



# Richmond Lake Dam

School and Public Lands

## Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$6,500,000 in one-time funding to cover costs associated with dam maintenance, including the replacement of the Richmond Lake Dam Spillway.

## Richmond Lake Dam

Richmond Lake Dam is a state-owned dam in Brown County. It holds over three billion, seven hundred million gallons of water and is only a few miles from Aberdeen. The dam was built in 1936 and is 52 feet high and 1,550 feet long.

In the last two years, large spillways in the Aberdeen area at Elm Lake Dam and Mina Lake Dam have needed to be replaced after being critically damaged in large storms. The Richmond Dam spillway is 85 years old and also needs to be replaced.

The concrete in the spillway is cracking and breaking and, in a few years, could see large holes develop similar to Mina and Elm Lake Dams. It is time to be proactive and replace the old spillway structure before it creates a dangerous safety hazard.

Richmond Dam is a high-hazard dam that would cause significant damage and potential loss of life downstream if it were to break. A 2008 breach study showed the dam would cause millions of dollars in damage and because it is only five miles from the city of Aberdeen, there would be limited time to evacuate in a catastrophic event.

Richmond Dam is also a major recreation area with a state GF&P campground, recreation area, and permanent housing on the lake. The economic and recreational impacts to the region from the failure of the dam would also be significant.

This high hazard dam is owned by the state and it must be repaired to the appropriate standards to protect South Dakota citizens.