

April 4th.2016

To: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

From: Roger W. Jones

Re: Highway 21 (Wilson Blvd.29203)

Dear Governor Haley,

Please find a copy of an email I sent to Mr.Fretwell of the State newspaper.

Monday April 4th marks the 6th month that Highway 21 (wilson Blvd) has been closed due to the damage caused by the "thousand year event".

I am writing influential persons in the hope that someone can expedite the repair of the road and return some form of normalcy to the lives of the many citizens affected by the closure of the road.

I am thanking you in advance for any and all help that you can offer towards the resolution of this problem area.

Very Respectfully,I am,

Roger W.Jones

Lake Elizabeth resident

From: Roger Jones <iddie@earthlink.net>
Subject: Fwd: Wilson Blvd.road repair
Date: April 3, 2016 2:24:07 PM EDT
To: Roger Jones <iddie@earthlink.net>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roger Jones <iddie@earthlink.net>
Date: April 3, 2016 2:04:38 PM EDT
To: sfretwell@thestate.com
Subject: Wilson Blvd.road repair

Good afternoon Sir,

As a resident of Lake Elizabeth Estates, it is heartbreaking and painful to lose our lake due to no fault of our own, be sued by countless individuals who suffered damage to their homes resulting from the rain storm of October 4th & 5th of the year 2015, and finally to apparently be held responsible for the collapse of the Wilson Blvd. road that runs directly across the top of our dam by the South Carolina DHEC.

DHEC has apparently been fixated on blaming the residents of Lake Elizabeth for causing the road/dam break instead of using common sense and good judgement. Roads deteriorate just like any other structure and as far as I know we have always received from DHEC a satisfactory rating following the inspections of our dam and spillway. Who is to say that the road did not collapse causing the break in the dam that supports it? This is tantamount to the question of "which came first, the chicken or the egg".

I respectfully disagree with DHEC's position of us being responsible for the break in the road/dam and believe that the amount of rain that fell and the runoff from other areas and roads was simply too much water for our dam to hold. We have complained for years about the silt and debris that has been filling our lake because of surrounding development, but our complaints always fell on deaf ears.

Couple the excessive water with the fact that hundreds of guard rail posts, power lines, telephone and power posts, underground cables, box culverts, and assorted pipes that have been driven into our earthen dam or run completely through it and a reasonable person would conclude that the aforementioned weakened the road and our dam to the point of allowing water to seep into our dam, build up and ultimately cause erosion and finally collapse the road/dam.

In addition the constant flow of vehicular traffic Speeding up and down Wilson Blvd. (Highway 21) runs directly over our earthen dam and in fact our dam forms the base or platform for the highway. It is my contention that the constant flow of vehicles of all categories and weights traversing the road at high rates of speed twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, and fifty two weeks a year helped cause the breakdown of the road due to vibrations and shifting of soil that also led to breaks in the road and dam that allowed water to enter over a period of time and ultimately contributed to the road and dam collapse.

Most of Lake Elizabeth's residents are older citizens, many of who are retired from the military and public service jobs. They have served their country in war time and peace time, paid their taxes, raised their children, and simply don't have the money needed to repair a road/dam that the state, county, and utility companies have weakened by inserting various utility items into same. I also believe the fact that the affected road /dam area lies in a low spot also caused water flowing from both directions of Wilson Blvd. to accumulate, build pressure, and cause more damage, and is the exact spot where many of the buried cables, concrete boxes, and drainage pipes are located. Some of the pipes are clearly disconnected. Could they have ruptured and caused the water to eat away at the road from below? Should a bridge be built over the dam? Why should the dam owners be forced to pay for a platform for a roadway?

It is my belief that a reasonable person would fill in the hole where the break occurred at the road/dam, prepare the hole for concrete/cement, asphalt those materials, and reopen the road for commerce and normal travel instead of apparently showing complete disregard for the thousands of daily commuters who traverse Highway 21 (Wilson Blvd) and causing many businesses along that road to lose substantial amounts of money due to the lack of customers who no longer drive near their businesses. Obviously what is bad for business is also bad for the money that could be going towards the welfare of the state and counties.

The rainstorm/flood of October 2015 was characterized as being a "thousand year event" meaning the likelihood of it happening is once in a thousand years. The flood/rainstorm was truly "an act of God" and no human on the face of this earth caused it or could have prevented it! The spillway gates for the dam are damaged and inoperable. They are mostly in an open position and the dam will no longer hold more than a few feet of water and can no longer threaten the road. DHEC could then specifically impose restrictions on the owners of the dam to not begin rebuilding the dam unless and until DHEC gives permission to do so. The apparent blame game needs to stop, the road should be repaired by the state, county, or utility companies who seemingly helped cause its failure, and the citizens of this State should once again be able to repeat the Governor's favorite slogan, "everyday is a great day in South Carolina".

Respectfully,

Roger W. Jones

Lake Elizabeth

