

Jones Dam is a high-hazard concrete gravity structure located in New Durham, New Hampshire. Originally constructed in 1924 and rehabilitated in 1986, the dam measures approximately 210 feet in length and 21 feet in height. It is owned by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, with operational oversight provided by the NHDES Dam Bureau.

Currently, Jones Dam is in poor condition and does not meet modern hydraulic or structural safety standards for high-hazard dams. Hydraulic analyses indicate that during a 1,000-year storm event, the dam would overtop by approximately 0.2 feet and the dike by approximately 1.3 feet. Structural evaluations further show that the dam fails to meet slope stability and sliding resistance requirements.

To address these deficiencies, three alternatives were evaluated to achieve compliance with Dam Safety regulations. The preferred alternative is full dam removal, coupled with a combination of passive and active river restoration measures. Estimated project costs range from \$2.0 million to \$2.3 million, subject to the results of sediment quality analyses, which are expected to be completed in 2026.

Passive restoration is anticipated between the Merrymeeting Road bridge and to a natural constriction we believe is located several hundred feet upstream of the dam. Active restoration efforts will focus on the area immediately upstream of the dam site.

A final design package for dam removal is expected from the project consultant by the end of 2027. Construction could begin as early as 2031, or sooner if funding becomes available.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Dam Bureau Drawdown Notification - Jones Dam



Jones Dam



2005 Drawdown looking
towards Jones Dam



2005 Drawdown
looking upstream