction plans;
- b. One complete set of construction specifications;
- c. An operating plan, if required;
- d. Easements, if required;
- e. For high hazard dams, an emergency action plan; and
- f. An engineering design report documenting all aspects of the design of the dam and how the design of the dam meets the criteria outlined in this chapter. The engineering design report shall include the following: hazard potential analysis; hydrology and hydraulic calculations; embankment design and foundation analysis; and structural calculations, where applicable.

73.10(5) *Public notice.* Public notice shall be issued by the department to inform persons who may experience adverse consequences by the permitted project. Adverse consequences may occur through maintenance of the dam and appurtenant structures, spillway discharges, temporary ponding of floodwater behind the dam, or failure of the dam. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit sufficient information with the preliminary application packet and on request to enable the department to accurately identify the owners, occupants, and addresses of affected lands.

73.10(6) *Project approval or disapproval.*

a. *Approval.* Issuance of a dam construction permit shall constitute approval of a project. The permit may include one or more special conditions when reasonably necessary to implement relevant criteria.

b. *Disapproval.* A letter to the applicant denying the application shall constitute disapproval of a project.

c. *Notice of decision.* Copies of the decision shall be mailed or electronically transmitted to the applicant and any person who commented.

73.10(7) *Appeal of decision.* Any person aggrieved by a decision issued under this chapter may file a notice of appeal as governed by 567—Chapter 7.

73.10(8) *General conditions.* Department approvals of a project shall be subject to the following conditions:

a. Change in ownership. The dam owner and any successor in interest to the real estate on which the project or activity is located shall be responsible for notifying the department of change in ownership.

b. Maintenance. The dam owner has a responsibility to maintain the dam and appurtenant structures in a safe condition. Maintenance shall include keeping earthen portions of the dam well vegetated, keeping trees and brush off the dam, preventing and repairing erosion, keeping the spillway free of obstructions, repairing deteriorated structural elements, and performing required maintenance on mechanical appurtenances such as gates.

c. Responsibility. No legal or financial responsibility arising from the construction or maintenance of the approved works shall attach to the state of Iowa or the department due to the issuance of an approval or administrative waiver.

d. Lands. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining such government licenses, permits, and approvals, and lands, easements, and rights-of-way which are required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the authorized work.

e. Change in plans. No material change from the plans and specifications approved by the department shall be made unless authorized in writing by the department.

f. Revocation of permit. A department permit may be revoked if construction is not completed within the period of time specified in the department permit.

g. Performance bond. A performance bond may be required when necessary to secure the construction, operation, and maintenance of approved projects and activities in a manner that does not create a hazard to the public's health, welfare, and safety. The amount and conditions of the bond shall be specified as special conditions in the department permit.

h. Construction inspection. For high hazard and significant hazard dams, construction shall be inspected by or under the supervision of a professional licensed engineer in the state of Iowa. The engineer shall prepare and certify as-built plans after completion and a report documenting that the dam was constructed in general conformance with the approved plans (or approved changes) and outlining unusual circumstances encountered during construction. The water storage permit shall not be issued until the department accepts the as-built plans and report.

i. Postconstruction department inspections. A department approval that authorizes construction or modification, operation, and maintenance of a dam for which ongoing inspections are required by these rules shall include a condition stating that the department shall have access to the dam site for such inspections at a reasonable time after notification of the dam owner.

j. Owner inspections. For high hazard and significant hazard dams, the owner is responsible for annual inspections and submission of written inspection reports to the department as required in subrule 73.30(4).

[ARC 9211C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]