

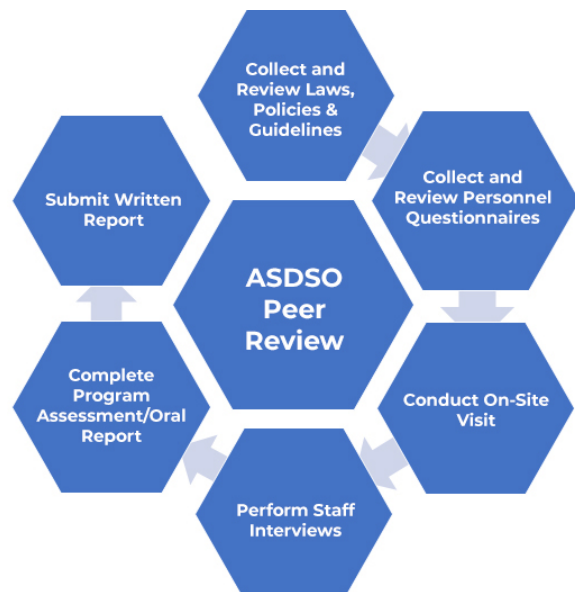


Association of State Dam Safety Officials

Learn More About the Peer Review Program

The objective of an ASDSO Peer Review is to provide professional guidance to improve the performance and management of dam safety programs. A Peer Review evaluates the mission, objectives, policies and procedures of a dam safety agency or company/organization. The program is evaluated relative to the organization's own governing regulations, and other guidelines such as the Model State Dam Safety Program (FEMA 316), the FERC dam safety program guidelines for licensees, or the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety (FEMA 2004), as well as commonly accepted standards of practice.

The Peer Review is performed by a team of engineers and dam safety professionals who provide a professional opinion of the status of the program being evaluated. The Peer Review Team reviews program policies and procedures, conducts on-site interviews, and provides a written report that documents its findings and recommendations. The Team does not perform follow-up or impose sanctions for not following recommendations. Implementation of recommendations is at the discretion of the organization's decision makers, its state legislature, Congress, or other enabling body. Peer Review teams do not inspect dams during reviews and are therefore not involved in evaluating any program's inventory of dams.



The philosophy behind ASDSO's Peer Review Program is that a review by a diverse and independent group of experienced dam safety professionals can help improve the management and execution of a dam safety program.

Learn more at [DamSafety.com/Resource-Center/Peer-Review-Program](https://www.damsafety.com/Resource-Center/Peer-Review-Program)
Contact Lori Spragens. 859.550.2788 or lspragens@damsafety.org

ASDSO's Qualifications

Since 1990, ASDSO has completed peer reviews in 39 states and Puerto Rico. Since 1996, ASDSO has performed reviews for federal dam safety agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Department of Interior and its six bureaus. ASDSO has performed peer reviews for private companies such as Ontario Power Generation, BC Hydro, Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light.

More recently, ASDSO has completed Owners Dam Safety Program (ODSP) audits for several FERC-regulated licensees including the California Dept. of Water Resources and Grant County PUD.

Qualifications of Reviewers

Reviewers are appointed by the ASDSO. Peer Review Committee. The Committee and reviewers are engineers, project managers and other professionals with significant experience in the design, construction, and operation of dams and in dam safety program management. In addition, they must have made significant contributions to the profession through involvement with technical and professional societies, licensing boards, and/or other professional activities. Finally, they must have a keen interest in improving dam safety. A reviewer is required to have a minimum of 25 years of dam safety experience, and all reviewers receive training in the ASDSO Peer Review process.

The Benefit of a Peer Review

By doing a peer review the dam organization gets an independent review that identifies opportunities for improving:

- Authorities (laws, policies, guidelines, decision making up the chain)
- Staffing/training
- Technical practices
- Reporting & communicating with management
- Risk management
- Program performance review processes
- Out year planning
- Interaction with dam owners or regulators

State agencies and dam owners participating in the peer review process praise its value as a way to validate policies and decisions, and to identify program improvements.

I want to thank ASDSO for preparing this comprehensive and thorough peer review report. We really appreciate the opportunity to benefit from the team's great experience and insight, and are looking forward to delving into the recommendations.

– Dara Parker, Tennessee Valley Authority

Quotes from state officials:

We used the peer review recommendations to justify a proposal for using revenue from inspection fees to hire additional inspection staff in order to increase our inspection cycle on high-risk dams to five years.

The fact that this recommendation was in the peer review carried a lot of weight with our agency's management as well as with the governor's office. As a result, the governor's budget included the monies for additional staffing.

This was like a "booster shot" in the arm of dam safety with added weight coming from ASDSO peer review.

It enabled agency management to make changes and become "energized" to dam safety. It resulted in a greater commitment from our director. The entire visit was a tremendous help, not only in re-thinking how our unit operates, but it gave an excellent opportunity to express our concerns for dam safety to management.