

May 9, 2018

Gene Schappell, Council President  
Tilden Township  
8 Linden Drive  
Hamburg, PA 19526

Joshua Youpa, Council President  
Borough of Hamburg  
539 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamburg, PA 19526

David Mazaika, Council President  
Windsor Township  
200 Beechwood Drive  
Hamburg, PA 19526

RE: DEP File Number D06-434  
New Kernsville Dam Removal  
Schuylkill River, Berks County

Dear Messrs. Schappell, Youpa, and Mazaika:

The Division of Project Development has been tasked with the removal of the New Kernsville Dam that currently impounds waters along your municipal boundaries. A Hydraulic Analysis Report has been completed to determine the changes that will occur in the FEMA 100-year water surface elevation, upstream and downstream of the dam. Select pages of the report are enclosed and a complete copy will be provided by email.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania NFIP Coordinator is Marita Kelley, with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). I meet with both agencies annually to discuss upcoming projects and both are copied on this correspondence.

In my opinion, a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) will not be required prior to the removal of the dam. Additional information regarding my review is summarized below.

1. Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), are online at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov) and select pages are included with the Hydraulic Summary Report.
  - a. Berks County is FIS 42011C, which includes Volume 1, revised 3/21/2017, and Volumes 2 thru 4, all revised 7/03/2012.
  - b. The project area is shown on FIRM Panel 134G and 153G, also revised 7/3/2012.
  - c. Volume 3 of the FIS shows the area on Flood Profiles 158P and 159P.
  - d. There are no Preliminary or Pending Products listed, so this is the latest information.
  - e. The hatch pattern on the FIRMs shows this area as Floodway Zone AE.

2. NFIP requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 44 CFR) are online at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov).
  - a. Title 44 CFR 65.12 explains when FEMA approval is required.
  - b. Title 44 CFR 60.3(d)(3) prohibits any increase in the 100-year water surface elevation within the regulated floodway (Zone AE).
  
3. PennDOT Publication 13M (Design Manual 2, Chapter 10, Appendix C) was developed in cooperation between FEMA, PennDOT and DEP and a copy is enclosed. It is also online at [www.penndot.gov/\\_layouts/pa.penndot.formsandpubs/formsandpubs.aspx](http://www.penndot.gov/_layouts/pa.penndot.formsandpubs/formsandpubs.aspx)

The 1948 construction drawings show that a significant plunge pool was excavated downstream of the dam and preliminary plans are to fill this depression even with the adjacent stream invert. This backfill will be located within the regulated floodplain and Section 1b of Publication 13M allows fill providing there is no increase in the 100-year regulated floodplain.

The Hydraulic Summary Report includes several comparison tables explaining the process used to update the hydraulic model. The final comparison is in Appendix M and shows there will be no increase in the 100-year water surface elevations. Appendix N includes the Flood Profiles and the post-removal 100-year water surface elevations (aka Corrected Proposed 1% Annual Chance Flood) have been added by hand in red and blue ink.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dohill@pa.gov](mailto:dohill@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.783.7723. Please contact Project Coordinator, Mark Malach, or Project Engineer, Shane Erdman, for all other issues related to the dam removal.

Sincerely,



Douglas R. Hill, P.E.,  
Chief  
Division of Project Development

Enclosures: PennDOT Pub 13M (DM-2) Chapter 10, Appendix C  
May 2018 Hydraulic Summary Report (select pages)

cc: FEMA – Nicole Lick, scan w/ encl.  
DCED – Marita Kelley, scan w/ encl.  
DEP – Andy Orlovsky, scan w/encl.  
  
Tilden Township Manager, scan w/ encl.  
Windsor Township Manager, scan w/ encl.  
Hamburg Borough Manager, scan w/ encl.