US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# Public Notice

**In Reply Refer to: Ms. Jessica F. Rudd**
**Jessica.F.Rudd@usace.army.mil**
**Engineering Division / Geotechnical & Water Resources Branch**
**Date: 11/22/2022**
**Comment Period Closes: 12/22/2022**

## 30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE
## MODIFICATION OF NORTH SPRINGFIELD DAM
## NORTH SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District is designing plans for modifications of the North Springfield Dam (NSD) on the Black River in Springfield, Vermont, subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (P.L. 91-190). The modifications of the NSD will remediate conditions that contribute to potential uncontrolled draining of the reservoir during a severe weather event. This project includes earthwork construction of the modifications described below and will take place over two construction seasons to begin in 2025. Attachment No. 1 lists pertinent laws, regulations, and directives.

Modifications to NSD (Attachment 2) on the downstream toe include the following measures:

*Filter Trench*:

This measure includes earthwork construction of an open filter-trench along the downstream toe of NSD. The filter trench is designed to collect water seepage that will drop to a constructed filtered catch basin and perforated-pipe drainage system and constructed swale, before discharging to the Black River.

- Excavation of about 60,000 cubic yards of gravel, sand and silt removed from an area about 600 feet in length (including side-slopes), 200 feet in width and 40 feet deep into the slope of the NSD. Excavated material will be placed at two spoil areas totaling 4 acres in size at the NSD just downslope of the filter trench. This will require conversion of about 1.5 acres of conifer forest, primarily planted red pine, to developed land.
- Partial backfill of the trench using filter material (40,000 cubic yards) including gravel, stone and sand that is trucked-in from a local quarry.
- Construction of new drainage including construction of a three-manhole (48-inch diameter) system to convey water seepage and stormwater flow.
- Construction of about 1,000 linear feet of access roads surfaced with crushed stone fill along the new toe of NSD.

*Rock-Filled Stability Berm*

This measure includes earthwork construction of a rock-filled stability berm along the downstream slope of NSD.

- Excavation of 2,000 cubic yards of material from the NSD slope to be placed at the spoil areas at the toe of the NSD.
- Construction of a rock-filled berm approximately 650 feet long and 150 feet wide using about 23,000 cubic yards of rock and gravel material.
- Draining and filling of a small man-made weir pond (0.1 acres) and the removal of the existing weir structure used in stormwater conveyance
- A swale about 500 feet long will be constructed along the contours around the base of the slope, redirecting stormwater and filtering runoff as water sinks into the soil.

**Purpose of Work**:

The purpose of the proposed modifications to the NSD is to remediate potential dam safety risks during a severe weather event. USACE has been evaluating risk at NSD over the past several years to better understand the risk associated with the dam and impacts to the downstream communities. In 2020, USACE finalized a detailed study, called an Issue Evaluation Study (IES), that indicated if an extreme weather event occurs and the reservoir rises above historic levels, although it is extremely unlikely, there is a potential that the dam could erode and fail (or breach) and cause flooding downstream. As a result of the findings of the IES, a Dam Safety Modification Study was undertaken in 2021. During the Dam Safety Modification Study, we developed mitigation measures (listed above) to reduce risk associated with the dam. USACE also continuously monitors the condition of the dam and shares information with Emergency Managers.

**Alternatives**: In addition to the proposed action, the Environmental Assessment evaluated structural and non-structural alternatives as well as the no action alternative.

**Additional Information**: Additional information may be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Manager, Jessica F. Rudd, at 978-641-4073 or email at Jessica.F.Rudd@usace.army.mil; or the Project Biologist, Reid E. Lichwell at 978-318-8148 or email at Reid.e.lichwell@usace.army.mil.

**Coordination**: The proposed work has been coordinated with the agencies listed below. The contractor performing the work will conduct further agency consultation and permitting associated with state guidelines, stormwater, and water quality.

Federal:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State of Vermont:
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Vermont Department of Conservation and Recreation
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

Tribes:
Elnu Abenaki Tribe
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Local:
Town of Springfield

**Environmental Impacts**: A draft environmental assessment is available for review upon request. The environmental team member(s) have made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement for the proposed modifications to NSD is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This determination will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

**Other Information**:

a. Local Sponsor: None, these are modifications to a USACE maintained flood control project.

b. Floodplain Management: In accordance with Executive Order 11988, USACE has determined that the proposed work will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.

c. Stormwater Management/ Water Quality: The contractor performing the work will obtain a state issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that will include certifying language in compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

d. Transport of Material: The delivery of material including rock, gravel and sand will be transported by truck to NSD via Maple Street off of Route 106 with secondary access along Reservoir Road (Attachment 2).

e. Endangered Species: The project is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species. USACE has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

f. Cultural Resources: USACE has coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, Elnu Abenaki Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Jessica Rudd; or emailed to Jessica.F.Rudd@usace.army.mil within 30 days of this notice.

18 November 2022
Date

John A. Atilano II
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

# Attachment 1

## PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND DIRECTIVES

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a, et seq.)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L-12 et seq.)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L et seq.)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 11 February 1994

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997

# Attachment 2

**Location of Proposed Modifications and Trucking Route, North Springfield Dam, North Springfield, Vermont.**