

# RE: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0037: Lake Petit Dam Camera & Dive Reports (Submitted: Oct 15, 2021)

From: Welte, Jennifer <Exchange X.500 address>

Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 11:21 AM EDT (GMT-04:00)

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

Cc: Chambers, Kevin <Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov>

Arnettia, David is at a dam visit today, but I'm going to set some time for he and I to discuss this with Kate on Monday. I believe she has been the primary engineer contact for this dam and we'll confer on the responses.

From: Murphy, Arnettia <Arnettia.Murphy@dnr.ga.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:09 AM

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

Subject: FW: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0037: Lake Petit Dam Camera & Dive Reports (Submitted: Oct 15, 2021)

Good morning,

Attached is the 2<sup>nd</sup> request for today.

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

Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:05 AM

To: Weglewski, Linda <[Linda.Weglewski@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Linda.Weglewski@dnr.ga.gov)>; Murphy, Arnettia <[Arnettia.Murphy@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Arnettia.Murphy@dnr.ga.gov)>; Chambers, Kevin <[Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov)>; Water, GORArequest <[GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov)>

Subject: OPEN RECORDS REQUEST #0037: Lake Petit Dam Camera & Dive Reports (Submitted: Oct 15, 2021)

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*bcc: various dnr employees; media outlets*

Greetings,

Please find attached a 3 page PDF copy of a new Open Records Request for any documents related to the EPD and GA Safe Dams ("GSD") Program, specifically regarding Lake **Petit Dam**, **specifically related to the Camera & Dive reports**, and that previous GORA responses\* show **were suggested to be requested for evaluation** of the Dam Owner (*Big Canoe POA*) and their EOR Geosyntec - **by GSD Engineer Kate Betsill**.

\* **Staff Engineer Kate Betsill's email also attached for reference**

**The purpose of this GORA is to formally confirm whether the professional suggestions of Ms Betsill were followed through on**, and whether those reports were in fact requested (*and ultimately received for evaluation*), **or whether this is yet another example of negligence by GSD Employees and Management** as they fail to take seriously the eroding and long term non-compliance situation regarding the Lake Petit Dam.

On a another disturbing note, recent GORA requests have been met with the following increasingly toned response ... *"Safe Dams Unit has done a search of our files and determined we have not received anything new..."*. **This has been going on for months, and if it is true, then it means that absolutely nobody in GSD is communicating at all with the Lake Petit Dam Owner or their EOR**. Given the level of non-compliance (*recent letter highlighting non-compliance issues also attached*), the potential severity of the situation due to this being a high risk Class 1 Dam, and the fact that there is plenty of documented evidence

that GSD Employees seem to suddenly be actively and intentionally avoiding the documentation of communication, or requests for information, even against internal advice of their own engineers.... this is troubling. If this s NOT true, then I can only hope that the failure to respond to GORA Requests with the appropriate records is simply an oversight due to files or communications not yet being shared centrally, or perhaps not yet filed in the proper access points. **As such I encourage all internal dnr staff recipients of this email (most of whom are "blind copied") to diligently search their files, emails, etc for communications or documents over the past few months that involve Lake Petit Dam, and get with the appropriate people in the GORA Dept, or your dept heads, and make sure all of this is available and discoverable,** because it would be extremely disturbing if this was being ignored to the degree that recent GORA responses indicate. Management that is BCC'd should be attempting to discover why a sudden "switch" has been flipped within the GSD division that has resulted in sudden zero communication and data flow regarding Big Canoe's Lake Petit Dam.

PS.... anyone wishing to supply "off-record" information may contact me using the secure methods suggested at our tipline page: <https://bigcanoe.themountainsvoice.com/tipline/>

Peace,  
- david hopkins / publisher  
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