

Cooper, Kathy

2927

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From: William Solomon [bsolomon@cyberia.com]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 6:40 PM
To: IRRC; jsmith@irrc.state.ua; Michelle L. Elliott
Subject: Dam safety and waterway management fees

2012 DEC 11 AM 8:45

Dear board,

I operate a farming operation in southern York County, in this regard I own a four acre farm pond. The pond was a rehabilitation project of an existing pond built in the 1960's and was completed with DEP approval in 1980. The pond is not a hazard in any way and fell into a DEP reclassification in 2006, 25 years after the DEP permit was issued.. I repeat the pond is perfectly safe, it is spring fed and drains very few acres, The reclassification was blatantly unfair and has led to a list of demands that are unnecessary and ongoing for the remainder of my life. The expense has been a serious burden both psychologically and financially, not to mention the total decrease in the value of the farm. Try to sell a farm that DEP says has a "High Hazard Dam" on the premise with the fees, inspections. and other burdens that DEP requires.

The reclassification occurred do to the height of the embankment and because there is a house a mile down a small exit stream, a DEP decision where one size fits all. They know my pond will not fail, and is not a hazard in any regard.

The proposed fees are just a further burden on farm owners, in this case those that have ponds with more water than average, and drives one more nail in the coffin of farmers that are still trying to make a living with livestock operations, there are very few of us remaining.

In closing I would like to add that we are one of the most environmentally sensitive farms in York County, with conservation plans wherever we operate and farm land preservation of about 300 acres. I can't emphasize enough the burden that these constant DEP fees and regulations are causing farmers such as myself both financially and emotionally, and for NO REASON SAFETY OR OTHERWISE.

Please to not approve these fees and further damage our operation further leading to our eventual closure and termination of our 7 employees.

Thank you.

William Solomon