



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 18, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

City of White Cloud
April Storms, City Manager
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349-0607

Dear April Storms:

SUBJECT: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), Dam Safety Unit has received and reviewed the City of White Cloud's (City) April 15, 2025, response to EGLE's April 1, 2025, Dam Safety Order. The City's response included an April 4, 2025, letter from GEI which included several recommended actions to ensure the safety of the dam, including immediate drawdown of the impoundment to the extent practicable. EGLE's April 1st Dam Safety Order directed the City to take the following actions as authorized under Section 31518 of Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended:

1. Develop a high-level plan and schedule to address the deficiencies at the dam. This plan will help us set reasonable deadlines for making both short term and long-term decisions and carrying out those decided upon remedial actions. Please provide this plan for review by May 1, 2025. The schedule should include the following deadlines, and the intermediate milestones needed to reach them.
2. Finalize a plan for interim risk reduction measures. This plan may include interim repairs, drawdown, or other measures. Implement the plan as soon as practicable. This plan will likely require input from your engineer and a permit from EGLE. Provide the plan to EGLE for review by June 2, 2025.
3. Finalize a plan for long-term remedial action. This plan should include a repair or removal plan, or a proposal for an alternative dam modification project. Provide this plan to EGLE for review by November 3, 2025.

The City's April 15th response to EGLE proposes to provide the interim risk reduction plan by August 31, 2025, and to implement the plan sometime after that. However, the April 4th GEI letter included with the City's response recommends immediate drawdown of the impoundment to the extent possible by removing all stoplogs and opening all gates at the dam's spillway, which is expected to lower the impoundment by six (6) to seven (7) feet. The City's proposal to delay implementation of necessary risk reduction measures, including drawdown of the impoundment, until after August 31, 2025, does not align with the recommendations of GEI and presents an unacceptable risk of failure of the White Cloud Dam.

As stated in EGLE's previous communication, the White Cloud Dam is regulated under Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.31501 *et seq.*; and the corresponding administrative rules. Section 31518 (7) of Part 315 states:

If, based on the findings and recommendations of the inspection report and an inspection by the department, the department finds that a condition exists which endangers a dam, it shall order the owner to take actions that the department considers necessary to alleviate the danger.

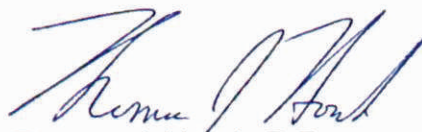
The results of the GEI Study and April 4, 2025, letter, indicate that conditions do exist that endanger the dam. Further, GEI's recommendation for an immediate drawdown indicates the risk of delaying action. Therefore, you are hereby ordered under Section 324.31518 to take the following corrective actions to alleviate danger at the dam:

Within two (2) weeks, by May 2, 2025, apply for a permit to drawdown the impoundment, Lake White Cloud, by six (6) to seven (7) feet, as recommended by your engineer. Initiate drawdown of the impoundment when authorized by EGLE. Maintain the drawdown of the impoundment, to the extent possible, unless authorization for refilling is provided by EGLE. The EGLE joint permit application package can be downloaded from our website at: [MiEnviro.Michigan.gov/ncore/external/home](https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home). All provisions of the April 1, 2025, Dam Safety Order remain in effect.

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Community engagement is still encouraged to keep the public informed of necessary short-term actions being taken and to obtain input on the long-term remedial actions. However, interim risk reduction measures, including drawdown of the impoundment, are necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the dam, and cannot be delayed. We anticipate your cooperation in resolving this matter. If you have any questions about this dam or permit requirements, please contact me at 517-231-8594 or HorakT@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Horak".

Thomas J. Horak, P.E.

Dam Safety Unit

Water Resources Division

cc: Don Barnhard, City of White Cloud DPW
Kelli Arnold, City of White Cloud Clerk
Abigail Watkins, P.E.M., M.E.P., Newaygo County Emergency Services
Dan DeVaun, P.E., GEI
Janeen McDermott, P.E., GEI
Mark Tonello, DNR
Helana Nelson, EGLE
Rebecca Huska, EGLE
John Delehanty, EGLE
Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., EGLE
Mason Manuszak, EGLE