

## Property Owners Association, Inc.

MAY 1 0 2005 DAM SAFETY

May 2, 2005



Mr. Christopher S. Owen
Environmental Engineer III
Safe Dams Program
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dear Mr. Owen:

On January 25, 2005, your staff performed the annual inspection of Petit Dam.

There was one task that we were asked to do during the inspection. The gate valve for Petit Dam must be opened at least twice a year, once with an inspector present. On May 16, 2005, Big Canoe POA hired a dive team to inspect the gate valve that opens Petit Dam. The dive team followed the pipe starting from the bank. At ninety-four feet, the pipe disappeared into the silt. The gate valve is buried in four to six feet of silt. In addition, we videoed the entire process showing where the pipe disappeared into the silt.

Upon discovering the problem, we feel that if the gate valve were to be opened after thirty years, the possibility of not being able to shut it back off exists. This could possibly drain Lake Petit, which supplies the drinking water for the entire community.

Sincerely,

Stan B. Stewart General Manager

Cc: Steve Caldwell

## Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**Environmental Protection Division** 

Safe Dams Program
4244 International Parkway
Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30354
Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
404/362-2678

August 16, 2005

Stan Stewart, General Manager Big Canoe Property Owners Association, Inc. 10586 Big Canoe Big Canoe, Georgia 30143



SUBJECT:

Lake Petit Dam Pickens County

Dear Mr. Stewart:

You sent a letter to this office dated May 2, 2005 regarding your attempt to test the low level drain pipe. You inspected the gate valve at the request of our staff. The permit condition for dams with a drain valve is for them to be tested at least once a year. This requirement has not been enforced to date and therefore you get situations where silt and debris accumulate at the gate valve. Such is the case with your dam. Given the finding of your divers that there is four to six feet of silt, it is not wise at this point to test the gate valve.

At some point, the system will need to be checked. This office will coordinate with you at some point in the future on the best way to evaluate this system.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact this office at (404) 362-2678.

Sincerely,

Dallon Thomas Woosley, P.E.

Program Manager

Permitting and Compliance Unit

Safe Dams Program

DTW:ks