



Multi-Regulatory Agency Involvement To Remove Amboy Dam

**Brandon George, EIT, Claire Brady, P.E., and Kenneth Avery, P.E., CFM, D.WRE, Colliers
Engineering & Design**

Amboy Dam is a run of river low head dam located on Nine Mile Creek just upstream of NYS Route 173 in the Hamlet of Amboy, NY. Built in 1905 to provide water during low flow periods, the dam was incorporated into a USACE clearing and snagging project in 1979 that's now operated and maintained by NYSDEC and was partially removed by NYSDEC after a 2019 flood, increasing the hazards for paddlers and anglers. Nine Mile Creek is tributary to Onondaga Lake, a CERCLA (Superfund) site and as part of the settlement was eligible for funding to improve the creek's aquatic habitat through removal of stream obstructions, an effort stewarded by USFWS. The dam's incorporation into a USACE local flood protection project and NYSDECs own regulatory requirements covering dam safety, sediment removal, wetlands, stream disturbance and floodplain management required regulatory approvals from both agencies to clear the project for construction. Colliers Engineering & Design (CED) worked with USFWS to design the dam removal 300 ft of stream improvements, including a cross-vane, grade control, bank protection and floodplain bench plantings and provided oversight during construction which was completed during Fall 2025. As a result, a human safety hazard has been removed, aquatic connection has been improved, upstream flooding and NFIP Special Flood Hazard Area has been diminished and the integrity of the local flood protection project maintained.