



Assistance Grants for Preparation of Emergency Action Plans

Basis of Grants:

The source funding for these grants is from Federal Dam Safety monies provided to the states. Increasing the percentage of dams that have Emergency Action Plans is a high priority issue within the dam safety community and is a component of what we requested funds for from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for this budget year. The Oregon Water Resources Department requires Emergency Action Plans for High Hazard rated dams during the water right application process for new reservoirs. However, for older reservoirs, this requirement was not in play when the water rights were applied for. The Department, if they believe the absence of an Emergency Action Plan presents a significant safety hazard, can compel a dam owner to complete one but this is a cumbersome legally intensive process. These grants are being offered as a catalyst to dam owners to help them initiate or complete Emergency Action Plans.

What the money may be used for:

Money available in these assistance grants are for activities that are done to forward the progress or complete an Emergency Action Plan for a high hazard dam. Specifically, creation of a dam breach inundation map performed by a qualified hydraulic engineer. This is the first and most important aspect of an EAP, to understand the potential risk to downstream life and property. With the assistance of the Dam Safety department the dam owner can then themselves create the necessary communication and notification structure as required for an EAP. The money is to be used for present or future activities not for past activities.

Grading and awarding Grants:

Grant applications will be evaluated by a three person committee made up of Oregon Department of Water Resources staff using the following criteria:

1. Does the applicant own a high hazard dam that does not currently have an Emergency Action Plan? This is a **threshold criterion** before any money can be awarded. If the dam is a high hazard dam the grant award can be "immediate." Hazard level of dams is determined from FEMA guidelines and the hazard level of Oregon dams can be found at: http://apps2.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/dam_inventory/
2. Does the application have a clearly described plan for how the money will be spent and do the activities described fit the activities listed above that are integral to the completion of an Emergency Action Plan. This is a scored criterion from 0-20.
3. Does it appear that the money can and will be spent in short order on these planning activities in order to help formulate an EAP? This is a scored criterion from 0-10.

4. Was there a good description how the applicant was going to report on how the money was spent? The grant requires a progress report or a draft or final EAP with a letter that explains how the grant money was used to complete the EAP. This is a scored criterion from 0-10.

If application meet the threshold criterion and scores well in 2-4 then they will be awarded the grant on an immediate basis or be held for approval if grant funds remain. Because there are approximately 7 grants and 40 high hazards that do not have Action Plans, it is important to get application in as quickly as possible for evaluation.

Grant money will be awarded in the following matter:

- 80% after award of Grant
- 20% after completion of Progress report or submittal of draft EAP and letter (see immediately below for details). *(The progress report or draft/letter needs to be sent to the Grant Administrator no later than June 1st 2015.) Note: Not all money must be dispersed by us to you by June 1st: to get balance just make it known that money has been spent and that you have a concrete plan to spend the rest of the money.*

Reporting Requirements:

1. **Progress Report** (if EAP not completed after spending grant): The progress report should detail how the grant money was spent on salaries, materials, or contracted services used to complete the Emergency Action Plan. The progress report should also give an indication of what tasks are left in order to complete the EAP and give a clear estimated timeline to completion.
2. **Draft or Final EAP and letter detailing how grant money was used** (when EAP is completed with grant money): The draft or final EAP should meet requirements given on Dam Safety Website: http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/SW/dams_in_oregon.shtml and also have a letter that details how the grant money was spent on salaries, materials or contracted services used to complete the Emergency Action Plan.

Either the progress report or the draft EAP/letter needs to be submitted by September 1st in order to receive the 20% balance of the grant.

Application:

Application forms are provided separately. Remember when filling them out to address the criteria given above so that we can score and award the grant properly.

Contacts:

For more information about these grants please call or contact:

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To Apply:

Mail to:
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Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street Suite A
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Or: Email application with electronic scanned signature to one of above contacts.