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TO:
Office of the State Auditor
132 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5101

CC:
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Institutions
House Committee on Environment
House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

FROM:
Julie Moore
Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont, 05620-3901

RE:
Dam Safety Rule Adoption, Letter to Vermont Legislative Committees

Dear Mr. Hoffer:

I am writing regarding your January 23, 2026 correspondence with the Vermont Legislature concerning the Dam Safety Rule Adoption, which could be read to suggest we are indifferent to the serious issues associated with dam failure. This is far from fair or true.

We share your commitment to dam safety and public safety. Your letter's implications about our responsiveness are inconsistent with the documented record of our engagement with your office and omit important context about the operational realities we have navigated. Specifically, despite facing unprecedented challenges – including responding to catastrophic statewide flooding in 2023 and 2024 – the Dam Safety Program has:

- [Communicated regularly with the Vermont Legislature](#) regarding our progress and challenges;
- Provided your office with multiple progress updates on audit recommendations;
- Advanced critical safety work at state-owned high-hazard dams, such as the [Waterbury Dam Spillway Project](#);

- Addressed immediate hazards through emergency interventions, including the [removal of hazardous beaver dams](#); and,
- Advanced to completion the legislatively required [Dam Safety Emergency Action Planning](#) report, and the [Green River Reservoir Dam and Dike Evaluation Report](#).
- Actively pursued solutions to expedite rule adoption, including exploring external consultant support.

These actions reflect our steadfast commitment to public safety, as we prioritize within our finite capacity.

Given this, I was surprised that Agency leadership was not copied on correspondence addressing our program, especially considering our established communication with your office on this topic. Professional courtesy aside, effective solutions in this technically demanding and resource-intensive area depend on all parties working from the same set of facts and communications.

We remain committed to adopting necessary dam safety rules and welcome collaborative solutions that balance urgency with operational realities. Productive partnerships, however, require mutual respect, open communication, and recognition of good-faith efforts. We trust that future communications will reflect the collegial, solution-focused approach that best serves public safety and the people of Vermont.

Sincerely,



Julia S. Moore, PE

Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources