



TOWN OF LEE
32 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238
www.lee.ma.us

R. Christopher Brittain,
Town Administrator

TO: US Environmental Protection Agency
FROM: Town of Lee
RE: Comments on the Columbia Mill Dam – Lee, MA
DATE: February 6, 2023

Since “there is no physical early warning system at the dam” as stated in the report the town requests that the improvement recommendations from the consulting engineers as outlined in section 3.1 and shown in Appendix B (and listed below) be expedited as soon as possible.

1. A one-inch± vortex upstream of the spillway on the left side;
2. A large diagonal crack on the left side of the downstream face of the spillway;
3. Several cracks, staining, and scarping on the right downstream training wall;
4. Small cracks and staining on the left training wall of the spillway and the right wall of the external sluiceway;
5. Exposed rebar and concrete spalls on the downstream Mill foundation wall;
6. Separation of concrete joint at weir crest;
7. Deteriorating concrete at top and bottom of spillway joint with right and left training wall;
8. Logs and branches lodged on upstream and downstream portions of spillway, including logs and debris lodged on the structure for the 20-inch diameter wastewater treatment plant effluent pipe on the left side;
9. Significant vegetation growth on the right embankment, with large trees and woody vegetation on and within 20 feet of the Dam; and

10. Leaks through base of Mill foundation wall between internal sluiceway and downstream channel, the likely water source of which is the internal sluiceway.

Since this project is not contingent on the pending lawsuit by HRI/HEAL it is unnecessary to wait until they begin the actual cleanup in the Lee section of the river. In addition, repairs have already been made on the Woods Pond and Rising Pond dams.

The town would also like to know if GE/EPA has already obtained permission from the owner of the Columbia Mill (Lenox Development) to do this work.