

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Notice of Availability for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment
for Repair, Rehabilitation, Removal and Replacement of Dams in the State of Montana

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for dam safety projects that restore function and mitigate impacts from severe weather and other natural hazards within the State of Montana. The notice is being published pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA Directive 108-1, FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, and other applicable environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and 44 CFR Part 9 because the proposed actions have the potential to affect historic and archaeological resources, threatened and endangered species, floodplains, and wetlands.

Dam failures are caused by aging infrastructure, poor maintenance and damages from natural disasters. All of these issues have the potential to diminish the safety and ability of dams to function properly and protect. Failure of these structures can cause loss of life, loss of critical infrastructure and significant environmental impacts in Montana. Dam safety projects protect life, prevent breaches, and reduce risk during future severe weather events. The proposed activities covered under this PEA include dam repair, rehabilitation, removal and replacement. These projects would restore dams, mitigate future losses and ensure facilities are resilient.

In accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, this PEA identifies project actions, the potential adverse and beneficial effects associated with dam safety and hazard mitigation projects. The PEA will allow FEMA to focus on site-specific reviews on a narrower scope and eliminate repetitive discussions.

The PEA is available for review and comment and can be viewed and/or downloaded on the Montana Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://des.mt.gov/> and the NEPA Repository homepage at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/pepa/programmatic-environmental-43>. The comment period will conclude 30 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice. To provide comments on the scope of the PEA please contact FEMA Region 8 by email at fema-r8ehp@fema.dhs.gov and include "Montana Dam PEA" in the subject line, or by U.S. Postal Service to FEMA R8, Denver Federal Center, Building 710, Box 25267, Denver, Colorado 80225-0267, Attn: FEMA R8 EHP.

FEMA will consider any substantive comments received during the public review period to inform the final decision regarding NEPA reviews for grant projects under the PEA. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft PEA will be finalized and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA.