

## Re3: Re2: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0072 Lake Petit Dam Documents (Submitted: August 09, 2023)

From: themtnsvoice@aol.com (themtnsvoice@aol.com)

To: gorarequest.water@dnr.ga.gov; sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov; arnettia.murphy@dnr.ga.gov; richard.dunn@dnr.ga.gov; anna.truszczynski@dnr.ga.gov; clete.barton@dnr.ga.gov; jennifer.welte@dnr.ga.gov; david.dove@georgia.gov; david.dove@gaepd.org; david.dove@dnr.ga.gov; lauren.curry@georgia.gov; trey.kilpatrick@georgia.gov; brian.kemp@georgia.gov; david.griffin@dnr.ga.gov; kate.betsill@dnr.ga.gov

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 11:20 AM EDT

The following page is interesting: <https://www.damsafety.org/board-directors>

Just to be clear, my next article is going to highlite David Griffin's position as President of the National Safe Dams organization, and then start highlighting the National and State Level Infrastructure Report Card ratings. Strange that Georgia historically ranks almost dead last.

I have started getting substantial feedback from unexpected political and dam professional sources. People are interested in this, and the comments from dam professionals are not favorable. It is a shame that this has gotten this bad (*the collapse of funding and staffing within Safe Dams*), which of course is a political top-down problem. The Governor sets the policy expectations that have GUTTED Ga Safe Dams Budget and Personnel to the point that they are so over-worked and underpaid that they cannot possibly manage all the problems ("leaks") springing up in Dams across the state. Of course it is ironic that David Griffin (*Director of GA Safe Dams*), as overworked, understaffed, and under budget as he supposedly is.... leading an agency that ranks almost DEAD LAST Natonally - is chosen to lead the National Safe Dams Organization?

**You can't make this stuff up. And I am just getting started. Unfortunately, the ONLY thing at this point that would make me believe that this was going to be taken seriously, is an immediate compliance order to draw down this CLASS 1; HIGH-HAZARD DAM.** Interestingly, tiny little lakes, like the one in Sandy Springs they will demand to be drained while people figure out who pays can happen... but really serious situations get ignored.... IF you happen to be located in a rich, elitist community of political donors (aka Big Canoe).

I doubt that order will come, which is why I am building email databases of National Dam Professionals to start dumping emails on regarding this story, seeking feedback, including upping this to the Corp of Engineers personnel, News Media, and even National Policitical Organizations. Squeaky wheel and all that, you know.

**COMPLIANCE. NOW. DRAIN LAKE PETIT, AND FORCE THEM TO COMPLY.... OR THE PUBLIC CONSEQUENCES AND POLITICAL PAIN WILL INCREASE ---- Exponentially as time passes.**

And David Dove.... if you have ever had ambitions to be more publicly recognized for your contributions.... consider this an early notice that you wish is about to be granted. Just curious.... how does the pay thing work, being the full time EPD Director, and the Governors chief legal counsel, all at the same time? Seems it would be hard to actually do your job,

wearing so many hats. Regardless.... this is ultimately YOUR legal responsibility. Read the regulations and code, and remember the words "Oath of Office".

David Dove & Brian Kemp - now tied together in name with Lake Petit Dam, Big Canoe. Isn't search engine optimization great. dam. compliance. now. drain.





Peace,  
- david hopkins / publisher  
Focus on Big Canoe, GA  
[www.BigCanoe.org](http://www.BigCanoe.org)  
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On Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 04:58:58 PM EDT, themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com> wrote:

This article is going to be more widely distributed in Atlanta, rather than just my normal circulation in North Georgia. I think after 3 years, you've had enough opportunities to deal with this legally, professionally, and according to compliance requirements.

<https://bigcanoe.themountainsvoice.com/big-canoes-lake-petit-dam-just-got-closer-to-worst-case-scenario-cc-gov-brian-kemp/>

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On Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 10:40:01 AM EDT, themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com> wrote:

It has come to my attention that EPD Director Dunn has now been temporarily replaced by David Dove. I am forwarding this earlier email I wrote yesterday (*below*) to several addresses to make sure Mr Dove (*and others in the governors office*) receive a copy of this. In any



place I reference Mr Dunn, Mr Dove can now be substituted. I also think that now that this seems to be getting closer and closer to Gov Kemp, it is probably time I just start including him and his staff in articles as well. As I said, this is going to get political now - my next article will be widely publicized, will lay ultimate blame at Dove and Kemp's feet.

To give a small preview... here is a letter from May 8 talking about a May 30 status update. <http://lakepetitdam.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2.pdf>

**WHERE IS THAT STATUS UPDATE? I can tell you where... buried, because Safe Dam's David Griffin has made a deal (in violation of GORA) to keep all communications secret and off record.** Seriously? You take the 2nd largest earthen dam that is now beyond its 50 year lifespan, has leaks sprouting up, has multiple safety violations, is in non-compliance with permit requirements... and you decide to go "Off Record" with all communications, just to keep the news media from finding out? And let me be clear, according to sources in Geosyntec, there is NO LONGER any legitimate possibility that the plan referenced is any longer viable, and that they have NO ACTIVE PLAN for how to deal with this rapidly deteriorating situation with the LLO. Indeed, the entire premise of the recent [Temporary Emergency Action Plan](#) is not even a viable solution anymore.

**It is absolutely irresponsible (and possibly illegal, and at a minimum a violation of oath of office) at this point it seems for Ga Safe Dams not to be demanding IN WRITING, and ON RECORD, what the status of things is.** This entire plausible deniability act of don't ask, and we won't know, so won't have to act... has reached epicly disturbing levels.

Like I said in earlier email below.. "Coverup worse than crime" sometimes.

**I am formally requesting that anyone in receipt of this email forward this information to Interim Director Dove and Governor Kemp.** Also... if I am wrong about this... then somebody owes me some Records, because I routinely make GORA Requests, and I haven't seen anything. My sources tell me that is because this is an INTENTIONAL COVERUP, and act of planned collusion between Safe Dams and the POA/Geosyntec.

**Make no mistake... people have been, and still are, actively buying property within Big Canoe, while being intentionally deceived about an enormous fiscal and legal liability that threatens the survival of this community (and could affect the entire regions drinking water supply).** The word "litigation" from property owners against the Big Canoe POA is an increasing possibility. And be very damn clear that once the hypothetical "Discovery" process starts... it could lead to a lot of ugly places far and wide. Clarification: this is NOT an active threat of litigation, nor a notice of litigation in any form against anybody. It is simply an easy observation of where this could spin out of control towards.

Again, I want full release of documents I have requested under GORA, and if those documents don't exist, I expect the regulatory powers in charge of this Dam to immediately begin demanding on the record updates as to the status of bringing this dam into compliance, including:

**A) Reports on the Spillway condition as long requested.**

**B) Current LLO Status Reports - this is a BIG DEAL!!! INEXUSABLE THAT THIS ISN'T PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD!** This should probably include demands for copies of the inner pipe camera inspections, that even Kate Betsill said were needed in her [April 2021 Letter](#), but that David Griffin then decided (unilaterally) weren't needed - again, part of his seemingly intentional collusion to cover this up with Big Canoe.

**C) that Safe Dams get off it's butt and get the Seismic and Stability issue they have been sitting on for 25 years under way.** They need to get an external engineering review moving ASAP. They have already sat on this report for 3 & 1/2 months, and on August 10 just used their incompetence and delays as an excuse to give the Big Canoe POA an unknown amount of time to delay taking any action.

This Dam needs to be brought into compliance IMMEDIATELY (*not possible I might add*), or **it needs to be drawn down for safety purposes (and to force people to take this seriously). A 35% drawdown was suggested as the potential starting point 2 years ago** in this email between previous Safe Dams Director, and Jennifer Welte....

[http://lakepetitdam.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BC-LPD\\_2020-10-06\\_EPD-WoosleyEmailAboutLoweringLake-hilite.pdf](http://lakepetitdam.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BC-LPD_2020-10-06_EPD-WoosleyEmailAboutLoweringLake-hilite.pdf)

Anyway, this letter should hopefully serve to continue erasing people's plausible deniability in these matters. Have a nice day. This email gets published publicly by the way. And it is going to be distributed to news media. Sooner or later you assume somebody will care enough to start reporting on this. Hopefully, not after something bad happens (*whether that be litigation, or an actual failure*).

Lastly, an investigation of Georgia Safe Dams' David Griffin & Kate Betsill needs to be launched regarding their handling of this serious non-compliance issue..

Peace,

- david hopkins / publisher

Focus on Big Canoe, GA

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On Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 05:43:29 PM EDT, themtnsvoice@aol.com <themtnsvoice@aol.com> wrote:

I did just now receive ORR #0072 Response, and I want to thank you lovely people in the Records Dept for your hard work and patience. I say that very sincerely, so that you are aware that the following frustration is NOT directed at yourselves.

But I am a bit pissed off right now that my response was delayed because David Griffin's group needed extra time for "pulling that information together", that information just now supplied to me basically being a single letter dated and sent out to Big Canoe / Geosyntec last Thursday (8/10).

The thing that pisses me off the most is that I am pretty damn certain based on my sources from Geosyntec, that there is more that I did not receive. It is openly discussed that the POA/Geosyntec and Ga Safe Dams have reached an agreement to "hide" information from my newspaper, by intentionally only having verbal communications. Well, My Griffin and Ms Betsill would be well served to know that not everyone is happy about the way this is proceeding, and CYA procedures are being implemented by some, and there is this thing called a tape recorder, and you never know when one is running when you are talking to people.

**I want the rest of the information related to my ORR.** Perhaps someone should go ask Mr Griffin nicely to see if he has "missed" anything.

One last thing... this game of kick the can until Mr Griffin can retire is getting old. The Temp Emergency Action Plan that was put in place recently is SPECIFICALLY so that the LLO can be fixed.... but Geosyntec has told the POA that that plan is basically off the table at this point. There is no Plan A. There is no Plan B. They are just stalling, and in the meantime the Big Canoe POA is locking up ALL of hte funds we might be able to use to fix this... into a new golf course and clubhouse remodel. The Petit Dam is a non-priority, and Griffin's ILLEGAL inaction is facilitating this bullshit. He is instituting an intentional strategy of plausible denability... he doesn't formally ASK questions, so he doesn't get any information that would force him to act.

Director Dunn, I suggest very strongly, that since it is YOUR ultimate legal responsibility over this, and it is YOUR neck on the line for violations of the oath of office .... that you get Director Griffin in check.

By the way... in his [April 24, 2023 Letter](#) to you Director Dunn.... he mislead you. That LLO has been in violation for 50 years, and I've got documentation on my website that details 50 years of Records that for at least 25 years he and his predecessors have knowingly allowed the situation to continue.

I've also started publicly posting my notices to you and others ([example](#)) that are above Griffin. If I cannot make him do his job, then I am going to put so much spotlight on his superiors, that eventually you WILL make him do his job. I am just going to turn it up from here.... and let me be clear... I have impeccable sources that are absolutely frustrated themselves, are at the innermost levels of this thing, and are feeding me information because they are so upset about the POA & Griffins handling of this. So this is a really big deal that is setting up, and you need to get personally involved.

This one isn't copied to the Media, oor the Governor, but from here out you can expect everything to go to a wider and wider public circle, and for hte letters to take the form of Public Articles that are widely distributed with your names on this.

I will elave it at this... there is an old lesson front he Watergate years that Griffin would be well served to learn... "Sometimes the Coverup is worse than the crime".

This is getting to that point with his teams actions.

Peace,  
- david hopkins / publisher  
Focus on Big Canoe, GA

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On Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 01:09:57 PM EDT, Water, GORArequest <[gorarequest.water@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:gorarequest.water@dnr.ga.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Hopkins,

We do have new records, however staff are still in the process of pulling that information together. We will forward you a file link as soon as all updated information has been uploaded.

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**From:** themtnsvoice@aol.com <[themtnsvoice@aol.com](mailto:themtnsvoice@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 12:59 PM

**To:** Murphy, Arnettia <[Arnettia.Murphy@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Arnettia.Murphy@dnr.ga.gov)>; Water, GORArequest <[GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov)>; Lips, Sara <[sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0072 Lake Petit Dam Documents (Submitted: August 09, 2023)

**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.

Just a reminder that I think this is due.

Peace,

- david hopkins / publisher

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On Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 02:09:53 PM EDT, [themtnsvoice@aol.com](mailto:themtnsvoice@aol.com) <[themtnsvoice@aol.com](mailto:themtnsvoice@aol.com)> wrote:

Greetings,

Please find attached a PDF copy of a new Open Records Request for any new recordss related to the EPD



and Safe Dams Program, specifically regarding Lake **Petit** Dam.

Peace,

- david hopkins / publisher

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