

From: [Woosley, Tom](#)
To: [Welte, Jennifer](#); [Betsill, Kate](#); [Russo, Celina](#); [Sauer, Bobby](#); [Hicks, Nicole](#); [Griffin, David](#); [Holmes, Ashley](#); [Bradshaw, Kenzie](#)
Cc: [Capp, James](#); [Chambers, Kevin](#); [Cooley, James](#); [Truszczynski, Anna](#); [Berry, Michael](#); [Smith, Mick](#)
Subject: Disharoon Lake Dam - Pickets County
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 1:25:09 PM
Attachments: [Wes MacDonald ref Disharoon Lake Dam telephone log.doc](#)
Importance: High

This dam is within the Big Canoe development and is owned by the Big Canoe POA. The dam is a category II dam. It is about 39 feet tall and has a pretty good size lake behind it. This dam is located below the Lake Petit Dam which is a Category I dam.

A slough has developed on the upstream slope of the Disharoon lake dam, near the toe. This is a significant stability issue for any dam. The owner has an engineer on site and is working to try and install some temporary measures. The low level drain is open, which is a good thing for the stability of the dam as it is not good for the lake to refill with this slough. As a result of the low level drain being open and the lake level pretty low, sediment is being carried downstream. I do not know the amount of sediment or how far it is impacting.

The course of action the owner is taking (hiring an engineer, trying to temporarily bolster the slough area, and contacting the local EMA) are all things we would recommend on a Category I dam having a similar issue.

I wanted to let you all know of the situation in case anyone gets calls about the dam, or the sediment being carried downstream.

Dallon Thomas (Tom) Woosley, P.E.
Program Manager
Safe Dams Program
404-651-8488

NOTE: Effective June 1, 2021 I will be retiring from state government.
Communications to the Program will need to be sent to other staff members within the program after that date.



Caller Name: Wesley MacDonald with Geosyntech	Date: 4/2/2021
Representing: Geosyntec for Big Canoe HOA	Phone Number: 615-830-5139
Dam Name: Disharoon Lake Dam	Dam ID 112-012-00480
Classification: Category II	County: Pickens
Employee Handling Call: Tom Woosley	

Subject/Issue(s) Discussed: Mr. MacDonald left me a couple of messages late on April 1st regarding this dam and an issue with it. I returned his call today. The exact details are still being determined/verified. It appears the owner (Big Canoe POA) lowered the lake a couple of weeks ago for residents to do dock maintenance. Reportedly the lake was dropped fairly rapidly. The lake was lowered using the low level drain which is a 36-inch Corrugated Metal Pipe (that likely has been there since the dam was built in 1972 according to Mr. MacDonald). Then the large storms that came through the state on March 25/26 dumped an estimated 5 to 6 inches of rain and thus refilled the lake. The low level gate remained open. The lake began dropping again, and then another round of rain hit on March 30 or 31 and caused the lake level to rise a few feet. On March 31 someone noticed a slough on the upstream slope of the dam (this can happen when lake levels are fluctuated a lot is relatively short periods of time). In speaking with Mr. MacDonald this slough is in line with the riser structure. Also a swirling of water can be seen between the riser and the upstream toe of the dam. It is estimated there is about 4 feet of slough visible above the lake level currently and likely at least 4 feet below water surface. The owner is currently working on constructing access to this area of the upstream toe as it is very wet and soft. They do have some aggregate on site that they hope to use to bolster this area as a temporary measure. More aggregate may be needed than what is on site. With the low level drain open, flow is continuing to exit the pipe. It is also carrying sediment downstream of the dam. Mr. MacDonald indicated they hope to have a better idea of the situation and a plan developed by Monday or early next week. Mr. MacDonald acknowledged this is a category II dam, however they wanted to make sure Safe Dams Program was aware of the situation. I thanked him for letting us know about the situation. I also advised that if they have not done so already, they should let the Pickens County EMA know of the situation just in case. Mr. MacDonald indicated they would be sure to do that. We discussed that with this being a Category II dam there is not an EAP. One thought was to refer to the Lake Petit (located upstream) EAP. However, that dam is so much larger than Disharoon Lake Dam it likely would not be very beneficial. I indicated if there was anything else they needed from us to let us know.

Action Taken: Email management, district office and E&S program to appraise them of the situation.

Written Follow-up: Yes No



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

SAFE DAMS PROGRAM

TELEPHONE LOG