

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

**IN RE: Michael E. Soucy
Roberta Soucy**

FILE NO.: Dam State I.D. 187

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 parties (“Respondents”) have violated certain statutes and/or administrative regulations under DEM's jurisdiction.

B. Facts

- (1) The subject property is a dam identified as Middle Pond Dam, State Identification Number 187, located north of Dawn Lane, east of Knotty Oak Road (Route 116) and west of Benoit Street, in the town of Coventry, Rhode Island (“Dam 187”).
- (2) The Respondents own Dam 187.
- (3) Dam 187 is classified by DEM as Significant Hazard.
- (4) On May 24, 2010 Dam 187 was inspected. The inspection revealed the following:
 - (a) Vegetation on the upstream side and crest of the dam did not allow a proper inspection to be performed;
 - (b) A sloughed and failed section of the crest and downstream side of the embankment;
 - (c) An improperly maintained primary spillway, specifically, compressed culvert pipes, no headwalls, undermining of pipes, erosion at the outlet end of the pipes, and subject to clogging with debris; and
 - (d) An improperly maintained auxiliary spillway, specifically, trees and brush with deadfall that could obstruct flow.
- (5) In a certified letter from DEM to the Respondents dated May 23, 2012, which was delivered on May 30, 2012, DEM forwarded a registration form for Dam 187.

The Respondents were required to complete and return the form to DEM by June 13, 2012.

- (6) DEM considers Dam 187 unsafe for the following reasons:
 - (a) Excessive vegetation that inhibits a proper inspection;
 - (b) Sloughed and failed section of the embankment; and
 - (c) Improperly maintained primary and auxiliary spillways.
- (7) As of the date of this Notice of Violation (“NOV”), the Respondents have not provided the registration form to 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 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 fourteen (14) days of receipt of the NOV**, complete and submit to DEM the enclosed registration form.
- (2) **Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the NOV**, cut or remove the vegetation from the upstream side of the embankment and crest of Dam 187 in accordance with the 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.
- (3) **Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the NOV**, remove all trees and brush from the auxiliary spillway that could obstruct flow. DEM shall be notified upon commencement and completion of this work.
- (4) **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 187 in accordance with the Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 11C and submit a report of the

inspection findings to DEM. The inspection must include an evaluation of the primary spillway and the sloughed section of the embankment. 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 187, the report must include an application prepared in accordance with the Dam Safety Regulations, Rule 10B.

- (5) The report, application, and/or schedule required in Section D.4 above shall be subject to DEM review and approval. Upon review, the DEM shall provide written notification to the Respondents 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 Respondents 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 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:

Michael E. Soucy
14 Dawn Lane
Coventry, RI 02816

Roberta Soucy
14 Dawn Lane
Coventry, RI 02816

by Certified Mail.
