

Oct. 20, 2015:

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has provided the following update related to ongoing efforts to proactively assess all Class One and Class Two dams across the state.

DHEC has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do an on-site evaluation of all Class One and Class Two dams statewide as a precaution after the 1,000-year flooding event. As part of the overarching assessment process, the agency is evaluating overtopping, debris, structural damage, signs of erosion, flow, seepage, potential weak and or failure points, and overgrowth.

As of October 20, 2015, DHEC has taken the following actions since the 1,000-year flood:

- Partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teams to **assess all Class One and Class Two dams statewide** as a precaution after the historic rains.
- Assessed **625 dams statewide** so far.
- Based on these initial assessments, issued [emergency orders](#) covering 75 dams.

Under the S.C. Dams and Reservoirs Safety Regulations, an emergency order may direct the dam owner to:

- lower the water level by releasing water from the reservoir;
- completely empty the reservoir;
- take whatever immediate measures necessary to reduce the risk of dam failure.

The owner's decision to repair or replace a dam will be subject to DHEC review and approval. DHEC will prioritize review of dam permit applications associated with this natural disaster. The permitting for these repairs could take days to weeks depending upon the complexity of the repairs that need to be made.

The deadline to take action for many of the dams was 5 p.m. on October 20, 2015. **DHEC will have an update on the compliance status of dam owners that have been issued emergency orders on October 21, 2015.**