

LD 1488 “Resolve, To Study and Recommend Improvements to Maine's Dam Safety”
Requested Work Session Information
May 12, 2021

1. Does MEMA get direct inquiries about dam safety from the public and/or municipalities?

Yes – generally through MEMA’s website via the “Contact Us” tool.

a. If so, do we keep a log of these inquiries?

A log is maintained by saving the original inquiry and the Agency’s reply (i.e., .msg file).

b. If so, do we have a back-log of inquiries that have yet to be resolved?

MEMA does not have a back-log of inquiries. Considering the periodic nature of inquiries, the Agency can address each within a matter of days.

2. Does MEMA produce an annual or other periodic, comprehensive report?

MEMA does not produce any annual or other periodic, comprehensive report. Reports are generated following each individual dam inspection.

That said, the Agency does provide information to the National Dam Safety Program and the National Inventory of Dams quarterly and annually for grant-related purposes. This information generally includes how many dams were inspected, which Emergency Action Plans were reviewed, and what the program’s expenditures were.

3. Provide a cost estimate for the report portion of this bill (i.e., provided the Agency would have to hire a contractor)?

MEMA maintains a blanket contract with TRC for various emergency management and homeland security related projects. The Agency reached out to TRC, using the language presented in the bill, and requested a rough estimate on the cost of a report as described; their response was as follows: *If we assume minimal site visits to a small sampling and streamlined reporting (spreadsheets, etc.) and relying on available information, adding some contingency would give you a lower end cost of approximately \$500k. If more site visits were needed, and more information developed the cost could readily double to \$1M.*