



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

August 13, 2014

*Dear Buckeye Lake Dam Stakeholder:*

We are writing today to share information of interest to you as a stakeholder in Buckeye Lake Dam.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in April entered into agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide an assessment of the current condition of Buckeye Lake Dam. The assessment will be conducted during 2014 and is underway now. The scope of the assessment includes:

- A detailed visual dam inspection of the embankment and dam works along the entire length of the dam by engineers and technical experts from USACE and ODNR. **The four-day inspection is scheduled for Aug. 25-28.** Dam residents are encouraged to stake and flag any areas on their property they would like to point out to the dam inspection team.
- A thorough review of existing data and analysis of the dam's condition, including numerous previously published engineering studies, state dam safety inspection reports, and public comments.
- A detailed review of the dam's emergency action plan and related technical data, as well as ODNR's operations, maintenance, and inspection plans and procedures.
- Meeting with and collecting comments directly from residents and businesses located on and below the dam, as well as from other affected stakeholders and civic leaders. These participants will be asked to furnish any information about the dam, including photos and other observations and analysis that can be used to inform the USACE assessment. **Details about this part of the assessment will be furnished soon.**

As part of its assessment, USACE will also provide ODNR with recommendations for future operation, inspections, and maintenance of the dam, as well as any needed interim risk reduction measures and remediation. **The final assessment report will be completed by early 2015 and will be made available to the public for review and comment.**

As we go forward, we understand there are a number of unresolved issues regarding this dam (the future disposition of private docks, for example). We will make time to seek residents' input and work through these issues with the community in an open and transparent process before any final decisions are made. **Details about when and how this will occur will be provided at a later date.**

Here is some additional background information:

- Improvements to the dam are needed for it to meet state dam safety standards; those improvements are yet to be determined. Some examples of the dam's deficiencies are excessive long-term seepage through and deterioration of the earthen embankment, multiple excavations in the downstream slope, and the inability of safety inspectors to examine areas of the dam hidden by structures.
- Buckeye Lake Dam is a state-owned dam that ODNR is responsible for operating and maintaining in accordance with state dam safety regulations and industry best management practices. The dam was constructed as an earthen embankment from 1825 to 1832 and measures approximately 4.1 miles in length.
- Buckeye Lake Dam is designated by the state of Ohio as a Class I high-hazard-potential dam. A high-hazard-potential classification for a dam signifies the general adverse consequences to lives and property that would occur in the event of a catastrophic failure of a dam and does not describe the dam's condition.

To get more information you may write to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Statewide Dam Risk Reduction Project, 2045 Morse Road, Building E-3, Columbus OH 43229. You may also send an email to [DamRiskReduction@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:DamRiskReduction@dnr.state.oh.us).

We appreciate your interest in the safety of Buckeye Lake Dam and look forward to providing additional information about this assessment in the future. We remain committed to sharing information with and gathering input from affected stakeholders both along the dam and in the surrounding communities to ensure our work will have a positive impact on the Buckeye Lake region.

Sincerely,



James Zehringer  
Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources