

Edenville Dam failure internal and external reviews

In May 2020, the Edenville and Sanford dams in Midland and Gladwin Counties in mid-Michigan failed, leading to widespread flooding. After the failures, a number of investigative and review actions were undertaken, both internally and externally. EGLE provided a status report on Aug. 31, 2020, to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on past and future actions related to program reviews, incident investigation and dam safety. The [Preliminary Report on the Edenville Dam Failure, Response Efforts, and Program Reviews](#) offers no preliminary conclusions on the causes of the failure, but catalog's EGLE's actions before, during and after the dam breaks as well as the statuses of the various reviews and investigations.

What's also being done:

Assessment of remaining portion of Edenville Dam



- Performed by EGLE, Michigan Department of Transportation and AECOM engineers.
- **Purpose:** Onsite review of ongoing impacts to public safety, natural resources and public roads, make recommendations for measures necessary to ensure the safety of downstream residents and property.
- **Choice of action:** Agreed to a plan to modify and partially breach the spillway on the

Tobacco river side of the remaining portion of the Edenville Dam. This will restore flow to the downstream Tobacco River reach, alleviate strain on the collapsed M-30 bridges, minimize upstream impacts and address dam safety concerns.

- **Timeframe:** Recommendations expected to be implemented in 2020.
- **More information:** [EGLE sends to governor initial status report on failed dams](#)

Edenville Dam failure forensic investigation team



- Team of five independent, third-party forensic investigators with dam safety expertise.
- **Purpose:** To investigate all contributing factors of the Edenville Dam failure in a manner consistent with FERC dam failure investigation procedures along with the Dam Failure Investigation Guideline produced by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials' Dam Failures and Incidents Committee.

- **Timeframe:** Up to 18 months, although preliminary findings and recommendations may be available before final report is issued.
- **More information:** [Forensic investigation of flooding, breaches at Michigan dams moves forward](#)

EGLE Dam Safety Program peer review



- Peer review of EGLE's Dam Safety Program by Association of State Dam Safety Officials' Dam Peer Review Committee.
- **Purpose:** Provide professional guidance to improve the performance and management of the Dam Safety Program after evaluating the mission, objectives, policies and procedures.
- **Website:** [Dam Safety Program](#)

- **Timeframe:** In progress

Michigan Dam Safety Task Force



- Team of representatives from state and federal agencies, local governments, and affected stakeholders.
- **Purpose:** Build on ASDSO Dam Safety Program review to look at larger issue of dam safety in Michigan and provide recommendations on policy, budgetary, legislative, and enforcement reforms that can prevent these harms from repeating elsewhere.

- **Timeframe:** In progress.
- **Website:** [Michigan Dam Safety Task Force](#)
- **More information:** [EGLE names Michigan Dam Safety Task Force members; first meeting is Tuesday](#)

Updates on the investigations and review will be posted to EGLE's [Edenville Dam Failure webpage](#).