

Jun 07, 2013

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Scott Morgan, Head Dam Safety Section
Water Management Branch
P.O. Box 9340, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M1

SUBJECT: Middle and Lower Chase Dams

Dear Scott,

Further to previous correspondence on the Middle and Lower Chase Dams, on May 13, 2013, City of Nanaimo Council passed the following resolution:

“that staff proceed with immediate removal of the lower and middle Chase River Dams and to take the necessary steps to build replacements for both dams and equip the lower dam to ensure it can be used for hydro generation.”

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the City's proposed course of action with respect to these dams to fulfill Council's direction.

The City proposes to replace the dams under Section 4 of the Dam Safety Regulation (replace all or part of a dam) in a two-stage process. The first stage will be removal of the dams during the low-flow season of 2013, and the second stage consists of constructing replacement dams. On May 31, 2013, Klohn Crippen Berger submitted an application, on the City's behalf, to the Dam Safety Section for approval under Section 4 for this approach. The tender drawings for deconstruction will be sent to you under separate cover. We understand that leave (permission) to commence construction of the replacement structures would be subject to further engineering and environmental submissions.

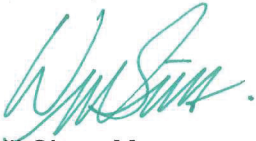
It is the City's intent to replace the dams with roller-compacted concrete structures with integrated over-flow spillways. The City's current targeted construction window is the summer of 2014. The replacement structures will be located in the same location and maintain the same water level (i.e. same spillway invert) as the existing structures. The dams will be equipped with low level outlets to ensure safe operation. It is not within the City's current plans to pursue a hydro generation license nor to make amendments to its existing 'Land Improvement' licences. Placing the low level outlets will comply with Council direction to 'equip the lower dam to ensure it can be used for hydro generation'. Pursuing this option may occur at a future date, should Council determine it is feasible or desirable to do so.

The first stage of the project (removal of the existing structures) will be tendered in late June; we expect a contractor will be mobilized and begin dewatering by mid to late July and commence dam removal by August 01, 2013. Since the reservoirs will be refilled following construction of the replacement structures, restoration of the Chase River will consist of temporary channels constructed of concrete and rock fill excavated from the dams. This will protect the Chase River from erosion and sedimentation and preserve the valuable salmonid habitat downstream, once the river is allowed to flow through the old reservoir beds.

Preliminary discussions have occurred with DFO, MNFLRO, Fisheries & Wildlife, Habitat and Snuneymuxw First Nation. In general, all parties have an understanding of the nature of the need to mitigate the risk.

We trust that this information is sufficient to outline the City's plans with respect to dam replacement, and complies with our obligations to mitigate the risk associated with these dams. We would appreciate early notification of approval to proceed with removal of the Middle and Lower Chase Dams, so that we can meet the very tight construction timelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Sims', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Sims, Manager
Water Resources