



## NEWS YOU CAN USE EGLE RECOGNITION OF COUNTY OWNERSHIP OF DAMS



Here are excerpts from a letter dated June 30, 2021, from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to the Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF). You can read the entire letter here: [https://www.four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com/uploads/1/2/3/1/123199575/egle\\_recognition\\_of\\_county\\_ownership\\_of\\_dams\\_6.30.2021.pdf](https://www.four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com/uploads/1/2/3/1/123199575/egle_recognition_of_county_ownership_of_dams_6.30.2021.pdf)

“We have determined, based in part on a December 2020 consent judgement, that **Midland and Gladwin Counties are the owner of four dams, Secord, Smallwood, Edenville, and Sanford Dams, located on the Tittabawassee River.**”

“Upon issuance of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order terminating licenses by implied surrender, effective **May 27, 2021, Secord, Smallwood, and Sanford Dams reverted to regulatory authority of the State of Michigan.**”

“We are writing to inform you (FLTF) of some of your key responsibilities, as **delegated authority over the four dams.**”

“Secord Dam received minimal observed damage during the May 2020 flood event. However, there were several deficiencies that have persisted and **require rehabilitation. Several critical safety improvements were completed this year to facilitate management of the dam in its current drawn down condition.**”

“**Below is a summary of outstanding deficiencies that need to be addressed:**

- The spillway has inadequate capacity to safely pass the ½ Probably Maximum Flood (PMF) as required by Part 315.
- Concrete components of the dam are showing signs of deterioration and are beyond their design life.
- The existing tainter gates are beyond their design life and exhibit signs of deterioration. The hoisting mechanisms are insufficiently sized for the range of design service loads and do not meet current industry design standards.
- The embankment dams are overly steep, have insufficient slope stability, and exhibit excessive amounts of seepage.
- Downstream energy dissipation and erosion protection is inadequate.

“FLTF should continue to pursue improvements to the facility as outlined in the March 2021 Feasibility Study. **Impoundment water levels shall be maintained at the current, drawn down level until the above referenced deficiencies are remedied.**”

We encourage you to read the entire letter at the link provided above.

**How can you help RestoreTheLakes?** In May, the Michigan legislature introduced a series of bipartisan bills proposed to allocate \$500 Million for Dam Repair and Safety. **The FLTF urges our elected officials to support the allocation of \$225 million to the repair of the Secord, Smallwood, Edenville, and Sanford Dams for the restorations of the four lakes in Midland and Gladwin counties.** This will significantly reduce the financial burden on property owners while providing the funds to make the required repairs to the dam to gain State approval to return the water levels.

You can write elected officials to express your support for this legislation. We support the RestoreTheLakes initiative. This grass roots effort is designed to make letter writing easy. A website contains everything you need -- who to contact, email addresses, key points for your letter. There are sample letters as well for your review. Please visit: [www.RestoreTheLakes.org](http://www.RestoreTheLakes.org) regularly and start your letter writing/emailing to local, state, and federal legislators!

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