



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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May 28, 2026

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court  
 State House  
 Concord, NH

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
 and the Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to amend Fiscal Item FIS 22-195, approved by the Fiscal Committee on May 20, 2022 and approved by Governor and Council on June 1, 2022, Item #74 as amended by FIS 22-330, approved by the Fiscal Committee by October 14, 2022 and approved by Governor and Council on October 19, 2022, Item #70 and as extended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 23-166 approved on May 19, 2023, and Governor and Council Item #160 approved on May 31, 2023, and as extended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 24-182 approved on May 17, 2024 and Governor and Council Item #154 approved on May 15, 2024, as amended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 24-207 approved on June 20, 2024 and Governor and Council Item #132 approved on June 26, 2024, as amended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 24-367 approved on October 18, 2024 and Governor and Council Item #74 approved on October 16, 2024 and as extended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 25-163 approved on June 20, 2025 and Governor and Council Item #250 approved on June 25, 2025, as amended by Fiscal Committee Item FIS 26-003 approved on January 23, 2026 and Governor and Council Item #64 approved on January 28, 2026 by transferring funds between class lines within an accounting unit in the amount of \$15,900 to better utilize federal funds, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council approval through December 31, 2026. 100% Federal Funds.

NHDES is requesting changes in funding as follows:

**ARPA DES DAM<sup>1</sup>**  
**03-44-44-440010-2657**  
**Fiscal Year 2026**

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Transfer of Funds	Revised Budget
<b>Income</b>				
000-400338-16	Federal Funds	\$13,487,295	\$0	\$13,487,295
<b>Expenditures</b>				
18-500106	Overtime	\$1	\$0	\$1

<sup>1</sup> All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity OOFRF602GS4402A, activity OOFRF602GS4402B for Municipal Dam Grants, activity OOFRF602GS4402Z for administrative and indirect costs, and costs relative to the four full-time temporary positions will be accounted for using activity OOFRF602PH4402A. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

Class-Cont	Budget Category	Current Budget	Transfer of Funds	Revised Budget
23-500291	Heat Electricity Water	\$1	\$0	\$1
27-582703	Transfers to OIT	\$4,826	\$0	\$4,826
38-500175	Technology-Software	\$28,043	\$0	\$28,043
42-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$27,378	(\$15,900)	\$11,478
46-500463	Consultants	\$2,480,209	\$0	\$2,480,209
47-500240	Own Force Maintenance Bldg/Grnds	\$1	\$0	\$1
59-500117	Full Time Temporary	\$252,225	\$0	\$252,225
60-500601	Benefits	\$126,159	\$15,900	\$142,059
72-500574	Grants - Federal	\$2,350,540	\$0	\$2,350,540
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$8,158,289	\$0	\$8,158,289
302-500834	Dam Projects	\$59,623	\$0	\$59,623
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,487,295</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,487,295</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117<sup>th</sup> United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to expedite the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant recession. The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergencies, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID -19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

NHDES was awarded a total of \$35,000,000 to fund the rehabilitation of state and municipally owned dams to meet current dam safety standards. Of the \$35 million in federal funds awarded, \$29.2 million was allocated for the rehabilitation of state-owned dams, and \$5.8 million was allocated for grants to municipalities for the rehabilitation of municipally owned high hazard dams. The rehabilitation of state-owned dams is primarily carried out by the NHDES Dam Bureau's Engineering and Construction Section using force account basis. Additional work is completed through contracts with engineering consultants and construction contractors, under the supervision of the Section's engineers. To support the existing NH DES Dam Bureau staff, four additional full-time temporary positions were created to accomplish the rehabilitation work.

At the start of FY26, two out of the four positons were filled. Midway through the year, one of these staff members transferred to another position, which reduced the program's dedicated staffing capacity. To meet program requirements and deadlines, other staff have stepped in to assist with administering the program. NHDES ARPA-DAM personnel costs were budgeted through the end of the ARPA Program. Because of the staffing changes, the budget allocated for benefits has been drawn down more quickly than originally anticipated. To adequately support

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the remaining benefit obligation, NHDES is requesting the transfer of funds from class 42 to cover benefit costs to best use the available appropriation.

NHDES is requesting to transfer funds as shown below:

Class 042 To reduce funds for the program share of additional fringe benefit costs.  
There are sufficient funds remaining in class 42 to cover costs until the end of the grant.

Class 060 To cover benefits for personnel costs.

The following information is provided in accordance with the Budget Officer's instructional memorandum dated April 17, 1985.

- 1) Does the transfer involve continuing programs or one-time projects?  
This transfer is for continuing ARPA program.
- 2) Is this transfer required to maintain existing program level, or will it increase the program level?  
This transfer is to maintain existing ARPA program level.
- 3) Cite any requirements which make this program mandatory. n/a
- 4) Identify the source of the funds on all accounts listed on this transfer.  
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)
- 5) Will there be any effect on revenue if this transfer is approved or disapproved? No.
- 6) Are funds expected to lapse if this transfer is not approved? No.
- 7) Are personnel services involved? If yes, answer the following:  
Yes.
  - a. Number of positions budgeted in each account. 4
  - b. Number of positions filled in each account. 1
  - c. Reason for vacant positions. Staff promotion and retirement
  - d. Have any positions been transferred previously in these accounts? No
  - e. Will any positions be transferred as a result of this request? No

We respectfully request your approval of this item.

  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner  
NH Department of Environmental Services