



The Dams Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) guides and integrates not only the sector's efforts to secure and strengthen the resilience of the sector, but also the sector's contributions to national critical infrastructure security and resilience as set forth in Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21).

## Dams Sector Overview

The Dams Sector, one of 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified in the *National Infrastructure Protection Plan 2013: Partnering for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience* (NIPP 2013), delivers critical water retention and control services in the United States, including hydroelectric power generation, municipal and industrial water supplies, agricultural irrigation, sediment and flood control, river navigation for inland bulk shipping, industrial waste management, and recreation.

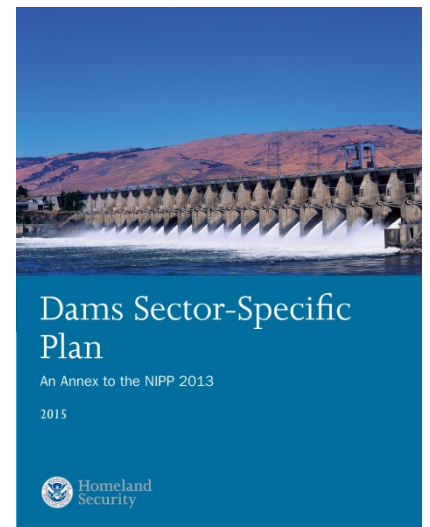
Dams Sector assets irrigate at least 10 percent of U.S. cropland, help protect more than 43 percent of the U.S. population from flooding, and generate about 60 percent of electricity in the Pacific Northwest. The National Inventory of Dams lists more than 87,000 dams throughout the United States, of which the private sector owns about 65 percent and State or local entities own about 31 percent.

## Current Risks

Natural disasters, structural issues from internal and external erosion, and deliberate attacks on physical or cyber infrastructure are persistent risks to the sector, with recent trends making some risks more prominent. Climate change may bring more extreme weather, including droughts that reduce water tables and severe storms that increase flooding. Aging sector infrastructure becomes problematic when deterioration is not sufficiently addressed. With limited funding for maintenance and rehabilitation, there are now an estimated 4,000 deficient U.S. dams, and 91 percent of federally inspected levees have deficient maintenance. The cyber risk landscape may change as some owners and operators upgrade to modern control systems with standardized hardware or transition to remote monitoring and control processes. Exacerbating all these risks, population growth and development around dams and levees are increasing the consequences of failure, potentially reclassifying the hazard potential of some assets.

## Sector-Specific Plan Goals and Priorities

Led by the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, the Dams Sector Coordinating Council (SCC), and Government Coordinating Council (GCC), the SSP represents a collaborative effort among the private sector; State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; non-governmental organizations; and Federal departments and agencies to work toward achieving shared goals and priorities and to address the unique operating conditions and risk landscape of the Dams Sector.



Sector-Specific Plan for Dams  
(DHS image)

The sector's goals for the next four years reflect the strategic direction of the sector and support the Joint National Priorities developed in 2014 by the national council structures described in NIPP 2013:

1. Strengthen public-private partnerships to maintain and improve coordination and information sharing.
2. Identify and assess sector-specific threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences to support risk-informed decisions.
3. Develop and incorporate sustainable approaches to effectively reduce and manage physical and cyber risks to critical assets and develop response and recovery plans.
4. Enhance Dams Sector security and resilience by advancing R&D solutions that support advance planning and adaptation.
5. Promote continuous learning and adaptation through community-level, cross-sector collaboration to enhance regional resilience.

## **What's New in the 2015 Sector-Specific Plan?**

Updates in this SSP include addressing the nexus between cyber and physical security, interdependence between various critical infrastructure sectors, risks associated with climate change, aging and outdated infrastructure, and the need to ensure continuity in a workforce that is rapidly approaching retirement.

## **How to Use the Sector-Specific Plan**

Industry and government partners in the Dams Sector can use this SSP to develop individual paths forward as they address security challenges and build resilience within their unique risk management perspectives, priorities, and resources. This SSP also includes metrics that Dams Sector partners can use to measure their progress as they enhance the security and resilience of their facilities and services.

## **Contact**

To read the Dams SSP, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/nipp-ssp-dams-2015>.

For more information, visit the Dams Sector Website at <http://www.dhs.gov/dams-sector> or email the Dams Sector at [dams@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:dams@hq.dhs.gov).