



THE MOUNTAINS OF
Big Canoe

Property Owners Association, Inc.

RECEIVED

MAY 10 2005

DAM SAFETY

May 2, 2005

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Mr. Christopher S. Owen
Environmental Engineer III
Safe Dams Program
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dear Mr. Owen:

On January 25, 2005, your staff performed the annual inspection of Petit Dam.

There was one task that we were asked to do during the inspection. The gate valve for Petit Dam must be opened at least twice a year, once with an inspector present. On May 16, 2005, Big Canoe POA hired a dive team to inspect the gate valve that opens Petit Dam. The dive team followed the pipe starting from the bank. At ninety-four feet, the pipe disappeared into the silt. The gate valve is buried in four to six feet of silt. In addition, we videoed the entire process showing where the pipe disappeared into the silt.

Upon discovering the problem, we feel that if the gate valve were to be opened after thirty years, the possibility of not being able to shut it back off exists. This could possibly drain Lake Petit, which supplies the drinking water for the entire community.

Sincerely,

Stan B. Stewart
General Manager

Cc: Steve Caldwell

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division

Safe Dams Program
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30354
Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
404/362-2678

August 16, 2005

Stan Stewart, General Manager
Big Canoe Property Owners Association, Inc.
10586 Big Canoe
Big Canoe, Georgia 30143



SUBJECT: Lake Petit Dam
Pickens County

Dear Mr. Stewart:

You sent a letter to this office dated May 2, 2005 regarding your attempt to test the low level drain pipe. You inspected the gate valve at the request of our staff. The permit condition for dams with a drain valve is for them to be tested at least once a year. This requirement has not been enforced to date and therefore you get situations where silt and debris accumulate at the gate valve. Such is the case with your dam. Given the finding of your divers that there is four to six feet of silt, it is not wise at this point to test the gate valve.

At some point, the system will need to be checked. This office will coordinate with you at some point in the future on the best way to evaluate this system.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact this office at (404) 362-2678.

Sincerely,

Dallan Thomas Woosley, P.E.
Program Manager
Permitting and Compliance Unit
Safe Dams Program

DTW:ks

SUBSEQUENT VISUAL INSPECTION

Date of Inspection 01/25/2005

Name of Dam: Lake Petit Dam County: Pickens

ID#: 112-009-00462 Weather: Sunny and Cold

Inspected by: Chris Owen and Alan Murray

Type of Inspection: Annual Construction Other

Persons Contacted: No one

Toe Drains Right: Did not measure

Toe Drains Left: Did not measure

Additional Drains: Did not measure

Type of Principal Pipe: Concrete

Needs to be Camera Inspected? Maybe Yes No

Low-level drain is being tested? Not Sure Yes No

Comments: They have not tested the low-level drain in years.

Number of Pictures Taken: 4

Remarks: 1) The electric company dug a trench and buried a line through

the top of the upper berm. The trench has been compacted and
reseeded.

2) There is minor erosion on the upstream slope due to waves during the
passing of the hurricanes.

3) There is a hole near the large rock on the left side of the top
abutment.

4) There are some erosion rills forming on the left abutment on the
berm that is second from the top.

5) They are reading the water level in the piezometers.

6) There is love grass on the dam.

7) There is some erosion on the right above the second berm from the
bottom.

8) There is wetness at the lower concrete channel near the road on the
left side of the dam.

9) The toe drain channel needs to be cleaned out. The three drains on

the right have been damaged.

10) The low-level drain outlet structure and the outlet/toe drain channel needs to be cleaned out.