

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

IN RE: City of Woonsocket

**FILE NOs.: Dam State I.D. 068, 070,
and 073**

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 properties are as follows:
 - (a) a dam identified as Woonsocket Reservoir Dam #3, State Identification Number 068, located approximately 4,000 feet northwest of the intersection of Route 146 and Route 295, approximately 3,000 feet southwest of the intersection of Route 146 and Reservoir Road, on the line between the towns of Smithfield and North Smithfield, Rhode Island (“Dam 068”);
 - (b) a dam identified as Woonsocket Reservoir Dam #1, State Identification Number 070, located approximately 700 feet northwest of where Manville Road in Lincoln intersects with the Route 99 bridge, approximately 500 feet south of Manville Road, in the town of Lincoln, Rhode Island (“Dam 070”); and
 - (c) a dam identified as Harris Pond Dam, State Identification Number 073, located approximately 1,350 feet west of the intersection of Rathburn Street and Privilege Street, approximately 700 feet north of Privilege Street, in the city of Woonsocket, Rhode Island (“Dam 073”).

Collectively, the three dams are referred to as the “Dams”.

- (2) The Respondent owns the Dams. On May 11, 2009 DEM received registration forms from the Respondent identifying it as the owner of the Dams.
- (3) The Dams are classified by DEM as High Hazard.

- (4) On July 19, 2012 Dam 068 was inspected. The inspection revealed that a chain link fence on the downstream side of the auxiliary spillway may inhibit flow.
- (5) On July 19, 2012 Dam 070 was inspected. The inspection revealed vegetation on the upstream side of the embankment that did not allow a proper inspection to be performed.
- (6) On September 6, 2012 Dam 073 was inspected. The inspection revealed vegetation on the downstream side of the embankment left of the primary spillway that did not allow a proper inspection to be performed. The inspector requested that the Respondent demonstrate the operability of the low level outlet; however, the Respondent was unwilling to open the gates out of concern that they may not close.
- (7) DEM considers Dam 068 unsafe because of the chain link fence that may inhibit flow.
- (8) DEM considers Dam 070 unsafe because of the vegetation that inhibits a proper inspection.
- (9) DEM considers Dam 073 unsafe because of the vegetation that inhibits a proper inspection and the unknown operability of the low level outlet.

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 high 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 ninety (90) days of receipt of the Notice of Violation ("NOV")**, cut or remove the vegetation from the areas of Dam 070 and Dam 073 as described in Sections B.5 and B.6 above 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. DEM shall be notified upon commencement and completion of this work.
- (2) **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, and have the engineer complete a visual inspection of Dam 068, Dam 070 and Dam 073 in accordance with the DEM's

Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 11C and submit a report of the inspection findings to DEM. The inspection must include an assessment of the chain link fence on the flow of water for Dam 068 and the operability of the low level outlet for Dam 073. 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 068, Dam 070 or Dam 073, the report must include an application prepared in accordance with the DEM's Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B.

- (3) The report, application, and/or schedule required in Section D.2 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.
- (4) Commence work specified in the schedule approved by the DEM within twenty (20) days of approval (unless otherwise expressly authorized by the DEM 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
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 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, 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 David E. Chopy of the DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection at (401) 222-1360 ext. 7400.

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:

City of Woonsocket
c/o Honorable Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, Mayor
169 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

by Certified Mail.
