

Request for proposal: Ashuelot Pond Dam Engineering Work

By the Commissioners of the Ashuelot Pond Dam Village District (APDVD)

March 2026

Overview

The Ashuelot Pond Dam is a 150-year-old municipal-owned dam which impounds the eponymous 368-acre waterbody in Washington, NH. The dam impounds the pond for purely residential recreational purposes and is supported by property taxes levied on roughly 250 village households. As of early 2026, it is rated as high hazard and poor condition by the state, with the primary known reason for its condition rating being the inability to meet the required flows of its designated inflow design flood.

In the last ten years, work has been performed on the dam, including routine site maintenance and sinkhole repair but also structural improvements to the sluice gate tunnel and installation of new gate works. APDVD currently uses NH Dams LLC as its primary contractor assisting with various aspects of dam management.

APDVD achieved closure of a 2022 Letter of Deficiency from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) in March of 2025, after a DES inspection and an APDVD application for related construction work. In May of 2025, a follow up inquiry was received regarding this application. As of this writing, no formal response has been made to DES on the May inquiry. APDVD is in the process of updating its Emergency Action Plan which is (also) overdue.

Scope

APDVD seeks the services of an appropriately qualified professional engineering firm licensed in the state of New Hampshire for the following purposes:

1. Assessment project

- Evaluate current state, including validation and/or complete recalculation of hydrology to confirm whether “significant” or “high” hazard rating applies. (There is some evidence of possible inaccuracy.) This work will also help the firm finalize its Emergency Action Plan update.
- Based on the results, determine what redesign and construction efforts are needed to improve the dam’s condition rating.
- The output should include a list of rehabilitation projects, with a high-level overview of each and optimal phasing, rough cost and timing estimates for each phase, and where applicable, an estimate of how much each phase would incrementally improve dam flows toward meeting the IDF.
- This implies coordinating with both APDVD but also NH DES (and possibly NH Dams LLC - TBD) to ensure agreement and appropriate prioritization.

2. Dam rehabilitation engineering and project management

- Engineering design for the projects from step (1)
- Oversight of the construction work, including performing or assisting contractor selection
- Manage regulatory approvals and inquiries related to the efforts

3. Possible other support

- Possible assistance with grant application efforts (e.g., if the rating remains high hazard and if a FEMA HHPD Notice of Funding Opportunity occurs)
- Other periodic support from time to time as the dam's Professional Engineer as required under NH DES's Code of Administrative Rules

A candidate firm can choose to pursue all or just certain of the above sets of work but the first set is top priority for obvious reasons. The NH DES summary data sheet on the dam (D245005) is available upon request.

Schedule

APDVD does not have a set date for completion of the work. Generally, it is constrained by two opposing forces which it must balance:

- A desire to quickly show demonstrable progress on these efforts both to its village stakeholders and to DES to mitigate risk of DES escalation
- A desire to minimize cost impact to our taxpayers by spreading the remediation work over time, especially if HHPD or other grants/funding remain a possibility

Selection Criteria

APDVD would consider the following criteria in its acceptance of proposals:

- Apparent/demonstrated technical merit
- Cost (we assume a mix of fixed price and time-and-materials work is probably likely)
- Availability and scheduling of the assessment phase
- Identified risks
- Project approach
- Other terms and conditions

APDVD recognizes this effort is on a modest-sized dam in a somewhat remote location and this may constrain the degree of client interactions and site visits.

Responses

Please direct replies to MikeCollinsLAE@gmail.com or to Mike at (617) 688-1741