

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**

**324.31521 Emergency orders.**

Sec. 31521.

(1) The department may issue emergency orders as provided in this section. The department may, by written notice, order an owner to immediately repair, draw down, breach, or cease operation of a dam where a dam is in imminent danger of failure and is causing or threatening to cause harm to public health, safety, welfare, property, or the natural resources or the public trust in those natural resources. If an owner fails to comply with an order, or is unavailable or unable to be contacted, then the department may undertake immediate repair, drawdown, breaching, or cessation of operation, as may be necessary to alleviate the danger, and may recover from the owner the costs incurred in a civil action commenced in a court of competent jurisdiction. The department may terminate an emergency order upon a determination in writing that all necessary emergency actions have been complied with by the owner and that an emergency no longer exists.

(2) When ordering emergency actions under subsection (1), the department may specify maximum drawdown level and discharge rates and require sediment surveys, water quality sampling, monitoring, or any other action determined necessary by the department to ensure adequate protection of the public health, safety, welfare, property, or natural resources or the public trust in those natural resources. The department may modify the requirements of an emergency order if, during the conduct of ordered actions, it determines that the modification is necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, property, or natural resources or the public trust in those natural resources.

(3) Upon the issuance of an emergency order, the department shall provide the owner with an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969 within 15 days of the date of its issuance. At the hearing, the department shall determine, based on information and fact, if the emergency order shall be continued, modified, or suspended as necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare, property, or natural resources or the public trust in those natural resources.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995

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