

Piscataquog River Dam

Public Information Meeting
Presented by NHDES
Hosted by the Goffstown Select Board
August 22, 2023

Mark Sanborn - mark.a.sanborn@des.nh.gov (603) 271-8806

Corey Clark - corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov (603) 271-1961

Ted Diers - ted.diers@des.nh.gov (603) 271-2951



Agenda

- Overview of State-Owned Dams
- Hadley Falls Dam
- Gregg Falls Dam
- Kelley Falls Dam
- Q & A



Rehabilitation Cost of 275 State-Owned Dams

61 High Hazard Dams

- \$300 million

32 Significant Hazard Dams

- \$54 million

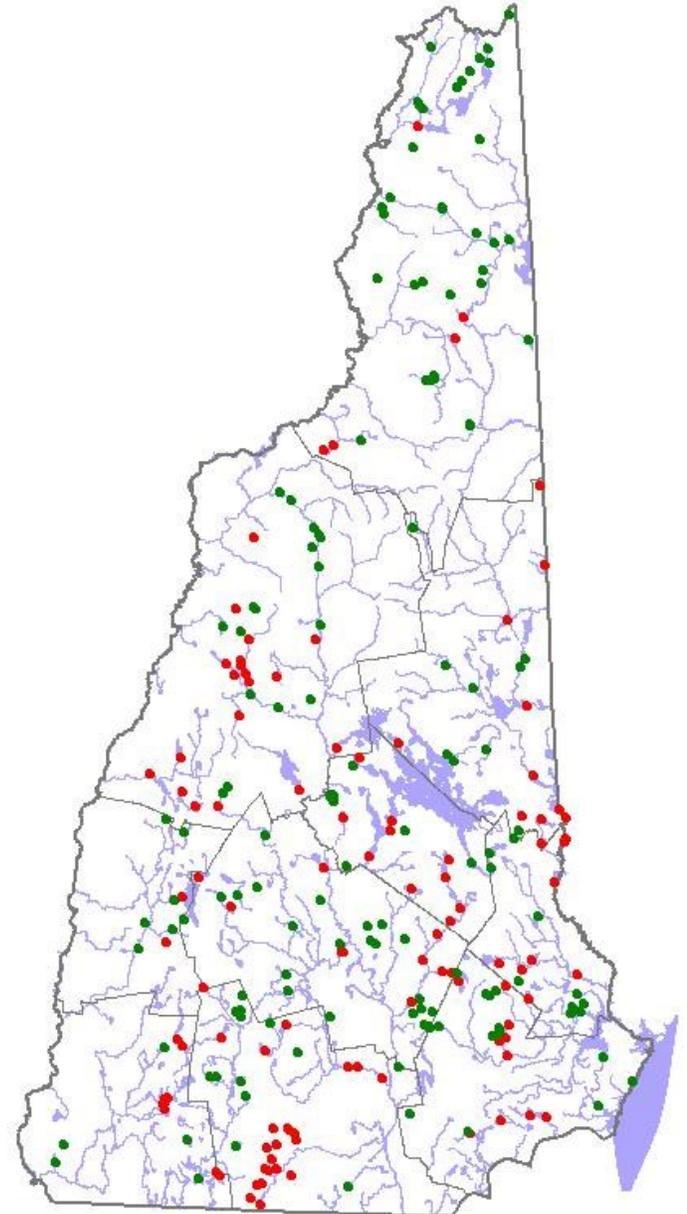
90 Low Hazard Dams

- \$54 million

92 Non-Menace Hazard and Exempt Dams

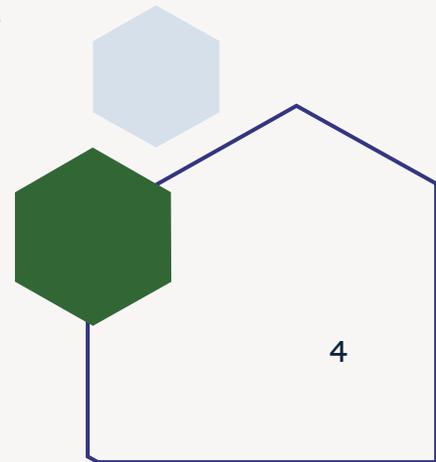
- \$6 million

Total Approximate Cost = \$414 million



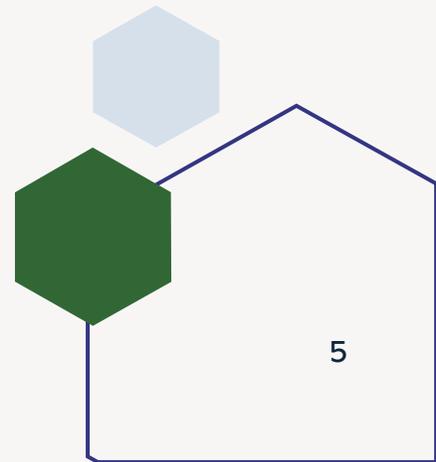
Hadley Falls Dam

- High hazard dam built in 1921 with the State taking over ownership of the dam (not powerhouse) in 1968.
- Site has a federal license issued by the Federal Energy Regulator Commission (FERC).
- Hydropower generation under State control lasted from the 1980s to 2007 with approximately 0.2 MWatts of power generating capacity.
- As part of a request by FERC, NHDES reviewed the structural stability of the dam in 2020; this study found that the dam is likely unstable during a flooding event.
- FERC required the State to either restart hydropower generation at the site with a plan to rehabilitate the dam or surrender the license; as part of the surrender either remove the dam or rehabilitate the structure.
- NHDES submitted a letter to FERC in May 2023 requesting to surrender the hydropower license at the site with a plan for removal of the dam.
- NHDES is starting discussions on removal with engineering consultants, FERC, the Town of Goffstown, fish passage agencies such as NH Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other stakeholders.
- NHDES is performing a Piscataquog watershed analysis and dam removal alternatives analysis.
- Funding for removal may come from fish passage or ecological restoration grants.
- Removal of Hadley Falls Dam will take years to complete from design to final construction.



Gregg Falls Dam

- High Hazard Dam on Glenn Lake (First Downstream Dam from Hadley Falls Dam)
- Owned by NHDES (powerhouse and dam) and leased by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy who holds FERC license.
- Approximately 120 Waterfront Homes/Buildings on 120-acre Gregg Lake (Goffstown)
- 3.5 MWatts generating capacity
- If fish passage is introduced to Kelley Falls Dam, then the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 'prescription' requirement with FERC would require Gregg Falls Dam to provide upstream and downstream fish passage.
- If the lessee, Eagle Creek, was to abandon the site due to rising costs associated with FERC compliance and fish passage, then NHDES would need additional resources to operate and maintain the dam along with likely having to reconfigure the dam to operate without the hydropower turbines, which currently control the flow through the dam.
- NHDES is continuing to work with Eagle Creek to ensure the project is viable and productive for decades to come.



Kelley Falls Dam

- High Hazard Dam on Namaske Lake (Second Downstream Dam from Hadley Falls Dam)
- Owned by NHDES (Powerhouse and Dam) and Leased by Green Mountain Power (GMP)
- Approximately 180 Waterfront Homes/Buildings on 129-acre Namaske Lake (95% Goffstown, 5% Manchester)
- 0.45 MWatts generating capacity
- GMP was in the final stages of re-licensing until FERC informed GMP that they were required to construct upstream and downstream fish passage. Due to this requirement, GMP has decided to not re-license but instead stop generation, surrender the license, and vacate the site in 2024.
- Federal funding from NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife is available for fish passage projects but not on FERC licensed hydroelectric facilities.
- GMP currently pays all operating costs, including maintaining the 192-ft long spillway and associated flashboards. Once GMP vacates the site, all costs will be passed onto NHDES. NHDES does not currently have the staff, funding, nor resources to perform this necessary maintenance.
- NHDES is negotiating with other dam operators, including Eagle Creek, to develop interest in taking over the site. NHDES is also negotiating with fish passage agencies and is willing to assist with installing the necessary fish passage in order to make the site viable for an operator.

