



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

# Dam Safety Program Updates

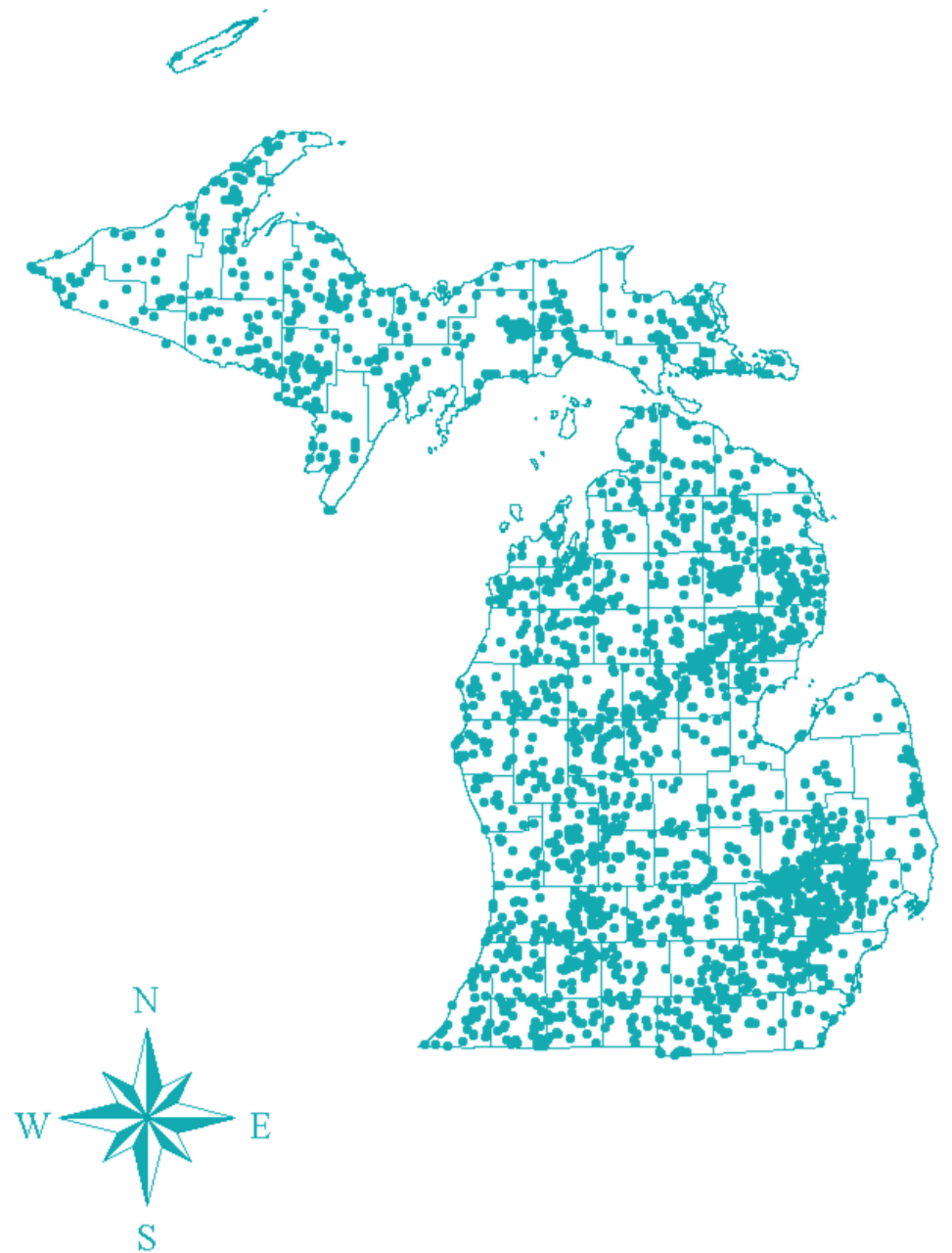
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MARCH 19, 2024

# Dams In Michigan

## Over 2,500 Dams

- 1,059 State Regulated Dams
  - Ownership: 75% Private, 25% Public
- 92 FERC Regulated Hydropower Dams
- Roughly 1,370 Unregulated
  - Too Small To Meet Part 315 Size Requirements



# State Regulated Dams

## FERC Roles:

- No Involvement Or Regulatory Authority

## MDNR Roles:

- Coordinate With EGLE Staff On Permit Applications
- Act As State Experts In Aquatic Organisms, Terrestrial Wildlife, Stream Function, Etc.

## EGLE Roles:

- Administer Parts 307, Inland Lake Levels, & Part 315, Dam Safety, Of The NREPA
- Permitting For Dam Work
- Inspections
- Permitting Support For Other Programs





# Hydropower Dams

## FERC Roles:

- Oversee All Operational & Dam Safety Requirements
- Coordinate With Dam Owner, State & Federal Agencies, Tribes, & Public On Licensing & Operations

## MDNR Roles:

- Provide Recommendations To FERC
- Represent State's Interest

## EGLE Roles:

- No Dam Safety Authority (Exempt From Part 315)
- Provide Section 401 Water Quality Certifications
- Issue Permits For Activities Impacting Inland Lakes & Streams, Floodplains, & Wetlands



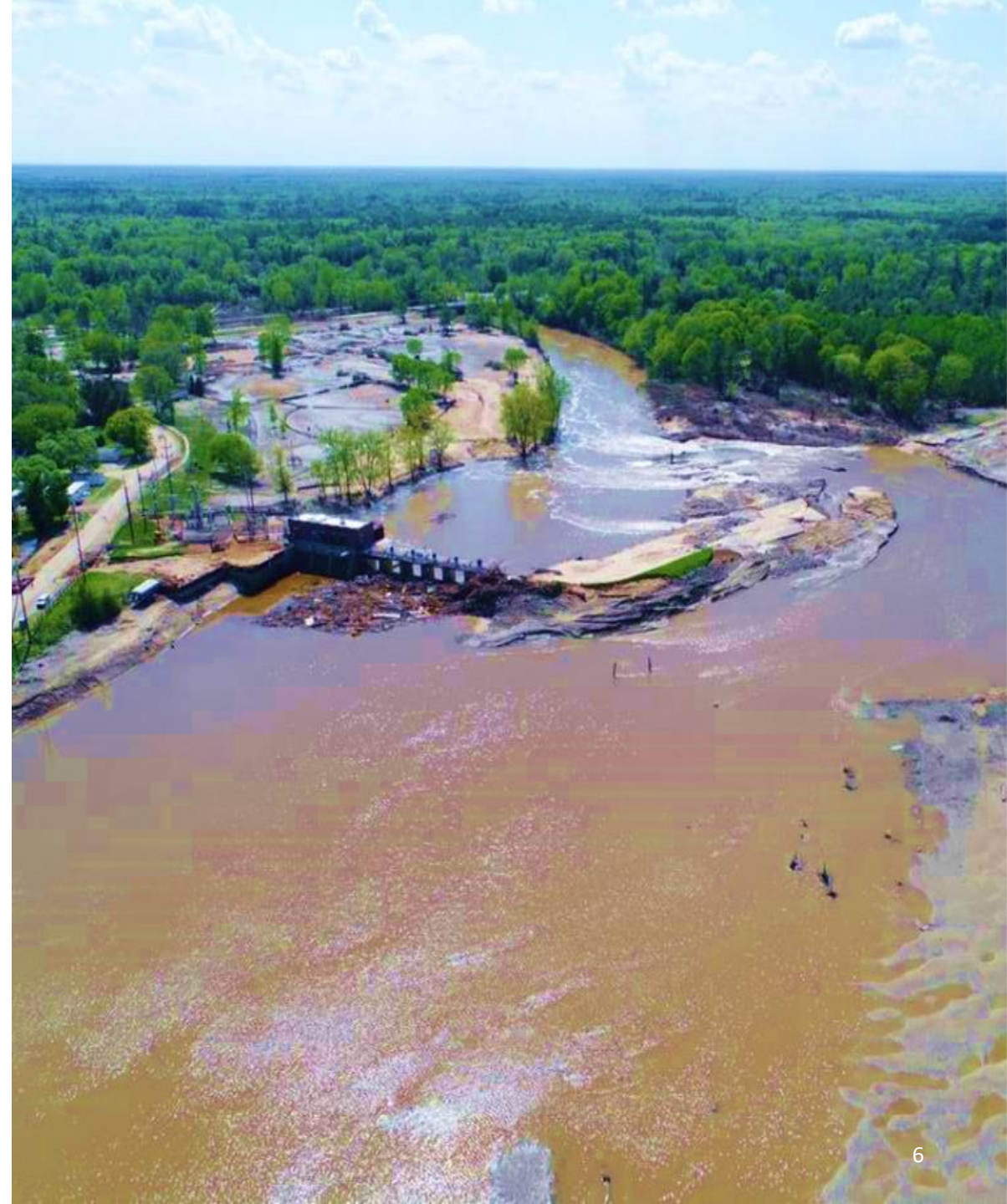


Edenville Dam Failure





# Sanford Dam Failure



1

Investigate Cause(s) &  
Contributing Factors To  
The Failure Of The Two  
Dams

2

Perform A Full Evaluation  
Of The Dam Safety  
Program & Overall Safety  
Of Dams In Michigan

3

Report Back To  
Governor's Office On  
Findings Of Both

Directive To EGLE

# Independent Failure Investigation

Work Began Late August 2020 & Final Report Issued: 5/4/2022

- Cause Of Failure - Edenville Dam: Static Liquefaction
- Cause Of Failure - Sanford Dam: Overtopping Resulting From Failure Of Upstream Edenville Dam

# Dam Safety Program Evaluation

ASDSO Peer Review Final Report Submitted: 9/4/2020

19 Member Michigan Dam Safety Task Force Inaugural Meeting: 9/8/2020

Final MDSTF Report & Recommendations Submitted To Governor: 2/25/2021



# Task Force Recommendations

Report Included

# 86

Recommendations

Number Of Recommendations	Category
7	Funding Opportunities For Dam Owners & The Dam Safety Program
11	Legislation & Authority
16	General Dam Safety Improvements
6	Compliance & Enforcement
7	Emergency Response
33	Dam Safety Program Management & Funding
2	Safety & Security At Dams
4	Public Outreach & Awareness

# Dam Safety Program Improvements

- Staff Expansion
- Updated Review Standards
- Increased Public Outreach & Awareness
- Risk Informed Decision Making/Prioritization
- Progressive Compliance & Enforcement
- Grant Program
- Emergency Fund



# Dam Safety Program Changes

2006 - 2020

## Dam Safety Staff

[www.mi.gov/damsafety](http://www.mi.gov/damsafety)

To Report Dam Safety Emergencies to EGLE:  
800-292-4706 (from within Michigan)  
517-373-7660 (from outside Michigan)

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[www.michigan.gov/wrd](http://www.michigan.gov/wrd) ↔ 517-284-5567  
7/3/2019

2021

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[www.michigan.gov/wrd](http://www.michigan.gov/wrd) ↔ 517-284-5567  
3/22/2021

Now

## Dam Safety Staff

[Michigan.gov/DamSafety](http://Michigan.gov/DamSafety)

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[Michigan.gov/WRD](http://Michigan.gov/WRD) ↔ 517-284-5567  
3/3/2024

# Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program

Funded At \$13M (PA 87 Of 2021) &  
\$28.2M (PA 53 Of 2022)

## 2022-2023 Inaugural Cycle

- Received 57 Pre-proposals
  - Total Of \$51.1M In Funding Requests
- Invited 23 Applicants To Submit Full Applications
  - \$26.5M In Funding Requests
- Awarded \$15.3M From PA 87 & PA 53 Funds
- 16 Total Project Funded
  - 6 Dam Removals
  - 4 Dam Repairs
  - 6 Engineering Studies



# Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program

## 2023-2024 Cycle

- Received 64 Pre-proposals (12% Increase)
  - Total Of \$68.4M In Funding Requests (39% Increase)
- Invited 29 Applicants To Submit Full Applications
  - \$33M In Funding Requests
- Full Applications Currently Under Review
  - Anticipate Announcing Awards In April
- Planning To Award \$14M

## Future Cycles

- \$14M In Remaining Funds (2024-2025 Cycle)
- Future Appropriations Needed

# Dam Safety Emergency Action Fund

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Funded At \$6M In PA 87 Of 2021

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DSP Is Currently Completing Two Emergency Dam  
Removal Projects

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Expected Expenditures Of Approximately \$3M

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Future Appropriations Will Be Necessary To  
Replenish Funds Expended



# Dam Safety Statute Reforms

Draft Reforms Started In 2021

Based On ASDSO/MDSTF Recommendations

Some Legislative Activity But No Amendments Have  
Been Made To This Date

Reforms Are Necessary To Protect Public Safety &  
Ensure That Dams Are Maintained According To  
Modern Standards As Outlined In The  
Recommendations Of ASDSO/MDSTF

Michigan Department of  
**Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**

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800-662-9278

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