

From: David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov,
To: themtnsvoice@aol.com, Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov,
Cc: richard.dunn@dnr.ga.gov, anna.truszczynski@dnr.ga.gov, lauren.curry@georgia.gov, trey.kilpatrick@georgia.gov,
Subject: RE: Big Canoe Lake Petit Dam - TEAP
Date: Mon, Jun 12, 2023 11:03 am

Attachments:

Mr. Hopkins –

There is a requirement for this dam that a temporary EAP (TEAP) be developed for the period while the low-level drain is being repaired. The POA is developing a schedule for repair of the low-level drain, as it requires getting parts which have fairly long lead times. Once a schedule for delivery of the parts is determined, then the POA will notify us of their proposed schedule. It is anticipated that the TEAP will be submitted in the next week or so. Note that this is only an temporary appendix to the existing EAP, and will not replace it.

As the pipe in question is a low-level drain and is not the primary or auxiliary spillway, we do not typically require camera inspections. We have seen nothing in our or the owner/engineer inspections that would make us require a camera inspection for this pipe. If you would like the camera inspections, if they exist, you can request them from the POA.

The spillway is in compliance as it will pass the design storm. Erosion along the spillway, which does not appear to be related to seepage through the dam, is addressed by the owner as maintenance, as is done on other spillways in the state.

Our program is capable of doing stability analysis reviews in house. In this case, we are considering having a third party review the seismic portion of the stability analysis. No decision has been made regarding who will review the seismic stability analysis nor how it will be handled. That will be negotiated with the third party if the decision is made to have this reviewed externally.

David M. Griffin, P.E.
Program Manager
Safe Dams Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
Suite 1052 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(470) 524-0663



From: themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:08 AM
To: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Dunn, Richard <richard.dunn@dnr.ga.gov>; Truszczynski, Anna <anna.truszczynski@dnr.ga.gov>; Curry, Lauren <lauren.curry@georgia.gov>; Kilpatrick, Trey <trey.kilpatrick@georgia.gov>
Subject: Big Canoe Lake Petit Dam - TEAP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Griffin,
bcc: media

After 20+ years of documented (<https://lakepetitdam.com/>) ongoing non-compliance regarding the inability of the LP Dam to have a functioning, legally required, emergency draw down mechanism, the review of recently acquired Open Records indicates that you have once again punted, allowing Big Canoe to have another unspecified, and formally undocumented extension, as long as they come up with a Temporary Emergency Action Plan ("TEAP") that explains how they will handle such an emergency drawdown situation.

So my questions are:

(1) Is it customary to allow non-compliance issues to continue (*heading on 25 years now since the first non-compliance letter was issued - that has NEVER been addressed, nor subsequent non-compliance letters*), and the only conditions be that a request for a TEAP to be added, with no documented timeline?

(2) What is the deadline for the TEAP? Internal sources tell me that Big Canoe has NO IDEA how to meet the legal drawdown requirements?

(3) I am told that the internal pipe condition of the lower level outlet (*yes, the last work crew talked*) is pretty bad, and attempting to run heavy water flow through that pipe could result in catastrophe due to settling and separation at the joints. But you've refused to get (or even ask for) the Camera Inspections that I have told you exist and show this for several years now. Why have you refused to even try and get the Camera Records? Is it because "ignorance is bliss" and allows you to legally pretend you don't know, and you can claim plausible deniability?

(3) Since there is documented undercutting of the Spillway, and decades of paper trail saying that needs replacing, and considering that we have seepage issues, seismic studies showing the dam doesn't meet stability minimums, and reports to the contrary not having ever been approved (acknowledged in writing by your department).... aren't you concerned that you are setting up for another Lake Oroville situation recurring? In short... What is the Deadline for Big Canoe to fix the Spillway? Or are they now just on the "Honor System"? Is there a deadline for compliance on the Spillway? You've been extending that, and punting, since almost 15 years now.

(4) Lastly, Big Canoe's EOR just submitted new stability analysis. Your meeting memorandum notes indicate that you don't do those reviews inhouse, and an outside contractor may be used. Have you selected an outside contractor? Is there a timeline for this, since we have substantial studies back as far as 1997 that show the Dam being WELL BELOW minimum safety requirements? Have you selected an engineer

reviewer for this? If so who? Will you be supplying them with the notes from the previous JJ&G / Piedmont Geotechnical studies that show the levels WAY below required minimums? Or will they just get the creative and unverified "new data"?

Oh, one last thing... thank you for punting again. Big Canoe is frantically rushing to pass initiatives to spend our \$15 Million Dollar Credit line on new Upgrades to the Clubhouse and Golf Course and other improvements, before we have any scope or plan of what is going to be required to fix the Dam issues.. Your continual punting of this issue guarantees we won't have enough money to properly ever deal with the Dam issues.... but we'll be very happy with our new toys! God, we love being spoiled entitled assholes that can buy our way out of having to comply with pesky Laws and Safety Regulations. That is just for you poor Govt paid commoners :)

Bet you wish you had a new \$15 Million Dollars worth of Amenity improvements to play in! All made possible because of our not having to pay for these totally unnecessary compliance issues! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Peace,

- david hopkins / publisher

Focus on Big Canoe, GA

www.BigCanoe.org

... a publication of The Mountains Voice

10887 Big Canoe

Big Canoe, GA 30143

706-265-0010

themtnsvoice@aol.com