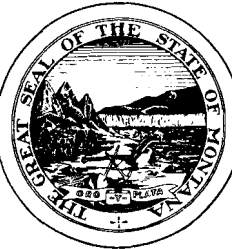


DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION **RECEIVED**

DEC 18 2003

D.N.R.C.



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

NORTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE
2250 HIGHWAY 93 NORTH
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901-2557

Telephone: (406) 751-2240
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December 15, 2004

Tod Everts
Legislative Council EQC
Room 171
State Capitol
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, Montana 59620-1704

RE: Smith Lake Dam

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2004

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Dear Mr. Everts:

In July of 2000, Smith Lake Dam was classified as a structure of high hazard. Based on this classification, the dam was inspected and a number of deficiencies were identified.

During the spring of 2001, a few of the critical maintenance items were addressed; however, a number of critical issues still remain. Because some of these issues could imminently lead to the failure of Smith Lake Dam, DNRC has undertaken, or is undertaking, the following emergency actions: 1) On November 17, 2003, the reservoir level was lowered by six feet by removing five twelve-inch planks from the spillway. This lower level must be maintained until a decision is reached to either complete significant repairs or remove the dam. 2) Debris will be removed from the spillway by using an excavator.

DNRC is completing an appraisal and engineering estimate to help determine the best course of action concerning this structure. Either option (repair or removal) will require an environmental assessment that includes public involvement.

This letter serves as official notification pursuant to Montana Environmental Policy Act rules concerning emergency actions.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Sandman
Robert L. Sandman
Stillwater Unit Manager
P.O. Box 164
Olney, Montana 59927
(406) 881-2371

RLS:mb
Cc: Daruk ✓
Dahlberg
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