



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

EPD Director's Office

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1456, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-4713

Big Canoe Property Owners Association
c/o Mr. Scott Auer
10586 Big Canoe
Jasper, GA 30143

06/06/2024

SUBJECT: Lake Petit Dam
Pickens County
Permit No. 112-009-00462-A-01

Dear Mr. Auer:

Enclosed is your permit for the subject dam. This permit is issued in accordance with Section 12-5-376(a) of the Georgia Safe Dams Act, which requires that any person who constructs and/or operates a Category I dam as of the effective date of this Act shall obtain a permit from the Director for such construction and/or operation. Please note the attached conditions which apply to this permit. It is incumbent upon the permittee to ensure that their engineer has a copy of this permit and abides by the permit conditions. Your previous permit is hereby rescinded.

Also note that Section 12-5-383(a) of the Safe Dams Act, states that "Nothing in this part and no order, action, or advice of the director or the division, or any representative thereof, shall be construed to relieve a dam owner or operator of the legal duties, obligations, or liabilities incident to the ownership or operation of the dam".

In accordance with Rule 391-3-8-.05(5) of the Rules for Dam Safety, this permit cannot be transferred from one person to another without prior approval. If the ownership of this dam should change, you must immediately notify the Environmental Protection Division in writing of such transactions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Cown
Director

JWC:kb
Enclosures

cc: Jamey Dotson, Geosyntec



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

OPERATION PERMIT

Lake Petit Dam

Pickens County

Permittee: Big Canoe Property Owners Association
Mailing address: c/o Mr. Scott Auer
10586 Big Canoe
Jasper, Georgia 30143

This permit is issued in accordance with the Georgia Safe Dams Act of 1978 and the Rules for Dam Safety as amended. This permit is conditioned upon the permittee complying with the attached conditions of operation, which are hereby made a part of this permit. The Application for Permit to Construct & Operate Dam dated March 8, 2024, and the statements and supporting data submitted are filed with the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources and are hereby made a part of this permit.

Latitude: 34° 27' 45" Longitude: -84° 17' 25"
Dam Height: 126 (ft.) Maximum Storage: 5635 (acre-feet)

Directions: From Atlanta, take GA-400 N for about 37 miles. Take the exit toward GA-369 W/Browns Bridge Road and go about 34 miles. Make a right on Old Federal Road and go 3.6 miles. Turn right on Yellow Creek Road and go 6.6 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 53 E, go 0.4 miles, and turn left onto Steve Tate Hwy. for 4.0 miles. Turn left onto Wilderness Parkway and go 2.1 miles to the dam.

This permit is effective from the date shown above and is subject to modification or revocation on evidence of noncompliance with any of the provisions of the Georgia Safe Dams Act or any of the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; or with any representation made in the above mentioned application or the statements and supporting data entered therein or attached thereto; or with any conditions of this permit.



Jeffrey W. Cown

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Environmental Protection Division

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1 General Requirements

- 1.1 The permittee must operate and maintain the dam and all appurtenant structures in compliance with the Georgia Safe Dams Act of 1978 and Rules for Dam Safety, as amended.
- 1.2 The permittee shall inspect the dam after each major rainfall event and after any unusual event that may adversely affect the dam and its structures (e.g. earthquake).
- 1.3 The permittee must provide to the Division any findings of damages or unusual conditions following the inspection after a major rainfall event or other unusual event. This report must be provided to the Division within 14 days of the event.
- 1.4 The permittee must obtain approval from the Division prior to modifying or repairing the dam or its appurtenant structures for anything beyond routine maintenance. Routine maintenance may include activities such as cutting vegetation and removing debris from the spillway.
- 1.5 This permit supersedes any permit issued to the current or previous permittees of Lake Petit Dam.

2 Operation and Maintenance

- 2.1 The permittee must operate and maintain the dam in accordance with the approved Operation & Maintenance Plan.
- 2.2 The permittee shall ensure undesirable growth such as trees, stumps, bushes, and roots are removed from the dam. Any disturbed areas resulting from removing undesirable growth must be filled with soil, compacted, and seeded with a low-growing grass.
- 2.3 The permittee shall ensure a grass cover which is capable of resisting erosion is maintained on the earthen dam and abutments where applicable.

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- 2.4 The permittee shall ensure the spillways are kept clear of any obstructions such as fences, trees, bushes, floating debris, etc.
- 2.5 All spillway and outlet gates and any other mechanical devices must be operated at least once per year. The permittee must certify to the Division that such gates and appurtenances are in good repair and working order, according to Rule 391-3-8-.10. This certification may be included with the annual inspection report outlined in condition 4.1.
- 2.6 The permittee shall ensure burrowing animals are removed from the dam and any damage caused by the animals is repaired as soon as practical.
- 2.7 Erosion rills and gullies on the dam must be filled with soil, compacted, and grass cover restored.
- 2.8 The permittee shall report signs of instability with the dam such as cracks, sloughs, slides, or slippage on the slopes to the Division. The permittee shall notify the Division in writing within 14 days of discovering the instability. Corrective actions must only be implemented after the permittee receives approval from the Division.
- 2.9 The permittee shall report signs of deterioration such as cracking, uneven settlement, and spalling of any concrete portion of the earthen dam to the Division. The permittee must notify the Division in writing within 14 days of discovering the deterioration. Corrective actions must only be implemented after the permittee receives approval from the Division.
- 2.10 The permittee shall report signs of new seepage, increased seepage that is being monitored, or any soil piping to the Division immediately.
- 2.11 Instrumentation such as toe drains must be maintained in good working order. Any repairs to instrumentation must be completed as soon as possible after notifying the Division.

3 Emergency Action Plan

- 3.1 The permittee must maintain the Emergency Action Plan.

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- 3.2 The permittee must keep the Emergency Action Plan in an easily accessible location.
- 3.3 The permittee must provide a copy of the Emergency Action Plan to the local emergency management agency.
- 3.4 The permittee should review annually the Emergency Action Plan and update the plan as needed. Updates to the Emergency Action Plan shall be provided to the Division and all others who have a copy of the Emergency Action Plan.

4 Monitoring Requirements

- 4.1 The permittee must perform inspections of the dam as required within this permit and in the Safe Dams Act and Rules for Dam Safety, as amended. These inspections must be documented in writing on forms approved by the Division and submitted by April 30 of each year. The report should include a summary of items inspected, their condition, items that need to be repaired or replaced and a timeline for the work, method of correction, and date completed.
- 4.2 The permittee must record instrumentation readings during each inspection. Instrumentation readings should be plotted on a graph reflecting measurements over time. The lake level must also be plotted on this graph.
- 4.3 The permittee must take photographs of the dam during each inspection. Sufficient photographs must be taken to show the overall condition of the dam and all areas of concern. The photographs must be in color and date-stamped.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1 The permittee must allow employees of the Division or contractors operating on behalf of the Division access to the dam and appurtenant works.
- 5.2 This permit is not transferable. Should the permittee sell his/her/their portion of the dam, he/she/they must provide written notice to the Division concerning the new ownership within 14 days of the sale.

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- 5.3 This permit is issued specific to the designated dam and is not transferable to another dam.
- 5.4 Modifications to the dam can impact its proper operation. The permittee must coordinate any proposed modifications with the Division prior to implementation.

6 Special Conditions

- 6.1 The seepage collection systems modifications to this Dam shall be in accordance with the plans and specifications as approved by the Division.
- 6.2 Plans and design documents for rehabilitation of the low-level outlet drain were submitted on May 31, 2024. Any comments by the Division on this submittal must be addressed by the date identified in the comment letter(s) until approved. Low-level outlet construction shall be completed within 9 months of approval of the low-level outlet plans and design documents by the Division.
- 6.3 Immediately upon completion of the low-level drain rehabilitation, the mechanism shall be tested by fully opening and closing the gate, and then shall be inspected by divers for deformation and other defects.
- 6.4 Once the rehabilitated low-level drain is successfully tested, the plug in the low-level drain shall be removed within thirty (30) days. Once the plug has been removed, the drain mechanism shall again be tested by opening, observing flow from the outlet, closing, and observing cessation of flow.
- 6.5 The Division shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to each test of the low-level drain.
- 6.6 Plans and any other design documents required for repair of the service spillway shall be submitted to the Division by December 2, 2024. Any comments by the Division on this submittal must be addressed by the date identified in the comment letter(s) until approved. Service spillway repair shall be completed within 12 months of approval of the design documents.

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- 6.7 The permittee must provide written notice to the Division at least ten days prior to the commencement of construction for each of the modifications in Special Conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6.
- 6.8 The Division must be notified in writing if field conditions warrant a change in the design and/or specifications for each of the modifications in Special Conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6.
- 6.9 The permittee shall ensure that the Engineer of Record provides supervision over the projects during construction. Sufficient supervision must occur such that the Engineer of Record can certify that the construction was completed in accordance with the approved design documents for each of the modifications in Special Conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6.
- 6.10 Approval of the design documents may be rescinded if construction in Special Conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6 has not been completed within 24 months of the date of this permit.
- 6.11 If the permittee is unable to complete construction in Special Conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6 by the designated dates for each, the permittee must notify the Division as soon as possible.
- 6.12 The permittee shall ensure that qualified geotechnical personnel inspect the placement of fill.
- 6.13 The permittee shall ensure that the contractor has a stamped approved set of plans and specifications on site at all times during construction.
- 6.14 During construction, the internal drains must be flushed after any rainfall event in which backwater or contaminants enter the drain outlets.
- 6.15 Construction progress reports must be submitted at least monthly to the Division, are due no later than the 15th of the subsequent month and must include any soil and concrete laboratory results.

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- 6.16 The Division will conduct an on-site final inspection of the dam after completion of each construction project. The permittee must provide final construction progress reports at least 10 days prior to the on-site final inspection. Final construction inspections may be combined if multiple projects are completed about the same time.
- 6.17 After the final inspection for each project, the Division will determine if construction is complete for that project. If complete, then the Division will grant permission to commence refilling the lake if applicable and/or the dam should then be monitored in accordance with conditions 6.20, 6.21, and 6.22.
- 6.18 The Division must receive written verification from the Engineer of Record stating that the construction was in accordance with the approved plans for each project. The verification and a set of as-built drawings must be submitted within 30 days after completion of each project.
- 6.19 An 8.5 x 11-inch plan sheet showing instrumentation and their unique identifying labels must be submitted to the Division as part of the as-built submittal.
- 6.20 If the Division determines that construction is not complete, the Division will provide a summary of the items remaining to be addressed. An additional final inspection may be necessary.
- 6.21 If the lake is drawn down less than 10 feet during any of the construction outlined in conditions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.6, re-filling of the lake may occur at an uncontrolled rate to normal pool.
- 6.22 If the lake is drawn down 10 feet or more during any of the construction outlined in conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6, a re-filling schedule shall be proposed by the owner's Engineer of Record and the Division shall review and approve a re-filling schedule before refilling of the lake may commence.
- 6.23 The Engineer of Record shall inspect the dam 3 months after completion of any construction outlined in conditions 6.1, 6.2, or 6.6 for which the lake is drawn down. The Engineer of Record shall inspect the dam 6 and 12 months after all

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construction in conditions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.6 is complete regardless of whether the lake is drawn down.

- 6.24 The dam must be monitored during the refilling event/post construction to ensure no adverse conditions are developing with the dam. At a minimum, the permittee shall ensure that the Engineer of Record reports observations to the Division within 15 days of the Engineer's inspection. Instrumentation data must be plotted along with lake level. Also, the permittee or their representative should monitor the dam at least once a week during refilling and communicate the observations and instrumentation readings to the Engineer of Record for inclusion in the engineer's report.