



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

June 1, 2004

Mr. Keith Noyes
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833

RE: Exeter River Dam #082.01 (Great Dam), Exeter, NH

Dear Mr. Noyes:

The meeting held on May 6, 2004 at your office proved to be beneficial towards our understanding of the balance that the Town must maintain when operating the Great Dam. It is our understanding that the upstream impoundment is needed to maintain the Town's water supply as well as provide water for fire suppression systems upstream. We also realize that flooding upstream has been an issue to some landowners along the Exeter River, Little River and Scammon Brook. In order for the Town to investigate and find a solution that will address all three issues of inadequate discharge capacity, upstream flooding and water supply, DES will extend the deadline for item #3 of the 7/25/2000 Letter of Deficiency (LOD). A correction to Item #3 of the 7/25/2000 LOD was mentioned at the meeting and should be noted. The dam must be able to pass the 50-year storm event with one foot of freeboard with no manual operations rather than the 100-year storm event.

We also discussed the operation and maintenance plan (O&M) that was submitted to this office on April 15, 2004. We have reviewed the plan and have suggested edits on the enclosed copy. As we discussed during our meeting, it is preferable to operate the gates based on river flows and not solely on forecasted rainfall events. We understand that the Town is moving forward and investigating ways to improve access to river stage data. Please reconsider your operations protocol, make the appropriate edits and resubmit the plan to this office.

We would like to encourage the Town to move forward to perform an internal inspection of the concrete penstock. In light of the recent leak noted in early April, this inspection may help prevent complications with the aging penstock.

Revisions to the 7/25/2000 LOD are as follows:

By November 1, 2004:

- 1) Demonstrate to DES that an engineering firm has been retained to perform the following tasks or assessments:
 - a. Provide a plan and schedule to upgrade the discharge capacity of the dam to meet the 50-year design storm flow (4400 cfs) with one foot of freeboard remaining on the dam.
 - b. Assess the condition of the concrete penstock. This assessment should include an internal inspection of the conduit, gates, pipe penetrations and concrete wall plug.

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By November 1, 2005:

- 2) Implement recommendations that result from the completion of item #1, above, and as approved by DES.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (603)271-3406.

Sincerely,



Grace Levergood, P.E.
Dam Safety Engineer

Enclosures: Copy of O&M w/edits, 7/25/2000 LOD
cc: Brian Griset, Griset and Sons Environmental and Boundary Consultants
GEL/was/h:/safety/dam/letter/08201geltr2.doc