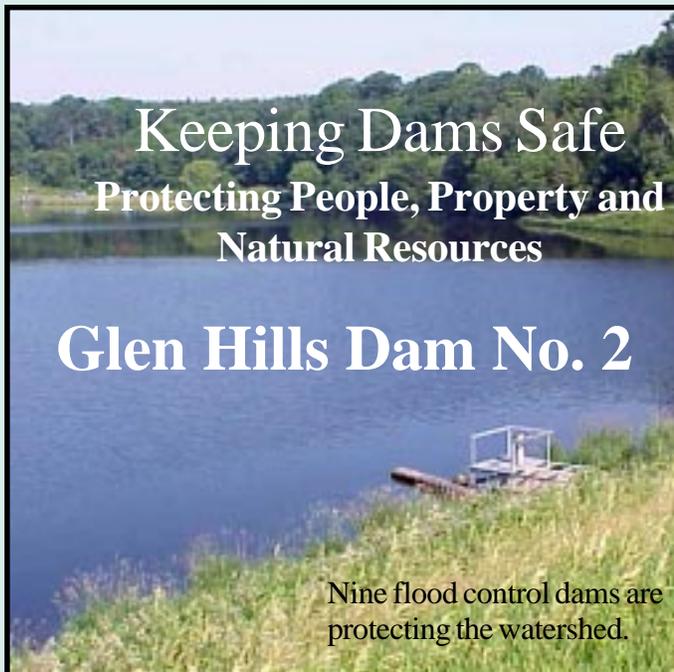




# Wisconsin Dam Rehabilitation Project May 2003



Keeping Dams Safe  
Protecting People, Property and  
Natural Resources

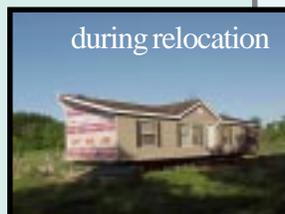
## Glen Hills Dam No. 2

Nine flood control dams are protecting the watershed.

The watershed dams built through Public Law 83-566 are important to Wisconsin in many ways. They provide flood control to prime farmland, highways, communities and residences and conserve natural resources.

The construction of this structure proved to be beneficial in many respects. Floodwater damage was reduced to state and county bridges and roads, saving costly repairs. Wildlife habitat and stream habitat is now better protected during high runoff events. There is also a reduction in property damage both to the agricultural and urban communities.

Wisconsin was chosen in 2000 as a “pilot” state to rehabilitate several aging watershed dams. Glen Hills Watershed Dam No. 2 is part of this national pilot rehabilitation project. Experience and information gained from this project will be used as other dams are rehabilitated across the nation.



during relocation



before relocation

The relocation of this structure ensures the safety of its residents as well as maintaining the dam classification as low hazard eliminating the need for costly upgrades.

### Glen Hills Watershed

Safety of the downstream residents is the primary concern of this dam rehabilitation planning process. Glen Hills Dam No. 2 was designed as a low-hazard dam to protect agricultural land. After construction of the dam in 1972, a home and garage were built downstream. As a result, the dam did not meet current dam safety standards. The residence was relocated out of the floodplain enabling the dam to maintain its low-hazard rating. Current local zoning now limits residential development below the dam.

Construction project cost: \$133,393

Funding: Sixty-five percent of the project construction cost and technical assistance was provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as authorized by the 2000 Agricultural Appropriations Act.

The watershed project sponsor is responsible for thirty-five percent of the funding, landrights and easements.

**Watershed Project Sponsor:**  
St. Croix County Conservation  
Committee

## Glen Hills Watershed

- ◆ Size: 36,000 acres
- ◆ Dams: 9
- ◆ Project Primary Purpose: watershed protection, flood control. One dam was designed with recreational benefits to the community.
- ◆ History: The dams were built by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, assisting the watershed sponsor, the St. Croix County Conservation Committee. The Committee assumed operation and maintenance for the dams after construction.

## Wisconsin Watershed Program

Eighty-seven small flood control dams have been built in Wisconsin through the Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-566). Most of these dams were built from the mid-1950's through the 1980's. These dams provide flood control to prime farmland, highways, and communities. They are an integral part of the communities and benefit people's lives every day.

## Wisconsin Rehabilitation Needs

- ◆ Over thirteen dams in the state have deteriorating components, including pipe separations or cracked concrete pipe supports.
- ◆ Over 20 dams are known to be built in rock formations that have fractured bedrock, a condition that led to a failure of a dam in 1978 and 2000.
- ◆ Increased hazards have been created downstream from more than 20 dams due to home development in or near the floodplains.
- ◆ Structural components like slide gates and principal spillway pipes have deteriorated.
- ◆ Sedimentation has reduced flood storage capacity in some structures.

Wisconsin

## National Rehabilitation Needs



Location of dams that are over 30 years old.

- ◆ Since 1948 over 11,000 small flood control dams have been built in 2,000 watersheds in 47 states.
- ◆ Many of these earlier constructed dams were designed for a 50-year life expectancy. Over one-half of the dams are over 30 years old.
- ◆ Today, many of these older dams need rehabilitation. Concrete and metal used in the principal spillways have deteriorated and in some situations public safety and health are at risk.
- ◆ Over 400 watershed project sponsors in 36 states indicated an interest in USDA funds and assistance in 2001 to rehabilitate over 1,400 dams at an estimated cost of over \$540 million.
- ◆ There are currently 110 watershed rehabilitation projects in the Nation.

For additional information about this rehabilitation project contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office, 8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200, Madison, Wisconsin, 53717, (608) 662-4422

Information about pilot rehabilitation projects in other states and about other issues related to aging watershed dams is available at the NRCS national web site ([www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)). Click on Programs then Watershed Rehabilitation.

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