



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1776 NIAGARA STREET  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

Operations and Technical Support Section

25 February 2008

SUBJECT: FY07 Joint Routine Inspection of Completed Works, Flood Damage Reduction Project, Onondaga Dam and Reservoir, Onondaga Creek, Syracuse, New York (9/13/07)

Kevin D. Delaney, P.E.  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 7  
615 Erie Blvd. West  
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400

Dear Mr. Delaney:

Transmitted herewith is the FY07 Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) inspection report for the Onondaga Dam and Reservoir Flood Damage Reduction Project, Onondaga Creek, New York. I would like to thank you for your participation in this inspection. The rating for this project as determined by the current inspection is **“MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE” (M)**. Please refer to the enclosed inspection report, which includes an inspection checklist (Attachment "B"), for a description of project deficiencies requiring corrective action, if any.

Inspection checklist items rated **“ACCEPTABLE” (A)** have no deficiencies or, may have one or more concerns which could lead to potential minor deficiencies. These concerns are indicated in the report as **“POTENTIAL DEFICIENCIES”**. Corrective action of potential deficiencies is not mandatory; however, failure to address them promptly may lead to designation of these items as deficient during the next inspection.

Inspection checklist items rated **“MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE” (M)** have one or more minor deficiencies. These are indicated in the report as **“MINOR DEFICIENCIES”**. Corrective action is required by the indicated date(s). Failure to perform corrective action for these deficiencies by the specified dates will result in an automatic downgrade of that particular inspection checklist item(s) to **UNACCEPTABLE (“U”)** during the first inspection following the correction date, possibly resulting in a downgrade of the overall project rating.

Inspection checklist items rated **“UNACCEPTABLE” (U)** have deficiencies considered to be serious and will require corrective action. These are indicated in the report as **“SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES”**. Corrective action should be initiated as soon as possible. An individual checklist item rated as **“UNACCEPTABLE” (U)** will likely, but not necessarily, result in an overall project rating of **“UNACCEPTABLE” (U)**.

Projects receiving **“ACCEPTABLE” (A)** and **“MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE” (M)** ratings will remain active in the Corps of Engineers Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP) and will continue to be eligible for Federal funding to repair the project in the event of damage by a storm event. Projects receiving an **“UNACCEPTABLE” (U)** rating will be designated as

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inactive in the Corps of Engineers RIP and will not be eligible for Federal funding to rehabilitate the project in the event of damage by a storm event. Effective date for unsatisfactory projects to be considered inactive will be date of receipt by the local sponsor of the inspection report. For these projects to become active again all serious deficiencies must be satisfactorily addressed and, the project re-inspected by the Corps with at least a minimally acceptable rating.

For projects rated "ACCEPTABLE" (A), a copy of the report will be forwarded to the local sponsor and county emergency management agency. For projects rated "MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE" (M), a copy of the report will be forwarded to the local sponsor, county emergency management agency, state emergency management agency, and the local FEMA region. For projects rated "UNACCEPTABLE" U, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the local sponsor, county emergency management agency, state emergency management agency, local FEMA region and the local Congressional delegation.

The inspection checklist (Attachment "B") includes a two page section labeled "Public Sponsor Pre-Inspection Report". The local sponsor should complete this section just prior to the next scheduled inspection and provide to Corps inspector upon his arrival. The "Reporting Period is the timeframe between inspections (i.e. inspection date of this report and date of next scheduled inspection).

Please keep this office informed if there are any changes to the project that would affect the design level of protection afforded by the project, or if there are any other changes which may alter or impact any project features. Such changes require prior written approval from the Corps of Engineers and NYSDEC.

Questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to the undersigned, who can be contacted in writing at the above address, by telephone at 716-879-4277 or by e-mail at [robert.w.remmers@usace.army.mil](mailto:robert.w.remmers@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Robert W. Remmers, P.E.  
Chief, Operations and Technical Support Section

Enclosure:  
Project Inspection Report w/Checklist

CF:  
Michael Stankiewicz  
NYSDEC, Division of Water, Flood Control Project Unit  
625 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233

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CF (cont'd):

Peter Alberti, Commissioner  
Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management  
421 Montgomery Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Charles Wright, Regional Director  
SEMO Region 4  
10 Adler Drive  
East Syracuse, NY 12804-1107

Brian Shumon, GIS Specialist  
Federal Emergency Management Agency; Region II  
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1337  
New York, NY 10278

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1. **OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this inspection is to assess the current condition of the project and to ensure that the local sponsor is fulfilling operations and maintenance requirements as specified in the project Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual.
2. **PROJECT CLASSIFICATION:** Flood Damage Reduction - Flood Protection
3. **REPORTING PERIOD:** 5/17/06 – 9/13/07
4. **INSPECTION TEAM:** The inspection team met at the project site on 9/13/07. The following representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Onondaga Nation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE - Buffalo District), participated in the inspection.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>
Robert Remmers	USACE – Buffalo District	(716) 879-4277
William Butler	USACE – Buffalo District	(716) 879-4268
Mike Stankiewicz	NYSDEC Albany	(518) 402-8127
Kevin Delaney	NYSDEC Region 7	(315) 426-7501
Larry Lepak	NYSDEC Region 7	(607) 775-2545
Richard Wojcik	NYSDEC Region 7	(607) 775-2545
Dan Fuller	NYSDEC Region 7	(607) 775-2545
Gary Wooschlager	NYSDEC Region 7	(315) 635-6801
Wayne Lanning	NYSDEC Region 7	(607) 753-8252
Thomas Swerdan	NYSDEC Region 7	(607) 753-3095
Scott Braymer	NYSDEC Dam Safety	(518) 402-8145
Joe Albert	NYSDEC Dam Safety	(518) 402-6981
Chuck Honyoust	Citizen	not available
Chief Jake Edwards	Onondaga Nation	(315) 489-8971

5. **OVERALL PROJECT RATING:** In accordance with Headquarters, USACE guidance, this project is rated "**Minimally Acceptable**" (M). The presence of one or more deficient conditions that lessen the degree of project reliability was the determining factor for the project rating. Specific deficiencies are discussed in Section 7 of this report. All deficiencies shall be addressed in a timely manner. Failure to correct any deficiencies that have been noted as either minor or serious by the timeframe indicated could result in an "Unacceptable" (U) rating in the next inspection scheduled after that date.

Prior to this evaluation, the project was last inspected on 6/14/05. The condition of the project at the time of that inspection was rated as "Excellent" (C-1), which roughly compares to "Acceptable" (A) under the current rating system.

**6. PROJECT LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, AND LOCAL SPONSOR:**

- a. **Project Location:** The project is located on Onondaga Nation Territory and is situated on Onondaga Creek, approximately 12 miles upstream from Onondaga Lake and four miles south of the City of Syracuse.

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- b. Project Description:** The dam, reservoir, and channel improvements included in this project are the primary components of an integrated flood protection project on Onondaga Creek designed to reduce the potential for flooding in the City of Syracuse. The dam is a compacted earth embankment that is 1,782 feet long, has a crest width of 25 feet, and rises 67 feet above the valley floor. The upstream face of the dam and the downstream toe of the dam are riprapped to reduce potential for erosion. The dam reservoir has a capacity of 18,200 acre-feet. An intake channel carries flow from Onondaga Creek to the dam's intake structure which has a trash rack to keep out heavy debris. Low flows are carried through the dam via a 6-1/2 foot diameter concrete conduit, that extends 329 feet through the base of the dam near the right abutment, and exit to a 71-foot long stilling basin and outlet channel. There is a U.S.G.S. gage house located at the dam crest.

A side channel spillway, designed to handle high flows, is capped by a 200 foot long concrete ogee type weir. The spillway channel, which was partially constructed in bedrock, is controlled by 6 -1/4 feet high triangular control weir. The spillway channel, which is partially reinforced with concrete pavement, extends approximately 685 feet downstream to intercept the outlet channel.

- c. Local Sponsor:** In accordance with the project O&M manual, NYSDEC Region 7 has assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the project.

- 7. INSPECTION FINDINGS:** Deficiencies found during this inspection are noted below. Deficiency categories are described in the report transmittal letter. Refer to Attachment "A" for project inspection photographs, Attachment "B" for project inspection ratings of individual inspection items, Attachment "C" for a project map, Attachment "D" for Letter dated 11/07/07 from NYSDEC's Dam Safety Section concerning the project's Emergency Action Plan, and Attachment "E" for Memorandum dated 09/20/07 from USACE Buffalo District's Indian Nations Liaison concerning issues raised by the Onondaga Nation during the subject inspection.

**a. Potential Deficiencies:**

- (1) Concrete stairs on upstream face of dam is starting to spall (see photo 8).
- (2) Riprap on upstream and downstream sides of the dam is starting to show signs of deterioration.

**b. Minor Deficiencies:**

- (1) Vegetation on upstream face of dam (see photos 1-3, 7, & 28).
- (2) Broken railing fence at overlook on east side of dam - repeat deficiency from last inspection (see photo 4)
- (3) Excessive vegetation in riprap and on intake channel slopes (see photo 5).

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(4) Excessive vegetation around intake structure (see photo 7).

(5) Riprap around the intake structure appears to be either missing or hidden by sediments/vegetation (see photo 7). Some of the riprap around the intake structure and intake channel (near the intake structure) has deteriorated (see photo 6).

(6) Debris in spillway basin (see photo 15).

(7) Small trees and brush in spillway channel at control weir (see photo 17).

(8) Wire rope fence is damaged in a number of locations along the east and west sides of the spillway channel. Posts are loose or broken and wire rope is not securely tightened. This is a safety hazard and needs to be corrected as soon as possible. See photos 18-20.

(9) Excessive vegetation on downstream face of dam (see photo 21). Note some vegetation was planted on downstream face of dam as part of the project, however, due to excessive vegetation, couldn't visibly identify the difference.

(10) Rocks in outlet channel just downstream of outlet structure (see photo 23).

(11) Wire rope guardrail at west end of dam crest is broken (see photo 27).

Correction of all of the above deficiencies is required by 12/31/08.

c. **Serious Deficiencies:** None

**8. SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE REQUIRED BY LAST INSPECTION REPORT:**

(1) Remove debris from intake structure trash rack.

(2) Repair damage to east overlook fence.

(3) Provide hatch cover for open manhole at the East Overlook.

**9. SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE PERFORMED AFTER LAST INSPECTION:**

(1) Removal of debris from the intake structure trash rack.

(2) Vegetation removal from sides and upstream and downstream faces of dam. Mowing done where applicable.

(3) It is unknown if manhole hatch cover was replaced (not checked this inspection).

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**10. SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO PROJECT SINCE LAST INSEPECTION: None.**

**11. PROBLEMS/ISSUES REQUIRING ASSISTANCE OF USACE:**

(1) Chief Jake Edwards expressed a number of concerns by the Nation regarding this project. Most of these concerns have been brought up by the Nation during past inspections or during other discussions with USACE Buffalo District and NYSDEC. Attachment "E" (USACE Buffalo District's Indian Nations Liaison Memorandum Dated 09/20/07) summarizes the concerns. A meeting is tentatively being set up between the Nation, NYSDEC, and USACE Buffalo District for March 2008 to discuss these concerns in more detail.

**12. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**

(1) Vegetation control at the dam is a sensitive issue with the Nation. In particular, the Nation wishes that the Red Willow shrub not be removed from the dam faces as this bush is significant to them. The shrub only occurs sporadically on dam and does not grow very large (see photo 10). The Nation also opposes use of herbicides.

(2) The U.S.G.S gage house and gaging station at the dam has been abandoned and is no longer used (see photo 11).

(3) The main hydraulic components of the dam (intake channel, intake structure/trash rack, spillway, spillway channel, outlet structure, and outlet channel) are clear of significant obstructions and debris. No significant signs of erosion or detrimental stresses to the dam were observed. Dam is in relatively good condition.

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THIS INSPECTION:**

(1) The project sponsor needs to have a written system-specific flood Emergency Response Plan to document that they have a solid understanding of how to operate, maintain, and staff the Flood Damage Reduction project during a flood. The project sponsor must physically produce a copy of the project Operations and Maintenance manual and the written Emergency Response Plan for Corps review during all future project inspections beginning in 2008. Failure to provide these required documents will result in a **“Minimally Acceptable” (M)** rating for these specific items and an overall project rating that will also be no better than **“Minimally Acceptable” (M)**. NYSDEC's Dam Safety Section has indicated in a letter dated 11/07/07 to NYSDEC's Albany Office that the agency's current Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the project is dated 06/01/88 and needs to be verified and updated at least annually (see Attachment "D").

(2) For all future project inspections beginning in 2008, the condition of all culverts or discharge pipes must be verified by a qualified professional by using video camera or visual inspection methods at a frequency of not less than five years. Inspection reports for all pipes must be available for review during inspection. Failure to produce these required documents during an inspection will results in a **“Minimally Acceptable” (M)** rating for these specific

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items and an overall project rating that will also be no better than “**Minimally Acceptable**” (M). For this project, the requirement applies to the dam conduit.

(3) USACE Buffalo District should investigate the impacts to the dam structure of leaving the Red Willow shrub on the faces of the dam and not removing it as part of normal maintenance by the local sponsor.

(4) USACE Buffalo District and NYSDEC should meet face to face with the Nation to discuss the concerns brought up at the subject inspection. Currently this is tentatively scheduled for March 2008.

(5) Monitor spalling of concrete stairs; repair if becomes necessary.

(6) Monitor condition of riprap at upstream and downstream faces of dam. Replace as necessary if deterioration becomes significant.

(7) Remove vegetation as noted in Sections 7.b.(1), (3), (4), (5), (7), and (9) above.

(8) Repair broken railing fence at overlook on east side of dam.

(9) Uncover and/or repair riprap in vicinity of intake structure and intake channel. Highly turbulent flows can be expected in this area when reservoir is significantly filled. Lack of proper protection around the intake could lead to intake structure failure during high reservoir stages.

(10) Remove debris from spillway basin.

(11) Repair damaged wire rope fence in various locations along the east and west sides of the spillway channel.

(12) Remove rocks from outlet channel just downstream of outlet structure.

(13) Repair damaged wire rope guardrail at west end of dam crest.

**14. INSPECTION REPORT PREPARED/REVIEWED BY:**

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Robert W. Remmers, P.E.  
Chief, Operations and Technical Support Section

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**15. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Project Inspection Photographs
- B. Project Inspection Checklist
- C. Project Map
- D. NYSDEC Dam Safety Section Letter Dated 11/07/07
- E. USACE Buffalo District's Indian Nations Liaison Memorandum Dated 09/20/07

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**Attachment “A” - Project Inspection Photographs**



**Photo 1: Upstream face of dam (looking west) – note vegetation.**



**Photo 2: Intake channel and upstream side of dam (looking west)**

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**Photo 3: East side of upstream face of dam – note vegetation.**



**Photo 4: Broken railing fence at overlook.**

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**Photo 5: Intake channel, just upstream of intake structure – note vegetation in riprap and along channel.**



**Photo 6: Deteriorating riprap on upstream side of dam near intake structure.**

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**Photo 7: Intake structure and trash rack; eastern end of dam (upstream face) - note vegetation and lack of visible riprap around intake structure.**



**Photo 8: Concrete stairs and intake channel – note spalling of concrete stairs.**

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**Photo 9: Concrete stairs on upstream face of dam.**



**Photo 10: Red willow shrub on upstream face of dam.**

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**Photo 11: Abandoned gate house at crest of dam.**



**Photo 12: Dam spillway (upstream side).**

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**Photo 13: Dam spillway and spillway basin.**



**Photo 14: Spillway channel.**

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**Photo 15: Debris in spillway basin**



**Photo 16: Spillway channel (looking north)**

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**Photo 17: Control weir in spillway basin – note growth of small trees and brush**



**Photo 18: Broken post for wire rope fence – east side of spillway channel.**

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**Photo 19: Broken wire rope fence along west side of spillway channel.**



**Photo 20: Broken wire rope fence – west side of spillway channel.**

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**Photo 21: Downstream face of dam (east end).**



**Photo 22: Outlet structure looking upstream.**

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**Photo 23: Outlet structure and channel.**



**Photo 24: Downstream face of dam (from west end looking east).**

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**Photo 25: Crest of dam (from east end looking west).**



**Photo 26: Riprap on downstream face of dam (west end).**

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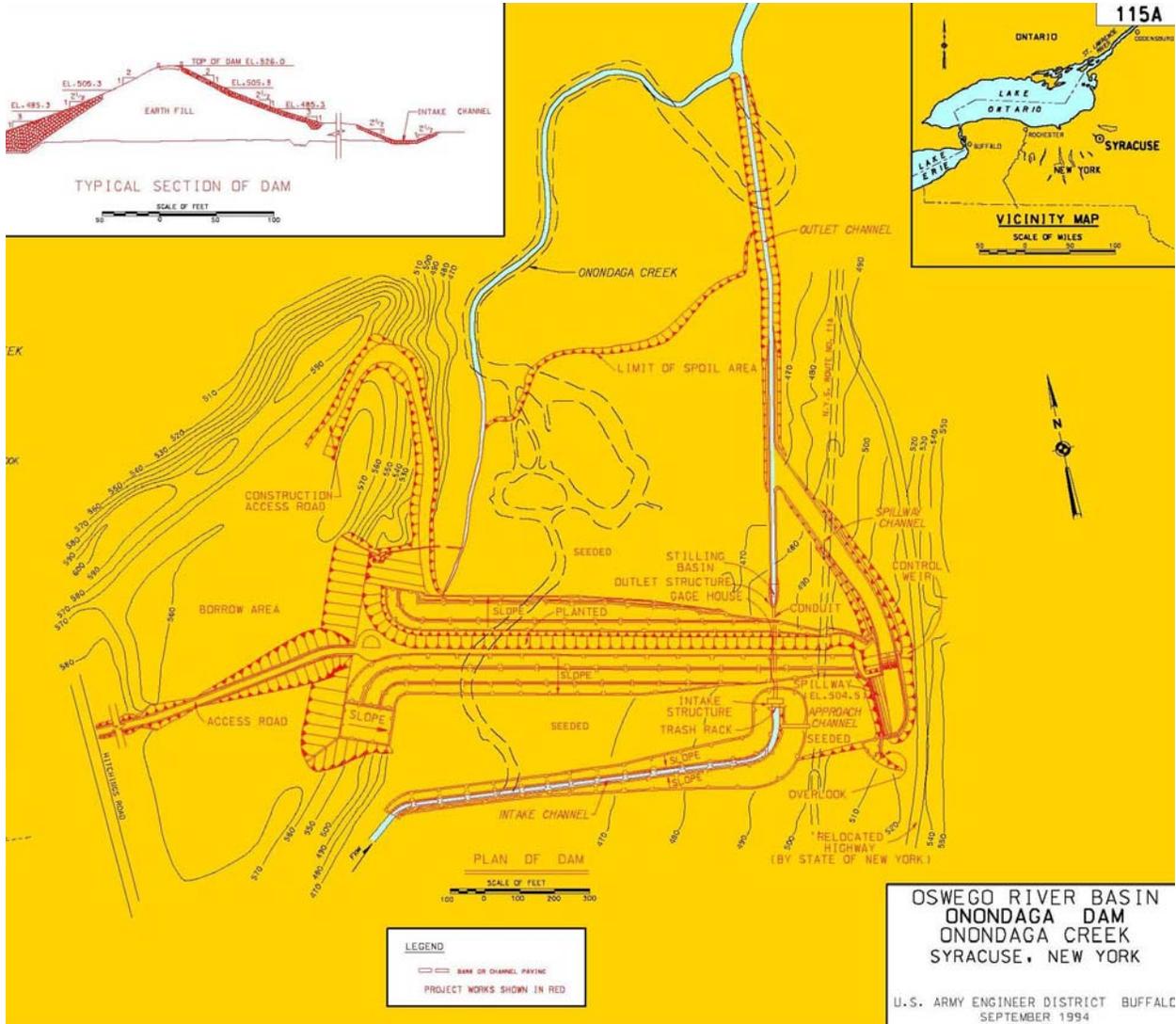
**Photo 27: Broken wire rope guardrail at west end of dam crest.**



**Photo 28: Upstream side of dam (from west end looking east).**



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**Attachment "D" – NYSDEC Dam Safety Section Letter Dated 11/7/07**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water**

**Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-3504  
**Phone: (518) 402-8185 • FAX: (518) 402-8082**  
**Website: www.dec.state.ny.us**



November 7, 2007

Michael Stankiewicz, P.E.  
Chief, Flood Control Projects Section  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-3504

Re: Onondaga Dam  
DEC Dam ID#: 083-4366  
Town of Lafayette, Onondaga County

Dear Mr. Stankiewicz:

I conducted a routine visual inspection at the above referenced dam on September 13, 2007 as part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (Department) ongoing Dam Safety program. I am writing to you because it is my understanding that you are, or represent, the owner of this structure. A copy of my Visual Observations is enclosed for your information.

This dam is currently considered to be a "Class C - High Hazard" dam. This means that failure of the dam could cause loss of human life, serious damage to homes, industrial or commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways or railroads and/or cause extensive economic loss.

All Class C - High Hazard dams should have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). An EAP is a formal document that identifies potential emergency conditions at a dam and specifies preplanned actions to be followed in order to minimize loss of life and property damage in case the dam should fail. Guidance for preparing an acceptable EAP can be found at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), in their publication entitled "Emergency Action Planning for Dam Owners" (FEMA 64), dated April 2004. The Emergency Action Plan that we have on file for this dam is dated June 1, 1988. Please note that EAPs should be verified at least annually and updated as needed, and that the following contact information should be included in the next revision:

Primary Contact:

Alon Dominitz, Chief  
Dam Safety Section  
(518) 402-8130 (office)  
(518) 852-0415 (cell)

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Secondary Contact:

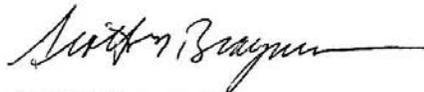
Joseph Albert, EAP Coordinator  
Dam Safety Section  
(518) 402-8129 (office)

It should also be noted that the dam safety regulations are currently under revision. While State agencies are explicitly exempt from these regulations, the environmental audit process defined in Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) 3-0311 does require compliance with the substantive requirements of the regulations and good engineering practice. The preliminary draft of the dam safety regulations can be downloaded from the following website:  
<ftp://ftp.dec.state.ny.us/dow/damsafety/>.

Please keep in mind that while any repair or construction activities related to State-owned dams do not require permits, they do require technical review and approval from the Dam Safety Section of the Department. Well before beginning work on a dam, please check with the Dam Safety Section at (518) 402-8185 to coordinate those reviews.

If you have any questions regarding the above, or the Dam Safety program in general, please contact me at (518) 402-8145.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Braymer, P.E.  
Dam Safety Section  
Environmental Engineer 2

cc w/ enc: Chief Irving Powless Jr., Onondaga Nation  
Robert Remmers, USACOE - Buffalo District ✓  
Thomas Andino, Jr., Supervisor, Town of Onondaga  
Matthew Driscoll, Mayor, City of Syracuse  
cc w/o enc: Peter Alberti, Director, Onondaga County Emergency Management  
ecc w/ enc: Kevin Delaney, NYSDEC Region 7 (North) - Dam Safety Representative  
Larry Lepak, NYSDEC Region 7 (South) - Dam Safety Representative  
Dan Fuller, NYSDEC Region 7 - Dam Safety Representative  
Dick Wojcik, NYSDEC Region 7 - Operations

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**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water**

**Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-3504  
**Phone:** (518) 402-8185 • **FAX:** (518) 402-8082  
**Website:** [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)



Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

**Visual Observations**

<i>Dam Name:</i>	Onondaga Dam	<i>State ID:</i>	083-4366
<i>Hazard Class:</i>	C	<i>Section:</i>	A
<i>County:</i>	Onondaga	<i>Nearest City/Town:</i>	Onondaga Nation
<i>Owner:</i>	NYSDEC – Operations	<i>Date of Inspection:</i>	9/13/07

*Inspectors:* SMB/JA, accompanied by MS, various Regional reps, COE reps and reps from the Onondaga Nation. Apparently the Nation has expressed interest in a number of alternative uses for the dam over the years, including: conversion into a wet pond, removing the dam, and constructing a small hydro project. The Nation requests that no herbicides/pesticides be used during maintenance, and that the “Red Whip” not be cut.

*Water Level Behind Dam:* Flood Control Dam, pond dry, but Onondaga Creek flowing.

*Embankment:* Some brush growing amongst rip rap along upstream face. Top of embankment is gravel road accessed from left side. Waist high weeds and scattered brush growing amongst the rip rap at the downstream toe. Multiple pipes (piezometers?) along toe. Signs of deterioration of rip rap material.

*Service Spillway:* Brush in rip rap lining of the approach channel, trash rack clear (see Photo 1). There appears to be a small cobble/debris dam in outlet channel downstream of concrete chute (see Photo 2), resulting backwater partially covers drain holes in side walls.

*Auxiliary Spillway:* Reportedly designed for the “1000-yr event,” water level reached the spillway crest in the 1960’s, but auxiliary spillway has never flowed. Outlet channel reportedly rock lined, but with sediment in bottom and a thick growth of phragmites has become established (see Photo 3). The van observed in past inspections has been removed.

*Ancillary structures:* Upstream end of fence rail along right overlook needs repair. The brick structure at the crest of the embankment in line with the service spillway is an abandoned USGS stream gage.

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**Attachment “E” – USACE Buffalo District’s Indian Nations Liaison Memorandum Dated 9/20/07**

CELRB-TD-EA (1105-10a)

20 September 2007  
Butler/web/4268

MEMORANDUM THRU Team Leader, CELRB-TD-EA  
CELRB-TD-OT (R. Remmers)

FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Onondaga Creek Dam and Reservoir – Annual Joint Inspection

1. Reference: Joseph J. Heath, Esq. Letter dtd 1 Sep 04, SAB.
2. The purpose of this memorandum is to document questions and concerns that were raised by the Onondaga Nation representative during the USACE-NYSDEC annual inspection of the subject project. Where appropriate, follow-on actions are noted.
3. On 13 September 2007, Mr. Bob Remmers (CELRB-TD-OT) and I along with representatives of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Larry Lepak, NYSDEC-Region 7 POC) met for the annual inspection of the Onondaga Creek Dam. Chief Jake Edwards of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs also met with us.
3. During the course of discussions, Chief Edwards and others raised the following issues:
  - a. Need for Dam. Chief Edwards stated that the Onondaga Nation’s questions the need for the project. This concern reiterates the recommendation for a meeting with the Onondaga Nation to explain the need for the dam and its function (ref. a). In 2006, LRB attempted to schedule this meeting in response to the Nation’s recommendation, however the Council declined to respond. I suggested to Chief Edwards that we again attempt to convene this meeting in Nov/Dec 07 [NOTE: When the inspection report is submitted to the Onondaga Nation, I propose that we request that this meeting be scheduled for March 2008]. At this proposed meeting, an H&H representative would be available to explain the design and function of the project. I also suggest that a representative of the Planning Branch participate to discuss USACE environmental restoration authorities (e.g., Sec. 206, Sec. 1135) that may be applicable to the project. The Section 216 authority (Review of Completed Projects) should also be explained. Dave Derrick (ERDC) has already expressed an interest in attending this meeting.
  - b. Red Willow. Due to the importance of the red willow [red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)] to the Onondaga, CELRB-TD-OT and NYSDEC agreed that this shrub would remain in place during vegetation removal along the dam. The shrub occurs sporadically along the dam and the Onondaga have identified it as a medicinal plant.

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- c. Permanent Pool. Chief Edwards mentioned the possibility of retaining a permanent pool behind the dam. He specifically asked if "elevations" are available. I noted that this issue could be discussed at the follow-up meeting. [NOTE: In a previous discussion, Chief Irving Powless said that the Onondaga were led to believe that a permanent pool would be a part of the project when it was constructed.]
- d. Hydropower. Chief Edwards asked if the dam would be suitable for retrofitting for hydroelectricity generation. He said that he believed that low-head power generation was taking place at one of the Erie Barge Canal's locks and dams. We recommended that this item could also be discussed at the March 2008 follow-up meeting.
- e. Flooding. Chief Edwards noted that flooding occurs on both the upstream and downstream sides of the dam. [NOTE: Mr. Remmers recommends an H&H analysis for the project in FY08].
- f. Vegetation Removal. Chief Edwards asked if the Onondaga Nation could perform the maintenance mowing, etc. Mr. Remmers responded that it would not matter who performed the work, as long as the maintenance was properly completed. The Nation would need to work out an arrangement with New York State to perform this work.
- g. Snow-plowing. Chief Edwards noted that homes along the former section State Route 11A north of the dam which no longer have frontage on the relocated section of the highway are no longer plowed by the NYS Department of Transportation. I will discuss with Real Estate (J. Janik) and telephone NYSDOT if necessary.
- h. Athletic Fields. Chief Edwards said that the construction of athletic fields at the project's borrow areas was promised to the Nation at the time of project construction. As noted previously, a recurring problem with this project is that neither party has a copy of the original LERRD agreement. NYSDEC said that their records were destroyed in a fire in 1981 and Chief Edwards said that the rights to Nation lands were sold by a single property owner (Crouse/Krause?) [NOTE: This is the first time that I have heard this explanation.] I recommend that a title search of County Clerk records be conducted in an effort to resolve this issue, as well as address any potential future problems related to access to the project for maintenance.
- i. Tree Planting. Chief Edwards pointed out the area in the vicinity of the dam outlook and asked if it would be possible to plant trees. Mr. Remmers agreed that this would likely be permissible.
- j. Onondaga Lake. Chief Edwards expressed his Nation's concerns about remediation efforts at Onondaga Lake. The Nation prefers complete removal of contaminated sediments as opposed to capping the material in place. Since this is an issue that is likely to arise again at the proposed March 2008 meeting, I recommend that the OLP Project Manager also attend to present a brief update, listen to concerns, and answer any

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questions.

5. Once the annual inspection report is completed, I will send copies of the report to Chief Powless, Chief Edwards and Joseph Heath (Onondaga Nation attorney) and request that we schedule a meeting for March 2008. Recommended participants include representatives from the following:

- o Operations Branch
- o Planning Branch
- o H&H Engineering Branch
- o Design Branch
- o OLP Project Manager
- o NYSDEC

6. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact me at X4268.



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Indian Nations Liaison  
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CF (via e-mail):

CELRB-TD-O (K. Griffin)  
CELRB-TD-OT (R. Remmers)  
CELRB-TD-DS (C. Marranta)  
CELRB-TD-E (F. Boglione)  
CELRB-TD (D. Conboy)  
CELRB-PM-PM (T. Clever)  
CELRB-PM-PB (M. Hope)  
CELRB-DE (LTC Hurley)  
CELRB-OC (M. Barczak)  
CELRB-PM-PL (T. Clever)  
CELRB-TD-HH (L. Sherman)  
CELRB-RE (J. Janik)  
NYSDEC-Region 7 (L. Lepak)