

**From:** themtnsvoice@aol.com,  
**To:** Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov,  
**Cc:** Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov, David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov,  
**Subject:** Re: PS - CONCERN / ALERT: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0039: Lake Petit Dam Documents (Submitted: Nov 22, 2021)  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 8, 2021 11:05 am

**Attachments:**

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**Thank you, One last comment or two, and then I believe I am done for now.** First, I hope you understand that I wear two hats here: Local Newspaper Publisher, but Iso a 22 year resident of the community. I realize that many see ME as merely an annoying gadfly perhaps, but it must be noted that there are MANY professionals in this community that I confer with, and that are also exceptionally concerned about the state of this dam, and that are watching this closely. The concerns of these other property owners break down on 2 levels:

(1) For some people this is merely a financial issue. They are furious that these maintenance issues have been allowed to fester. Some were not aware that they were buying into this situation. Now that they have to pay for it, they want to make sure it is done correctly.

(2) For many people though, this is a legitimate and serious safety concern, having come to those conclusions by following the situation, visually inspecting the structure, and reviewing the available data. Our community leadership has a long track record that many property owners are very well aware of, and that does not increase comfort levels that problems may be whitewashed in order to save political face, or money. We are relying on your entity to be the watchdog it is supposed to be. MANY people are aware of my communications with your offices, support them, and also feed me information or concerns to potentially pass on.

**With that said, I wanted to point out one last concern that has been strongly pointed out as a concern by several residents. The EAP doesn't appear to be following Guidelines or Templates in regards to listing Notification Contacts properly in regard to downstream affected parcels. There is specific guidance provided in the EAP Template, and the EAP Instructions in regards to what this should look like. It is found in:**

**Appendix B-6 - Residents/Businesses/Highways at Risk**

Big Canoe's EAP merely lists the Street Address or Parcel#. Further, they seem to be attempting to pass off many of THEIR responsibilities solely to the EMA Authorities. The Regulations are crystal clear that this is the Dam Owners Responsibility to maintain and review this contact information. They are further required to review the contact information every year and update it. Many in the community are very aware that Big Canoe is already in violation of this, as the most recent EAP has contacts already years old (people had moved / new owners) as was evidenced by public records searches. Again, Big Canoe has a HORRIBLE track record of accountability and doing what they are supposed to in the eyes of many in this community.

FOLLOWING the existing EAP Template and Instructions allows for public review of the Affected Owners/Properties. I can understand if certain information needs to be redacted, but the bulk of it should still be evident IN THE EAP itself. It is actually required by Regulation. For your reference I have included some appropriate snippets:

Page 38 of the Draft EAP (numbered as Pg 33 in the document) has the following section, which the EAP appears to be in conflict with:

**8. MAINTENANCE, PREVENTION, AND PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS**

**8.1 EAP Annual Review / The Dam Owner's Representative or designee will review and, if needed, update the EAP at least once each year. The EAP annual review will include the following:**

- Call all contacts in the Notification Flowcharts in this document to verify that the phone numbers and the contact personnel are current. The EAP will be revised if any of the contacts have changed.
- Contact the local law enforcement agency to verify the phone numbers and/or personnel in the specified positions. In addition, the Dam Owner's Representative or



designee will ask if the person contacted knows where the EAP is kept and if responsibilities described in the EAP are understood.

- Call the locally available resources (Appendix F) to verify that the phone numbers, addresses, and services are current.
- Confirm all-hazard contact information listed in the document is correct.

FURTHER.....

### Rule 391-3-8-.11 Emergency Action Plans

Dam owners of Category I dams shall develop, and submit to the Division for approval, Emergency Action Plans (EAP) using the Division approved format.

(a.) Owners of dams that are classified as a Category I dam on, or after, October 1, 2016 shall submit the Emergency Action Plan as part of their application submitted in accordance with Rule 391-3-8-.05

#### **RULE 391-3-8-.05. Application for a Permit**

(2) Permit applications shall be on forms as may be prescribed and furnished by the Division.

The gist being that Big Canoe POA needs to take responsibility for maintaining these contacts, and that they need to be including this in the EAP template form furnished by the division, and not going off the reservation and attempting to cobble together a mish mash from other guidance sources.

And for the record, and this is admittedly a nitpicky thing, but it is an example of how THIS VERY DRAFT EAP was already out of date a month before it was submitted. In Appendix B-2, the POA's own Record Holder Receiver, Jason Brownell, quit the POA almost 2 months ago.

Anyway, this should be corrected in any final approval of the EAP.

Sincerely,  
- david hopkins

end 12/8 email

-----Original Message-----

From: Welte, Jennifer <Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov>

To: themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com>

Cc: Chambers, Kevin <Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov>; Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>

Sent: Wed, Dec 8, 2021 9:01 am

Subject: RE: PS - CONCERN / ALERT: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0039: Lake Petit Dam Documents (Submitted: Nov 22, 2021)

Thank you for the information provided. It will be used in future reviews of the dam.

**From:** themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 3:20 PM

**To:** Welte, Jennifer <Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov>

**Cc:** Chambers, Kevin <Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov>; Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Water, GORArequest <GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov>

**Subject:** PS - CONCERN / ALERT: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0039: Lake Petit Dam Documents (Submitted: Nov 22, 2021)

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After I received your email, another property owner contacted me to alert me to the fact that Geosyntec had already begun drawing down the lake, supposedly to do rip-rap work. I believe this is being accomplished by opening the old Water Intake pipe that used to supply drinking water to the community