

March 2007 - News Story:

Lake Petit dam in good shape, GeoSyntec study report finds

By Bob Crouch
POA Board President

The Lake Petit dam is well maintained and generally in good condition, according to a good news study report just received from GeoSyntec Consultants, Inc.

The study, commissioned earlier by the POA board, also found that "existing conditions at Lake Petit Dam meet or exceed slope stability requirements of the (state's) safe Dams Program rules."

We do not believe, the consultants said, that immediate actions are warranted and any improvements should only be implemented if state officials approve the recommendations presented in our 1998 report or conditions change.

GeoSyntec went on to recommend, however, that the POA make financial reserves for future maintenance activities. These reserves have been included in the POA Reserve Study being conducted by Miller Dodson. It is expected that the Long Term Finance Committee will be making a recommendation to the Board on how to best fund the reserves required to maintain our facilities and amenities.

GeoSyntec performed its first inspection of the Lake Petit Dam in 1998. They also inspected the Dam in January of this year and provided an update in February. The report found that conditions hadn't changed significantly since its more detailed analysis of the dam, as reported in 1998.

The consultants also reviewed the 2005 and 2006 annual inspections conducted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Department. The report found generally that "the inspections conducted by the state were favorable and indicated minor maintenance items generally consistent with those identified in this report."

The consultants also recommended regular maintenance and monitoring of the dam, which will be implemented by POA maintenance.

The issue of water seepage through the earthen dam was also addressed in the report. GeoSyntec reported, "The estimated rate of seepage through the dam is approximately 325,000 gallons per day...the seepage through the dam is roughly equivalent to 15 running garden hoses. Considering that the dam retains water to an estimated depth of about 95 feet and is approximately 900 feet wide at its crest, Geosyntec considers the rate of seepage to be within normally expected range."

The complete report is available at the POA Lodge for interested property owners to review.

For background information, read The GeoSyntec Water Supply Study article of November 2002, among others, in the Smoke Signals Online archives.



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