

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

This page introduces questions and answers about the Lake Conestee Site and Dam, and the potential consequences of a dam failure. These FAQs are organized by topic.

When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No 1: What is in Lake Conestee, and how might it impact Lake Greenwood ?

Topic No.2: What about Flooding and Flood Damage ?

Topic No.3: What could happen downstream in the Reedy River, Boyd’s Mill Pond, and the Reedy Arm of Lake Greenwood ?

Topic No.4: What is the solution for containing the hazardous contaminants trapped behind the old dam ?

Topic No.5: What might the economic impacts be for communities along the river, around Boyd’s Mill Pond, and Lake Greenwood, and the region ?

Topic No.6: What do we know about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in Lake Conestee, and the Reedy, and how might they impact the downstream communities ?

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: **LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI**

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No 6: What do we know about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in Lake Conestee, and how might they impact the downstream communities ?

- Q6.1 What are the ‘forever chemicals’ ?*
- Q6.2 Are they in the rivers ?*
- Q6.3 What about PFAS in Lake Conestee ?*
- Q6.4 PFAS in Greenwood’s source water compared to Greenville’s ?*
- Q6.5 PFAS in Greenwood’s drinking water compared to Greenville’s ?*
- Q6.6 What about PFAS in sediments ?*
- Q6.7 Do PFAS issues in LC and the Reedy River present a concern for Lake Murray ?*
- Q6.8 Are PFAS concerns yet another reason to support the proposed new LC Dam ?*

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.1

What are the ‘forever chemicals’?

A

“PFAS” are a class of complex chemicals created since the 1940s, and used in a wide variety of products. Termed ‘forever chemicals,’ they are extremely resistant to breakdown. They are quite pervasive. Some PFAS are highly toxic and present a very serious health concern at very low levels.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: **LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI**

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.2

Are PFAS chemicals in the rivers?

A

PFAS chemicals are being found nearly everywhere on the planet, to include in water, sediment, soils, groundwater, fish and mammals, our food supplies, and even in human blood and tissue. They are in nearly every river system in SC and in the municipal water supplies of many cities.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.3

Are PFAS chemicals in Lake Conestee?

A

EPA required every state to test its rivers for these chemicals. PFOA and PFOS, two of the most toxic PFAS compounds, were found at very high levels of concern in LC and the Reedy River. PFOS concentrations in the waters of LC were 135 ppt (parts per trillion), higher than any other location in the state.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.5

How do PFAS levels in Greenwood’s drinking water supplies compare to Greenville’s?

A

EPA’s proposed drinking water standard for PFOS is 4 ppt (parts per trillion). Concentrations of PFOS in the public drinking water supplies from Greenville’s North and South Saluda reservoirs are below detection. The PFOS level in Greenwood’s water supply is 5.9 ppt, exceeding the safe standard.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.6

What about PFAS in sediments?

A

Scientific studies worldwide indicate levels of PFAS in sediments and fish tissue are often 10X to 1000X the levels found in associated waters. PFAS compounds have a strong affinity for sediments. Disturbing PFAS-contaminated sediments can potentially increase levels of these toxins in water.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.7

Do PFAS issues in LC and the Reedy River present a concern for Lake Murray?

A

In the 1960s the Reedy was ‘dead,’ and known as the most polluted river in SC. PFAS levels in LC and the Reedy are among the highest in the state, much higher than the Saluda. It is critical to avoid PFAS releases to rivers and ecosystems, and to minimize their levels in public drinking water supplies.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI

FAQ: When the Lake Conestee Dam Fails,

Topic No.6: What about the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) in LC, the Reedy River, and elsewhere in the Lake Greenwood watershed?

Q

Question 6.8

Are PFAS levels in LC and the Reedy yet another reason to support the proposed new LC Dam?

A

Absolutely. The sediments of LC likely contain high levels of PFAS. It is important to contain and minimize disturbance of these contaminated sediments. A new dam will help mitigate releases of PFAS to downstream rivers, reservoirs, and public drinking water supplies.

This is one of several questions related to Topic No.6. See Q6.1 – Q6.8.

Prepared for: **LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

COPYRIGHT © 2023 LAKE CONESTEE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT & HRI – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Reference as: LCDRP-FAQs – RRD-10.6, 230322-HRI