

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

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

June 26, 2009

Bill Bates  
Director of Public Safety  
Big Canoe POA  
10586 Big Canoe  
Big Canoe, GA 30143

**SUBJECT:** Petit Lake Dam (aka Big Canoe)  
Pickens County

Dear Mr. Bates:

It was a pleasure meeting you on February 16, 2009 for the FY09 annual inspection of the subject dam. I apologize for the delay in following up with you. During the inspection, we noted the following:

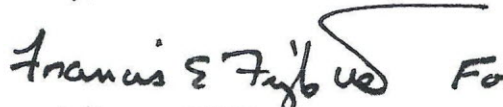
1. The dam is being well maintained and had been mowed. There were some small pine trees and overhanging branches along the right (as facing downstream) abutment of the downstream slope. It would be advisable to cut this vegetation back.
2. There were several holes in the floor of the concrete chute spillway. There was exposed rebar in some of the holes.
3. The area around the drains at the downstream toe of the dam had been cleared. We were informed that the drains had been camera inspected and that some are surface drains. There was water flowing underneath at least one of the drains, and several of the drains remain in a deteriorated condition.

Our office has received a report for repairing wave action erosion along the shoreline of the dam. This report has not been reviewed yet. In addition, several years ago there was concern over the stability of the dam, specifically during a seismic event. An evaluation was performed and an engineering report was submitted to our office. However, this issue was never resolved. In addition, the areas that have deteriorated in the concrete chute spillway (mentioned in Item #2 above) need to be addressed.

It is my understanding that Tom Woosley, P.E., manager of our Permitting and Compliance Unit, will be meeting with representatives of the Big Canoe POA at the dam in July to discuss the engineering reports that have been submitted and any other issues with the dam, including the holes in the spillway (see enclosed e-mail). After that meeting, deadlines will likely be given for resolving any concerns.

A copy of our inspection report is enclosed for your records. If you have any questions please contact our office at 404/362-2678.

Sincerely,

  
Francis E. Frybuck For  
Carey Anderson, E.I.T.  
Environmental Engineer III  
Safe Dams Program

Enclosures

SUBSEQUENT VISUAL INSPECTION

Date of Inspection 2/16/09

Name of Dam: Petit (Big Canoe) County: Pickens

ID#: 112-009-00462 Weather: Sunny, cool

Inspected by: Carey Anderson & Robert Einger

Type of Inspection:  Annual  Construction  Other

Persons Contacted: Bill Bates, Director of Public Safety

Toe Drains Right: downstream right-flowing, crm (flow under pipe); 3rd to right of

Toe Drains Left: downstream left: 4500ml/2.5s = 28.5 gpm low level outlet: 450ml/30s = 0.2 gpm

Additional Drains: left of low level outlet: 500ml/30s = 0.3 gpm (approx. - some flow underneath pipe)

Type of Principal Pipe: concrete channel

Needs to be Camera Inspected?  Maybe  Yes  No

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pictures Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

- well maintained, mowed - should cut back small pines and overhanging branches at right downstream abutment
- have camera inspected pipes at toe of dam - plan to add extensions because of water flowing underneath
- we still have plans for wave erosion - do they need to add rock near entrance to spillway? - check plans
- still holes in some areas of concrete spillway

\* change contact to Bill Bates -  
 Big Canoe POA  
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 Big Canoe, GA 30143