

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



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May 11, 2013

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Attn.: Bob Martin - Commissioner

Re.: Pascack Valley Waterway Report

Dear Commissioner Martin,

After suffering five flooding events in 2011, the Borough of Westwood had commissioned an engineering review of the operations for the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir Dam.

The results of this study, which essentially recommend that the bascule gates at the dam be operated to maintain 91 feet water elevation in the reservoir twelve months of the year, were first sent to your office in December of 2011 and then again in March of 2013. To date we have not had a response from the DEP other than the perfunctory "we are looking at it".

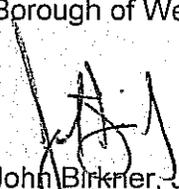
While we recognize the concerns for water allocation and distribution during periods of potential drought, it would only be a small percentage of available water supply compromised by reducing four feet of water elevation in the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir for a few months of the year. It is our position that having the available capacity will greatly reduce the risk of localized flooding resulting from a strong precipitation event during the summer months.

My continued concern is the impact of the Woodcliff Lake Dam operated by United Water-New Jersey on the Pascack Brook. During the past three days the level in the reservoir rose four feet due to heavy and sustained rains. If the reservoir had been at the summer elevation of ninety-five feet, the reservoir would have certainly topped causing downstream flooding in neighborhoods in Hillsdale and Westwood.

We are seeking direction from the NJDEP to modify the Standard Operating Procedure at the Woodcliff Lake Dam to maintain the level of the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir at the "Winter Mode" level of 91' elevation for the entire year. We repeat our request that United Water New Jersey be required to operate the bascule gates accordingly in effort to mitigate much of the flooding that impacts the area during heavy storm events.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to your response and for the opportunity of further discussion considering the importance of our request.

Borough of Westwood



John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor
(201) 664-7100 x 106

Encls.

cc. Borough of Westwood Council
Cindy Randazzo, NJDEP
Hon. Max Arnowitz, Borough of Hillsdale Mayor