

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

IN RE: Bliss Golf Investors, L.L.C.

FILE NO.: Dam State I.D. 027

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 DEM's jurisdiction.

B. Facts

- (1) The subject property is a dam identified as Sucker Pond Dam, State Identification Number 027, located south of Lapham Farm Road, west of Victory Highway, north of the Burrillville-Glocester line and east of Steere Farm Road, in the town of Burrillville, Rhode Island (“Dam 027”).
- (2) The Respondent owns Dam 027.
- (3) Dam 027 is classified by DEM as Significant Hazard.
- (4) On May 14, 2010, Dam 027 was inspected. The inspection revealed the following:
 - (a) Excessive vegetation and deadfall on the downstream side and toe of the embankment did not allow a proper inspection to be performed;
 - (b) Plywood is inhibiting the flow through the primary spillway (the “Current Primary Spillway”);
 - (c) No low level gate was present; and
 - (d) The auxiliary spillway conveys flow through a corrugated plastic pipe (the “Current Auxiliary Spillway”).

- (5) A review of DEM's records revealed the following:
- (a) A copy of a plan for Dam 027 entitled "Sucker Pond, R.I. Department of Public Works, Division of Harbors & Rivers by the Works Projects Administration", dated December 10, 1940 (the "1940 Design Plan").
 - (b) The 1940 Design Plan shows a low level gate in the area of the Current Primary Spillway (the "Former Low Level Gate").
 - (c) The 1940 Design Plan shows a 5.33 foot wide open channel in the area of the Current Auxiliary Spillway (the "Former Primary Spillway Channel").
 - (d) Two photographs and notes dated 1945 show the Former Low Level Gate house and the Former Primary Spillway Channel.
 - (e) Three photographs and notes dated November 1979 show the remnants of the Former Low Level Gate house and the Former Primary Spillway Channel.
- (6) DEM considers Dam 027 unsafe for the following reasons:
- (a) Excessive vegetation inhibits a proper inspection;
 - (b) Plywood inhibits the flow through the Current Primary Spillway;
 - (c) No low level gate; and
 - (d) The Current Auxiliary Spillway conveys flow through a corrugated plastic pipe.

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) **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.

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 thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice of Violation (“NOV”)**, remove the plywood board that is placed in front of the Current Primary Spillway.
- (2) **Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the NOV**, remove the excess vegetation from the embankment.
- (3) **Within one hundred eighty (180) days of receipt of the NOV**, retain a professional engineer fully registered in the State of Rhode Island, who is experienced with dam inspections, to complete a visual inspection of Dam 027 in accordance with the Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 11C and submit a report of the inspection findings to DEM. The report must specify the actions (in addition to the actions ordered in the NOV) necessary to return the dam to a safe condition and include a schedule to complete the work. For any proposed repairs to Dam 027, the report must include an application prepared in accordance with the Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B.
- (4) **Within one hundred eighty (180) days of receipt of this 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 DEM in accordance with the Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B to construct a low level gate in the area of the Current Primary Spillway and construct a primary spillway in the area of the Current Auxiliary Spillway that passes the same flow as the Former Primary Spillway. The application must include a schedule to complete the work.
- (5) The reports, applications, and/or schedules required in Sections D.3 and D.4 above shall be subject to DEM review and approval. Upon review, the DEM shall provide written notification to the Respondent either granting formal approval or stating the deficiencies therein. **Within fourteen (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) Commence work specified in the schedule approved by the Director within twenty (20) days of approval (unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Director in writing to commence work at a later time), and 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 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 DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division, at the following address, within twenty (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
235 Promenade Street, 3RD Floor
Providence, RI 02908-5767

- (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 Administrative Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Administrative Adjudication Division of Environmental Matters.
- (2) A copy of each request for hearing must also be forwarded to:

Richard M. Bianculli Jr., 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 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) 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) Richard M. Bianculli Jr. 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:

Bliss Golf Investors, L.L.C.
c/o Kevin A. Bliss, Registered Agent
100 Bronco Highway
Mapleville, RI 02839

by Certified Mail.
