

Sample Letter to Downstream Communities

Dams to be repaired or reconstructed must submit a dam failure analysis as part of the application to this grant program. As part of the review process, the land use controls in the inundation area downstream of the dam are reviewed in light of the existing development. Based on that review it is possible that the community(ies) responsible for floodplain zoning in the inundation area may need to adopt an additional map in order to secure the hazard rating for the dam.

If the dam failure analysis has already been approved, appropriate land use controls put in place downstream of the dam, and the hazard rating assigned, you do not need to do any additional work for your grant application.

If you are just starting the dam failure analysis process or do not yet have the letter from the department assigning the hazard rating, you should take the following steps:

1. Work with your engineering consultant to define the community(ies) that may be affected by the hydraulic shadow of the dam.
2. Send the zoning administrator for each affected community (city, village or county) a **registered** letter containing the following information, at a minimum.

“This letter is to inform [name of community] that a change in land use controls may be necessary downstream from the [dam name] on [river/stream name] to secure the hazard rating for the dam pursuant to ch. NR 333, Wis. Adm. Code. This information letter is required for [your municipality’s name] to apply for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to address safety deficiencies at the [dam name]. If a zoning change is needed, you will be contacted by DNR staff concerning what information needs to be adopted and a time frame to complete the adoption process.”

3. Submit a copy of your **registered** letter(s) to affected communities and receipt of delivery with your grant application.

For questions, contact:

Tanya Lourigan, State Dam Safety Engineer
Department of Natural Resources-WT/3
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Phone: 608-444-2089
E-mail: Tanya.Lourigan@wisconsin.gov