

From: Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>
To: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 10/27/2015 12:47:24 PM
Subject: RE: dam-safety inspection questions

I think that we're in a good space with these, 2 points if we want to make them

1. It's clear from this extraordinary event that we need to re-think the way we regulate dams in South Carolina and Director Heigel is looking at her operations, regulations, and the law to determine what changes need to be made.
2. DHEC is working on a request for additional resources and we intend to address dam safety in the executive budget and in the next legislative session, but the process for producing the budget and legislation is still underway.

josh

From: Adams, Chaney
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:31 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob; Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati
Subject: RE: dam-safety inspection questions

Here is what NH and KH have said about this in press conferences.

10/14/15

NH- "We are looking to inspect all C1s and C2s, which is the dams with the most risk, to have all of them assessed by the 25th. So if you look at the fact that we have 636, we have already assessed 357, we are on a roll in terms of getting that done.

"We are kind of reconfiguring the way we do dams in South Carolina. And so we had a meeting yesterday where we are now gonna look at our dams, they're already categorized by C1, C2, C3, on how we're gonna do that. We're looking at do we have enough engineers to monitor those dams? How are we gonna go and maintain those dams going forward? And what's the new plan for the new South Carolina as we go forward with that?"

KH- "I would answer this in kinds phases, the immediate phase is on the recovery and on the inspections. As the governor discussed the inspection of all of the C1s and C2s by the 25th of this month. So, what we do with that is the immediate action plan with those owners that is necessary to ensure the integrity of those dams. Next phase, what can we do better? And through this we have learned a lot about where we do well and where we've got room for improvement. And so we've brought in some resources to help advise us on that and charting that path forward—both in terms of personnel and training, staffing as well as a response enforcement ability. But, you know the challenge is, these are private dams these are owned by private property owners and so we have a lot that we'll have to work through. But what I will end with is saying that we have a strong commitment, that we have already heard from both the owners, from the General Assembly members and from this group here to work through those so that we make South Carolina better and stronger moving forward.

10/12/15

NH- "Keep in mind we have over 50,000 dams in South Carolina, only 2,600 are regulated. So a lot what DHEC can look at are those regulated dams. A lot of what we are assessing, and some that have had breeches are unregulated dams, so we're going through that process."

KH- "We do know, yes, that there are a number of dam owners who did heed that October first advisory. These are private dam owners, and just a correction, we have about 2,400 regulated dams in the state. These owners have been under DHEC regulation for some time, they are aware of the requirements that they need to follow. But, we sent that out as a reminder, as an advisory. So, we continue to follow up with those owners, we have over the last several

days our call center as well as FEMA's call center to make phone calls to every single C1 and C2 dam owner in the state."

"We have asked all private dam owners that we regulate in this state to be vigilant about their structures. It is their responsibility as private property owners to ensure the integrity of their structures. We have asked them to call us, advise us, if additional emergency assistance is needed to shore up those structures. We have received some of those calls, we continue to receive some of those calls, and we go out where needed.

From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati; Adams, Chaney
Subject: FW: dam-safety inspection questions

Josh –

Guidance here? This is on deadline.

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From: Brundrett, Rick [<mailto:rbrundrett@greenvillenews.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 10:21 AM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Subject: dam-safety inspection questions

Hey Rob,

Thanks for taking my call. Here are the questions that I'd appreciate the governor answering:

- My review of dam inspection reports posted online by DHEC in connection with the 75 emergency orders recently issued show that in a number of those cases, the most-recent prior inspections were done nearly five years or longer, while in a number of other cases, there were no posted inspection reports. Given that the dam-safety inspection division in recent years has had no more than 5 FTEs and the lack of regular inspections, does the governor believe that the program is understaffed? Why or why not?
- Does the governor plan to propose any funding increases to increase staffing in the inspection program in her upcoming executive budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year? If so, can you give me specifics on that amount? If not, why?

If you need to speak with me by phone, my cell is 864-478-5904. Thanks again for your help with this.