



Dam Safety Program
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201



South Carolina Dam Safety News

ISSUE 8

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

A Message from Myra Reece, Director of the Department of Environmental Services

Greetings - I sincerely hope you are enjoying a pleasant spring in South Carolina! This year's edition of the Dam Safety News comes to you at an exciting time for our state, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is becoming two separate agencies on July 1, 2024. The two new agencies will be the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and South Carolina Department of Public Health. On July 1st, I will become the Interim Director of the SCDES, which will be the new home of the Dam Safety Program. You last heard from me in this newsletter in 2018 as the Deputy Director of DHEC, with responsibility for the Office of Environmental Affairs (EA). SCDES will continue delivery of our core environmental programs (Air Quality, Coastal Management, Land & Waste Management, Water, and Regional & Laboratory Services). As SCDES, we will be able to offer better delivery and improved services to the citizens of South Carolina.

Despite all these changes, you - the owners and operators of state-regulated dams - will continue to see the same names and faces in the Dam Safety Program you have known for years. I am very thankful and proud that we have successfully retained many team

members that witnessed and responded to the historic floods of 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and Hurricane Florence in 2018, and that have been instrumental in the rebuilding of the Dam Safety Program in the intervening years. The fact that many of you know the Dam Safety team on a first name basis and can pick up the phone and know exactly who you need to talk to about your situation is a testament to their dedication and passion for what they do. As the Interim Director of SCDES, I will continue to make Dam Safety a priority, and support this talented team as best I can. I also want to thank all of you for your daily efforts to maintain safe dams in our state. We all understand the many benefits provided by dams and reservoirs, but also knowing a dam can quickly go from a desirable amenity and resource to a public safety risk if we lose focus and do not maintain them properly. Let's enjoy our time on and around water, but always maintain a healthy respect for the power of water and the damage it can cause.

In closing, I want to stress the importance of preparation and readiness as we face a new hurricane season that started on June 1. Forecasters are already saying that we could see a historically active and dangerous hurricane season, based on Atlantic

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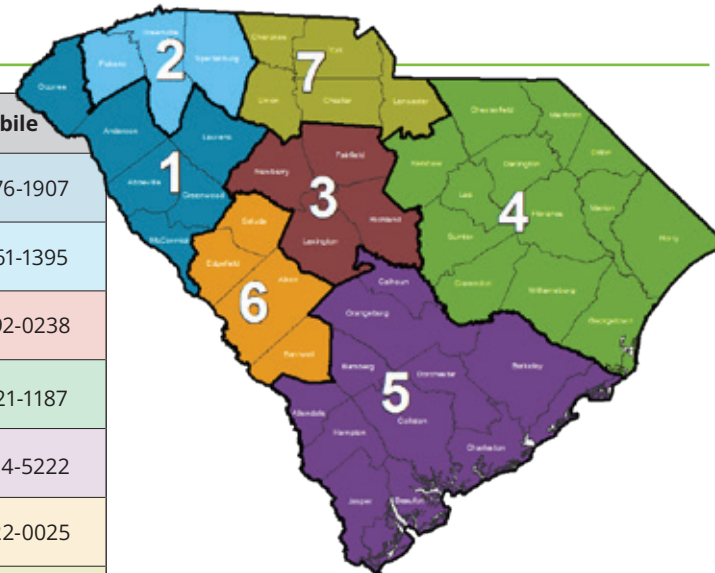
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Ocean temperatures that are much higher than normal for this time of year and change from an "El Nino" to "La Nina" pattern over the Pacific Ocean. We should always prepare for the worst but hope for the best! As always, the Dam Safety team and I stand ready to serve. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about your dams.

DHEC Regional Staff Listing



Area	Office	Staff	Office	Mobile
1	Anderson	Hannah Vinson vinsonhm@dhec.sc.gov	864-260-5585	864-276-1907
2	Greenville	Chuck Owens owensc2@dhec.sc.gov	864-372-3273	864-561-1395
3	Columbia	Ryan Sullivan sullivrd@dhec.sc.gov	803-896-9548	843-992-0238
4	Florence	Jared Woodard woodarjc@dhec.sc.gov	843-661-4825	843-621-1187
5	Orangeburg	Dani Felkel felkeldh@dhec.sc.gov	803-268-5794	803-614-5222
6	Aiken	Tim Mettlen mettleta@dhec.sc.gov	803-508-7613	803-522-0025
7	Lancaster	Jae Shim shimji@dhec.sc.gov	803-285-7461	803-995-9199

We're On Call: 803-898-1939

Dam Safety Program Staff are available 24-7 in the event of an emergency situation.



VIEW PAST ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER AT SCDHEC.GOV/DAMS.

Notices/Reminders

Electronic Distribution of the Dam Safety Newsletter

The Dams and Reservoirs Safety Program will switch to electronic distribution (email) only of the Dam Safety Newsletter starting next year, 2025. To ensure appropriate distribution, please contact the Dams and Reservoirs Safety Program to add your email address, at 803-898-4050. If we already have your email address and you want to verify or add an email address you can do so by emailing us at response@dhec.sc.gov. Copies of the current and past newsletters may be found on our website (www.scdhec.gov/dams), just follow the link labeled "Dam Owner Resources."

Preparing for Summer Storms/Hurricane Season

June 1 signaled the start of hurricane season in the Atlantic. As witnessed in recent years, tropical weather systems can severely impact dams. When intense rainfall or heavy winds are in the forecast, dam owners should begin making preparations. Likewise, a summer thunderstorm that sits over a drainage basin for an extended period of time can drop 6-8" of rain in a matter of hours. When such an event is forecast or has occurred, dam owners should:

- Evaluate the water level in the reservoir and determine if water levels can be safely lowered to make room for incoming flows.
- Coordinate with dam owners and/or property owners downstream.
- Routinely clear debris from spillways.
- Review your Emergency Action Plan and update as needed.
- Keep alert. As the storm passes, watch for rising waters.
- Report any concerns to the DHEC Dam Safety Program staff at 803-898-1939.

ReadyOp Emergency Notification

The Dam Safety Program utilizes the ReadyOp Emergency Notification system to send scripted telephone calls (robocalls), text messages, and emails to owners and operators of regulated dams. ReadyOp is used in a targeted manner, where alerts are sent to dam owners in the counties which may be affected by a given weather event. Under certain circumstances, such as a hurricane approaching the state with a large cone of uncertainty, do we send an alert to all dams across the state. Once a year, the Dam Safety Program conducts a test alert to all owners of regulated dams. This year, our test took place on May 31. Did you hear from us? If not, and you would like to be registered for ReadyOp system notifications, are not sure about your

registration status, or want to change registration details, dam owners may register themselves and/or a desired emergency contact by contacting the Dams and Reservoirs Safety Program at 803-898-4050 or by emailing us at response@dhec.sc.gov

Change of Dam Ownership / Change in Contact Information

It is critically important that DHEC has both correct ownership and current contact information for all state regulated dams. If you've recently sold your dam or changed address, telephone number, or e-mail address, please let us know so we can update our records. We are also happy to verify the contact information we currently have on file for you. The Dams and Reservoirs Safety Program can be reached at 803-898-4050 or via email at response@dhec.sc.gov.

News/Information

New Dam Safety Region, Area 7

The Dam Safety Program was formerly comprised of six regions covering the state, but a new region was deemed necessary and Region 7 was added this spring. Counties covered by Regions 2 and 3 were revised with the creation of Region 7, which will serve Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties. Region 7 is headquartered in the DHEC Lancaster Office and the inspector position has been filled by Jae Shim, biography below.

Meet your Regional Dam Safety Staff

Jae Shim has been working for DHEC since 2016 in the Lancaster regional office and has experience in various programs. He started his DHEC career with Rabies Control then moved to the Regional laboratory, Onsite wastewater and Wastewater program. He holds a Master's degree in Public Health and a Bachelor of

Science degree. He joined the Dam Safety Program in March of 2024 as the Regional Dam Safety Inspector covering Area 7 - Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York County, based out of DHEC's Lancaster office. Jae Shim is originally from South Korea and grew up in different countries: Austria, Turkey, India, South Korea and the United States. He likes to travel and experience different cultures. Jae likes working in the Dam Safety Program since a majority of his time is spent outdoors, going to different places, and working with dam owners. His passion is a healthy environment and healthy people.



Jae Shim, Area 7 — Lancaster

From the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)

Undergraduate Student Scholarships & Other Student Opportunities

ASDSO's Dam Safety Scholarship Program (<https://damsafety.org/apply-scholarship>) was established in 1992, recognizing that one of the keys to achieving the association's goals is the development of well-trained technical persons. Through the program, ASDSO annually awards a scholarship to at least one undergraduate senior who has demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career related to dam design, construction, and operation and is studying in a related field. **As of 2023, ASDSO has awarded more than 50 scholarships totaling more than \$250,000.** Roland Herbkersman, a University of South Carolina student and intern with the Dam Safety Program, was awarded the scholarship in 2022.

Four New Dam Owner Academy Videos

Dam owners are solely responsible for the safety and the liability of the dam, so owners must be informed on all aspects of operating and maintaining a dam safely. To make accessing guidance information easy, ASDSO has developed the Dam Owner Academy video series. The series is a free resource for owners and those conducting owner outreach programs, and each video concisely explores one critical aspect of ownership.

Visit ASDSO's Youtube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLt9aDt7bNpdyznSsZzqghS4DgbWLV2YrW>) or the dam owner webpage (<https://damsafety.org/dam-owners>) to view the videos and the supplemental fact sheets. Thank you to ASDSO's Dam Owner Outreach Committee for leading the effort to develop this series.

Spillway Conduit Monitoring and Repair

Preliminary Inspections performed by the DHEC Dam Safety Program do not entail detailed evaluations of spillway conduits. According to the ASDSO, frequent inspection is necessary to ensure that the pipe system is functioning properly. All conduits should be inspected thoroughly once a year. Conduits that are 24 inches or more in diameter can be entered and visually inspected with proper ventilation and confined space precautions. Small inaccessible conduits may be monitored with video cameras. The conduits should be inspected for misalignment, separated joints, loss of joint material, deformations, leaks, differential settlement and undermining. Problems with conduits occur most often at joints, and special attention should be given to them during the inspection. The joint should be checked for separation caused by misalignment or settlement and loss of joint-filler material. The outlet should be checked for signs of water seeping along the exterior surface of the conduit. Generally,

this is noted by water flowing from under the conduit and/or the lack of foundation material directly beneath the conduit. The embankment surface should be monitored for depressions or sinkholes. Depressions or sinkholes on the embankment surface above the spillway conduit system develop when the underlying material is eroded and displaced. Photographs along with written records of the monitoring items performed provide invaluable information.

Effective repair of the internal surface or joint of a conduit is difficult and should not be attempted without careful planning and proper professional supervision. Various construction techniques can be applied for minor joint repair and conduit leakage, but major repairs require a plan be developed by a professional engineer experienced in dam spillway construction. For additional information, visit the ASDSO website at <https://damsafety.org/dam-owners/spillway-conduit-system-problems>.



Dam Safety Staff Photo – Camera Inspection of a Spillway Conduit