Dear Susan Clift,

The Associated Engineering report entitled Chase River Dam Breach Flood Inundation Study stated there were unacceptable deficiencies in both Middle Chase River Dam and Lower Chase River Dam and states the probability of an extreme failure of these dams is very high. The report also classifies both dams as extreme consequence. This combination of probability and consequence result in an unacceptable risk to the community downstream of the dam.

On October 29, 2012, we received a letter from the City of Nanaimo stating City of Nanaimo Council passed a resolution to proceed with removal of the Middle and Lower Chase Dams, as soon as reasonably practicable. On January 21, 2013 we accepted this decision as a viable option to eliminate the unacceptable risk to the downstream community posed by these two dams.

It is my understanding that the Nanaimo City Council are considering a change in their position with regard to this resolution. Please note that the province’s position with regard to these dams has not changed. Should removal of these dams not be undertaken this year, the City of Nanaimo must mitigate the risk by some other method acceptable to the province. Leaving the dams in their present condition for an additional year is not acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Morgan

Scott Morgan
Head, Dam Safety Section
Tel: (250) 387-3265 | Cell: (250) 380-8849 | Fax: (250) 952-6792
Water Management | Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
3rd Floor 395 Waterfront Cres. Victoria BC V8T 5K7
Mailing: PO BOX 9340 STN PROV GOVT Victoria BC V8W 9M1

scott.morgan@gov.bc.ca
www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public_safety/dam_safety/