

Crossgates pond OK urged

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GUILDERLAND — Construction of the proposed stormwater management system of the controversial Crossgates mall will not have an adverse impact on downstream facilities in the Western Avenue area and, therefore, a permit for the construction of detention ponds near the site should be approved, according to an expert in the Dam Safety Division of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

In a letter from Walter Lynick of EnCon's Dam Safety division to Edward Miller of the department's Regulatory Affairs division, Lynick says the permit for construction of detention ponds — integral parts of the mall's stormwater management system — "can be approved."

Lynick says "the proposed stormwater management system will not have an adverse impact upon downstream facilities" because, even though present downstream facilities — primarily the now-unused McKownville Reservoir and a box culvert under Western Avenue — will not be able to handle peak discharge if the mall is constructed, neither are they able to handle peak discharge at present.

Pyramid Crossgates Co., the mall's developer, needs a total of 11 environmental permits from EnCon before construction of the \$85 million mall can begin.

EnCon Commissioner Robert Flacke has said he will make a decision on the permits by the end of June.