

POL 5406

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM POLICY

Resource Contact: Dam Safety Office

Effective Date: 07-01-91

References: RCW 43.21A.064

Revised: 07-01-1999

"OLDER" DAMS WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED MANY YEARS AGO WITHOUT DSO APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

POLICY STATEMENT:

When an older dam is found which has been in service for a number of years, but which was constructed without prior approval of construction plans and specifications and without DSO construction inspection, a surficial inspection will be conducted to assess the structural integrity and safety of the facility. If the findings from the inspection indicate that there are serious problems which **must** be addressed in a timely manner, then the DSO will proceed with compliance and enforcement actions as indicated in Policy POL 5502. If no major problems are identified, the owner will be advised of the findings from the inspection and the project will be scheduled to receive periodic inspections according to policy POL 5404.

DISCUSSION:

This is a companion policy to POL 5405 and differs from that policy in that it addresses older dams, which have been in service for several years. Many safety deficiencies on dams in service, which may have arisen from design or construction flaws, can be detected by visual examination and preliminary engineering analyses. This allows an approach to assessing the safety of the facility, which is not available for dams that have recently been constructed but not yet placed in service. (Policy POL 5405)

APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies on existing dams where steady state seepage conditions have developed. Policy POL 5405 is applicable for recently built dams where the reservoir has not been filled or where steady state seepage conditions have not yet developed.

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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.