North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory, Governor Donald R. van der Vaart, Secretary



April 2, 2015

## NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Mr. William M. Harrison, P.E. CCP Lead Engineer/System Owner Belew's Creek Steam Station & Dan River Steam Station 3195 Pine Hall Road Belew's Creek, NC 27009

**RE:** Duke Energy Belew's Creek Ash Basin

STOKE-116-H Stokes County

Dear Mr. Harrison:

The "Dam Safety Law of 1967," as amended, provided for the certification and inspection of dams in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, in order to reduce the risk of failure of such dams; to prevent injuries to persons, damage to property; and to insure the maintenance of stream flows.

Our records indicate you are the owner of the referenced dam which was inspected on March 30, 2015, by personnel of the Land Quality Section. This inspection found the conditions outlined below. Please note that references to "right" and "left" in descriptions of the dam structure are conventionally from the perspective of looking in a downstream direction.

- 1. Areas of wetness were noted on the downstream slope of the dam. Please monitor these areas for any signs of increased seepage rates or flow.
- 2. Bare and sparsely vegetated areas on the upstream slope of the dam will need to be reseeded with permanent vegetation this spring.
- 3. There was seepage noted on the downstream slope of the dam from the discharge pipes and around the lower abutments of the structure. Excessive seepage can cause failure of the dam due to internal erosion and/or embankment sliding. You should inspect the seepage periodically and notify this office if there is an increase in the amount of seepage or embankment sliding occurs.
- 4. The outlet pipe of the decommissioned intake tower has been sealed with a bladder system to prevent further discharge from the abandoned corrugated metal pipe.
- 5. Clearing for future repairs to the dam at the base of the structure and around the decommissioned intake tower have begun. (These are referred to as projects BC-6 and BC-7). Please continue to follow the approved sediment and erosion control plans as repairs progress in these areas.

Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources
Energy Section, Geological Survey Section, Land Quality Section
450 West Hanes Mill Road, Suite 300, Winston-Salem, NC 27105 / Phone: 336-776-9800 / Fax:
336-776-9798

## BELEW'S LAKE ASH BASIN

April 2, 2015

6. The installation of monitoring well GWA-1S/D was taking place along the alignment of the principle spillway outlet at the time of inspection. Please continue to follow the sediment and erosion control plan that was submitted to this office on March 25, 2015. Also, when drilling activities are completed stabilize all disturbed areas with a permanent ground cover per the submitted plans.

During this inspection we also investigated the potential for property damage and loss of life in the event your dam fails. This investigation determined that failure of your dam could result in severe property damage and/or possible loss of life downstream. Therefore, we are listing your dam in the "High Hazard" category.

Any excavation, modification or major repair of the dam must be approved by the Division of Land Resources. Draining the lake by cutting a notch in the dam, or otherwise breaching the dam, without prior approval, is a violation of State law.

Although we make every reasonable effort to determine the safety of your dam, our resources limit us to a visual inspection. There is no certainty regarding the internal stability of the dam. Dams, and especially their spillways and conduits, deteriorate with age. Therefore, you should keep a close watch on your dam and notify us if you detect any changes, especially cracks, ground movements, or changes in seepage rate or color.

Your cooperation and consideration in maintaining a safe dam is appreciated. If ownership of the dam has changed, or if you are not responsible for the dam, please notify us so that we can update our records. Should you have any questions concerning our inspection, please contact me at (336) 776-9800.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Gantt, P.E.

Regional Engineer

Land Quality Section

Cc:

Ms. Kim Hutchinson, P.E., Duke Energy
Ms. Melonie Martin, Duke Energy
WSRO File

M SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

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