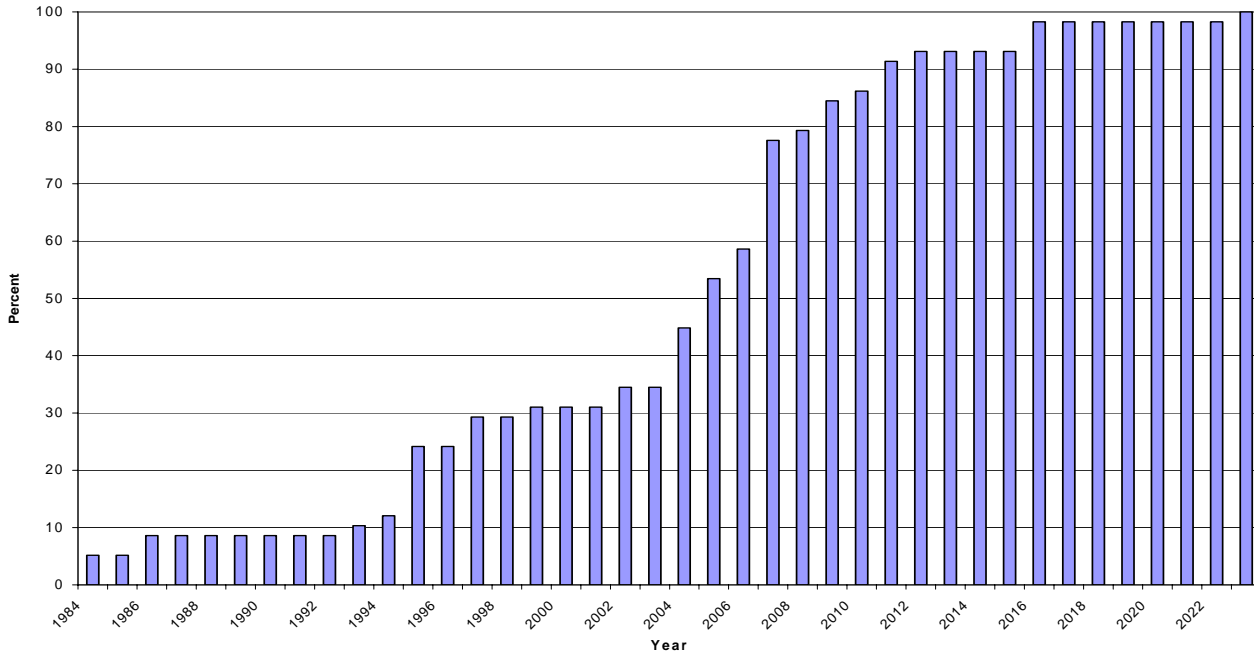


Results

Restore and protect the characteristics of natural stream flows and lake level hydrology that are critical to support designated and existing uses under Vermont Water Quality Standards, including aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and recreational uses. Remove obsolete dams to support multiple public safety, ecological, and economic objectives.

Key Indicators

Hydropower Segments Meeting VWQS



Story Behind Baseline Performance

Vermont’s surface waters are impaired by many projects that regulate natural flows and water levels and block the movement of sediment and aquatic organisms. Water withdrawals and hydroelectric projects regulate natural flows in rivers and streams. The operation of dams on lake or pond outlets results in unnatural fluctuations in water levels. Dams can impair rivers and streams where they block the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms, alter sediment transport, and degrade water quality.

The program to address these issues has focused on permitting and compliance activities for FERC-licensed hydroelectric projects and state-permitted water withdrawals. As the number of projects being licensed or permitted declines, the focus is shifting to unlicensed hydroelectric projects (using state authorities) and removal of dams that no longer serve a useful purpose and create public hazards or ecological impacts. The dam removal aspect of the program is primarily non-regulatory, consisting of inventory and assessment as part of basin planning and cooperative work with dam owners and other interested agencies and organizations on the actual removals.

Strategies/Performance Measures/Proposed Accomplishments (*measurable proposed accomplishments in italics*)

1. Regulatory
 - a. Ensure that new FERC licenses include articles that ensure compliance with Vermont Water Quality Standards. *Continue to participate in FERC licensing proceedings*
 - b. Use 10 V.S.A. §1003 proceedings to bring unlicensed hydroelectric projects into compliance with standards. *Complete the 1003 process for one project (or group of related projects) each year.*
 - c. Participate in Act 250 and other state regulatory processes that involve flow and water level regulation.
 - d. Conduct compliance inspections of all certified hydroelectric and water withdrawal projects. *Conduct inspections of all facilities within three years, and then on a rotating, scheduled basis.*
 - e. Develop a comprehensive compliance tracking and data management system. *Have new system in place by SFY 2008.*
2. Grants/Contracts
 - a. Develop sources of funding that can be used to support dam removals.
3. Education
 - a. Develop outreach program to schools, watershed organizations, dam owners and the public on the impacts of dams and flow and water level regulation. *Upgrade information on the DEC website by July 2006, give four presentations per year to schools and other groups and produce three articles per year for publication. Work with basin planning program to integrate flow management information in basin planning outreach efforts.*
 - b. Serve as statewide source of information on dam removals. *Continue to gather information through contacts with Vermont Dam Task Force, Northeast Stream Barrier Task Force and others and disseminate to all interested parties.*
4. Monitoring/Other
 - a. Bring operation of Corps of Engineers flood control dams (five projects) into compliance with state laws and regulations. *Continue to work with the Corps on outstanding issues.*
 - b. Remove dams that no longer serve useful purposes in cooperation with dam owners and other interested parties. *Complete at least one dam removal project each year.*

Performance Measure "P"=Projected and "A"=Actual Values **=PPA Funded		SFY 1998	SFY 1999	SFY 2000	SFY 2001	SFY 2002	SFY 2003	SFY 2004	SFY 2005	SFY 2006	SFY 2007	SFY 2008
Percentage of hydroelectric projects that meet Vermont Water Quality Standards	P						34	56	58	59	78	79
	A	29	31	31	31	34	34	45	53			
Percentage of projects that fully comply with existing permits	P						25	50	75	75	100	100
	A						26	32	43			
Number of public education presentations	P							2	4	4		
	A							1	2			
Number of public information articles	P							3	3	3		
	A							2	1			
Percentage of Corps of Engineers flood control dams that are in full compliance	P							40	20	40	60	80
	A						0	0	0			
Number of dams removed	P							2	2	2	3	3
	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0			