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The average age of the 84,000 dams in the country is 52 years old. Many of these dams have deteriorated outlet works in need of rehabilitation, repair or replacement. Experience is teaching us that providing dam owners with key information early in the process leads to successful partnerships with the design engineer and regulatory agencies. This subsequently leads to successful construction.

A collaborative effort between six state dam safety programs around the country is seeking to develop a user-friendly source of information for education of dam owners and rehabilitation engineers regarding dam outlet rehabilitations on small dams. The guide is funded using FEMA Assistance to States Grants and is a web-styled, interactive, self-contained tool (i.e., internet access not required). The guide illustrates rehabilitation concepts utilizing photos, case studies, and diagrams. The guide is not another basic dams 101 course; rather, it will focus on practical information. What are common material options for sliplining an old CMP? Why do I need to construct a filter collar? What are considerations for gate replacement? The Guide answers similar questions so dam owners can make informed, early, and wise decisions. The presentation will cover the purpose of the guide and a demonstration of how it may be used in a pre-design meeting to benefit owners, engineers, and regulators.

Participating dam safety programs include Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Maryland.