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During the period of September 28, 2016 through October 16, 2016, rainfall generated prior to and by Hurricane Matthew resulted in some areas of North Carolina experiencing precipitation totals of up to 22 inches with some 24 hours totals of 14 inches. There were twelve (12) state regulated dams and eight (8) dams currently exempt from state regulation confirmed to have breached during this event. Response to these dam failures involved the dam owners, the North Carolina Dam Safety Program, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NC DPS), Local Emergency Management, FEMA Region IV, the Department of Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection, North Carolina National Guard and others.

This presentation will outline the State and FEMA actions taken prior to and in response to these dam breaches and discuss the lessons learned. Topics include:

• NC DEQ DEMLR’s pre-event actions
• State Dam Safety Program activities at the EOC
• State response to the dam breach
• Overview of risk reduction activities taken on dams of concern
• North Carolina lessons learned
• FEMA response to the dam breaches
• FEMA lessons learned
• After the Storm - North Carolina Dam Safety Program Current Status and Initiatives

Dam breaches and incidents often involve many partners to assess and respond during an event. Learn important lessons from the response to dam breaches and incidents in North Carolina. See how the state program has evolved since the storm.