

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

Safe Dams Program
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30354
Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner
Harold F. Reheis, Director
404/362-2678

April 29, 2003

Mr. Troy Ledbetter
Big Canoe Property Owners Association
10586 Big Canoe
Big Canoe, GA 30143



SUBJECT: Lake Petit Dam
Pickens County

Dear Mr. Ledbetter:

As part of your Operation or Construction and Operation Permit, you should have received a set of General Conditions (enclosed) for the operation of your dam(s). As you are no doubt aware by now, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake occurred on April 29, 2003 near the Georgia-Alabama border east of Fort Payne, Alabama. It was felt throughout Georgia.

Condition Numbers 2 and 3 of the General Conditions require owners to inspect their dams after each major storm or occurrence of any unusual condition that might adversely affect the dam and make a written record of the inspection and provide it to the Environmental Protection Division upon request. If you have an engineer already engaged, you may want him to do the inspection for you.

The earthquake event was one of these unusual events that could have adversely affected your dam. You need to inspect your dam immediately, if you have not already done so, and report the results of your inspection in writing to our office by Friday, May 9, 2003.

During your inspection, you need to look specifically for the following changes in your dam as described in Condition Number 6 (h), (i), and (j). What we need to know is the following:

1. Are there any cracks in your dam?
2. Is there any settlement, sloughs, or slides on the slopes of your dam?
3. Is there any new seepage, leakage, or wet areas on the downstream slope, along the abutment contacts, or beyond the toe of your dam? Is any soil being carried by the flow?
4. If there was a pre-existing wet area/ seepage, has it changed? Is any soil being carried by the flow?
5. Has your spillway stand pipe/intake structure moved, settled, tilted, or been displaced in any way?
6. If your dam has an existing internal drainage system, have the flows increased or decreased? Is any soil being carried by the flows?

If your inspection finds any of these conditions or changes, you need to contact our office immediately at 404/362-2678. Our office will come out and evaluate the problem with your dam immediately. Any of these conditions could result in your dam failing and causing loss of life downstream.

I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If there are any questions, please contact our office at 404/362-2678.

Sincerely,

Francis E. Fiegle II, P. E.
Program Manager
Safe Dams Program

FEF:kf
enclosure