



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVE. • BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850 • 701-328-2782

www.swc.nd.gov • www.facebook.com/NDStateWater

March 13, 2015

For more information:

SWC Planning and Education Division

Jessie Wald (701) 328-2782

Tolna Dam being closely monitored by North Dakota State Water Commission

A five-foot hole has developed in the Tolna Dam spillway with water flowing through. The State Water Commission and local Emergency Managers from the Nelson County Water Resource District are closely monitoring the site.

“Public safety is our number one priority and at this time a breach has not occurred,” stated Bruce Engelhardt, Water Development Division Director at the State Water Commission. “If the dam should breach, the possible impacts along the Sheyenne River would be minor,” noted Engelhardt. “The reservoir behind the dam contains about 2,000 acre feet of water, while there is 16,000 acre feet of storage in Lake Astabula, so there is no risk to Baldhill Dam.”

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and the North Dakota Highway Patrol have temporarily closed ND Highway 15 from the junction of ND Highway 20 to ND Highway 1.

No evacuations or sheltering is necessary or anticipated at this time. The State Water Commission along with the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Department of Emergency Services are working together to monitor all efforts and will continue to keep the public informed.