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Ohio Revised Code

Section 1521.063 Annual fee.

Effective: January 1, 2016
Legislation: House Bill 64 - 131st General Assembly

(A) Except for the federal government, the owner of a dam, that is classified as a class I, class II, or class III dam under rules adopted under section 1521.06 of the Revised Code and subject to section 1521.062 of the Revised Code shall pay an annual fee, based upon the height of the dam, the linear foot length of the dam, and the per-acre foot of volume of water impounded by the dam. The fee shall be paid to the division of water resources on or before the thirtieth day of June of each year. The annual fee shall be as follows until otherwise provided by rules adopted under this section:

(1) For any dam classified as a class I dam under rules adopted by the chief of the division of water resources under section 1521.06 of the Revised Code, three hundred dollars plus ten dollars per foot of height of dam, five cents per foot of length of the dam and five cents per-acre foot of water impounded by the dam;

(2) For any dam classified as a class II dam under those rules, ninety dollars plus six dollars per foot of height of dam, five cents per foot of length of the dam and five cents per-acre foot of water impounded by the dam;

(3) For any dam classified as a class III dam under those rules, ninety dollars plus four dollars per foot of height of the dam, five cents per foot of length of the dam, and five cents per-acre foot of volume of water impounded by the dam.

For purposes of this section, the height of a dam is the vertical height, to the nearest foot, as determined by the division under section 1521.062 of the Revised Code.

All fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the dam safety fund created in section 1521.06 of the Revised Code. Any owner who fails to pay any annual fee required by this section within sixty days after the due date shall be assessed a penalty of ten per cent of the annual fee plus interest at the rate of one-half per cent per month from the due date until the date of payment.

There is hereby created the compliant dam discount program to be administered by the chief. Under the program, the chief may reduce the amount of the annual fee that an owner of a dam is required to pay under division (A)(1), (2), or (3) of this section if the owner is in compliance with section 1521.062 of the Revised Code and has developed an emergency action plan pursuant to standards established in rules adopted under this section. The chief shall not discount an annual fee by more than twenty-five per cent of the total annual fee that is due. In addition, the chief shall not discount the annual fee that is due from the owner of a dam who has been assessed a penalty under this section.

(B) The chief shall, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code and subject to the prior approval of the director of natural resources, adopt, and may amend or rescind, rules for the collection of fees and the administration, implementation, and enforcement of this section and for the establishment of an annual fee schedule in lieu of the schedule established in division (A) of this section.

(C)(1) No person, political subdivision, or state governmental agency shall violate or fail to comply with this section or any rule or order adopted or issued under it.

(2) The attorney general, upon written request of the chief, may commence an action against any such violator. Any action under division (C)(2) of this section is a civil action.

(D) As used in this section, "political subdivision" includes townships, municipal corporations, counties, school districts, municipal universities, park districts, sanitary districts, and conservancy districts and subdivisions thereof.