

TOWN OF IPSWICH

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



272 HIGH STREET • IPSWICH, MA 01938 • (978) 356-6635 • FAX: (978) 356-6634

July 23, 2018

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION REGARDING DOW BROOK RESERVOIR DAM

In accordance with 302 CMR 10.08, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Office of Dam Safety (ODS) has determined that Dow Brook Reservoir Dam does not meet the accepted dam safety standards and is a potential threat to public safety. Therefore, the OSD issued a **Certificate of Non-Compliance and Dam Safety Order** on June 5, 2018, requiring the Town of Ipswich to take action and bring the dam back into compliance with dam safety regulations.

As required by the Dam Safety Order, you are hereby notified of the following:

- The Dow Brook Reservoir Dam is currently in stable but “unsafe” condition. The Ipswich Water Department has closed the dam to recreational access until further notice. The Dow Brook Reservoir water level has been lowered to reduce pressure on the dam.
- The Ipswich Water Department is working closely with its engineering consultant Haley & Aldrich, Inc. to conduct follow-up inspections, secure permitting, and finalize design of dam repairs. Permitting efforts include filing a Chapter 253 Permit application with the ODS and a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Ipswich Conservation Commission.
 - The Chapter 253 Permit application was submitted to the ODS on July 9, 2018.
 - The NOI was submitted to the Ipswich Conservation Commission on July 18, 2018.
- There is a public hearing in front of the Ipswich Conservation Commission scheduled for **August 1, 2018**. Information regarding the date, time, and place of the public hearing may be obtained from the Ipswich Conservation Office by calling (978) 356-6661. Refer to the attached NOI Notification of Abutters for additional details.

For more information regarding the status of the Dow Brook Reservoir Dam and the developing plans to bring the dam into compliance with dam safety regulations, please contact the Ipswich Utilities Office at (978) 356-6635 or visit <https://www.ipswichma.gov/824/Dow-Brook-Dam>. This project is a top priority for the Ipswich Water Department, and we are committed to successfully completing this work as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Town addresses this important issue.

**NOTIFICATION OF ABUTTERS UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT AND
THE TOWN OF IPSWICH WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW**

In accordance with the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Ipswich Wetlands Protection Bylaw, as an abutter within 1,000 feet of the Project Site, you are hereby notified of the following: Town of Ipswich Utilities Department has filed a
(Applicant)

Notice of Intent X; Abbreviated Notice of Intent _____;
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation _____; Request for Amendment _____

with the Ipswich Conversation Commission, for review of the following activity:

Repair of Dow Brook Reservoir Dam due to leaking of the dam. Repairs include installation of a new core wall, removal of excessive vegetation, grading, and installation of a new toe drain and slide gate.

Existing IPS/DEP File Number; if assigned, is DEP # 036- N/A. The Applicant's target hearing date is: August 1, 2018. Information regarding the date, time, and place of the public hearing may be obtained from the Ipswich Conservation Office by calling 978-356-6661.

The filing materials may be examined at the Conservation Office, Room 101, at 25 Green St, Ipswich, MA, by appointment, during regular office hours. Office hours are Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Copies of 8½" x 11" documents may be purchased for \$0.05/page. Full size plans (24" by 36") may be purchased for \$7.00 per sheet. **Copies may not be available immediately**, but will be prepared within a reasonable time of the request. **No file materials may be borrowed under any circumstances.** Other than a brief summary of the matter at issue, the Conservation Office will not be able to discuss projects in depth over the telephone. If you have specific questions about a filing, contact the Conservation Office to review the file and/or speak with the Conservation Agent.

Notice of the public hearing, including the date, time and place, will be published at least five (5) days in advance of the first hearing only, in the Ipswich Chronicle and in the Conservation Commission's Agenda as posted outside the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall not less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of sessions, and on the Town's Conservation website at www.Ipswichma.gov.

For more information regarding this matter or the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, you may also contact the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office (DEP-NERO) at 978-694-3200, or at 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887; or at its website at: <http://mass.gov/dep/water/resources/wetlands.htm>.