

Memo

East Goshen Township

Date: September 10, 2014
To: Board of supervisors
From: Rick Smith, Township Manager
Re: Milltown Dam Gate Valve Replacement Bids

On August 12, 2014 the Township opened bids to replace the gate valves at the Milltown Dam. The low bid is Marine Solutions, Inc. with a bid of \$70,620. The Board needs to make a decision on the bids at Tuesday's (9/16) meeting.

However, we have recently been advised that we will need to make additional improvements to the Milltown Dam. PA DEP has revised how the design storm is calculated and rip-rap is no longer approved for overtopping protection (see attached). I asked Pennoni for their comments on the DEP's "in-house" analysis (see attached).

There are two options and both are expensive. Spend the money to bring the dam into compliance by covering the dam with articulated concrete block or breaching the dam

For some perspective, in 2009 Gannet Fleming estimated that it would cost \$350,000 to install articulated concrete block on the Hershey Mill Dam. The Milltown Dam is about 10% longer and we have 5 years of inflation.

In 2010 Advanced Geo Services estimated it would cost \$289,000 to breach the Hershey Mill Dam and \$150,000 vegetate the impoundment (total \$439,000). The Milltown Dam is longer, it has a concrete core wall, and the impoundment at Milltown is about 4 times bigger than the one at Hershey Mill.

Unless the Board is committed to keeping the Milltown Dam at all costs I would suggest that you should reject all bids on September 16 and have Pennoni develop cost estimates to install articulated concrete block and to breach the dam.

Once the Board has this info it would then be in a position to make a decision.

By way of background, the Township acquired the Milltown Dam in 1985. In order to bring the Dam into compliance with PA DEP requirements the Township spent ~ \$250,000 in 1986 on the improvements required for the dam to safely pass the design storm. These improvements consisted of repairs to the spillway and rip-rap overtopping protection.