

Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: June-27-12 2:27 PM
To: 'BOB KEATING'
Subject: Media Request: CBC, Marshall Lake

Hi Bob,

Here's a synopsis of the ministry's current position on Providence (Marshall Lake) Dam.

- Providence Dam is classified as a high-consequence dam that would cause substantial economic and environmental damage and, potentially, loss of life in the event of a failure.
- Providence Dam does not currently meet Provincial Dam Safety Regulations or Canadian Dam Association Standards. A dam safety review of Providence Dam, stemming from the Deputy Solicitor General's report that followed the 2010 Testalinden Dam failure, identified a number of management concerns.
- The province has offered to contribute \$50,000 toward operation and maintenance work or, alternatively, to help fund the decommissioning of Providence Dam.
- In January 2011, City of Greenwood asked for one year to determine the feasibility of them assuming responsibility for the dam. The feasibility assessment was to be complete in March 2012
- On June 26, 2012 Greenwood requested a five-week extension to make a decision. The province agreed to a 2 ½ week extension period ending July 13, 2012.
- If no response is received by July 13, the province will start plans to deactivate the dam in order complete this work within the summertime fisheries window.

Brennan Clarke
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Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: June-29-12 3:01 PM
To: 'reporter@grandforksgazette.ca'
Subject: Media Request: GF Gazette, Marshall Lake

Hi Cassandra,

Here's a synopsis of the ministry's current position on Providence (Marshall Lake) Dam.

- Providence Dam is classified as a high-consequence dam that would cause substantial economic and environmental damage and, potentially, loss of life in the event of a failure.
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Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: November-05-12 3:56 PM
To: S22
Cc: GCPE FLNR Media Requests GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: International Water Power & Dam Construction, Providence dam

Hi Sue,

Here's the information you requested... the correct number is 21 dam removals since 2006.

Providence dam: location, age, size, type and function, current state of repair before removal etc.

Providence Dam/Marshall Lake is located eight kilometres from the southern B.C town of Greenwood. The dam is 155 metres long and 9.1 metres high. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations holds two water licences on the dam for a total of 266 acre feet of storage. This structure was built as a wood-and-timber in the 1930s. It was reconstructed as an earth-filled dam in 1961 by the Phoenix Mining Co., and again in 1966/67 (using rock) to its current height of 33.5 feet to supply water to the now-defunct Phoenix mine, which closed in 1976.

Since then it has served mainly as a recreational site for area residents. In June 2010, after the Testalinden Dam breach, the Province conducted inspections on all of its dams. During this inspection on the Providence Dam a number of concerns were identified by the Ministry which warranted further investigation. A dam safety review was subsequently completed in December 2010 which identified a number of management concerns.

Who currently owns the dam?

It is owned by the Okanagan Fisheries Section of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

When and why may the decision for removal be taken?

The decision to decommission the dam was made earlier this year after the City of Greenwood formally declined the opportunity to assume responsibility for maintenance, upkeep and associated liability. The Kootenay Boundary Regional District had declined this opportunity earlier. The decision was prompted by safety concerns related to the condition of the aging structure. Draining of the lake is taking place this winter with decommissioning slated for the spring/summer of 2013.

Is this related to safety issues?

Providence Dam is classified as a 'high consequence' rock filled dam. This classification is based on the potential for loss of life, substantial economic & social loss (e.g. damage to infrastructure, houses, public facilities), and significant environmental and cultural loss (deterioration of provincially important fish, wildlife, ecosystem habitat) in the event of a dam failure. Providence Dam does not currently meet the Provincial Dam Safety Regulations or the Canadian Dam Safety Association (CDA) standards. A significant amount of work would be required in order to meet current regulations and ensure public safety.

Please give details about the involvement of the City of Greenwood. Did they propose to take over maintenance of the dam to prevent decommissioning and removal? What has been decided?

In early 2011, ministry staff met with officials from Greenwood and gave local government a year to explore the option of transferring the dam license and liability to local government or the public. The Kootenay Boundary Regional District indicated they were not interested. Staff did not receive a response from the City of Greenwood at that time. In May 2012, ministry staff made another presentation and there was also a site visit to Marshall Lake. The deadline for a formal response was set for the end of the June 2012. This was further extended to July 13, 2012, when the town formally declined the opportunity to assume responsibility for this dam.

Have you been involved in other dam removals or are any planned for the future? Please give brief details about the projects involved, state of repair and reasons for removal.

Since 2006, the province has overseen the removal of 21 dams, some of which were owned by the province and some of which were privately held. Dams are most often decommissioned or removed when they no longer meet the needs of the dam owner and/or when the dam has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer safe and the cost of repair or replacement exceeds the benefit.

Four major dams (over nine metres in height) have been removed since 2006. They are:

- a) Heber River Dam – (near Campbell River on Vancouver Island) Removed in 2012. This dam was removed as part of the Water Use Plan for the Campbell River system.
- b) Mavis Lake Dam – (Greater Victoria on Vancouver Island) Removed in 2007. This dam was removed because the cost for repair or replacement exceeded its benefit.
- c) Jack Lake Dam – (Greater Victoria on Vancouver Island) Removed in 2007. This dam was removed because the cost for repair or replacement exceeded its benefit.
- d) Upper Greyback Dam – (near Penticton) Removed in 2006. This dam was removed because the cost for repair or replacement exceeded its benefit.

In British Columbia, dam owners wanting to remove their dam must conform with the British Columbia Dam Safety Regulations under the *Water Act*. Removal or decommissioning of dams is the responsibility of the dam owner.

Some details about decommissioning plans for Providence Dam (Marshall Lake).

The water level in the reservoir was previously lowered and this fall will be further lowered to the level of the original lake prior to dam construction, alleviating the public safety risk as well as the liability and long-term maintenance costs to the province. The resulting lake will be 7.7 metres deep and continue to be stocked with rainbow trout to support a recreational fishery and ecosystem values. The Ministry's Regional Fish & Wildlife staff are preparing to submit a decommissioning plan to the Sr. Dam Safety Officer. Until the plan is received and approved, decommissioning cannot proceed. It's anticipated that decommissioning would not happen until Spring 2013 at the earliest.

Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: May-03-13 1:22 PM
To: 'bctimesnews@shaw.ca'
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Times, Marshall Lake

Sorry Pat I forgot the covering note, let me know if there's anything else you need.

B.

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2013 1:22 PM
To: 'bctimesnews@shaw.ca'
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Times, Marshall Lake

What stage is the planning at now?

We are moving forward with Stage 2 decommissioning which will consist of breaching the dam later this summer.

Have contracts gone to tender?

No, the province is in the process of issuing a request for proposals that outlines two decommissioning options.

Have you got a budget dedicated to the project?

Yes. The ministry has dedicated funding to this project.

What kind of timeline are you looking at?

Decommissioning is scheduled to take place in August and September 2013.

Is there any possibility that the results of the election could alter plans for decommissioning the dam?

It's not appropriate for staff to speculate on the potential impact of the election.

However we can reaffirm that the decision to decommission the dam at Marshall Lake was made in the best interest of public safety. Without either decommissioning or a major and costly upgrade, the dam at Marshall Lake represents a significant risk to property and people.

How are negotiations going with the neighbouring property owners?

There are ongoing consultations with property owners, however it would not be appropriate to comment on details until those discussions have been completed.

Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: July-05-13 3:15 PM
To: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Sentinel, Marshall Lake

Sentinel has a new editor who needs background about Marshall Lake. Want to send her these previously approved and used bullets to aid accuracy. Can you do it for me?

Address is info@boundarysentinel.com

Editor is Shara Cooper

Hi Shara, here's some info for you.

These are from June 2012

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- The province has offered to contribute \$50,000 toward operation and maintenance work or, alternatively, to help fund the decommissioning of Providence Dam.
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- If no response is received by July 13, the province will start plans to deactivate the dam in order complete this work within the summertime fisheries window.

These are from May 2013

What stage is the planning at now?

We are moving forward with Stage 2 decommissioning which will consist of breaching the dam later this summer.

Have contracts gone to tender?

The province is in the process of issuing a request for proposals that outlines two decommissioning options. Need ask Tara if they have been awarded.

What kind of timeline are you looking at?

Decommissioning is scheduled to take place in August and September 2013.

What prompted this decision?

The decision to decommission the dam at Marshall Lake was made in the best interest of public safety. Without either decommissioning or a major and costly upgrade, the dam at Marshall Lake represents a significant risk to property and people.

Have contracts gone to tender?

The province is in the process of issuing a request for proposals that outlines two decommissioning options.

Have you got a budget dedicated to the project?

The ministry has sufficient funding available for this project, however we can't provide an accurate figure at this time because the final cost may vary depending on which option is deemed most feasible.

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Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: July-09-13 3:41 PM
To: 'info@boundarysentinel.com'
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Times, Providence Dam

Hi Shara,

Further to our conversation on Friday here's an update on plans to decommission Providence Dam at Marshall Lake.

After a thorough evaluation, ministry staff opted for a partial draining of the lake that will ensure public safety and leave about seven metres of water to maintain recreation opportunities. Plans call for the installation of a dock to facilitate recreational fishing access.

Funding set aside for this project is \$200,000. Estimates indicate a complete removal of this dam would cost at least \$750,000

This work is slated for completion in late August and September. Contracts for this work are being finalized this month.

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Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: September-09-13 2:47 PM
To: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Cc: GCPE FLNR Media Requests GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Times, Marshall Lake

Suggest having Tara send these along to the reporter Pat Kelly at Boundary Times.

From: White, Tara FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2013 2:09 PM
To: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST: Marshall Lake

Hi Brennan:

Below is a media request from the Boundary Times. I have provided answers in RED. Let me know if you need anything else.

When did the decommissioning work start?

Sept. 9

When is it expected to end?

Sept 15.

How many employees are on site?

Ministry staff, machine operators and engineer, member of Gottselig family who own, lot 1705

I have heard the lake needed to be drawn down again - how much?

About three metres due to above average snow pack and recharge of the winter.

What recreation infrastructure is going in this year?

Access road to cabin on the Gottselig land and, possibly a fence between the Gottselig land and Kettle River Resources, owner of DL 2701. A ramp was recently constructed to improve lake access for fishing. A dock is scheduled to be installed by 2014.

An agreement was reached with the Gottseligs?

Yes.

Is more work on the recreational amenities planned for next year?

Yes – the lake will be stocked annually w/ rainbow trout and a installation of fishing dock is slated for 2014.

Tara White, R.P.Bio.
Senior Fisheries Biologist
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Thompson-Okanagan Region
Phone: (250) 490-2287
Email: tara.white@gov.bc.ca

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From: Boundary Creek Times [<mailto:bctimesnews@shaw.ca>]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2013 9:04 AM
To: White, Tara FLNR:EX
Subject: Marshall Lake

A few questions that I'd like to ask you regarding Marshall Lake - submitted so you can get an interview approved.

When did the decommissioning work start?
When is it expected to end?
How many employees are on site?
I have heard the lake needed to be drawn down again - how much?
What recreation infrastructure is going in this year?
An agreement was reached with the Gottseligs?
Is more work on the recreational amenities planned for next year?

Thanks in advance --

Pat Kelly, Reporter
Boundary Creek Times
bctimesnews@shaw.ca
250-445-2233 office
S22 cell

Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: September-27-12 4:59 PM
To: 'reporter@grandforksgazette.ca'
Subject: Media Request: Grand Forks Gazette, Providence Dam

Hi Cassandra,

In August, the ministry completed a feasibility study outlining options for decommissioning the dam at Marshall Lake. The preferred option is to drain the lake this fall and then deconstruct the dam next year.

Current plans are to gradually pump the water out of Marshall Lake starting on or about October 15. Water will be pumped down the spillway and provincial staff will be on site around the clock to ensure operational and public safety concerns are addressed. This process is expected to take 2-3 weeks.

Draining Marshall Lake will take the pressure off the dam, thereby reducing public safety risk. It would also allow time for the foreshore around Marshall Lake to dry, facilitating road construction to LOT 1705 (the only cabin owner on the lake) next year.

However, ministry staff still have a number of details to work out before this work can begin, including further consultation with landowners and licensees, and the replacement of a culvert at Elkhorn Street in the City of Greenwood.

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Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX

From: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX
Sent: September-28-12 2:06 PM
To: 'bctimesnews@shaw.ca'
Subject: Media Request: Boundary Times, Providence Dam

Hi Pat,

Tara passed your message along to me. Here's the latest on Providence Dam.

In August, the ministry completed a feasibility study outlining options for decommissioning the dam at Marshall Lake. The preferred option is to drain the lake this fall and then deconstruct the dam next year.

Current plans are to gradually pump the water out of Marshall Lake starting on or about October 15. Water will be pumped down the spillway and provincial staff will be on site around the clock to ensure operational and public safety concerns are addressed. This process is expected to take 2-3 weeks.

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