

Palisades Interstate Park Commission
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March 28, 2018

[Homeowners near Tillson Lake]

Dear [Homeowners]:

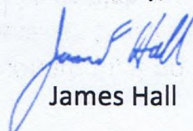
As a potential neighbor of Tillson Lake, this letter is intended to update you of current actions that the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (the Commission) is contemplating regarding safety concerns about Tillson Lake dam. Based upon engineering assessments and reviews by the Department of Environmental Conservation's dam safety unit, the dam has several issues that require corrective action to ensure the long-term stability and safety of the structure, most particularly under significant rain events. The Tillson Lake dam is currently classified as a Class C (high hazard) structure which is a standard rating term applied to all dams that have a certain amount of development downstream, but is not an indication of a dam's structural integrity or safety. All Class C dams must meet a high standard of structural integrity and an ability to safely pass water without failure under specific flood conditions.

Given the dam's current design and condition, it no longer meets the dam safety requirements that have been established for Class C dams. Because these requirements are so stringent, the projected costs to bring this dam into compliance could be as high as seven to nine million dollars. The Commission has been unable to secure funding for the required renovation that would bring the dam into compliance. As a result, and in order to ensure the long-term safety of the downstream properties and improvements that could be threatened by a potential failure of the dam, the Commission is taking steps to design and seek approval for the removal of the dam and restoration of the lake back to a natural stream corridor.

I can assure you, that we do not take this action lightly or with haste. We have been examining this issue for other viable options and have not been able to find viable alternatives. We are therefore taking these steps to ensure that we are managing this dam and lake in a responsible and safe manner for all concerned.

In the coming months, we will be revising the Minnewaska State Park Preserve Master Plan as it pertains to Tillson Lake and proceeding with the permit process for the dam removal so that we can ensure the long-term safety of those properties and improvements that would be impacted in the event the dam is compromised, and to provide for reestablishment of a natural stream corridor that is environmentally sound. We understand removal of the dam and dewatering the lake is a significant action and this letter is intended as a courtesy to inform you of this potential course of action. At some point in the near future, I anticipate holding a public meeting to better answer questions people may have about Tillson Lake, the dam and our plans moving forward.

Sincerely,



James Hall

C: Supervisor, Town of Gardiner