

FY27 ResilientMA Dam Removal Preliminary Design Services Q&A

COMMBUYS Bid # BD-27-1046-DER-FWE01-132415

9/17/26

Q1: The dam has deteriorated significantly, federal or state grants, loans, technical assistance, and other funding available to private dam owners for inspections, engineering studies, repairs, rehabilitation, maintenance, or removal.

A1: This submission does not include a question related to the RFR.

Q2: Does the Preliminary Design Study need to follow a Phase II Inspection Report or can the study be done before or in conjunction with the Phase II study?

A2: No, this study is entirely independent of a Phase II Inspection and is not intended to serve as a Phase II Inspection.

Q3: An applicant will be seeking this service at a de-commissioned cranberry bog. The app. would encompass removal of all dams on site (2 ODS jurisdictional). Do we submit a separate application for each dam (3) or just one application including all three dams?

A3: A single dam site that contains multiple associated structures can be submitted as a single project application. An owner-signed Access Agreement must be submitted with the application for each dam. If there are multiple dam owners for an individual dam, all owners must sign an Access Agreement for inclusion with the application. The RFR version 2 has been updated in Section 1.6 to specify "The acceptance of multiple structures for a dam site submitted as a single project application will be at DER's discretion."

Q4: Section 5.2 states that DER is particularly interested in dams subject to Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety jurisdiction. Are non-jurisdictional low hazard dams eligible for consideration under this RFR?

A4: Yes, non-jurisdictional and low hazard dams are eligible for consideration under this RFR. As stated in Section 5.2, Priority consideration will be given to high and significant hazard dams in poor or unsafe condition.

Q5: If a municipality has previously completed H&H, or other engineering related to a dam, but has not completed a preliminary dam removal design, is the dam still appropriate for this program? Will DER incorporate previous data/designs into design scope?

A5: If the project is still within the initial design/decision making phase, then it is appropriate for this program. However, this opportunity is not intended to advance design beyond the preliminary level. During the first phase of the study, existing data, including any prior data collection or modelling, will be reviewed by the project engineer and incorporated as appropriate.

Q6: Is a municipality eligible to apply while it is still evaluating whether to pursue dam removal and has not yet received Town Meeting authorization or other formal municipal approval to proceed with removal?

A6: Yes, this opportunity is in part intended to provide information needed to inform decision making about dam removal. A commitment to dam removal is not required to be eligible.

Q7: Is this DER grant the same as the one already received by the Town of Groton or can it be supplement to the project in process for the Squanacook River Dam Removal? We are currently at 65% design.

A7: Yes, this opportunity offers the same services that the Town of Groton received in a previous year for the Squanacook River Dam. Once those services are complete, this opportunity cannot be used to advance the design beyond the preliminary level provided.

In Addition to the Q&A Answers, DER has posted an updated RFR, Version 2, to provide additional clarity to the above questions. Please refer to Version 2 to submit an application for this RFR.