

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1073
(Energy and Natural Resources Committee)
(At the request of the Department of Water Resources)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 61-03-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the department of water resources authority to require operating plans for dams.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 61-03-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-03-21. Plans of operation for reservoirs - Adequate structure.

~~Every operator of a water storage reservoir operator in North Dakota having a capacity of more than one thousand acre feet [1233481.84 cubic meters] annually shall file with the department, between the first and fifteenth day of February, an operating plan for the reservoir for the calendar year in which the plan is filed. The operator of the reservoir shall cooperate with the department to make all water releases compatible with the best interest of the greatest number of downstream water users and affected landowners. If the department declares an emergency in connection with the operation of the reservoir, the operator promptly shall submit to the department a separate interim operating plan for the reservoir. The interim operating plan must be coordinated and integrated with the suggestions and plans of the department to serve the affected persons during the emergency. The department may require the reservoir operators to maintain adequate structures and operate them the structures in a manner to prevent waste, promote the beneficial use of water, and not endanger the general health and welfare of affected persons affected by the reservoirs. If an operator fails to maintain and operate adequate structures, the department shall set a place and time for hearing and serve notice upon the operator to show cause why the operator's water permit should not be canceled. A copy of any order canceling the water right must be filed in the office of the recorder in the county or counties where the land to which the right is appurtenant is located. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the department in accordance with chapter 28-32.~~

Dennis Johnson
Speaker of the House

Paul Schmitt
President of the Senate

Bull T. Reck
Chief Clerk of the House

Chand Morgan
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1073.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Bull T. Reck
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 10:55 A.M. on March 14, 2023.

Approved at 7:28 P.M. on March 14, 2023.

Doug Burgum
Governor

Filed in this office this 15th day of March, 2023,

at 2:58 o'clock P. M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State