

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY
1580 PAOLI PIKE, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-6199

FILE COPY

June 25, 2008

Mr. Richard A. Reisinger, P.E. Chief
Division of Dam Safety
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8554
Harrisburg PA 17105-8554

Re: Hershey's Mill Dam
DEP Number D15-125

Dear Mr. Reisinger:

The Department has advised the Township that it needs to either improve the Hershey's Mill Dam to safely pass the 100 year storm or breach it.

Township has been tentatively awarded a grant under the Natural Resource Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program to breach the Hershey's Mill Dam and restore the floodplain to its original pre-dam condition. Under this scenario there would be no cost to the Township and all of the work would be done by the NRCS.

However, there are a number of Township residents who believe that the dam should be saved. This would require the construction of a secondary spillway that would allow the dam to safely pass the 100 year storm. In 2008 the Township Engineer estimated that it would cost about \$260,000 to construct a 200 foot long concrete spillway on the top of dam. The secondary spillway in conjunction with the primary spillway, which has a width of 22 feet, would allow the Dam to safely pass the 100 year storm (1,475-cfs).

One of the residents whose property abuts the Dam has engaged an engineer to determine if there was a less expensive alternative. The engineer developed a design under which the elevation of the existing spillway would be lowered, which would create additional storage, and the emergency spillway would be reduced to 100 feet in length. The combined spillways would pass (1,500 cfs). The design also proposes to utilize a Turf Reinforcement Mat rather than concrete for the emergency spillways as a cost savings measure. The resident estimates that it would cost less than \$50,000 to lower the existing spillway and construct a 100 foot emergency spillway using this material. The estimated cost for design and permitting is +-\$40,000 so conceivably the project could be brought in for less than \$100,000.

I have enclosed copies of both designs for your use. The questions we have are:

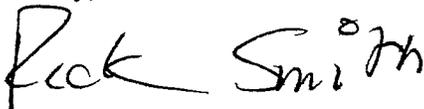
1. Has the Department permitted this type of mat to be used in an emergency spillway in the past?
2. If not would we be permitted to use it in this situation?

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I would add that under the NRCS Grant schedule the Township would have to commit to the project by Labor Day. Accordingly the Board and the residents would like to know if this alternative is feasible. I would appreciate any insight you can offer. Thanks

Please give me a call at 610-692-7171 or e-mail me at rsmith@eastgoshen.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small circle above the 'i' in "Smith".

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager

Enclosure