

ing this section and sections 467d to 467j of this title, amending sections 467a to 467c of this title and section 3802 of Title 25, Indians, repealing former sections 467 and 467d to 467m of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] is to reduce the risks to life and property from dam failure in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective national dam safety program to bring together the expertise and resources of the Federal and non-Federal communities in achieving national dam safety hazard reduction. It is not the intent of this section to preempt any other Federal or State authorities nor is it the intent of this section to mandate State participation in the grant assistance program to be established under this section.”

EFFECT ON OTHER DAM SAFETY PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(b), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3685, provided that: “Nothing in this section (including the amendments made by this section) [enacting this section and sections 467d to 467j of this title, amending sections 467a to 467c of this title and section 3802 of Title 25, Indians, repealing former sections 467 and 467d to 467m of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] shall preempt or otherwise affect any dam safety program of a Federal agency other than the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including any program that regulates, permits, or licenses any activity affecting a dam.”

§ 467a. Inspection of dams

(a) In general

As soon as practicable, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall carry out a national program of inspection of dams for the purpose of protecting human life and property. All dams in the United States shall be inspected by the Secretary except (1) dams under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the International Boundary and Water Commission, (2) dams which have been constructed pursuant to licenses issued under the authority of the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.], (3) dams which have been inspected within the twelve-month period immediately prior to August 8, 1972, by a State agency and which the Governor of such State requests be excluded from inspection, and (4) dams which the Secretary of the Army determines do not pose any threat to human life or property. The Secretary may inspect dams which have been licensed under the Federal Power Act upon request of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and dams under the jurisdiction of the International Boundary and Water Commission upon request of such Commission.

(b) State participation

On request of a State dam safety agency, with respect to any dam the failure of which would affect the State, the head of a Federal agency shall—

- (1) provide information to the State dam safety agency on the construction, operation, maintenance, condition, or provisions for emergency operations of the dam; or
- (2) allow any official of the State dam safety agency to participate in the Federal inspection of the dam.

(Pub. L. 92-367, §3, formerly §2, Aug. 8, 1972, 86 Stat. 506; Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, §402(a)(1)(A), Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 583; renumbered §3 and

amended Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(c)(3), (5), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3685, 3687; Pub. L. 113-121, title III, §3001(b), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1282.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Power Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act June 10, 1920, ch. 285, 41 Stat. 1063, which is classified generally to chapter 12 (§791a et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 791a of Title 16 and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3 of Pub. L. 92-367 was renumbered section 4 and is classified to section 467b of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 113-121 substituted “maintenance, condition, or provisions for emergency operations” for “or maintenance”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-303 inserted section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

“Federal Energy Regulatory Commission” substituted in text for “Federal Power Commission” on authority of Pub. L. 95-91, title IV, §402(a)(1)(A), Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 583, which is classified to section 7172(a)(1)(A) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

§ 467b. Investigation reports to Governors

As soon as practicable after inspection of a dam, the Secretary shall notify the Governor of the State in which such dam is located the results of such investigation. In any case in which any hazardous conditions are found during an inspection, upon request by the owner, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may perform detailed engineering studies to determine the structural integrity of the dam, subject to reimbursement of such expense by the owner of such dam. The Secretary shall immediately notify the Governor of any hazardous conditions found during an inspection. The Secretary shall provide advice to the Governor, upon request, relating to timely remedial measures necessary to mitigate or obviate any hazardous conditions found during an inspection.

(Pub. L. 92-367, §4, formerly §3, Aug. 8, 1972, 86 Stat. 507; Pub. L. 99-662, title XII, §1204, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4263; renumbered §4 and amended Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(c)(3), (6), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3685, 3687.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 4 of Pub. L. 92-367 was renumbered section 5 and is classified to section 467c of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-303 inserted section catchline.

1986—Pub. L. 99-662 inserted “In any case in which any hazardous conditions are found during an inspection, upon request by the owner, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may perform detailed engineering studies to determine the structural integrity of the dam, subject to reimbursement of such expense by the owner of such dam.”

§ 467c. Determination of danger to human life and property

For the purpose of determining whether a dam (including the waters impounded by such dam) constitutes a danger to human life or property, the Secretary shall take into consideration the possibility that the dam might be endangered by overtopping, seepage, settlement, erosion, sediment, cracking, earth movement, earthquakes, failure of bulkheads, flashboard, gates on conduits, or other conditions which exist or which might occur in any area in the vicinity of the dam.

(Pub. L. 92-367, §5, formerly §4, Aug. 8, 1972, 86 Stat. 507; renumbered §5 and amended Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(c)(3), (7), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3685, 3687.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5 of Pub. L. 92-367 was classified to section 467d of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-303.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-303 inserted section catchline.

§ 467d. National inventory of dams and low-head dams

(a) In general

The Secretary of the Army shall maintain and update information on the inventory of dams and low-head dams in the United States.

(b) Dams

The inventory maintained under subsection (a) shall include any available information assessing each dam based on inspections completed by a Federal agency, a State dam safety agency, or a Tribal government.

(c) Low-head dams

The inventory maintained under subsection (a) shall include—

- (1) the location, ownership, description, current use, condition, height, and length of each low-head dam;
- (2) any information on public safety conditions at each low-head dam; and
- (3) any other relevant information concerning low-head dams.

(d) Data

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

- (1) coordinate with Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments, and other relevant entities; and
- (2) use data provided to the Secretary by those agencies and entities.

(e) Public availability

The Secretary shall make the inventory maintained under subsection (a) publicly available (including on a publicly available website), including—

- (1) public safety information on the dangers of low-head dams; and
- (2) a directory of financial and technical assistance resources available to reduce safety

hazards and fish passage barriers at low-head dams.

(f) Clarification

Nothing in this section provides authority to the Secretary to carry out an activity, with respect to a low-head dam, that is not explicitly authorized under this section.

(g) Low-head dam defined

In this section, the term “low-head dam” means a river-wide artificial barrier that generally spans a stream channel, blocking the waterway and creating a backup of water behind the barrier, with a drop off over the wall of not less than 6 inches and not more than 25 feet.

(Pub. L. 92-367, §6, as added Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(c)(8), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3687; amended Pub. L. 109-460, §1(b), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3401; Pub. L. 118-272, div. A, title I, §1132(b), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 3021.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 467d, Pub. L. 92-367, §5, Aug. 8, 1972, 86 Stat. 507, directed Secretary report to Congress on or before July 1, 1974, on activities under this subchapter, including in report an inventory of dams in the United States, a review of each inspection made, recommendations to State Governors and implementation of those recommendations, recommendations for comprehensive national program for inspection and safety regulation, and recommendations on responsibilities which should be assumed by Federal, State, and local governments and by public and private interests, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-303, title II, §215(c)(2), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3685.

A prior section 6 of Pub. L. 92-367 was classified to section 467e of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-303.

AMENDMENTS

2025—Pub. L. 118-272 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text of section read as follows: “The Secretary of the Army shall maintain and update information on the inventory of dams in the United States. Such inventory of dams shall include any available information assessing each dam based on inspections completed by either a Federal agency or a State dam safety agency.”

2006—Pub. L. 109-460 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may maintain and periodically publish updated information on the inventory of dams in the United States.”

§ 467e. Interagency Committee on Dam Safety

(a) Establishment

There is established an Interagency Committee on Dam Safety—

- (1) comprised of a representative of each of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, FEMA, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the United States Section of the International Boundary Commission; and
- (2) chaired by the Administrator.

(b) Duties

ICODS shall encourage the establishment and maintenance of effective Federal programs, poli-