

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

File: 5600.12.02  
5600.12.03

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

Dear Scott:

**RE: Middle and Lower Chase River Dams**

Thank you for your letter of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 requesting an indication of the City's decision on a course of action for the Middle Chase River Dam and the Lower Chase River Dam by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

At its In-Camera meeting of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, City of Nanaimo Council passed resolutions to:

“direct Staff to:

- (1) proceed with removal of the Middle and Lower Chase Dams, as soon as is reasonably practicable by:
  - engaging an engineering consultant by direct award to provide design, cost estimates, and oversee a contractor for the dam decommissioning and land restoration process;
  - obtaining the necessary approvals and permits to perform the work; and,
  - exploring options and costs for restoring this section of the Chase River Valley to a naturalized state in keeping with the existing Colliery Dam Park uses.”

City staff have conducted information sessions with Nanaimo City Council, and taken a detailed report for their consideration, which culminated in the above resolution. Please note that it is In-Camera, and therefore still confidential until the information is made public. This is scheduled to occur at the next open meeting of Council on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The City has also prepared an emergency action plan, including an evacuation plan, which will be communicated directly to homes within the potential inundation zone. We will be scheduling open houses and making presentations to various groups including the School Board. We have developed a detailed communications strategy to cover not only the interim period between now and dam removal (i.e. notification of the hazard and emergency planning), but also the more general communication about the rationale for the project and how Colliery Dams Park may look after dam removal.

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Middle and Lower Chase River Dams

We would appreciate your continued support in expediting the review and approval process, so that this important public safety issue can be resolved with minimum challenge for affected residents.

We appreciate the efforts you and the Dam Safety Branch have made in fostering a very positive working relationship with the City, and look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,



Wm. D. Sims, ASct  
Manager, Water Resources

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