New York State Dam Safety

Alon Dominitz, P.E.
Chief
Dam Safety Section
518-402-8185

Dam Classification

Class A

Low Hazard Potential

Class B

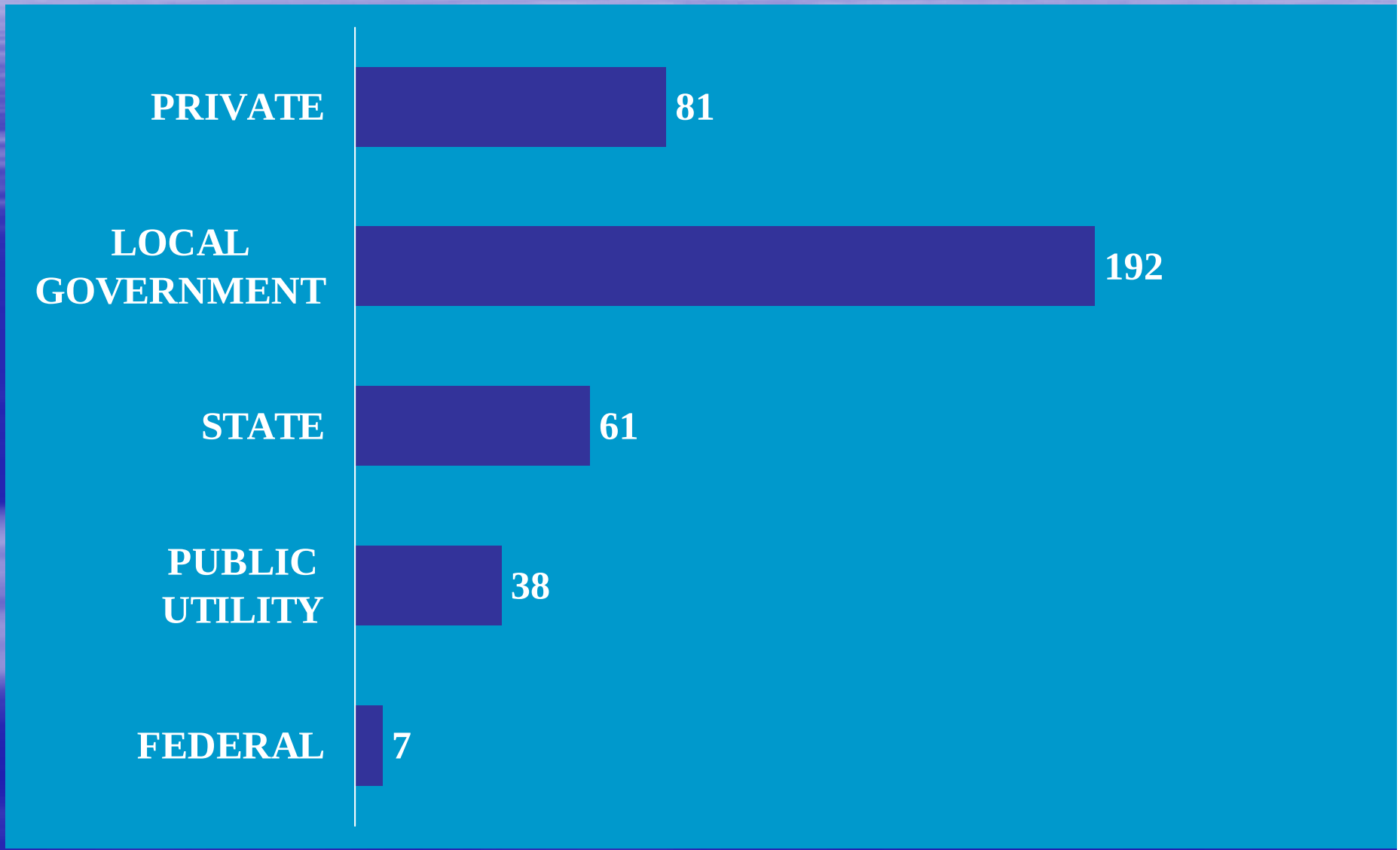
Intermediate Hazard Potential

Class C

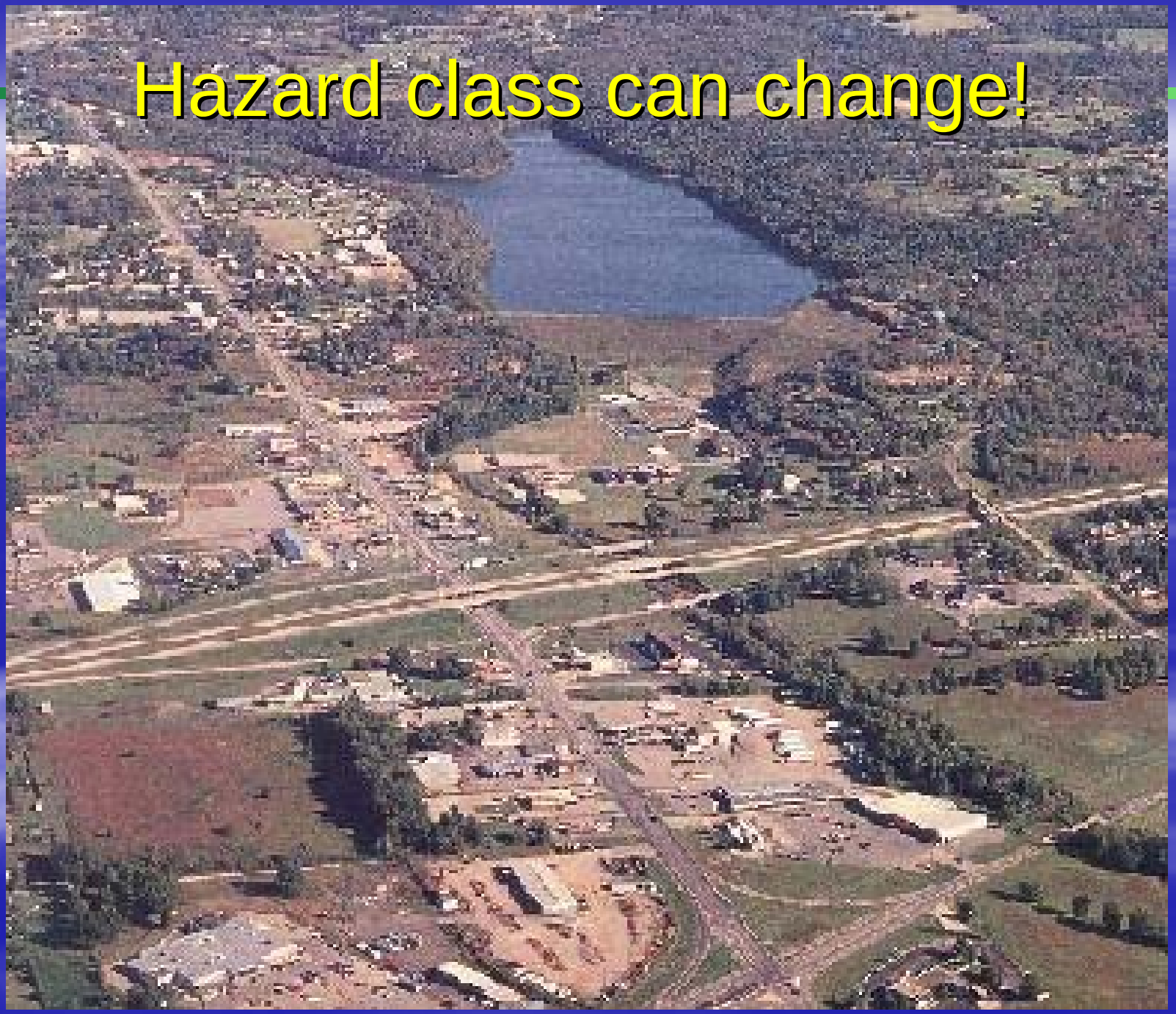
High Hazard Potential

"C" DAMS BY OWNER TYPE

(NYS Dam Inventory)



Hazard class can change!



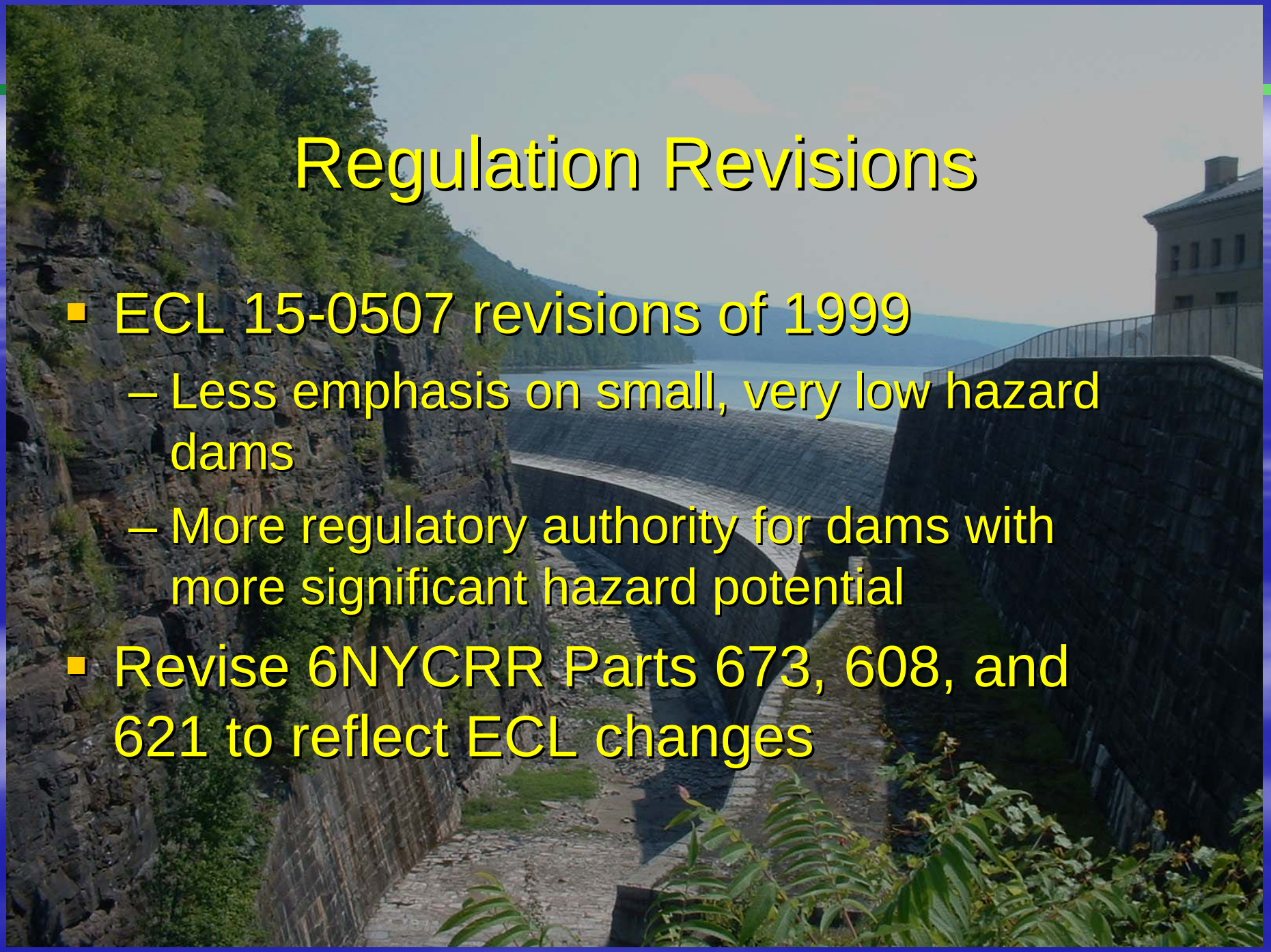
NY State Dam Safety Program

- Technical review of proposed work
- Regulatory inspection by DEC engineers
- Enforcement
- Repair or removal of unsafe dams
- Emergency planning

Owner Responsibilities

- Inspection
- Maintenance & Repair
- Operation
- Monitoring
- Emergency Action

Dam Safety program oversees owner to protect downstream lives, property, and natural resources



Regulation Revisions

- ECL 15-0507 revisions of 1999
  - Less emphasis on small, very low hazard dams
  - More regulatory authority for dams with more significant hazard potential
- Revise 6NYCRR Parts 673, 608, and 621 to reflect ECL changes

With Increasing Hazard Class…

- Owner responsibilities increase
- As Hazard Class increases A → C
  - Dam Owner responsibilities increase
  - Design standards increase
  - Time, money and effort increase

B Hazard Dams

- 759 B Hazard Dams in NY
- Many municipal water supplies, some privately owned

B Hazard Dams

- Operate and maintain a safe dam
- Prepare and implement an Operation & Maintenance Plan
- Record property transactions for parcel containing dam
- Conduct an inspection by PE every 4 yrs
- Conduct an engineering assessment by PE every 10 yrs
- Prepare an Emergency Action Plan and conduct exercises
- Report flow in auxiliary spillway
- Submit Annual Certification

C Hazard Dams

- 386 C Hazard Dams in NY
- Most government and utility owned

C Hazard Dams – Owner Responsibility

- Operate and maintain a safe dam
- Prepare and implement an Operation & Maintenance Plan
- Record property transactions for parcel containing dam
- Conduct an inspection by PE every 2 yrs
- Conduct an engineering assessment by PE every 10 yrs
- Prepare an Emergency Action Plan and conduct exercises
- Report flow in auxiliary spillway
- Submit Annual Certification
- Demonstrate Financial assurance for life of dam

Prelim. Draft Regulations

Preliminary draft regulations on DEC's secure ftp site:

ftp://ftp.dec.state.ny.us/dow/damsafety/