



Richmond Lake Dam

School and Public Lands

Richmond Lake Dam

Richmond Lake Dam is state-owned located in Brown County. It is classified as 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 a dam breach would cause millions of dollars in damage. Because the dam is located only five miles from the city of Aberdeen, there would be limited time to evacuate in a catastrophic event.

Richmond Lake Dam is a major recreation area with a state Game, Fish and Parks campground, recreation area, and permanent housing on the lake. The economic and recreational impacts to the region from the failure of the dam would be significant. This state-owned dam must be repaired to ensure the safety of South Dakota citizens.

Funding

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$13,046,882 in one-time general funds to fully fund the replacement of the Richmond Lake Dam spillway and embankment.

The total cost to repair Richmond Lake Dam is \$25.6 million. Over the past two legislative sessions, the state has set aside \$9.6 million in general funds and received some FEMA grant dollars. However, due to cost increases and less than anticipated federal grant awards, the Governor is recommending additional general funds to fully fund the replacement of the dam by addressing the cost increases and aligning the budget with the actual federal grants received.



GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM