



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 8554

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8554

December 23, 2009

Bureau of Waterways Engineering

717.787.8568

Board of Directors  
Broomall's Lake County Club  
P.O. Box 93  
Media, PA 19063

Re: DEP File No. D23-009  
Broomall's Lake Dam  
Media Borough, Delaware County

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Dear Board Members:

Recent inspections by Schnabel Engineering and Department of Environmental Protection personnel find an alarming acceleration of the deterioration of the Broomall's Lake Dam above the outlet pipes adjacent to the spillway. Indeed, Media Borough fenced off the damaged roadway area from pedestrian traffic this past summer as an additional measure of public protection; however, this is not a remedy for the structural integrity of the dam. The road has also been closed to vehicular traffic for several years.

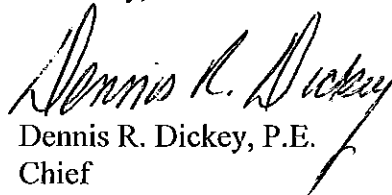
The eroding and collapsing of the embankment at the left of the spillway increases the likelihood of dam failure during a significant storm event. Therefore, the Department finds that the continued deteriorating condition of the dam poses an increasing serious risk to public safety.

We understand that the ownership of the dam is in litigation, and that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has a project on its funding schedule to repair this dam and the roadway. A project planned for the future does nothing for public safety now. Because of the increasing risk to public safety posed by Broomall's Lake Dam in its present condition, it is imperative that all parties associated with the dam cooperate to minimize the risk as much as possible while the legal issues and project plans are finalized.

The status quo of maintaining the lake at normal pool level in summer with a minimal draw off in winter is no longer acceptable to the Department. The Club must take active control of the lake to maintain the drawdown as much as possible at all times by utilizing the existing outlet facilities. We understand that the Club has recently opened or removed the control device from the one known drawdown pipe, which is located under the spillway structure. The Club is hereby directed to maintain the outlet conduit open and free-flowing until the dam repair project is complete. The gate or valve must remain open at all times, should be inspected frequently and maintained clear of debris. More drastic measures are also being considered to minimize and manage risk, such as installation of a siphon to drain the lake and maintain it drained until such time that ownership responsibility can be resolved and the dam can be rehabilitated or removed.

We also urge the Club, Delaware County and Media Borough officials to cooperate to update the Emergency Action Plan for the dam with all due haste. Arrangements for immediate access at all times by public safety personnel to all areas of the dam should be established. Thank you for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis R. Dickey, P.E.  
Chief  
Division of Dam Safety

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cc: Delaware County Commissioners  
Media Borough Manager  
Media Borough Council President  
Schnabel Engineering (John Harrison)  
Delaware County EMA  
PEMA Eastern Region