



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



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November 28, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to **RETROACTIVELY** pay membership dues to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (Vendor Code# 171855-B001), Lexington, KY, in the amount of \$5,500, for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, upon Governor and Council approval. 60% Federal Funds, 40% Fee Funds.

Funding is available in the accounts as follows:

	<u>FY 2024</u>
03-44-44-442010-3846-026-500251	\$3,300.00
Dept Environmental Services, State Dam Safety Grant Program, Organizational Dues	
03-44-44-442010-3847-026-500251	\$2,200.00
Dept Environmental Services, Dam Registration Fund, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

Although the dues payment was due on or before October 1, 2023, there were issues that complicated the timing of the payment. The first related to a new dues structure being instituted by the Association, whereby the fee is based on the number of members enrolled in the organization, rather than a flat organizational fee as previously. Secondly, this new structure, coupled with the recent turnover of staff, resulted in the need to update our member listing and to verify the dues costs based on this new number. This process delayed our ability to pay, requiring this **Retroactive** request.

NHDES 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;

- 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 submission 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. NHDES 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 NHDES 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 and the federal High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Grant Program.
- 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. NHDES 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 fees are based on the number of members per organization.
- 5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** Membership in ASDSO has improved New Hampshire's dam safety program. ASDSO 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 works 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, NHDES has sent engineers 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 has received approximately \$90,000 each year. The amount of this grant is increasing to over \$400,000 per year beginning in 2024 and for the next five years with passage of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, as a result of ASDSO's involvement in the drafting of this legislation. Finally, under New Hampshire's membership, NHDES Dam Bureau staff receive free registration for all ASDSO-sponsored webinars and reduced registration fees for all other ASDSO-sponsored training seminars and conferences.

- 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. In addition, ASDSO sponsors regional conferences, several technical seminars, and numerous webinars 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. Because of New Hampshire's leadership in ASDSO, several staff members recently presented at the ASDSO Northeast Regional Conference in Portland, Maine, and occasionally assists with developing training content.
- 7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? 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. No.**
- 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.)** Steve Doyon, Chief Dam Safety Engineer of the NHDES Dam Bureau's Dam Safety & Inspection Section, is the state representative for New Hampshire and a voting member of the Association. In addition to Mr. Doyon, the Dam Bureau staff receives the benefits of membership through the training opportunities provided by the Association.
- 10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** If NHDES 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 NHDES 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 substantially reduced without membership in this organization. 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.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

Invoice

Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Inc.

239 S. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40508

Phone: 859-550-2788 Email: info@damsafety.org

Bill To:

NH Department of Environmental Services

PO Box 95 29 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03302-0095

Phone: (603) 271-3406

Email: steve.n.doyon@des.nh.gov

Order Info:

Customer #: 200251

Order #: 344870

Order Date: 09/08/2023

Description	Qty	Price	Amount
Tier II - State Dam Safety Program Tier2 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024	1	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Subtotal:			\$5,500.00
Tax:			
Shipping:			
Total Payment:			\$0.00
Credits:			\$0.00
Balance Due:			\$5,500.00

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