



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

May 20, 2010

Secretary

717-787-2814

The Honorable Jaret Gibbons
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
House Post Office Box 202010
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2010

Dear Representative Gibbons:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Hereford Manor Conservancy and Watershed Group (HMC) and their request for the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) funding assistance to rehabilitate dams at Hereford Manor Lakes, Beaver County. These dams, which are owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, have been determined to be high hazard dams in need of rehabilitation or removal.

Funding for Pennsylvania's abandoned mine land (AML) program is supported by federal grants awarded to Pennsylvania in accordance with Title IV of the SMCRA. The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) provides oversight for Pennsylvania's AML Program. Funds from the grants can only be used to address eligible AML features such as open mine entries and shafts; dangerous highwalls; coal refuse and underground mine fires; subsidence prone areas; hazardous mine buildings and equipment; and water supplies degraded or diminished by past coal mining operations.

The Hereford Manor Lakes site was reviewed by staff from both Pennsylvania's AML Program and the federal OSM in 2008. The evaluation determined that no high-priority AML features currently exist at the site and any work required to remove or rehabilitate the dams were determined to be ineligible for Title IV AML funding.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Maiden, Director of Legislative Affairs, by e-mail at rm Maiden@state.pa.us or by telephone at 717-783-8303.

Sincerely,

John Hanger
Secretary

MAY 24 2010