



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

J. BURCH McMORRAN
SUPERINTENDENT

FRANK J. FULLER, DIST. ENG.
383 BROADWAY, ALBANY, N. Y. 12201

COUNTIES
IN 1ST DISTRICT

ALBANY
ESSEX
GREENE
RENSSELAER
SARATOGA
SCHENECTADY
WARREN
WASHINGTON

SH No. 5155, Route 20
Albany County
Dam at Church Pond

ALBANY, N.Y.,

April 30, 1965

Mr. Hugh Prytherch, President
McKownville Improvement Association
McKownville, New York

Dear Mr. Prytherch:

Reference is made to your recent communication, in which you requested an inspection of the dam for Church Pond, to the rear of the McKownville Methodist Church on Western Avenue, Route 20, SH No. 5155, Albany-Guilderland, Albany County. Please be advised that this inspection has been made by a representative of this office, and the following report has been submitted:

The dam in question is an earth dam approximately 15 feet high topped by a 4+ foot concrete parapet wall. The structure obviously has been in existence for some time since the concrete has deteriorated considerably and the downstream face of the dam is overgrown with trees.

The water level is controlled by an overflow structure which is a 2 foot by 3 foot verticle concrete shaft on top of a 2-1/2 foot by 2-1/2 foot horizontal shaft through the base of the earth dam. There is also some type of gate valve (I assume to lower the level of the pond below the overflow) and this is controlled by the church which is the owner of the dam, pond and surrounding land. The elevation of the overflow is approximately the same as that of the top of the earth portion of the dam. The elevation of the gate valve I do not know and I'm not even sure it's still operable.

From the pond overflow the water goes through a 54 inch concrete pipe culvert under the Thruway and then through a 66 inch C.M.P. culvert under the Northway, then into the reservoir of the old McKownville Water Works which is now part of the Town of Guilderland water supply.

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At present the horizontal overflow box outlets under water and the 54 inch culvert under the Thruway is half full of water due to a temporary steel sheet piling dam between the Thruway and Northway. This temporary dam, part of the Northway construction, was left in place at the request of the Town of Guilderland.


Since this whole system has functioned, without causing any trouble, for so many years I don't believe there is any cause for alarm at this time. However, I would recommend that the overflow shaft be cleared of debris which has collected in it (boards, limbs, etc.) because should this shaft become plugged the only outlet for the water would be around the end of the concrete parapet wall and over the surface of the earth dam.

We trust that the above report will satisfy your request.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. FULLER
DISTRICT ENGINEER

By



H. J. Schafer Highway
Maintenance Supervisor

HJS:FSB:mt