

Letter from Geosyntec to the Big Canoe Community

From: Big Canoe POA (media@bigcanoepoa.org)

To: themtnsvoice@aol.com

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June 11, 2026

Dear Big Canoe Residents,

This is a follow-up to the recent Big Canoe POA communication on June 9, 2026.

Based on our professional experience and in-depth review of previous inspection information, instrumentation data, and slope stability analyses, we have no concern with the stability of Lake Petit Dam.

The State of Georgia requires licensed engineers to inspect Category I dams and submit a report to the state every two years. To its credit, Big Canoe implemented more stringent regulations beginning in 2020. Instead of every two years, Geosyntec has been hired to inspect Lake Petit Dam every quarter. Our engineering team analyzes this data on a quarterly basis and annually submits reports to Georgia Safe Dams.

Lake Petit Dam is an earthen dam, the most common type of dam in the world. Water doesn't just press against an earthen dam; it seeps through it. The goal isn't to stop that flow but to control it. Part of that control is measuring water levels inside the dam. Wet areas caused by slow seepage through the compacted dam material are common to earthen embankment dams.

Instruments called "piezometers" have been installed in locations on the downstream slope of Lake Petit Dam. Piezometers are used to measure the water pressure levels inside the dam. Readings routinely vary with lake level, rainfall, and seasons. The dam's piezometers are measured routinely. The May

2026 piezometer readings are all below pressures used in the stability analysis approved by Georgia Safe Dams. We have no concern regarding the piezometer readings in Lake Petit Dam. There are no actions needed at this time.

Geosyntec also visually observes conditions of the dam at each quarterly inspection. Since the 1970s, wet areas have been observed on Lake Petit Dam. We monitor and document the wet areas for changes in size, flow, and water clarity. Based on recent observations, we see no need at this time to do any remediation work in this area.

Geosyntec has no concerns with the stability of Lake Petit Dam. Thank you for allowing us to be a partner with you on this important project in your wonderful community.

Very respectfully,

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Engineer of Record
Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

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Should anyone in the community have questions, please click the button below to submit an Ask the POA inquiry.

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