



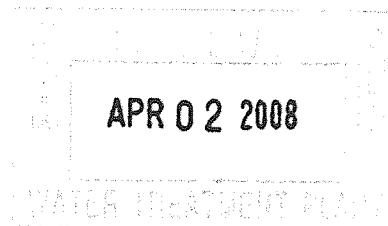
STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2008



Mr. Sumedh Bahl, P.E.
Water Treatment Plant
City of Ann Arbor Water Utilities
919 Sunset Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103-2924

Dear Mr. Bahl:

SUBJECT: Argo Dam, Dam ID 559, Washtenaw County

In December of 2007, a Dam Safety Inspection Report for the Argo Dam was provided to your office. One of the recommendations of this report was that a contingency plan be developed to rapidly shut off flow to the headrace in the event of concerns over the headrace. You provide this contingency plan to this office in your letter of February 21, 2008.

The contingency plan lacks detail on how an actual or impending failure of the headrace embankment would be determined. Since the dam is remotely operated, we are concerned that instability problems might develop upon the earth embankment without your notice. Although the embankment crest is regularly traveled upon by the general public, they will not have the awareness of potential instability issues. We would therefore like the plan to include provision that the embankment crest and toe be visually inspected every two weeks, at a minimum, and after any significant wind storms to detect potential stability issues with the embankment, including uprooted trees, new or increased seepage or flow from the toe drains, and embankment sloughs.

In addition, please be reminded that this headrace contingency plan is intended to be a short term plan to alleviate potential impacts caused by a headrace embankment failure. It does not address the significant structural concerns with the headrace embankment. Our willingness to accept a contingency plan is predicated upon the ongoing discussions regarding the long term future of the Argo Dam. If the Argo Dam is to remain in place, repairs to the toe drains, such as those previously permitted in DEQ Permit 05-81-0086-P, will need to be completed.

Please provide this office with a revised contingency plan addressing the issues discussed above, by April 16, 2008. We would also ask you to keep us up to date on the City's decisions regarding the long term disposition of the Argo Dam. A decision

Mr. Sumedh Bahl, P.E.

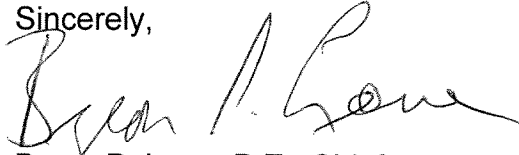
Page 2

March 13, 2008

regarding the disposition of the dam should be provided to this office by December 31, 2008 along with a schedule for the long term repair or removal.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron P. Lane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Byron P. Lane, P.E., Chief
Dam Safety Program
Land and Water Management Division
517-241-9862

cc: Mr. Paul Wessel, P.E., DEQ