

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD DAM SAFETY QUARTERLY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA DAM SAFETY PROGRAM

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OWRB and OREC Partner to Increase Dam Safety Awareness in Real Estate Community

One of the main challenges of dam safety programs nationwide is lack of public awareness of the responsibilities of dam ownership. In an effort to increase awareness for both dam owners and parties involved in the sale and purchase of properties with existing dams, OWRB staff began conducting workshops in 2016 for Oklahoma's real estate community in cooperation with the Oklahoma Real Estate Commission (OREC). To date, more than 300 real estate agents have received training on dam ownership, inspection techniques, and the identification of structural deficiencies.

Another challenge of Oklahoma's dam safety program is educating dam owners about potential downstream development that may lead to the reclassification of low hazard-potential dams to significant or high hazard-potential. According to Oklahoma law, when downstream development occurs and a dam is reclassified, the dam owner must adhere to the operation and maintenance requirements of the new classification. This includes

hiring an engineer to perform scheduled inspections and paying for any necessary upgrades to the dam, which puts a substantial financial burden on the dam owner.

Last November, the OREC modified the Residential Property Condition Disclosure Statement to require sellers to declare the presence of dams on their property, and to indicate the party responsible for maintaining the dam. This additional language in the disclosure form, along with continuing education about dam ownership for Oklahoma realtors, should increase public awareness of dam safety in the state.

LOCATION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY _____

Environmental (Continued from Page 2)
37. Are you aware of any wells located on the property?
38. Are you aware of any dams located on the property? If yes, are you responsible for the maintenance of that dam? ____ YES ____ NO

New language on dams in the Oklahoma Real Estate Commission's Appendix A. Residential Property Condition Disclosure Statement.

Dam Safety Staff Perform Low Hazard-Potential Dam Inspections

Dam Safety staff began conducting low hazard-potential dam inspections in December. This free on-site inspection performed by state engineers provides dam owners with a complete inspection report and breach inundation map. In addition to demonstrating the inspection process, this program provides an opportunity for dam owners to obtain guidance and learn easy maintenance techniques that may improve dam operation and ease liabilities associated with dam ownership. For more information about this free program, please contact our dam safety staff at (405) 530-8800 or visit www.owrb.ok.gov/damsafety.

Upcoming Events

- April 17 ASDSO Seminar: [HEC-RAS with an Introduction to HEC-RAS 2D](#), Baltimore, MD
- April 25 OWRB Dam Safety Workshop, UCO Outdoor Adventure Recreation Boathouse at Lake Arcadia
- May 8 ASDSO Webinar: [Reexamination of the 2004 Failure of Big Bay Dam, Mississippi](#)
- May 15 ASDSO Seminar: [Fundamentals of Reinforced Concrete Design of Hydraulic Structures](#), Phoenix, AZ
- June 12 ASDSO Seminar: [Seepage Through Earthen Dams](#), Chicago, IL
- June 12 ASDSO Webinar: [Designing Spillways to Mitigate Failure Modes](#)

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The Oklahoma Dam Safety Act recognizes that properly constructed, operated, and maintained dams used to impound water and create reservoirs for public and private beneficial uses constitute vital parts of the State of Oklahoma's water resources, and authorizes the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to regulate the construction, operation, and maintenance of dams to protect lives and property. Please e-mail comments and article ideas to pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov.