



The Mountains Voice

...is calling you

From: David Hopkins

Publisher

Focus On Big Canoe, GA

...division of The Mountains Voice

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GORA Email / GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov

Open Records Officers for GA EPD

Cc: Kevin Chambers / kevin.chambers@dnr.ga.gov

DATE: Oct. 15, 2021

TMV Internal Reference Request # 0037

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:

This GORA Request pertains to records related to LAKE PETIT DAM ("LPD"); State ID No. 112-009-00462; NID No. GA00685, located in the community of Big Canoe, and located in Pickens County, GA.

A review of previously received GORA Responses shows that on April 30, 2021 upon receiving a copy of the 2020 Lake Petit Dam Inspection Reports, **GSD Engineer Kate Betsill** wrote to the Director of GSD, Tom Woosley (copying Caroline Walden) and stated,

"We need to request the camera inspections of the low-level (?) pipe done in November and December 2020."

For exact reference, a copy of the email chain can be found here: http://lakepetitdam.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BC-LPD_2021-04-30_EPD-InternalEmailKateBetsillOnRequestingCameraReports.pdf

Ms Betsill's advice has to this day been seemingly ignored, as previous GORA responses so far show that no one from GSD has ever followed up on this.

I am now specifically seeking to obtain these reports, or to document that they have NOT been requested as suggested, and to discover whether Ga Safe Dams personnel and/or management has been NEGLIGENT in their duties to follow through on the advice of a qualified GSD employee who has rightly identified these camera and dive reports as clearly pertinent to the understanding of the very serious underlying conditions involving a Class 1 High Hazard Dam that is currently in non-compliance status.

[Specific Requests on Next Page]

ORR SECTION 2: SPECIFIC OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS:

(1) Please provide a copy of any received *“camera inspections of the low-level (?) pipe done in November and December 2020”*. Please include all cover letters, including email transmission letters, that accompanied the delivery of this documentation.

(2) If the *“camera inspections of the low-level (?) pipe done in November and December 2020”* have NOT been submitted yet, Please provide a copy of any and all communications from GA Safe Dams or EPD in which communications or requests for this information has been made to the Big Canoe POA, or their engineer of record (EOR), Geosyntec.

(3) If the *“camera inspections of the low-level (?) pipe done in November and December 2020”* HAVE BEEN REQUESTED, but have NOT been submitted yet, Please provide a copy of any and all communications from the Big Canoe POA, or their engineer of record (EOR), Geosyntec, to Ga Safe Dams or EPD personnel in which they have given explanation for the delay in submitting said documents, or requested additional time for said submission of documents.

NOTE / CLARIFICATION: All references to *“camera inspections of the low-level (?) pipe done in November and December 2020”* in the above 3 requests should include by default any similar documentation, such as dive reports or other documents/photos/videos that involve the inspection, evaluation, photography, videography or other analysis of the lower level drain or piping system in the Lake Petit Dam.

ORR SECTION 3: INSTRUCTIONS, LEGAL, COMMUNICATIONS:

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

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