

National Dam Safety Program National Dam Safety Review Board Nomination Criteria and Process

Current Vacancy Announcements

Dam Safety State Representative (3 vacancies)

The interim vacancies are currently open for a 30-day application period until August 5, 2023. Please send your applications to Alesia Za Gara, alesia.zagara@associates.fema.dhs.gov. Please note the interim terms for these vacancies will begin October 1, 2023, and end March 31, 2024, with the official two-year term beginning April 1, 2024.

Selection Considerations and Criteria

CRITERIA 1: CATEGORY APPLICANT IS REPRESENTING

1. State Government Representative: Defined as a current state government employee of a state agency that has regulatory authority over the safety of any non-federal dam(s) in the state. Regulatory authority refers to the ability to promulgate or enforce regulations for non-federal dams.
2. Private Sector Representative: Defined as a person who is not directly employed by a public governmental entity, such as federal, state, local, regional government or tribe. Private sector representatives can be working for public governmental entities through contractual or other types of agreements. Private sector representatives can be currently employed, retired, or affiliated with a non-governmental organization.

CRITERIA 2: DESIRED EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE BASED ON REPRESENTATIVE CATEGORY

Note: these lists include an array of expertise and experience a nominee could have, but they are not expected to be all-inclusive. Candidates are welcome to share anything they deem relevant in their application.

STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

- Implementing a state dam safety program
- Evaluating or assessing dams, levees, or floodplain related
- Performing risk assessments on dams or levees
- Design and construction or operation/maintenance/inspections of dams or levees



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- Developing state law, state regulations, local ordinances, or state-level public policy
- Overseeing enforcement or compliance of state law, state regulations, or local ordinances, including permitting (e.g., dam safety, floodplain management, or environmental compliance)
- Planning, organizing, coordinating, or implementing community/stakeholder outreach; or social sciences.
- Flood risk management projects or programs at the state, watershed level, or with multiple states
- Applying for or distributing grants or other federal assistance
- Planning, organizing, coordinating, or implementing community-level programs or working with disadvantaged communities
- Emergency planning, response, management, or coordination at the state level
- Green infrastructure, environmental mitigation/restoration, or natural benefits of floodplains
- Resource or asset management at the state level
- Implementing the National Flood Insurance Program, including state hazard mitigation planning

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

- Evaluating or assessing dams, levees, or floodplain related
- Performing risk assessments on dams or levees
- Design and construction or operation/maintenance/inspections of dams or levees
- Planning, organizing, coordinating or implementing community/stakeholder outreach; or social sciences.
- Green infrastructure, environmental mitigation/restoration, or natural benefits of floodplains
- Relevant legal expertise, knowledge, and experience (e.g., in areas of public policy, liability)
- Floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, or flood preparedness / warning/ recovery
- Knowledge and expertise in climate science
- Community planning or working with disadvantaged communities
- Developing public policy or public programs

SPECIALIZED FACTORS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED

- Years of experience
- Professional registrations and/or certifications
- Level of education, specialized education
- Leadership experience
- Membership and activity in professional organizations
- Member of expert panel or committees
- Training/professor/instructor
- Primary author (# of technical papers, publications or significant reports authored)
- Additional applicable experience

Selection Process

STEP ONE: ADVERTISE AND SEEK NOMINATIONS FOR DAM SAFETY REVIEW BOARD VACANCIES (SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO TERMS CONCLUDING OR UPON INTERIM VACANCIES)

- a) FEMA will publish a letter of invitation including criteria and a template on FEMA.gov.
- b) FEMA and National Dam Safety Review Board will promote the opportunity in the following manner:
 - a. Notice through FEMA regions
 - b. National Dam Safety Program GovDelivery
 - c. Direct notification to trade, government, and tribal associations

- d. Direct email to existing mailing list of interested dam safety individuals and associations.
- c) Planned vacancy nominations will be open 60-days.
- d) Interim vacancy nomination will be open for 30-days.

STEP TWO: DISTRIBUTE NOMINATIONS TO NATIONAL DAM SAFETY REVIEW BOARD TO REVIEW INITIAL REVIEW (WITHIN 15 DAYS OF VACANCY APPLICATION CLOSING)

STEP THREE: COMMENCE THE NATIONAL DAM SAFETY REVIEW BOARD TO REVIEW NOMINATIONS (Q2, JANUARY NATIONAL DAM SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS)

STEP FOUR: NATIONAL DAM SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

- a) Each current member will review applicants and use the provided scoring sheet to rank them in order of preference for each type of stakeholder representative category according to the specified criteria.
- b) The Board will have a neutral facilitator support this meeting.
- c) The Board will write up final recommendations for the selected members and will identify potential alternatives who are qualified and can be considered to fill unexpected vacancies during the next 2 years.
- d) FEMA will send appointment letters to all those selected and thank you notes to those not selected.
- e) FEMA will post a summary of the selection process and the final list of appointments on the National Dam Safety Review Board on FEMA.gov.

Nomination Details

- Applicants will serve two, one-year terms to begin in April. Unless the applicant is filling an interim vacancy, in which case they will complete the initial term and begin theirs in April.
- By the statute, the Administrator can choose to allow an applicant to fulfill more than two, one-year terms.
- The applications will be collected digitally via FEMA.gov.