



Hereford Manor Lake Conservancy & Watershed Group, Inc.

Mr. John Hanger
Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

June 30, 2010

Dear Secretary Hanger:

Thank you for your May 20, 2010 response to our letter submitted through the Honorable Representative Jaret Gibbons' office.

Based on our knowledge of the intent of the SMCRA funding, we do not understand the rationale that Title IV AML SMCRA funds cannot be used for rehabilitation of the dams at Hereford Manor Lake. Officials with Pennsylvania's BAMR office (Baker) and federal OSM (Carstensen) indicated at meetings in 2008 that you referenced that if/when the dams were breached there "may" be funding available to restore the area due to the legacy 60-year-old highwalls still present, as well as any newly exposed hazards that may arise as a result of the breaching and draining processes.

With that statement in mind and your description of the AML features eligible for restoration, we ask for use of SMCRA funding "post breaching and draining" as follows:

- (1) to repair the legacy highwalls
- (2) to repair any newly exposed highwalls following draining of the lakes
- (3) to repair and/or remove "spoil piles" of the current dams since it was pointed out in repeated engineering studies that the composition of the dams (spoil piles) is the primary reason they have the B-1 high-hazard designation by DEP
- (4) to repair any possible AMD or other dangerous materials exposed by the breaching of the dams and draining of the lakes
- (5) to remove coal refuse that may be exposed following the breaching process
- (6) to repair subsidence prone areas following the breaching process
- (7) to remove hazardous mine equipment that may be submerged in the lakes
- (8) to repair possible submerged portals
- (9) to restore water supplies degraded or diminished by the breaching process
- (10) any other unforeseen hazards

We understand that Rep. Gibbons' will continue to oppose any H2O funding for the breaching of the dams until there is a plan in place for Hereford Manor Lakes.

We respectfully ask for your specific response to the ten questions posed above.

We completely understand the need to eliminate the potential hazard of what has been designated to be unsafe dams and, at the same time, are confident no one wants to see a once beautiful green space turn into a large, dangerous mud hole.

We sincerely believe that by working together we can find a combination of funding solutions to meet all stakeholders' objectives.

Hereford Manor Lake Conservancy & Watershed Group, Inc.

WHAT CAN YOU DO....WRITE LETTERS!

ADDRESSES TO VOICE YOUR OPINION:

Mr. John Hanger
Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Pennsylvania's Governor
The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Jaret Gibbons
309 5th St.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Executive Director, John Arway
1601 Elmerton Ave Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106