

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Water, Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety  
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-3504  
P: (518) 402-8185 | F: (518) 402-9029  
www.dec.ny.gov

January 9, 2024

City of Syracuse Water Department  
Attn: Joseph Awald, P.E., Commissioner  
101 North Beech Street  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
Email: [jawald@syr.gov](mailto:jawald@syr.gov)

Re: Skaneateles Lake Dam, State ID#: 073-0355  
Large, Class C – High Hazard  
Skaneateles (V), Onondaga County  
**Condition Rating: No Deficiencies Noted**

Dear Commissioner Awald:

On October 23, 2023, Tioluwani and I conducted a routine visual inspection of the Skaneateles Lake Dam as part of the Department of Environmental Conservation’s (Department) ongoing Dam Safety Program. I am writing to you because it is my understanding that you represent the owner of this structure. The left/right nomenclature used in this letter and in the enclosed Visual Observation Report is based on one looking downstream.

## Inspection

The inspection revealed overgrown wetland vegetation (cattails and phragmites) growing on the upstream side of the spillway in the approach area, on the downstream side of overflow section of bulkhead structure below the gate house on the right embankment, and between the stone blocks on left side of bulkhead structure.

## Regulations

The dam has a hazard classification of “Large, Class C - High Hazard.” The following table summarizes the current status of compliance for this dam for those sections of the regulations that have specific deadlines for compliance.

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Status</u>
673.6	Develop and implement an Inspection & Maintenance (I&M) Plan.	An I&M Plan must be available for review, if requested.

673.7	Develop and submit to the Department an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) no later than August 19, 2010, and review and update annually thereafter.	An EAP, dated June 18, 2021, is on file.
673.8	Submit an Annual Certification (AC) to the Department by January 31 <sup>st</sup> of each year (covering the previous calendar year).	An AC for calendar year 2022 is on file.
673.13	The first Engineering Assessment (EA) of a Large, Class C dam was due no later than August 19, 2012, and a full Engineering Assessment is due every 10 years thereafter.	<b><u>VIOLATION</u></b> - The next EA was due in August 2022. Please submit an updated EA immediately.

## AC

Please note Annual Certifications can now be submitted electronically through the NYS Dam Safety webpage. The full text of the revised 6 NYCRR Part 608 and Part 673, along with technical guidance, templates and forms can be downloaded from the Dam Safety webpage at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4991.html>.

## Condition Rating

The Department assigned to the dam a Condition Rating of “No Deficiencies Noted” to the Skaneateles Lake Dam, via an inspection letter dated July 24, 2017. This Condition Rating was maintained in 2019 due to the recent rehabilitation work. **This condition rating will be upgraded if an EA is not completed.**

Please keep in mind that any repair or construction activities related to the dam may require permits from Department. Well before beginning work on the dam, please check with the Regional Permit Administrator at the Department’s Region 7 - Syracuse office at (315) 426-7440 to see if any permits are required.

If you have any questions regarding the above or the Dam Safety program in general, please feel free to contact me by phone at 518-402-8249, or by e-mail at [joshua.johnson3@dec.ny.gov](mailto:joshua.johnson3@dec.ny.gov).

Sincerely,



Joshua Johnson, EIT  
Assistant Engineer  
Dam Safety Section

cc w/ enc: M. Sennet, Mayor, Village of Skaneateles,  
[Mayor@villageofskaneateles.com](mailto:Mayor@villageofskaneateles.com)  
J. Aaron, Supervisor, Town of Skaneateles, [jaaron@townofskaneateles.com](mailto:jaaron@townofskaneateles.com)  
D. Wears, Onondaga Co. Emergency Management, [danielwears@ongov.net](mailto:danielwears@ongov.net)  
Benjamin Girtain-Plowe, NYSDEC, Dam Safety R7 Representative  
Donald Canestrari, NYSDEC, Dam Safety Section, Chief  
Tioluwani Adebajo, NYSDEC, Dam Safety Section



**Visual Observations**

*DAM NAME* Skaneateles Lake Dam  
*STATE ID* 073-0355      *SECTION* A      *HAZARD CODE* C  
*COUNTY* Onondaga      *INSPECTION DATE* 10/23/2023  
*NEAREST DS CITY/TOWN* Skaneateles      *INSPECTOR(S)* JWJ/ATA  
*OWNER'S NAME* CITY OF SYRACUSE  
*DOWNSTREAM HAZARD* High      *TOWNSHIP* Village of Skaneateles

*WATER LEVEL BEHIND DAM* Not Observed.

*DRAIN OPERATION* Unknown.

*DEFICIENCIES*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) Seepage            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4) Maintenance  | <input type="checkbox"/> 7) Cracking              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2) Slope Stability    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5) Surficial Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> 8) Movement/Misalignment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) Undesirable Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> 6) Voids                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 9) Data                  |

Upstream:

–Vegetation obscuring the left upstream face.

Downstream:

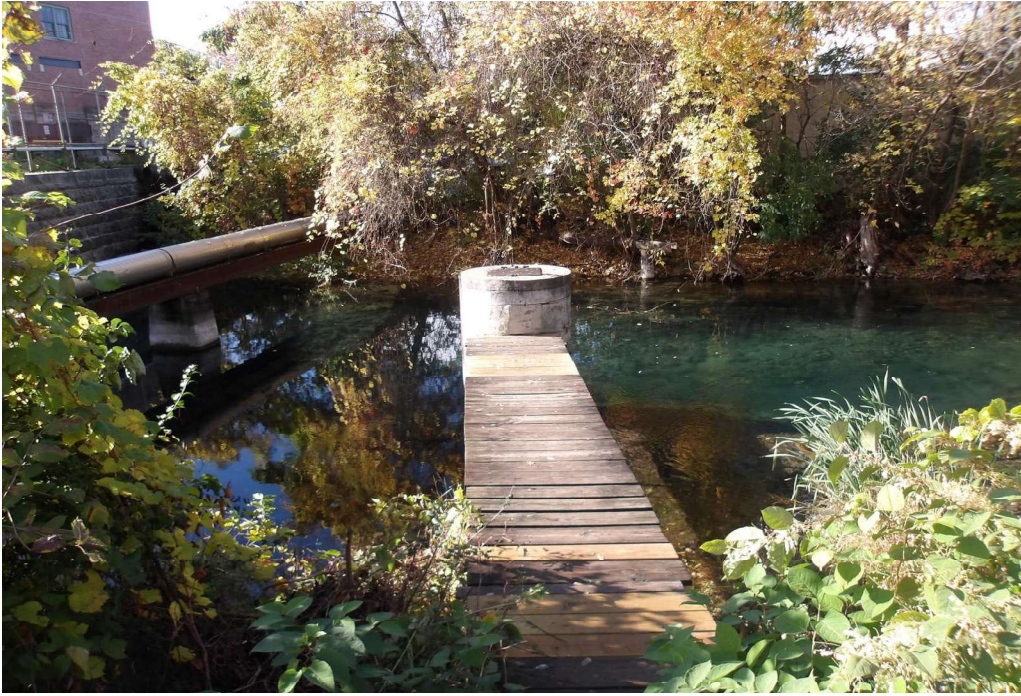
–Vegetation by the left abutment, obscuring the face.



**Photo 1 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Upstream face of the dam.



**Photo 2 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Dam crest looking left.



**Photo 3 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Downstream bridge.



**Photo 4 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Right Downstream groin.



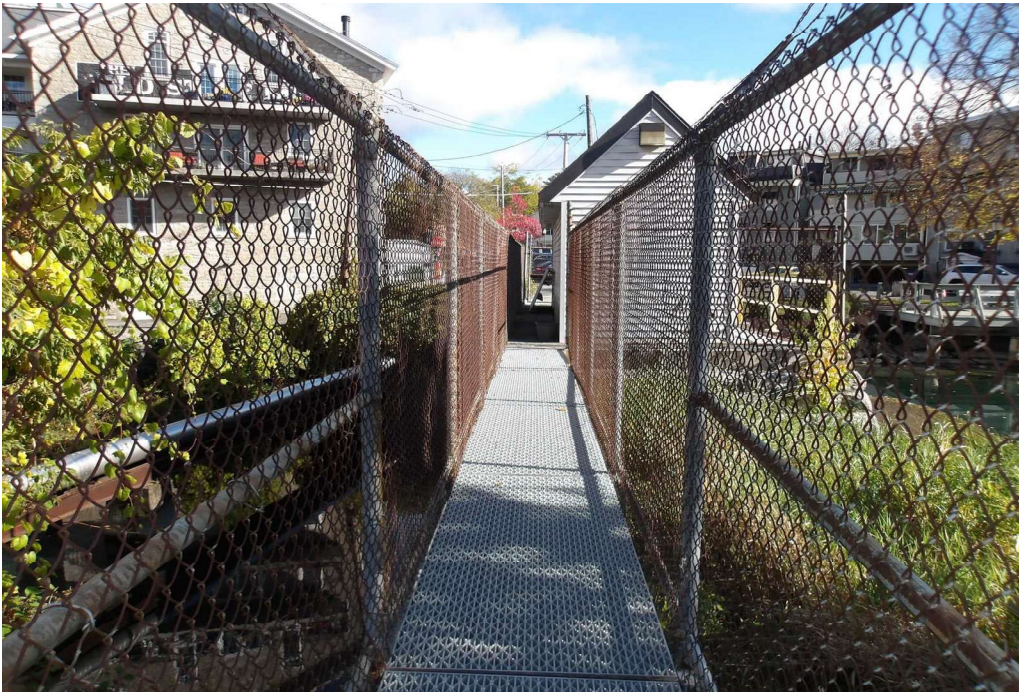
**Photo 5 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Downstream channel.



**Photo 6 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Service spillway obscured by vegetation at the left end of the dam.



**Photo 7 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Left downstream groin with pipe observed leaking.



**Photo 8 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Walkway on the left end of the dam, over a spillway.





**Photo 9 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Approach channel to the dam, looking upstream.



**Photo 10 Dam ID# 073-0355 Skaneateles Lake Dam 10/23/2023**  
Right upstream face of the dam.