



To: Linda Weglewski / Linda.Weglewski@dnr.ga.gov ~ 404-657-8839

or Annise Jones / Annise.Jones@dnr.ga.gov ~ 404-657-8844

Open Records Officers for GA EPD

Cc: Tom Woolsey & Kevin Chambers

DATE: January 31, 2021

TMV Internal Reference Request # 0026

OPEN RECORDS REQUEST (ORR)

Pursuant to Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. 50-18-70 et seq), I would like to:

Inspect and Copy; Obtain Copies (*select option*) of the following Records:

ORR SECTION 1: REFERENCE & BACKGROUND:

I have previously submitted Open Records Requests on August 11, 2020 and September 2, 2020, seeking documentation relating to all records pertaining to the Lake Petit Dam, located in Pickens County GA. This request is a followup of previous requests, seeking supplemental information to previous requests, and new documentation that may be dated subsequent to prior request responses.

In regards to supplemental requests, several documents I did previously receive referenced 2 specific documents that should have been in the files I was previously provided, but were not.

(A) 1st was a study/report from Geosyntec referred to in reference documentation received, as a "Seismic Stability Review for the Dam submitted Dec 8, 1998"

(B) 2nd was a Letter of Response from Georgia Safe Dams dated December 17, 2001 in regards to the aforementioned Geosyntec study/report. I did receive a partial copy of this document (the 1st page only) which is a Letter from the Safe Dams Program to Neil Davies of Geosyntec. It states, "Our office has completed its review of the seismic stability review for the dam submitted December 8, 1998. I apologize for the delayed response. The following issues must be addressed before our office can approve the engineering submittal and proposed remedial repairs to the dam." (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR PAGE 1)

As I stated, I only was provided the 1st page of that document, including six (6) questions, but substantial other correspondence refers to that letter as containing thirty-six (36) questions. I WAS NOT PROVIDED the full letter. I made copies of every document in the entire box of files I was provided, which I was told was the entire record regarding Lake Petit Dam.

Neither full Document referenced in (A) or (B) above was included in the files I was provided access to.

ORR SECTION 2: SPECIFIC OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS:

(1) I am Requesting a copy of the 1998 Study/Report from Geosyntec, including any revisions, in which they submit Seismic Stability information. (Reference Page 1(A))

(2) I am Requesting a Full Copy of the letter dated December 17, 2001 from the Safe Dams Program to a Neil Davies of Geosyntec. As mentioned on Page 1(B), I did receive the 1st page only of the document which I have attached for reference as Addendum A.

(3) The Big Canoe POA has repeatedly reported to the public that Geosyntec completed a 25+/- page updated report regarding the condition of the Dam, and that this was submitted at some time during the latter part of 2020. I am requesting a copy of that report, along with any associated correspondence to and from Geosyntec or Big Canoe POA, from Ga Safe Dams since my last ORR in Sept 2020 (i.e. letters, emails, etc)

If this request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you cite in writing the specific statutory exemption upon which you have relied, as required by law. I also ask that you release all separate portions of otherwise exempt material. Please waive any costs associated with this request, or first inform me about such costs as required by Georgia law. As you know, the Law requires a response by you within three business days of your receipt of this letter and provides sanctions for non-compliance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cost estimates should be submitted by email to themtnsvoice@aol.com along with payment remittance instructions, or you may call me at 706-265-0010. Copies of Records are requested to be provided in electronic format. Electronic records responses should be submitted by email to themtnsvoice@aol.com.

If for any reason there is a specific and valid reason why the records cannot be simply forwarded in a cost effective and quick electronic format, preferably in PDF, please inform me of said fact including the time the documents will be ready, and I will make arrangements to either have them picked up, or will provide you with a Mailing Address to where they may be sent depending upon the manner of shipment. Please include separate mailing costs in any cost estimate that may be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

- david hopkins / publisher

Focus on Big Canoe, GA Newspaper

10887 Big Canoe; Big Canoe, GA 30143

706-265-0010 / themtnsvoice@aol.com

ATTACHMENT A
1st Page of Letter Previously Received. Requesting FULL Letter.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

Safe Dams Program
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30354
Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner
Harold F. Reheis, Director
404/362-2678

December 17, 2001

FILE COPY

Mr. R. Neil Davies, P. E.
Geo Syntec Consultants
1100 Lake Hearn Drive
Atlanta, GA 30342-1523

SUBJECT: Lake Petit Dam
Pickens County

Dear Mr. Davies:

Our office has completed its review of the seismic stability review for the dam submitted December 8, 1998. I apologize for the delayed response. The following issues must be addressed before our office can approve the engineering submittal and proposed remedial repairs to the dam.

1. Our office is unfamiliar with the software SEEP/W. Please provide a copy of the software documentation/user's guide for our review.
2. Our office surveyed the downstream slope. That survey showed the slope to vary from 2.17 H to IV to 2.67H to IV with the steepest section at the bottom of the dam. Attached is a copy of the sketch depicting the slope. It would appear that evaluating the entire slope at 2.5 H to IV is not entirely representative of what exists in the field, especially with the steepest section being at the downstream toe of the dam.
3. Your report references geotechnical evaluations and reports completed by Piedmont Geotechnical Associates dated May 29, 1997 and April 1, 1998. Our office does not have copies of those reports. Please submit them because they should include drilling logs, shear testing information, etc.
4. In your executive summary, you note on page 1 that there is a high phreatic surface may develop near the downstream toe at the time of seasonal high water (ie spring/winter rains). However, your permeability testing of soil samples indicate 10^{-6} permeability. How can enough rain infiltrate the slope to cause this condition to occur?
5. A seepage flow net needs to be developed for the dam and submitted. Furthermore, how the seasonal wet phenomenon can occur given the lab testing results must be rectified.
6. Do you have more extensive data now from the piezometers that were installed? If so, please submit it. If not, why not? Do the piezometer readings show a significant rise in the spring? Do you have any site rainfall gauge records that account for any type of response in the piezometers that support your theory about rainfall infiltration?

*Downed
and rechecked
1/1/02*