
From: Curley, Jane
Sent: 16 October 2023 16:14
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: FW: Reservoir safety / flood plan for SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014/ Objections

Categories:

Jane Curley (Mrs)
Senior Planning Officer (Majors &
Commercial) Mobile

From: SheilaWalters
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Curley, Jane
Subject: Reservoir safety / flood plan for SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014/ Objections

56.



Dear Mrs Curley,

Reservoir safety / flood plan for SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014.

Now that the EA has re-designated the quarry 3 lagoon as a reservoir, we feel we should remind you that under the Reservoirs Act 1975, reservoirs impounding over 25,000 cubic metres of water above natural ground level are categorised on a risk basis according to the consequences (in terms of potential for loss of life and/or damage to property) of a structural failure occurring.

Also that there is a requirement for LPAs to discuss their proposed site allocations with reservoir undertakers to:

- avoid an intensification of development within areas at risk from reservoir failure; and
- ensure that reservoir undertakers can assess the cost implications of any reservoir safety improvements required due to changes in land use downstream of their assets.

You should also be aware of recent government legislation and take account of it in your deliberations.

Also that the plan is somewhat a more complex document than anything we have seen evident in the documentation for SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014.

Government guidance requires a proper flood plan on the following lines :-

Reservoir owners and undertakers responsibilities for onsite emergency flood plans

Updated 25 June 2021

"It is a legal requirement for all undertakers (owners and operators) to prepare an on-site emergency flood plan for all large raised reservoirs in England, including reservoirs under construction.

The flood plan outlines what areas could flood and the actions needed to prevent, control and mitigate an uncontrolled release of water that could cause flooding from a reservoir.

This guide is to help undertakers to:

- have a clear plan of action to respond to an incident
- prepare the plan
- understand how to test, review and revise the plan

As an undertaker, you are responsible for preparing the plan, and you must consult with an appointed engineer. The appointed engineer needs to certify the plan. [Read about the Reservoir panel engineer's duties - on-site emergency flood plans.](#)

The flood plan should:

- enable you and your staff to respond effectively when needed
- contain enough detail so that staff, contractors, and partners are fully informed and ready to take the correct action to prevent or mitigate flooding
- be specific to each reservoir
- be concise and practical
- work in conjunction with the emergency plans for local communities - known as off-site flood plans - not simply rely on emergency services

The plan will ensure the right people can:

- prevent, control and mitigate a flood from the reservoir that could endanger life or property
- minimise and prevent structural failure
- prevent, delay, slow down or divert an uncontrolled release of water to protect local communities, for example, by drawing down the water level
- temporarily repair a breach or structural failure to stabilise the structure until it can be fixed properly

It is good practice for a flood plan to be developed in conjunction with an off-site flood plan if it's available. The upper-tier local authority or local resilience forum is responsible for an off-site flood plan. [Find the contact details for the local resilience forum in your area.](#)

The flood plan must describe:

- the name of the reservoir
- the capacity (volume of water) of the reservoir
- a description of the reservoir and its structures

- whether the reservoir is under construction or modification, and a description of the work taking place
- the location of the reservoir and dams, including grid reference
- access details, including maps or a diagram showing access routes, gates, key holders and meeting points
- a description of how the water into and out of the reservoir is controlled

A good flood plan will also describe:

- the surrounding catchments both upstream and downstream of the dam - you may want to include a map
- the purpose of the reservoir, for example, flood risk management, water supply, or amenity
- whether the reservoir is impounding or non-impounding
- the type of construction, such as concrete or earth embankment, or clay core
- information about the reservoir condition
- whether the reservoir is designated high-risk
- the reservoir and dam's dimensions and features
- the diversion capacity into and out of the reservoir
- if the reservoir is in cascade, any information you have about the other reservoirs
- the dimensions and capacity of the draw-off works

- A flood plan will need to describe:
 - how water flows in and out of the reservoir and how to control it
 - how to stop water from entering the reservoir and divert it into the wash channels or other temporary storage if pumps manage the inflow of water, whether and how to reverse them.
 - **4.3 Minimise environmental impact**
 - Prepare method statements for any planned releases from reservoirs in advance to manage the risk of adverse downstream environmental impacts."

Even on smaller reservoirs a regular pattern of inspection and safety matters are prioritised eg

"Not high-risk reservoirs

The flood plan should be reviewed and updated:

- at least every year
- following every test of the flood plan"

We have not seen evidence of the above anywhere in the documents submitted for SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014.

It would seem essential too to protect the SSSIs below the reservoir which would be seriously impacted if there was a flood.

This is further confirmation of the essential work that needs to be done now by the applicant, both on the ground to remediate the damage done to the reservoir bund and avoid public safety risk, and as part of its regulatory pattern in order to substantiate its worthiness to you in making the application to provide lakeside accommodation in quarry 3 under SMD/2019/0646.

It would appear therefore that SMDC also has a responsibility on both counts as the LPA responsible for enforcement of unauthorised development or planning breaches as well as being the LPA responsible for considering the suitability of the applications as currently presented and that are to be determined shortly.

In the light of all these serious, documentary omissions in the current applications under your consideration and the illegality that has been perpetrated by the owners in 2021, we should be grateful to learn

a) what measures you intend to implement to rectify the situation on the ground and to allay safety fears within the local population ?

b) what measures you intend to take to ensure that when the applications are to be heard by the PAC that all the recent improvements to and implementation of the legal requirements of the owners/applicants as regards to the reservoir and its dam, have been fully satisfied?

In addition, as the flood plans are not on the file as they should be, we object once again to the proposed applications and urge you to refuse them on these grounds if they do in fact appear before the PAC on the 26th of this month as now re -scheduled.

Yours sincerely

David Walters

Secretary

Churnet Valley Conservation Society

CVCS

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