

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Big Canoe Property Owners Association (POA) in Pickens County, Georgia. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). An initial disaster-wide Public Notice was

published Monday, September 30, 2024 for DR-4830 Hurricane Helene. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. - Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives - and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund the repairs located within the Special Flood Hazard Area prior to the event. Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

Responsible Entity: FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Applicant: Big Canoe POA

Project Title(s): HMGP 4830 Lake Petit Dam Rehabilitation

Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:

Site Name Pickens County Unincorporated Areas; **GPS Coordinates** 84.28923 W 34.46098 N **FIRM Panel** 130149 13227C0185C

All Panels effective 09/29/2010, accessed 08/11/2025.

Proposed Work and Purpose: The intent of the project for which the POA is seeking funding is to rehabilitate the dated Lake Petit Dam spillway as well as internal drains along portions of the lower half of the downstream slope of the Dam. The existing spillway and internal drains were designed and constructed using guidelines and materials which are no longer the industry standard and require on-going maintenance to mitigate failure, which could result in a breach of the Dam. The project will construct a modern reinforced concrete chute spillway and rehabilitate the remaining internal corrugated metal drain pipes to update their performance, reliability, and design life and decrease ongoing maintenance by using modern construction materials, details, and standards.

Project Alternatives:

(1) **New Tunneled Spillway Conduit** - This alternative would consist of constructing a new tunneled spillway by drilling upstream through the ridge and exiting into the existing reservoir 40 feet below the normal water surface elevation. A steel or concrete water-tight liner would be constructed behind the machine to act as the conduit for passing flows from the reservoir. This alternative would require a highly specialized contractor, and several challenges would be presented, such as the variability in site conditions and rock quality requiring different specialized

tooling; difficulties with site access for equipment, which could affect properties and roadways surrounding the site; and implications to cost and schedule.

Although this alternative was considered, it has been deemed an impracticable alternative and would potentially adversely impact social or economic resources for the community. Proposed repairs to the internal drains would remain the same for this alternative.

(2) **No action alternative** - This alternative is not feasible as the repairs are necessary to ensure that the spillway and internal drains for the Dam remain operational to perform their designed function. These features protect the downstream community and structures from the effects of a Dam breach. With the No action alternative, the risk of Dam breach is increased, and continued maintenance costs, which may not properly address the issues, will be incurred. With the No action alternative, continued negative impacts may be experienced.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA HMGP program.

Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "HMGP 4830 Lake Petit Dam Rehabilitation" at the above addresses within 15 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 17th DAY OF September 2025