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There are two components to obtaining permission to build a dam on a water body in British Columbia.

1. Obtain a Water Licence

Options include:

- a) Utilizing an existing water licence which is current but not yet constructed. This situation may lend itself to a partnering up.
- b) If there is no existing water licence, application for a licence must be made.

Application for a water licence occurs through Front Counter BC, within the Water Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment. The application package is available on the web from the Water Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment. When completed by the applicant, the package (which may require plans and some level of detail) is submitted to Front Counter BC.

The Ministry of Environment will conduct in and out of house referrals with the information submitted. If the contents meet the necessary criteria of the referring bodies then the application is forwarded to the Stewardship Branch for the issuance of the water licence.

2. Submit plans for storage infrastructure

Once the water licence is obtained, plans for the storage infrastructure can be submitted to Brian Nutall (Kamloops Ministry of Environment) for review and approval. The design of a dam is related to a Consequence Classification which rates the risk of failure for the structure. The classification further dictates whether the plans require the seal of a Professional Engineer (P Eng.).

Consequence Class	Criteria
VL - very low risk	Small, unregulated dam structures
L - low risk	Design must meet a minimum 1 in 200 year flood event and be designed by a PEng.
H - high risk	Design must meet a minimum 1 in 1000 year flood event and be designed by a PEng.
VH - very high risk	Reserved for large dam projects, such as BC Hydro dams, designed by a PEng.

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