



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Dams Sector

The Dams Sector is one of 18 critical infrastructure sectors established under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7). Each sector is managed by a Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) that provides sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessment of national, cross-sector critical infrastructure protection and resilience programs. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), each SSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP), in collaboration with public and private sector partners, and for encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms. This includes encouraging voluntary security-related information sharing, where possible, among private entities within the sector, as well as among public and private entities in general.

Sector Overview

The Dams Sector is comprised of assets that include dam projects, hydropower generation facilities, navigation locks, levees, dikes, hurricane barriers, mine tailings and other industrial waste impoundments, and other similar water retention and water control facilities. The Dams Sector is a vital and beneficial part of the Nation's infrastructure and continuously provides a wide range of economic, environmental, and social benefits, including hydroelectric power, river navigation, water supply, wildlife habitat, waste management, flood control, and recreation. There are over 82,000 dams in the United States; approximately 65% are privately owned and more than 85% are regulated by State Dam Safety Offices. The Dams Sector has interdependencies with a wide range of other sectors, including:

- **The Emergency Services Sector** relies on sector assets for firefighting water supply, emergency water supply, and waterborne access in the event of a significant disaster;
- **The Energy Sector** provides approximately 8 to 12 percent of the Nation's power needs with hydropower dams;
- **The Food and Agriculture Sector** utilizes sector assets as a source of water for irrigation and water management;
- **The Transportation Systems Sector** uses dams and locks to manage navigable waters throughout inland waterways; and
- **The Water Sector** relies on sector assets to provide water to concentrated populations and commercial facilities in the U.S.

Sector Partnerships

The Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) within DHS serves as the SSA for the Dams Sector. Within IP, the Sector-Specific Agency Executive Management Office maintains responsibility for the critical infrastructure protection of the Dams Sector through ongoing coordination with the Dams Sector Coordinating Council (DSCC) and the Dams Sector Government Coordinating Council (DGCC).

The DSCC, which was established in May 2005, comprises private owners, representatives from major utility companies, non-Federal dam owners, and representatives from major industry associations. It serves as the private sector interface with the Federal Government on issues related to the security of dams, locks, and levees. The DGCC, which was established in January 2005, acts as the government counterpart and partner to the DSCC to plan, implement, and execute sector-wide security programs for the sector's assets. The DGCC is comprised of representatives from across various levels of government (Federal, State, local, and tribal), including Federal owners and operators, and State and Federal regulators of sector assets.

In addition, a Levee Sub-Sector Coordinating Council (LSCC), a component of the DSCC, was established in February 2008 to provide a forum in which levee owners can collaborate with DHS and other Federal entities on matters related to the security and protection of levees. The LSCC is comprised of levee owners and representatives from professional organizations. Serving as the counterpart to the LSCC is the Levee Sub-Sector Government Coordinating Council (LGCC), a component of the DGCC, which provides a forum for effective coordination of protection activities related to levees and flood risk reduction infrastructure systems among Federal and State agencies.

These councils provide a structure through which representatives from the government and the private sector can effectively collaborate and engage in a broad spectrum of activities to support and coordinate critical infrastructure protection.

The Dams Sector also actively engages and coordinates with important national and international sector entities, such as the National Dam Safety Review Board, the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety, and the International Committee on Large Dams.

Outreach and Information-Sharing Efforts across the Dams Sector

The Dams Sector public and private partners have developed a multitude of reference documents and tools focused on the enhancement of prevention, protection, security, recovery, and resilience capabilities across the Nation. Reference documents and tools include both open source and those designated as For Official Use Only (FOUO). Resources available to stakeholders representing organizations and agencies associated with the Dams Sector include handbooks, guides, brochures, fact sheets, and analytical tools. Examples of Dams Sector publications and tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

Dams Sector Crisis Management Handbook: Provides owner/operators with sector-specific technical information related

to emergency response and preparedness issues, and includes recommendations for development of emergency action plans and site recovery plans.

Dams Sector Security Awareness Handbook (FOUO) and Dams Sector Security Awareness Guide: Provide sector-specific technical information to assist in identifying security concerns, coordinating proper response, and establishing effective partnerships with local law enforcement and first responder communities.

Dams Sector Protective Measures Handbook (FOUO): Assists owner/operators in selecting protective measures addressing physical, cyber, and human elements, and includes recommendations for development of site security plans.

Dams Sector Roadmap to Secure Control Systems: Provides a comprehensive framework and recommended strategies focused on the protection of industrial control systems across the Dams Sector in order to enhance the sector's understanding and management of cyber risks; facilitate the identification of practical risk mitigation solutions; promote information sharing; and improve sector-wide awareness of cybersecurity concerns.

Dams Sector Suspicious Activity Reporting Tool: Online reporting tool within the Homeland Security Information Network-Critical Sectors Dams Portal that was established to provide sector stakeholders with the capability to report and retrieve information pertaining to suspicious activities that may potentially be associated with pre-incident surveillance, and those activities related to the exploration or targeting of a specific critical infrastructure facility or system.

Independent Study Course IS-870: Dams Sector: Crisis Management Overview: Web-based training focused on information provided within the Dams Sector Crisis Management Handbook.

Independent Study Course IS-871: Dams Sector: Security Awareness (FOUO): Web-based training focused on information provided within the Dams Sector Security Awareness Handbook.

Independent Study Course IS-872: Dams Sector: Protective Measures (FOUO): Web-based training focused on information provided within the Dams Sector Protective Measures Handbook.

For questions or more information, please contact dams@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp.



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