



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647
www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

CONTACT: Jayne Miller
Community Services Area Administrator
734.794.6210 ext. 42198
jmiller@a2gov.org

CITY AWARDED 90-DAY STAY OF THE MDEQ ORDER FOR ARGO DAM

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov. 2, 2009 — On Aug. 6, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) sent the City of Ann Arbor an order regarding the Argo Dam. This order provides specific action deadlines that the City is required to meet to address MDEQ's concerns regarding the dam.

In June, 2009 the Ann Arbor City Council instructed staff to request an extension to the previously stipulated MDEQ deadline for repairing the toe drains in the headrace embankment at Argo Pond. In response to that request, MDEQ issued a Dam Safety Order, which grants an extension for correcting the headrace embankment deficiencies, but includes significant additional implications.

Late last week the City of Ann Arbor reached a compromise agreement with the MDEQ relative to our request for a 90 day stay of the MDEQ Order. The agreement is a partial stay. The MDEQ agreed to a 90 day stay of all of its Order, with one exception. The exception is that the City had to comply with the Order's requirement to stop the flow from the impoundment into the head race.

The City is placing a stop log on Monday, Nov. 2 to stop that flow. **The stop log also will block water access for canoes, kayaks, etc., between the impoundment and the head race.** The estimated drop in water level for the head race is about three feet. The change in level will occur over a period of days. All other actions, including dewatering of the head race, are stayed for 90 days. The stay will allow further discussions between the City and the MDEQ.

As this situation develops further, additional communications will be distributed to the public.

To learn more:

- Access the report in its entirety, posted on the "news" page at:
<http://www.a2gov.org/news/pages/default.aspx>

- Visit the city's environment Web site at:

http://www.a2gov.org/GOVERNMENT/PUBLICSERVICES/SYSTEMS_PLANNING/ENVIRONM ENT/Pages/Environment.aspx

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.