

# Petit Lake Dam

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**From: Betsill, Kate** <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>

Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 4:36 PM EST (GMT-05:00)

To: Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>

Cc: Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>

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Wes,

To summarize our phone discussion yesterday, we discussed the need for a submittal schedule for a functioning low-level outlet. This schedule was due January 31, 2024.

We discussed that while your response to the drain repair is not required, according to the comments letter dated August 10, 2023, until 30 days after remaining stability and seepage analysis comments are submitted to you, the owner has expressed an interest in submitting the drain plans earlier and separately from the updated stability and seepage plans. I told you that I did not believe a new permit application form would be required. A letter should accompany any submittal discussing the separation of the two submittals and general submittal modifications. Please contact the program concerning your intentions related to the drain plans.

We also discussed that the plug is still in the current low-level outlet. It was allowed to be left in place on the understanding that the current low-level outlet would be promptly repaired. However, things have continued well beyond the anticipated repair, and other options for low-level outlet compliance have been explored.

A schedule giving the selected method for low-level outlet compliance and a reasonable, date-specific deadline for submitting design documents for the chosen alternative must be submitted in writing. These items are currently overdue, and must be submitted by Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Sincerely,

*Kate Betsill*

Environmental Engineer

Georgia Safe Dams Program

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.

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**From:** Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:57 PM  
**To:** Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>  
**Cc:** Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>; Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Petit Lake Dam

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Hi Kate,

Thank you for the summary. Following up from my previous email regarding the LLO design. We have a signed scope of work in hand from the Big Canoe POA to complete the detailed LLO design and involve a contractor on feedback and implementation. Our plan is to coordinate with potential contractors over the next two months during preliminary design of alternatives, select one alternative and contractor to be involved with initial design, and have a design kickoff meeting with GSDP on or around 27 May 2024. We would then complete a permit submission and have a submittal and design review meeting with GSDP on or around 01 July 2024. Should we need to meet to update GSDP prior to these dates, please let us know.

Thanks,

Wes

**Wesley MacDonald, P.E.\***

**Senior Engineer**

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**From:** Griffin, David <David.Griffin@dnr.ga.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 3:31 PM

**To:** Wesley MacDonald <WMacDonald@Geosyntec.com>; Betsill, Kate <Kate.Betsill@dnr.ga.gov>

**Cc:** Jamey Dotson <JDotson@Geosyntec.com>; Scott Auer <sauer@bigcanoepoa.org>

**Subject:** RE: Petit Lake Dam

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Wes –

It has been 9 months since the low-level drain test was attempted in late April of 2023. We met with you in September of 2023 to discuss options for the low-level drain requirement. We had the understanding that by the end of January of this year, the option to rehabilitate/repair the low-level drain would be selected and we would be notified of the selection. Instead, you indicate below that you are doing preliminary design of alternatives over the next two months to determine which option to choose – I thought that is what had been happening for the last 9 months! This is unacceptable. We have been working with you and the dam owner to remedy this situation, but it appears that no real progress has been made over the last 9 months.

**By February 29, 2024, we must receive in writing the selected option for repair/rehabilitation of the low-level drain.** Unless the option selected is to rehabilitate the existing low-level drain, the plug in the low-level conduit must be removed by April 12, 2024. If the option selected is to rehabilitate the existing low-level drain, we can discuss further the status of the plug based on the submittal/rehabilitation schedule. **The initial submittal of plans for the low-level repair/rehabilitation must be submitted to us by June 1, 2024.**

We have worked with you and the owner over the last several years to address this issue. We have given you ample time to determine the best option for providing the drainage required to be able to lower the lake, and even allowed you to step back and reconsider options several times. It is time for a decision to be made on the direction that the owner is going to move, and to move in that direction.

**David M. Griffin, P.E.**

Program Manager

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