

RE: Petit Lake Dam

From: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>

Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 3:30 PM EST (GMT-05:00)

To: Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>

Cc: Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>; Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>

Jamey –

Thanks for the update.

David

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: Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:28 PM

To: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>

Cc: Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>; Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

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David,

In response to your 09 February 2024 email, please see below for our selected option for the repair and rehabilitation of the low-level outlet (LLO) for Lake Petit Dam:

- The Owner has elected to move forward with rehabilitation of the existing LLO operating system.
- We would like to have an initial meeting with GSDP to discuss the LLO rehabilitation design approach in late March. We will coordinate potential dates for this call in the coming weeks.
- We will submit the design package to GSDP by 01 June 2024 as requested. We will coordinate the Submittal Meeting when we discuss the design approach in late March.
- Since we have elected to rehabilitate the existing LLO, the Owner plans to leave the plug installed, per the previously approved temporary EAP, until operation of the LLO gate is restored and confirmed. Please let us know if you'd like to discuss this further.

As outlined in my email on 12 February 2024, our first monthly update for the additional engineering support we are providing for Lake Petit Dam is below:

- Interceptor Drains – The revised design package to separate the drain design from the stability analysis, which is undergoing a 3rd party review, is planned for submittal to GSDP on 01 March 2024.
- Engineering Inspection – The Biannual inspection was conducted on 01 and 02 February 2024, and submittal of the report to GSDP is planned by 30 April 2024.

Regards.

Jamey

Jamey Dotson, P.E. (TN, AL, GA, and NC)

Senior Principal Engineer

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From: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:01 AM

To: Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>

Cc: Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>; Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

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Jamey –

Thanks for providing this summary. Look forward to continuing to work with you to get this issue addressed.

David

David M. Griffin, P.E.
Program Manager
Safe Dams Program
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From: Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 6:57 PM
To: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>; Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

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David,

Thank you for taking my call earlier, it was good catching up with you on the items you pointed out in your original email. Below is a summary of our discussions.

1. I summarized at a high level the key efforts that have taken place since September to reach a solution, including alternative stem repairs and replacements (hydraulic actuators, downstream control, siphons, etc). We have been coordinating with parts manufacturers/suppliers and contractors, as well as performing H&H modeling, to get a better understanding of pricing and schedules for the various items. None of which lead to an alternative that demonstrated a significant advantage in cost/performance over rehabilitating the existing system.
2. I confirmed that: (i) we will meet the schedule outlined in your email, and (ii) that we have decided to rehabilitate the existing LLO drain system.
3. I mentioned that we are evaluating two alternatives and are planning to work with contractors to get their involvement to make the final selection and to develop the permit submittal.
4. We discussed the importance of meeting our deadlines that we set for the project, and I reiterated that we are committed to improved communication with you and your team.
5. I agreed that we would start providing monthly email updates describing our progress to meet the deadlines.

I appreciate your time and look forward to continuing to work with the Georgia Safe Dams Program.

Regards.
Jamey

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From: Jamey Dotson
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 5:08 PM
To: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>
Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

Hi David,

Replying to let you know we received your email and understand your frustration with the schedule/evolution of events. I want to assure you that this hasn't been neglected; we have evaluated a few different options for updates to the LLO operation that ended up being roadblocks. We are presently working on a design to rehabilitate the existing low-level drainage operating system and will meet the dates you outlined.

We would like to restore your confidence in this project, would it help to have routine status update calls? I realize you will likely receive this email after you have left for the weekend and will follow up with you on Monday.

Regards.
Jamey

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From: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>
Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

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Wes –

It has been 9 months since the low-level drain test was attempted in late April of 2023. We met with you in September of 2023 to discuss options for the low-level drain requirement. We had the understanding that by the end of January of this year, the option to rehabilitate/repair the low-level drain would be selected and we would be notified of the selection. Instead, you indicate below that you are doing preliminary design of alternatives over the next two months to determine which option to choose – I thought that is what had been happening for the last 9 months! This is unacceptable. We have been working with you and the dam owner to remedy this situation, but it appears that no real progress has been made over the last 9 months.

By February 29, 2024, we must receive in writing the selected option for repair/rehabilitation of the low-level drain. Unless the option selected is to rehabilitate the existing low-level drain, the plug in the low-level conduit must be removed by April 12, 2024. If the option selected is to rehabilitate the existing low-level drain, we can discuss further the status of the plug based on the submittal/rehabilitation schedule. **The initial submittal of plans for the low-level repair/rehabilitation must be submitted to us by June 1, 2024.**

We have worked with you and the owner over the last several years to address this issue. We have given you ample time to determine the best option for providing the drainage required to be able to lower the lake, and even allowed you to step back and reconsider options several times. It is time for a decision to be made on the direction that the owner is going to move, and to move in that direction.

David M. Griffin, P.E.
Program Manager
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(470) 524-0663



From: Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:57 PM
To: Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>
Subject: RE: Petit Lake Dam

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Hi Kate,

Thank you for the summary. Following up from my previous email regarding the LLO design. We have a signed scope of work in hand from the Big Canoe POA to complete the detailed LLO design and involve a contractor on feedback and implementation. Our plan is to coordinate with potential contractors over the next two months during preliminary design of alternatives, select one alternative and contractor to be involved with initial design, and have a design kickoff meeting with GSDP on or around 27 May 2024. We would then complete a permit submission and have a submittal and design review meeting with GSDP on or around 01 July 2024. Should we need to meet to update GSDP prior to these dates, please let us know.

Thanks,

Wes

Wesley MacDonald, P.E.*

Senior Engineer

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From: Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>
Cc: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>
Subject: Petit Lake Dam

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Wes,

To summarize our phone discussion yesterday, we discussed the need for a submittal schedule for a functioning low-level outlet. This schedule was due January 31, 2024.

We discussed that while your response to the drain repair is not required, according to the comments letter dated August 10, 2023, until 30 days after remaining stability and seepage analysis comments are submitted to you, the owner has expressed an interest in submitting the drain plans earlier and separately from the updated stability and seepage plans. I told you that I did not believe a new permit application form would be required. A letter should accompany any submittal discussing the separation of the two submittals and general submittal modifications. Please contact the program concerning your intentions related to the drain plans.

We also discussed that the plug is still in the current low-level outlet. It was allowed to be left in place on the understanding that the current low-level outlet would be promptly repaired. However, things have continued well beyond the anticipated repair, and other options for low-level outlet compliance have been explored.

A schedule giving the selected method for low-level outlet compliance and a reasonable, date-specific deadline for submitting design documents for the chosen alternative must be submitted in writing. These items are currently overdue, and must be submitted by Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Sincerely,

Kate Betsill

Environmental Engineer

Georgia Safe Dams Program

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