



**Massachusetts State Office**  
451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
413-253-4350, fax 413-253-4375  
[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov)

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Diane Baedeker Petit  
Public Affairs Officer  
413-253-4371, cell 413-835-1276  
[diane.petit@ma.usda.gov](mailto:diane.petit@ma.usda.gov)

## **Public meeting slated to discuss plans to upgrade six dams in Berlin, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Marlborough and Stow**

AMHERST, Mass. (May 6, 2011) – Local residents and other interested parties are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss and submit comments on proposed plans to upgrade six dams in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SuAsCo) rivers watershed. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Berlin Town Hall, 23 Linden Street, Room 227, Berlin, Mass.**

The dams to be upgraded are the Lester G. Ross Dam in Berlin, the Cold Harbor Brook Dam in Northborough, the Delaney Complex Dam in Stow, and the Rawson Hill Brook Dam in Shrewsbury, Hop Brook Dam in Northborough and the Tyler Dam in Marlborough.

Staff from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will present information about the proposed projects and the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and comment. For more information, visit [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov).

Although the dams are still structurally sound and do not pose an imminent threat to public safety, today's increased land development has generated higher amounts of runoff than the dams were originally designed to handle. DCR and NRCS monitor the dams annually and after significant storms to ensure the safety of surrounding communities.

Upgrading the dams will not only provide better flood protection, but will also maintain wetland and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation such as nature and hiking trails.

DCR, which owns, operates and maintains the dams, has requested federal funding through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program to upgrade six of the nine SuAsCo dams. Another project to upgrade the George H. Nichols Dam in Westborough is already under construction.

These dams, originally built between 1962 and 1987 by NRCS and DCR, provide an estimated \$1.7 million in annual flood damage reduction benefits to the 36 towns within the SuAsCo rivers watershed.

###