



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

November 14, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to pay calendar year 2015 membership dues to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (Vendor Code# 171855), Lexington, KY in the amount of \$2,730.00, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 26.7% Dam Safety Funds, 73.3% General Funds

Funding is available in the accounts as follows:

	<u>FY 2015</u>
03-44-44-442010-2954-0026-500251 Dept Environmental Services, Dam Operations, Organizational Dues	\$1,000.00
03-44-44-442010-3800-0026-500251 Dept Environmental Services, Dam Bureau Administration, Organizational Dues	\$1,000.00
03-44-44-442010-3847-0026-500251 Dept Environmental Services, Dam Registration Fund, Organizational Dues	\$ 730.00

EXPLANATION

DES and previously one of its predecessor agencies, the New Hampshire Water Resources Board, has been a member of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) since it was founded in 1983. ASDSO is a national non-profit organization of state and federal dam safety regulators, dam owners and operators that provides a strong, unified voice and effective programs and policies toward the furtherance of dam safety in the states. The voting members of the Association are the fifty (50) states.

ASDSO membership provides a benefit to New Hampshire's Dam Safety Program through the following:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of state dam safety programs;
- Bringing dam safety to a higher level of awareness among the general public, state and federal legislatures, specific organizations and other stakeholders;
- Keeping Congress informed on key issues related to dam safety, including appropriations, new legislation, and program efficiency and effectiveness;
- Informing states about federal and state dam safety activities;
- Providing technical training opportunities to the states;
- Providing leadership through facilitation of inter-organizational, intergovernmental and interstate cooperation;
- Strengthening the dam safety community and providing a forum for the exchange of information; and
- Providing quality outreach programs for dam owners/operators, members and non-members, about the need to maintain safe dams.

Listed below are answers to the standard questions required for submissions to the Governor and Council for approval of organization dues and membership:

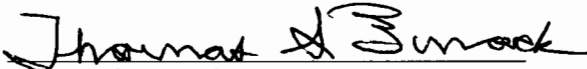
1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** The organization was founded in 1983. DES and previously one of its predecessor agencies, the New Hampshire Water Resources Board, has been a member since the organization was founded.
2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** No. This is the only national organization to which DES belongs that is dedicated to furthering dam safety in the states and supporting and providing state input on national policy issues and funding under the federal Dam Safety Act.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** All fifty states and Puerto Rico belong to this organization. DES is the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc).** The fifty states make up the voting membership of the Association, and there is a standard fee for all states.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** Membership in ASDSO has improved New Hampshire's dam safety program. ASDSO has performed a Peer Review of New Hampshire's Dam Safety Program, at no cost to the state, to evaluate the competence of the program relative to the generally accepted standards of practice in dam safety. In addition, ASDSO's work with Congress and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been instrumental in providing training and direct funding to New Hampshire to improve the safety of dams in the state. ASDSO is working closely with Congress to ensure reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program Act. Under the National Dam Safety Program, FEMA provides \$500,000 for training of state dam safety engineers, much of it through ASDSO. Each year, DES has sent engineers multiple times to courses on dam safety at FEMA's training center, with tuition, travel and lodging expense fully reimbursed by FEMA under this program. Also, the National Dam Safety Program provides grants to improve state dam safety programs, under which New Hampshire receives over \$90,000 each year. ASDSO has also been instrumental in having legislation introduced in Congress that would provide New Hampshire with grant funds for the repair of publicly-owned dams. The Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act, will, if passed, provide New Hampshire with \$2.6 million in grants over five years for the repair of publicly-owned dams.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** Membership includes a subscription to a monthly newsletter and the quarterly Journal of Dam Safety. The Journal consists of articles on lessons learned and new technology in dam safety engineering. In addition, the Association has an annual national conference, which is one of the leading conferences in the United States dedicated to dam safety engineering and technology transfer. The dues that New Hampshire pays, provides for one complimentary annual conference registration. In addition, ASDSO sponsors regional conferences and several technical seminars each year on the topics of dam safety, including the computer modeling of dam failure floods, hydrologic analysis, hydraulic design, geotechnical engineering, structural analysis and design, construction techniques, and causes of dam failures. This training is critical to our dam safety engineers to provide them with the specialized training needed for them to properly, inspect, design and review and approve plans and specifications of the more than 2,600 dams in the State, as well as model the downstream flooding due to dam failure in order to classify the dams. Under

New Hampshire's membership, DES Dam Bureau staff receives a 15 to 20 percent discount at all technical seminars. Because of New Hampshire's leadership in ASDSO, New Hampshire hosted the ASDSO Northeast Regional Conference in Manchester, which was attended by over 200 people. In addition, last year New Hampshire was the site of an ASDSO technical seminar on hydraulic modeling with applications to dam safety.

7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No.
8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** James Gallagher, Administrator of the DES Dam Bureau, is currently on the Board of Directors for the Association. The Association pays for all travel costs associated with Mr. Gallagher's attendance at two Board meetings per year.
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)** James Gallagher, Administrator of the DES Dam Bureau, is a voting member of the Association and is currently on its Board of Directors. He has also historically been an association officer in a number of positions, including president. In addition to Mr. Gallagher, the Dam Bureau staff receive the benefits of membership, previously described, as a result of the dues that New Hampshire pays to the Association.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** If DES did not belong to the Association, New Hampshire would not be as fully informed on national dam safety issues being debated in Congress and considered by federal agencies including FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. New Hampshire would also not have the ability to regularly provide direct input, in close coordination with other national leaders from the other 50 state dam safety offices, on national dam safety policy, legislation proposed in Congress, and the impacts of federal budget decisions on the New Hampshire dam safety program. Membership in ASDSO has historically enabled DES to provide significant, timely input on national dam safety policy to Congress that has had positive effects. The ability to provide state-specific input, and to leverage our impact through an association that represents all 50 states, on the decisions of Congress and federal agencies relative to complex dam safety issues would be very substantially reduced, and this would be to the detriment of the State. Additional negative impacts would include a reduction in access to the wealth of training opportunities and educational and research material that the Association provides its members.

In summary, ASDSO is an outstanding organization with very active participation by New Hampshire from which we gain a significant return on our investment in dues. Active support and involvement in this organization by payment of these dues is good value for the State of New Hampshire.

We respectfully request your approval.


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner