

Resource Contact: Dam Safety Office
References: RCW 90.03.350
Chapter 173-175 WAC

Effective Date: 07-01-91
Revised: 07-01-1999

PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS

POLICY STATEMENT:

Construction change orders are changes to the construction plans and specifications originally agreed to by the successful bidder for a project. Engineering plan review will be required for those construction change orders which, in the opinion of the DSO, represent a significant modification to the originally approved plans and specifications associated with elements of the project that could have an affect on structural integrity or safe operation of the project. Change orders which could affect project safety must be reviewed and approved by the DSO before implementation.

DISCUSSION:

This is a direct implementation of WAC 173-175-190. Oftentimes during project construction, a variety of problems or changed conditions are encountered which render the original plans inappropriate or impractical. Construction change orders are used by the engineering consultant to implement these plan changes. Construction change orders are considered to be an extension of the plan review process under RCW 90.03.350.

PROCEDURES:

Dam owners or their engineering consultant(s) are required to advise the DSO of the need for a specific change in plans and/or specifications. The DSO will determine if the proposed change could affect project safety and if review and approval by the DSO project leader is required. No action is to be taken by the owner to execute the construction change order until approval is given by the department. A decision to approve or deny the change order will be issued in a letter to the project proponent and/or project engineer.

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Special Note: These policies and procedures are used to guide and ensure consistency among water resources program staff in the administration of laws and regulations. These policies and procedures are not formal administrative regulations that have been adopted through a rule-making process. In some cases, the policies may not reflect subsequent changes in statutory law or judicial findings, but they are indicative of the department's practices and interpretations of laws and regulations at the time they are adopted. If you have any questions regarding a policy or procedure, please contact the department.