

Program Guidance:

Dam Safety and Water Rights

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1.0 State of Texas Dam Safety Program

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is responsible for administering state dam-safety laws, which are found in Section 12.052 of the Texas Water Code and Chapter 299 of the Texas Administrative Code. TCEQ has four primary areas of activity in the dam-safety program: (1) safety evaluations of existing dams, (2) review of plans and specifications for dam construction and major rehabilitation work, (3) periodic inspections of construction work on new and existing dams, and (4) review and approval of emergency action plans.

TCEQ's [Dam Safety Program website](#) contains Texas regulations on dams, manuals on dam safety, and forms used by the program. According to 30 TAC 299.1(a) (effective date January 1, 2009), dams fall under the jurisdiction of the TCEQ Dam Safety Program if they meet one or more of the following four criteria:

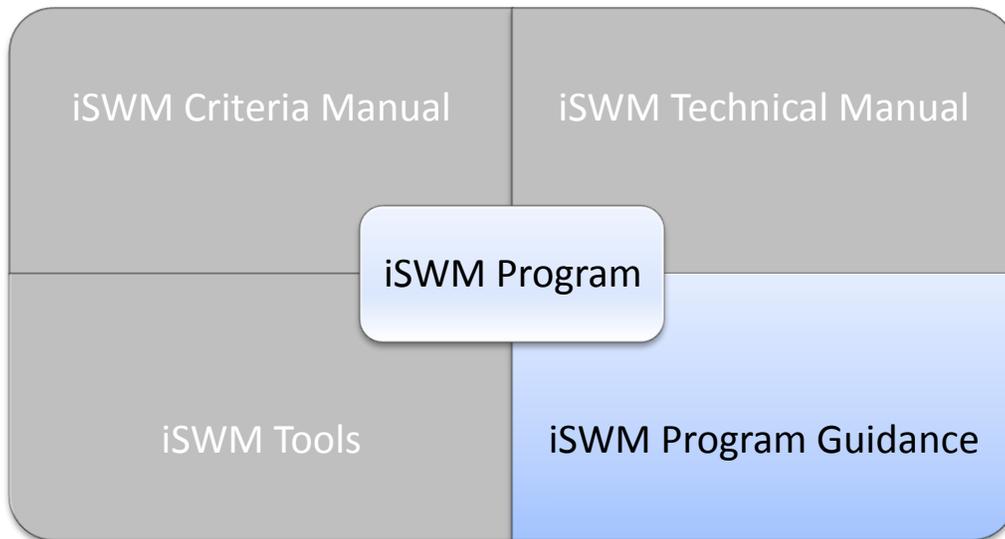
- (1) [they] have a height greater than or equal to 25 feet and a maximum storage capacity greater than or equal to 15 acre-feet;
- (2) [they] have a height greater than 6 feet and a maximum storage capacity greater than or equal to 50 acre-feet;
- (3) [they] are a high- or significant-hazard dam as defined in §299.14 (relating to Hazard Classification Criteria), regardless of height or maximum storage capacity; or
- (4) [they] are used as a pumped storage or terminal storage facility.

2.0 Water Rights

The Texas Water Code requires anyone appropriating State Water or beginning work to store or divert State Water to obtain a Water Right Permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. TCEQ's [Water Rights website](#) contains links to water rights information and relevant application forms.

The iSWM Program

The iSWM Program for Construction and Development is a cooperative initiative that assists municipalities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood mitigation, while also helping communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state stormwater permits. The iSWM Program has been developed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to help communities create sustainable communities through a comprehensive approach to stormwater management. The four parts of iSWM are shown below



iSWM Criteria Manual

provides a description of the development process, the iSWM focus areas and locally adopted design criteria allowing municipalities a flexible approach to apply at a local level

iSWM Technical Manual

provides technical guidance including equations, descriptions of methods, fact sheets, etc. necessary for design

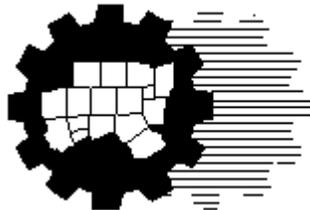
iSWM Tools

provides web-served training guides, examples, design tools, etc. that could be useful during design

iSWM Program Guidance

provides reference documents that guide programmatic planning rather than technical design

All these documents and more can be found at <http://iswm.nctcog.org/>.



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