

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources

Tracy E. Davis, PE, CPM Director

Land Quality Section

Pat McCrory, Governor John E. Skvarla, III, Secretary

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Date: March 11, 2014

Duke Energy Corporation Attention: Sean DeNeale 526 South Church Street, ECI-013 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

RE:

Riverbend Active Ash Basin Dam 1 (Primary)

GASTO-097 – High Hazard Potential

Gaston County

Dear Mr. DeNeale:

The "Dam Safety Law of 1967," as amended, provides 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 that you are the owner and/or responsible for the referenced dam, which is located off NC HWY 16 in Gaston County and were inspected on February 19, 2014 and March 1, 2014 by personnel of the Land Quality Section. This inspection revealed the conditions outlined below. Please note that references to "right" and "left" in descriptions of the dam structure are referenced while looking in the downstream direction.

- 1. Wetness was observed at the downstream embankment toe where the rip rap channel lining along the toe turns away from the dam. Please continue to monitor this area periodically, and report any changes in seepage quantity and/or clarity to this office.
- 2. Please continue to maintain a ground cover sufficient to restrain accelerated erosion on all earthen portions of the structure.
- 3. Several small (2" to 3") burrows were observed on the upstream slope of the dam. It is recommended that you monitor the situation and repair any existing damage.

Additionally, the following general maintenance procedures are recommended:

- 1. Maintain a ground cover sufficient to restrain accelerated erosion on all earthen portions of the structure.
- 2. Periodically remove undergrowth, woody vegetation, and trees less than six inches in diameter from the slopes and crest of the dam and establish a good grass cover. All limb debris should be removed as well. This will serve to:
 - a. prevent the formation of a root system which might significantly increase seepage through the dam which could ultimately result in failure of the structure;
 - b. reduce the possibility of damage to the dam due to the uprooting of trees by wind or other natural causes; and
 - c. facilitate ease of inspection and increase the likelihood of early detection of more serious problems connected with the dam.

Additional information on the problems associated with undesirable vegetation on dams can be found in free publications such as FEMA 534, *Impacts of Plants on Earthen Dams*. This document can be viewed online at http://www.damsafety.org/media/Documents/PDF/fema-534.pdf.

- 3. Periodically check the operation of all drain valve facilities. This will ensure satisfactory operation of the drains should an emergency situation arise.
- 4. Periodically monitor the subject dam and appurtenant works with respect to elements affecting its safety. This is in light of the legal duties, obligations, and liabilities arising from the ownership and/or operation of a dam.

During this inspection we also investigated the potential for property damage and loss of life in the event that your dam fails. This investigation determined that failure of your dam could result in significant environmental damage to Mountain Island Lake and possible interruption of utility service. Therefore, we are listing your dam in the "High Hazard Potential" Note that all hazard classifications are subject to change due to downstream conditions.

Please be advised that the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources must approve any excavation, modification, or major repair work to this dam before the work commences. Also, note that this dam may not be breached, meaning the dam may not be drained by cutting a notch in the dam, without prior engineered breach plans being submitted to and approved by the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources.

The "Dam Operation Maintenance and Inspection Manual" published by this Division provides inspection guidelines and recommended routine dam maintenance activities for the owner as well as emergency procedures in the event of possible dam failure. This document may be viewed online at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/dams.

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Riverbend Active Ash Basin Dam 1 (Primary) GASTO-097

Although every reasonable effort is made to determine the safety of each dam, our resources generally limit us to a surficial inspection of the dam and its appurtenant structures. This letter carries no implication regarding the internal stability of the dam. Dams, and especially their spillways and conduits, deteriorate with age. You are therefore advised to keep a close watch on the dam and notify us if you detect any changes, especially cracks, ground movements, or changes in seepage rate or color.

Please notify this office in writing if you wish to assert that you have no ownership or otherwise are not responsible for maintenance or repairs to the subject dam. If you have an emergency situation during non-office hours, you should notify 911 and the State Emergency Operations Center at 1 (800) 858-0368. They will notify the appropriate personnel in this Office of the situation.

Your cooperation and consideration in maintaining a safe dam is appreciated. Should you have any questions concerning our inspection, please contact me at (704) 663-1699.

Sincerely,

Zahid S. Khan, CPM, CPESC, CPSWQ

Regional Engineer Land Quality Section

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cc: Steven M. McEvoy, PE, State Dam Safety Engineer

DAM SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

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(DAM SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT)

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SKETCHES/COMMENTS