

# ANNUAL RESERVOIR INSPECTION

HOWELL'S RUN DAM

DEP ID No. D11-103

EBENSBURG BOROUGH, CAMBRIA COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

OWNER: EBENSBURG BOROUGH

OCTOBER, 2015

November 16, 2015

TEL: 814.696.6280  
FAX: 814.696.6240

Mr. Dan Penatzer  
Borough Manager  
Ebensburg Borough  
300 W. High Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

RE: 2015 Inspection of Howell's Run Dam  
DEP File No. 11-103  
Project No. 15-0017.101

Dear Mr. Penatzer:

Stiffler, McGraw & Associates (SMA) has completed the 2015 annual dam safety inspection of the above referenced dam. We've attached four copies of the inspection report – two copies for your records and two for submission to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The copies sent to PA DEP should be addressed to:

Brandon S. Frey, E.I.T.  
Western Section – Division of Dam Safety  
PADEP  
Rachel Carson Building  
P.O. Box 8554  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8554

In summary, the dam appeared to be in good condition. However, the following observations should be noted and addressed by Ebensburg staff:

1. Vegetative cover on the dam crest and downstream embankment was well maintained. However, an area along the eastern spillway wall is overgrown and should be cut. See the Sketch Plan and Photo 15.
2. Inlet ends of the corrugated steel pipes through the stilling basin wall should be cleared of silt and debris.
3. The weired 6" or 8" pipe extending through the eastern spillway wall was flowing briskly. We understand the source to be an underdrain. The location of this drain should be ascertained and the flow monitored.

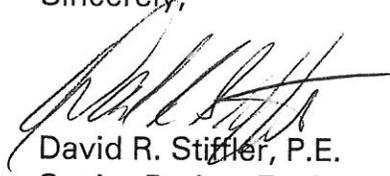
Mr. Dan Penatzer  
RE: 2015 Inspection of Howell's Run Dam  
Page Two  
November 16, 2015

4. It was noted in last year's report that the outlet drain valve(s) was operated in 2011. We assume it has not been operated since then. Original plans for the dam construction showed a "drop log" at the upstream end of the intake chamber and a 3' sluice gate on the downstream end of the intake chamber. I'm assuming the drop log would serve as an emergency closure and the sluice gate as the primary closure. In any case, both should be operated ASAP. The operation of these could be conducted during the television inspection of the outlet conduit that was recommended by the PA DEP in last year's review letter. We will contact you to schedule a date to perform the inspection.
5. The area downstream of the embankment toe was very wet. The wettest area is shown on the sketch plan. Flow was observed at the lower end of the wet area and estimated to be approximately 1 GPM. This situation may have been influenced by significant rainfall the days proceeding our inspection. In any case, the flow from this area should be monitored.
6. The seepage weirs at the outlet works headwall should be monitored, as well as the flow (assumed to be leakage) exiting the conduit itself.

Please note that the "Dam Owner's Notice Checklist", page 9 of the inspection forms needs completed and signed. I've notified Jeff Evans of this also.

If you should have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



David R. Stiffler, P.E.  
Senior Project Engineer

Enclosures

**DAM INSPECTION CHECKLIST**  
**Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Bureau of Waterways Engineering**  
**Division of Dam Safety**

NAME OF DAM: Howell's Run Dam DEP DAM NO.: D11-103

LOCATION: Municipality: Ebensburg Borough County: Cambria

DEP CLASSIFICATION DATA: Size: B Hazard: 1

**PHYSICAL DATA:**

Type of Dam: Earth Fill Height of Dam: 63' Normal Pool Storage Capacity: 1324 Ac-Ft

**ELEVATIONS:**

Normal Pool: 2050 (+/-) Pool at Inspection: 2044.6+ Tailwater at Inspection:

DAM OWNER: Ebensburg Borough OPERATOR: Jeff Evans

ADDRESS: 300 West High Street Ebensburg, PA 15931 Public Works Director  
Ebensburg Borough

PHONE: (814) 472-8750 FAX NO.: E-MAIL ADDRESS: jevans@ebensburgpa.com

**A completed and signed Dam Owners Notice Checklist is to accompany this Inspection Checklist.**

**PERSONS PRESENT AT INSPECTION:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
<u>David R. Stiffler, P.E.</u>	<u>Sr. Project Engineer</u>	<u>Stiffler, McGraw &amp; Assoc.</u>
<u>Roger A. Foor</u>	<u>Construction Manager</u>	<u>Stiffler, McGraw &amp; Assoc.</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

DATE OF INSPECTION: 10/29/2015

WEATHER: Clear

TEMPERATURE: 48°



This is to certify that the above dam has been inspected and the following are the results of this inspection.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 Signature of Registered Professional Engineer  
 (P.E. Seal Required)

11/12/15  
 Date

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
<b>EMBANKMENT: CREST</b>					
1	Surface Cracking	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Sinkhole, Animal Burrow	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Low Area(s)	Slightly irregular	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Horizontal Alignment	One end curved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Ruts and/or Puddles	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Vegetation Condition	Mix of stones and grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Warning Signs	Yes, recently replaced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):					
<b>EMBANKMENT: UPSTREAM FACE</b>					
10	Slide, Slough, Scarp	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Slope Protection	Large riprap is in good condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Sinkhole, Animal Burrow	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Emb.-Abut. Contact	No problems noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Erosion	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Vegetation Condition	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):					

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
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**EMBANKMENT: DOWNSTREAM FACE**

18	Wet Area(s) (No Flow)	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Seepage	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Slide, Slough, Scarp	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Emb. - Abut. Contact	No problems noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Sinkhole, Animal Burrow	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Erosion	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Unusual Movement	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Vegetation Control	Brush and weeds need cut along eastern spillway wall. See Photo 15 and Sketch Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable): The vegetation above the abandoned in place UST structures remains in good condition.

**EMBANKMENT: INSTRUMENTATION**

28	Piezometers/Observ. Wells	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Staff Gauge and Recorder	Staff gauge on the intake structure bridge is in good condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Weirs	Weirs are located on each side of the drain (See below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Survey Monuments	None observed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Drains	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Low Flow Release	Monitored at Ebensburg Storage Dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Frequency of Readings	Continuously monitored at Ebensburg Storage Dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Location of Records	Treatment facility building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

30. outlet headwall. One was flowing at approximately 1 GPM. Some flow was also observed in the drain pipe.

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
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**DOWNSTREAM AREA**

38	Abutment Leakage	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Foundation Seepage	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	Slide, Slough, Scarp	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Drainage System	Rip-Rap Toe Drain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	Boils	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Wet Areas	Yes, see Sketch Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Reservoir Slopes	Wooded – no problems noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Access Roads	Good condition. Road enters the site along the left abutment and crosses the crest to the right abutment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46	Security Devices	The gate located on the access road is working properly. A locked gate and fencing is installed on the access bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Act 91 Run-of-the-River Signs or Bouys	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

**SPILLWAYS: ERODABLE CHANNEL N/A**

50	Slide, Slough, Scarp		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	Erosion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52	Vegetation Condition		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
53	Debris		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
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**SPILLWAYS: NON-ERODABLE CHANNEL**

56	Sidewalls	Fair condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	Channel Floor	Fair condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58	Unusual Movement	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
59	Approach Area	Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60	Weir or Control	Concrete ogee spillway section was repaired in 2008 and is in good condition. Minor surface wearing is evident but not a problem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
61	Discharge Channel	Silt and debris blocking the inlets of the stilling basin discharge pipes should be cleared.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
62	Boils	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

**SPILLWAYS: DROP INLET / N/A**

65	Intake Structure	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66	Trashrack	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
67	Stilling Basin	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
68			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
69			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
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**OUTLET WORKS**

70	Intake Structure	Fair condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
71	Trashrack	Did not observe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
72	Stilling Basin	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
73	Primary Closure	3' Sluice Gate – Did not observe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
74	Secondary Closure	Drop log – Did not observe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75	Control Mechanism	Drop log – Winch; Sluice Gate – Handwheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
76	Outlet Pipe	48 inch reinforced concrete pipe at lower end with an arched-top box culvert extending from the downstream toe to the intake tower. Needs televised.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
77	Outlet Tower	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
78	Outlet Structure	Headwall at discharge point	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
79	Seepage	V-notch weirs on either side of the outlet pipe – one flowing at 1 ± GPM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80	Unusual Movement	None noted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
81			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
82			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

**CONCRETE/MASONRY DAMS: UPSTREAM FACE N/A**

83	Surface Conditions	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
84	Condition of Joints	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
85	Unusual Movement	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86	Abutment-Dam Contacts	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
87			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
88			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

ITEM	CONDITION	COMMENTS	MONITOR	INVESTIGATE	REPAIR
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**CONCRETE/MASONRY DAMS: DOWNSTREAM FACE N/A**

89	Surface Conditions	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
90	Condition of Joints	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
91	Unusual Movement	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
92	Abutment-Dam Contacts	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
93	Drains	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
94	Leakage	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
95			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

**CONCRETE/MASONRY DAMS: CREST N/A**

97	Surface Conditions	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98	Horizontal Alignment	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
99	Vertical Alignment	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100	Condition of Joints	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Unusual Movements	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):



**DAM OWNERS NOTICE CHECKLIST**  
**Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Bureau of Waterways Engineering**  
**Division of Dam Safety**

**NAME OF DAM:** Howell's Run Dam **DEP DAM NO.:** D11-103

This is to certify that both the Downstream Hazard Description is accurate and the Posted Notice locations listed below have been inspected and the following are the results of these inspections.

Ebensburg Municipal Authority      [Signature]      11/18/15  
 Name of Dam Owner      Signature of Dam Owner      Date

**This Dam Owners Notice Checklist is to accompany the Inspection Checklist filed by the Engineer.**

**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

Date of Last Update of Emergency Plan: July 2011

Downstream Hazard Description (Refer to sections II.C and II.D in the EAP), additionally, specify any new developments, structures, etc. downstream within the inundation area: Within the inundation area there are approximately 11 homes, 10 commercial businesses, one water treatment plant, one sewage treatment plant, one baseball field, and one public swimming pool.

**POSTED NOTICES** (Refer to section V.A in the EAP)

ITEM	DATE INSPECTED	LOCATION	COMMENTS	EXISTING	MISSING	REPLACED
1	11/18/15	Cambria County EMA		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	11/18/15	Cambria Township EMO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	11/18/15	Ebensburg Boro. EMO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	11/18/15	Munster Twp EMO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	11/18/15	Portage Twp EMO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	11/18/15	Summerhill Twp EMO		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	11/18/15	Ebensburg Boro. Municipal Bldg Dam Reservoir Manager's Office		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	11/18/15	Central Cambria Zone EMA		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments (Refer to item number if applicable):

# SKETCH PLAN



REVISIONS:

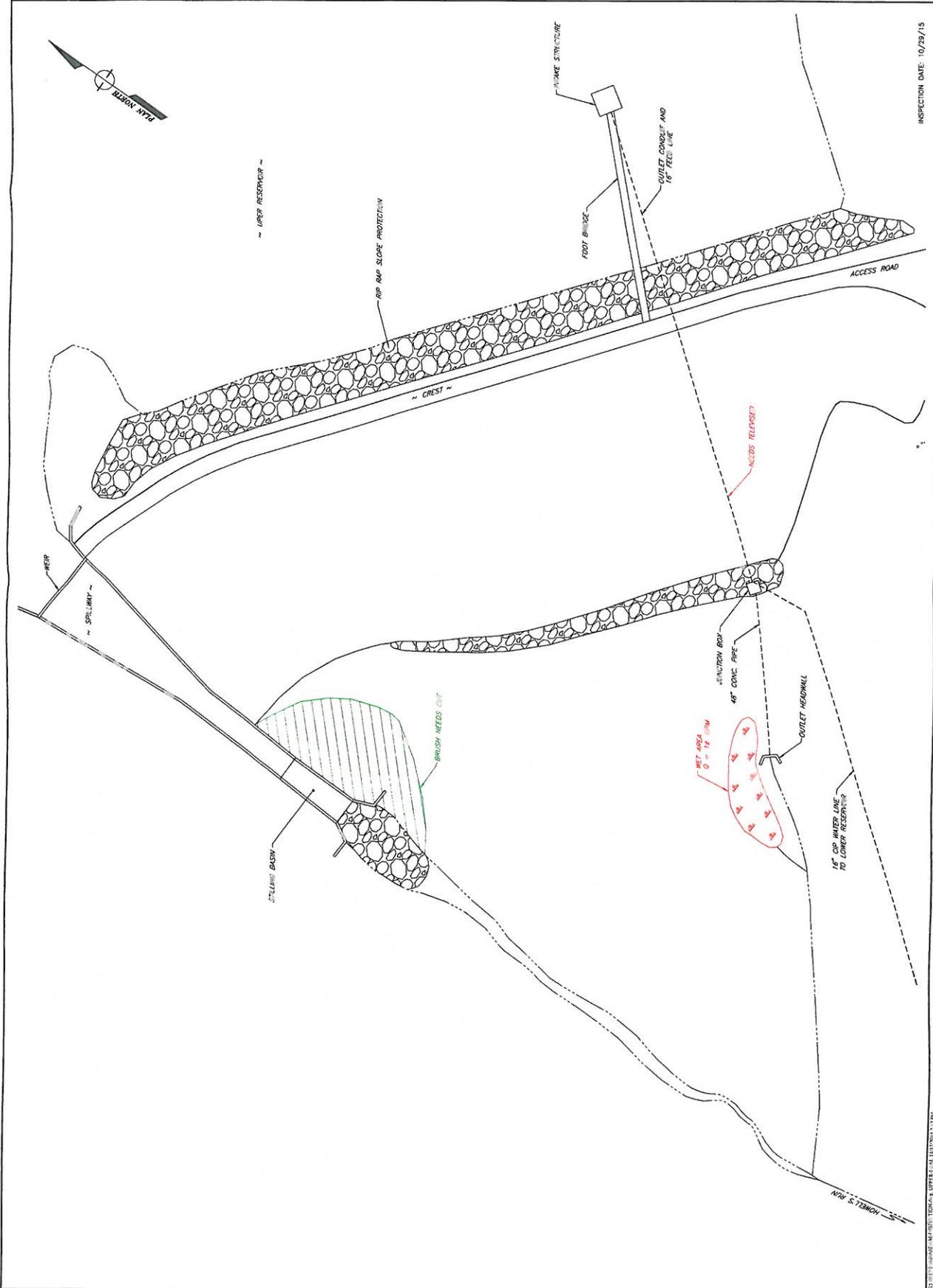
No.	Date	Description

**DAM INSPECTION  
 SKETCH PLAN**

Sheet Title:

PROJECT NO.	14-00171B1
DRAWN BY:	SRL
DESIGNED BY:	DBS
CHECKED BY:	DBS
SCALE:	NONE
DRAWING:	

**S2**



INSPECTION DATE: 10/28/15

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# PHOTOGRAPHS

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 1: View of Gated Access to Dam



Photo 2: Downstream Embankment Looking Northwest

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania

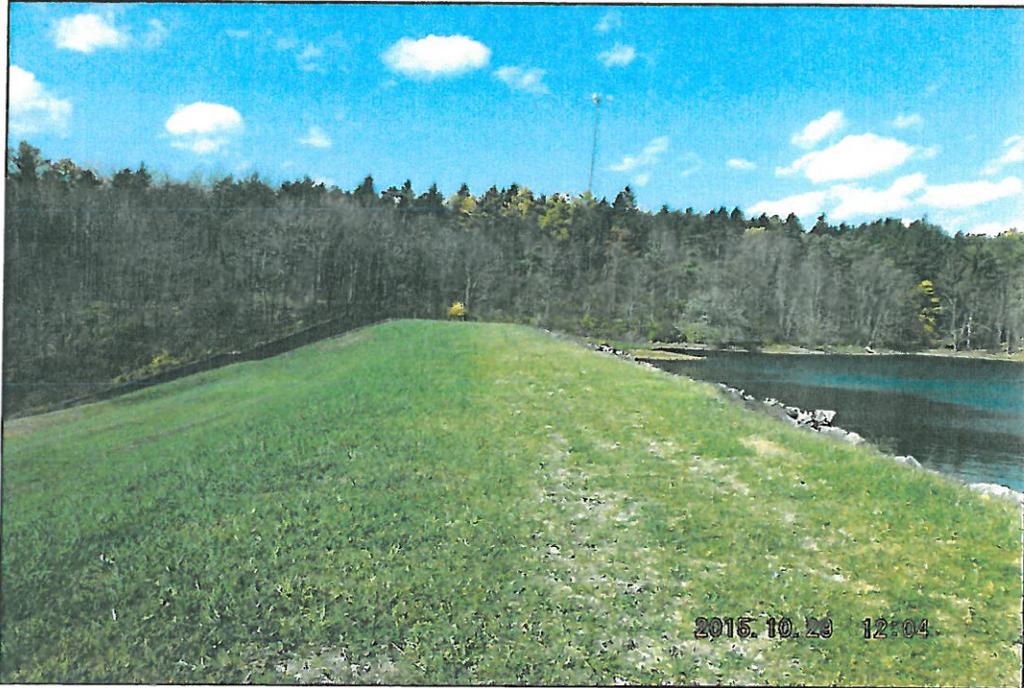


Photo 3: Crest looking Northwest toward Spillway



Photo 4: Upstream Embankment looking Northwest

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 5: View of Locked Gate Access to the Bridge and Intake Structure



Photo 6: View of Bridge Pier and Staff Gauge

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 7: View of Valve Stems at Top of Intake Structure



Photo 8: View of Bridge Walkway

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 9: Upstream Embankment Looking Southeast



Photo 10: View of Spillway Approach Channel

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania

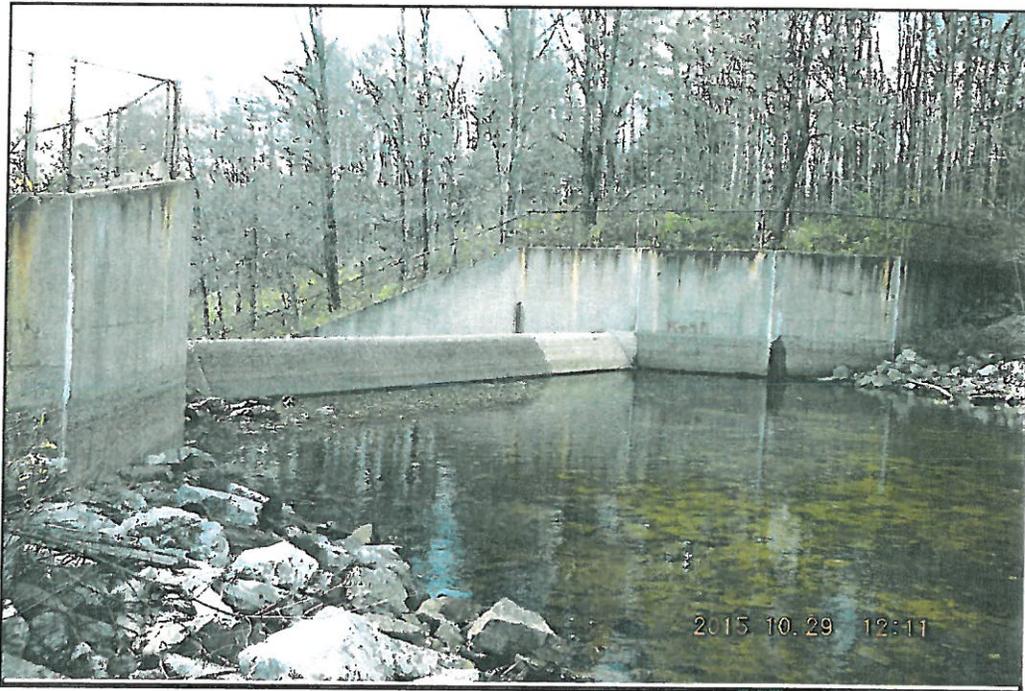


Photo 11: View of Spillway Weir and Walls



Photo 12: Spillway Channel looking South

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 13: Downstream Embankment looking Southeast



Photo 14: Spillway Channel looking North

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 15: View of Vegetation along Eastern Spillway Wall



Photo 16: View of Stilling Basin Wall and Weir

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 17: View of Weired Seepage Outlet through Eastern Spillway Wall



Photo 18: View of Junction Box for Drain Pipe Extension at Toe of Embankment

DEP ID No D11-103  
HOWELL'S RUN DAM  
Ebensburg Borough, Pennsylvania



Photo 19: View of Reservoir Drain Outlet

**DEP REVIEW LETTER  
FOR  
2014 INSPECTION REPORT**



April 30, 2015

Daniel L. Penatzer, Manager  
Ebensburg Borough  
300 West High Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Re: 2014 Annual Inspection Report  
Howell's Run Dam  
DEP File No. D11-103

Dear Mr. Penatzer:

The 2014 Annual Inspection Report for the Howell's Run Dam was submitted by L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Inc. on December 10, 2014. We thank the Borough for its cooperation with the DEP Dam Safety Program and for conducting the 2014 Annual Inspection.

We have reviewed the inspection report and concur with the recommendations explained in it. The Borough should review these recommendations with its engineer, and then implement any necessary maintenance and repairs. Please be advised that repairs other than minor maintenance will likely require written approval from the Department prior to performing any work. Minor maintenance includes activities such as vegetation and debris removal, filling of animal burrows, and patching or sealing of small areas. *The results of any repair or maintenance work should be documented by the Borough's engineer in the 2015 Annual Inspection Report.*

It was noted that the drawdown valves were not tested during this inspection. While it is not required as part of this inspection, drawdown valves should be exercised at least twice yearly to ensure that they are in proper working order.

Included with the Annual Inspection Report is the Dam Owner's Notice Checklist. However, it was not completed and signed or dated by the dam owner or owner's representative. Please complete this checklist and resubmit this page to our office.

A review of our files shows that a close inspection of the outlet or drawdown conduit, appurtenant gates, or valves might not have been conducted since 2003. In consideration of the age of this structure and the frequent occurrence of problems encountered with outlet systems for other older dams in Pennsylvania, we request that the Authority direct its engineer to conduct a detailed inspection of the dam's outlet/drawdown system. The inspection should include the conduit, appurtenant gates or valves, and structures. We strongly suggest that the Authority's engineer contact this office to discuss the technical requirements of the inspection. A detailed report of this inspection, including video, should be submitted with the 2015 Annual Inspection Report.

Daniel L. Penatzer, Manager  
Ebensburg Borough

- 2 -

April 30, 2015

In addition to the inspection performed by your engineer, a Department engineer inspected this dam on April 17, 2014 and had the following comments:

- Several animal burrows were detected near the rock toe drain. Vegetation should be controlled in that area to help better detect animal burrowing and the existing animal burrows should be addressed. Please review the enclosed "Burrowing Animals and Dams" fact sheet. It tells you how to properly eliminate an animal burrow. Filling the hole with stone, as was shown in the Annual Inspection Report, is not the proper way to eliminate a burrow.
- Spalling of concrete should be addressed prior to becoming a major concern.
- Monitoring and maintenance should continue on a regular basis.

DEP appreciates both this opportunity to review the operation of Howell's Run Dam, and the cooperation extended by Ebensburg Borough and its engineer. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me by e-mail at [brfrey@pa.gov](mailto:brfrey@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.772.1680.

Sincerely,



Brandon S. Frey, E.I.T.  
Western Section  
Division of Dam Safety

Encl: "Burrowing Animals and Dams" Fact Sheet

cc: George B. Wright, P.E., L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Inc.

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