

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & INSPECTION**

IN RE: Commerce Park Properties LLC

FILE NO.: Dam State I.D. 645

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

A. Introduction

Pursuant to Sections 42-17.1-2(21) and 42-17.6-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, (“R.I. Gen. Laws”) you are hereby notified that the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (the “Director” of “DEM”) has reasonable grounds to believe that the above-named party (“Respondent”) has violated certain statutes and/or administrative regulations under the DEM's jurisdiction.

B. Facts

- (1) The property is a dam identified as Centre of New England #1 Dam, State Identification Number 645, located approximately 3000 feet northwest of the intersection of Arnold Road and New London Turnpike, approximately 220 feet southwest of Arnold Road, Assessor’s Plat 14, Lot 1 in the town of Coventry, Rhode Island (“Dam 645”).
- (2) The Respondent owns Dam 645.
- (3) The DEM classifies Dam 645 as Significant Hazard.
- (4) On 13 July 2012 Dam 645 was inspected. The inspection revealed the following:
 - (a) Heavy vegetation on the upstream side, crest and downstream side of the embankment that did not allow a proper inspection to be performed; and
 - (b) Settling of the spillway pipes and open joints in the pipes that have resulted in partial filling of the pipes with sand.
- (5) On 29 January 2014 the DEM issued a certified letter to the Respondent that included a registration form for Dam 645. The letter was delivered on 4 February 2014. The Respondent was required to complete and return the form to the DEM by 18 February 2014.
- (6) The DEM considers Dam 645 unsafe because of the heavy vegetation that inhibits a proper inspection and the condition of the spillway pipes that may affect the capacity of the spillway.

- (7) As of the date of this Notice of Violation (“NOV”), the Respondent has not provided the registration form to the DEM.

C. Violation

Based on the foregoing facts, the Director has reasonable grounds to believe that you have violated the following statutes and/or regulations:

- (1) **DEM’s Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety (the “Dam Safety Regulations”), Rule 4A** – requiring the owner of a significant hazard dam to maintain the dam in a safe condition.
- (2) **DEM’s Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 8** – requiring the owner of a dam to provide a fully completed registration form to the DEM.

D. Order

Based upon the violations alleged above and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-17.1-2(21), you are hereby ORDERED to:

- (1) **Within 14 days of receipt of the NOV**, complete and submit to the DEM the enclosed registration form.
- (2) **Within 90 days of receipt of the NOV**, cut or remove the vegetation from the upstream side, crest and downstream side of the embankment of Dam 645 in accordance with the DEM’s Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10A. Cutting or removal shall be in sufficient amounts to allow a thorough visual inspection to be performed. The DEM shall be notified upon commencement and completion of this work.
- (3) **Within 90 days of completion of the work ordered in Section D.2 above**, retain a professional engineer fully registered in the State of Rhode Island, who is experienced with dam inspections, and have the engineer complete a visual inspection of Dam 645 in accordance with the DEM’s Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 11C and submit a report of the inspection findings to the DEM. The report must specify any actions necessary to return the dam to a safe condition and include a schedule to complete the work. For any proposed repairs to Dam 645, the report must include an application prepared in accordance with the DEM’s Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B.
- (4) **Within 180 days of receipt of the NOV**, retain a professional engineer fully registered in the State of Rhode Island, who is experienced with design, construction and repair, to submit an application to the DEM in accordance with the DEM’s Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B to repair the spillway pipes for Dam 645. The application must include a schedule to complete the work.

- (5) The report, application, and/or schedule required in Sections D.3 and D.4 above shall be subject to the DEM's review and approval. Upon review, the DEM shall provide written notification to the Respondent either granting formal approval or stating the deficiencies therein. **Within 14 days (unless a longer time is specified) of receiving a notification of deficiencies**, the Respondent shall submit to the DEM a modified report, application, and/or schedule or additional information necessary to correct the deficiencies.
- (6) Upon approval of the application by the DEM, complete such work in accordance with the approved schedule.

E. Right to Administrative Hearing

- (1) Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6, 42-17.7 and 42-35, each named respondent is entitled to request a hearing before the DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division regarding the allegations and/or orders set forth in Sections B through D above. All requests for hearing **MUST**:
 - (a) Be in writing. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and 42-17.6-4(b);
 - (b) Be **RECEIVED** by the DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division, at the following address, within 20 days of your receipt of this NOV. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and 42-17.7-9:

Administrative Clerk
DEM - Administrative Adjudication Division
One Capitol Hill, 2ND Floor
Providence, RI 02903
 - (c) Indicate whether you deny the alleged violations. See R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-17.6-4(b); **AND**
 - (d) State clearly and concisely the specific issues which are in dispute, the facts in support thereof and the relief sought or involved, if any. See Rule 7.00(b) of the DEM's *Administrative Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Administrative Adjudication Division for Environmental Matters*.
- (2) A copy of each request for hearing must also be forwarded to:

Joseph J. LoBianco, Esquire
DEM - Office of Legal Services
235 Promenade Street, 4TH Floor
Providence, RI 02908-5767

- (3) Each named respondent has the right to be represented by legal counsel at all administrative proceedings relating to this matter.

- (4) Each respondent must file a separate and timely request for an administrative hearing before the DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division as to each violation alleged in the written NOV. If any respondent fails to request a hearing in the above-described time or manner with regard to any violation set forth herein, then this NOV shall automatically become a Final Compliance Order enforceable in Superior Court as to that respondent and/or violation. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and (v) and 42-17.6-4(b) and (c).
- (5) An original signed copy of this NOV is being forwarded to the town of Coventry wherein the Property is located to be recorded in the Office of Land Evidence Records pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 34-13 and Section 46-19-4(c), as amended.
- (6) This NOV does not preclude the Director from taking any additional enforcement action nor does it preclude any other local, state, or federal governmental entities from initiating enforcement actions based on the acts or omissions described herein.

If you have any legal questions, you may contact (or if you are represented by an attorney, please have your attorney contact) Joseph J. LoBianco at the DEM Office of Legal Services at (401) 222-6607. All other inquiries should be directed to Paul Guglielmino of the DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection at (401) 222-1360 ext. 7122.

Please be advised that any such inquiries do not postpone, eliminate, or otherwise extend the need for a timely submittal of a written request for a hearing, as described in Section E above.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

David E. Chopy, Chief
DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection

Date: _____

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on the _____ day of _____
the within Notice of Violation was forwarded to:

Commerce Park Properties, LLC
c/o Universal Properties Group, Inc.
207 Quaker Lane
Suite 300
West Warwick, RI 02893

by Certified Mail.
