








Give a DAM!

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Background

A high-potential hazard, concrete mass-gravity dam located at the outlet of Alamoosook Lake, in Orland, Maine—headwaters of the Narramissic River. The Maine Legislature recently approved—and Governor Janet Mills signed—three bills that enable the formation of quasi-municipal watershed management districts. These districts are designed to allow local towns to own and manage two Bucksport-area dams located on Alamoosook Lake and Toddy Pond.

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Who's Involved?

The towns preparing to form these districts include Orland, Blue Hill, Surry, and Penobscot— all of which surround the lakes and rely on the dams for recreation, property values, and local economies.

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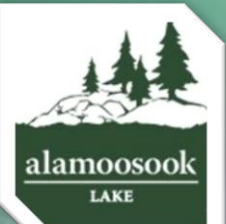




Why Now?

The dams are currently owned by Bucksport Mill LLC, a subsidiary of American Iron & Metal (AIM), which is seeking to abandon them. This has raised concerns about catastrophic drops in water levels, devastating waterfront property values, ecosystem collapse, and risks of flooding or dam failure.

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What do the laws do?

1. **Enable new governance** – Authorizes creation of watershed management districts for Alamoosook Lake and Toddy Pond, allowing towns and local lake associations to assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities.
2. **Funding mechanisms** – Gives districts the power to assess fees or taxes on waterfront homeowners and receive municipal contributions to fund inspections, maintenance, and operations.
3. **Stronger state oversight** – Amends Maine's 30-year-old dam abandonment statute to give the Department of Environmental Protection more leverage, extend timelines for finding new owners, and require more detailed information from dam owners seeking abandonment.

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What's Next

Towns are preparing referendums—expected in November 2025—to seek voter approval for joining these watershed districts. Engineering assessments are underway to determine dam conditions and maintenance costs before any ownership decisions. For the Silver Lake dam, which serves as a water supply in Bucksport, the town may consider acquiring and maintaining it independently, potentially in partnership with the Maine Water Company and the local power plant.

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Why it Matters

These legislative changes give communities a path to protect vital water bodies and the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits they provide, while closing gaps in dam governance and preventing abrupt abandonment risks.

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Engineering Report Summary

- Multiple deficiencies noted (cracks, spalling, efflorescence, deflection) but no severity ratings.
- Condition Ratings: Toddy = 'Poor'; Alamoosook = 'Fair'. Clarify vs. MEMA classifications.
- Budget Concerns: Year 1 (\$75K/yr) seems high for minor repairs. Does it include O&M?
- Years 1–5: Diagnostic studies & feasibility (rehab vs. replacement)?
- Combined studies of both dams could save costs — quantify savings.

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Engineering Report Summary

- 2021 inspection: Risk of overturning/sliding at left non-overflow section — not in immediate fixes.
- Horizontal crack & friable abutment concrete (Photo 5).
- Intake pipe to abandoned pumphouse — sealing approach needed.
- Flashboards didn't "trip" during flood. Confirm design function & adjustments.
- Evidence of ASR (alkali-silica reaction); dive inspections found significant scour.
- Clarify why ASR & scour deferred to years 5–10 despite potential risks.

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Photo No. 5 – View of left abutment from left upstream bank.



Engineering Report Summary

- Concrete structures show significant deterioration and spalling → repairs needed.
- Gates and operators require annual maintenance (lubrication, hoist checks).
- 2021 MEMA inspection found dam cannot pass the 50-year storm; high-hazard dams should pass at least ½ PMF.
- ASR (alkali-silica reaction) noted previously but not a major concern at present.
- Dive inspections observed areas of scour.
- Crack in left non-overflow section not hazardous at normal pool but should be stabilized with steel dowels

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Engineering Report Summary

- **Short-Term (1–2 years)** Cut/mow vegetation; remove brush, cut trees & seal stumps. Install steel dowels across crack in left non-overflow section. Perform concrete repairs (grout cracks, patch spalls, underwater grout repairs). Maintain sluice gate & operators annually. Conduct periodic inspections after floods or seismic events.
- **Intermediate (1–5 years)** Perform inflow design flood study (~\$50k, savings if done with Toddy). Conduct engineering analyses (survey, underwater inspection, concrete cores, stability calcs). Complete feasibility study for repair/replacement (~\$75k).
- **Long-Term (5–10 years)** Develop capital upgrade plan (spillway modification, deliberate concrete repairs, scour repair). Full costs TBD after engineering studies.

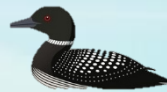
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Please join us and learn why this matters to you!

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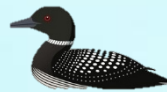
Educational Meetings

Penobscot – 9/8/25

Orland – 9/9/25

Blue Hill – 9/10/25

Surry – 9/11/25



Narramissic Watershed Coalition

August 19th – 3pm

Orland Community Center