

# MEMORANDUM

*Village of Mamaroneck*

To: Richard Slingerland, Village Manager  
From: Daniel J. Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager  
Re: Mamaroneck Reservoir Dam  
Date: December 30, 2015



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[www.villageofmamaroneck.org](http://www.villageofmamaroneck.org)

Available records indicate that the Mamaroneck Reservoir Dam, as it was called, was constructed around 1900. The original dam was constructed of earth, rock, and timbers for the purpose of water supply. The dam was replaced by a concrete structure around 1930. Additional ancillary facilities were constructed at that time, which consisted of a pump house, an intake structure, and a filter house. By the mid-1970s, the water supply facilities were abandoned or converted to other uses, and the dam was left in place to control runoff. The dam is classified as Class C-High Hazard (for comparison purposes, it is noted that the Kensico Dam has the same rating).

The Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW) owns the Mamaroneck Reservoir Dam, and the Village of Mamaroneck is under contract to maintain the dam. Based on available information, the reservoir appears to operate as a flow control structure during spring thaw or heavy rainfall events. The runoff produced by the larger, less-frequent rainfall events discharges over the top of the dam, thus providing no further flood control.

In the late 1970s, two conduits were installed through the dam to maintain a lower, normal pool elevation in the reservoir. This was done to dampen the effects of small storm events. In past visual inspections performed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) personnel, the following conditions were noted: (1) the conduits were partly clogged; (2) the low level outlet drain was reportedly open and flowing and inoperable; (3) the concrete of the dam showed some surficial spalling and cracking; and (4) the filter house was deteriorating and was covered with woody vegetation.

A recent routine inspection conducted by NYSDEC on March 30, 2015, resulted in the Department issuing a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Village. As a result of the NOV, the Village must now make a decision as to whether the dam should be remediated or decommissioned. It is important to note that the term “decommissioned” does not necessarily mean total removal.

Following up on this NOV, the Village retained the engineering firm of GHD (formerly Stearns & Wheeler) as they have been working with the Village for over 10 years assisting the Village comply with federal & State regulations as it relates to operation and maintenance of dam structures.

GHD and staff are in the process of finalizing the Feasibility Study as required per our Notice of Violation, however, it is important to introduce this topic to the Village Board and community to discuss the various options, the preliminary staff recommendations and long-term implications.

Based on the initial calculations, the capital costs for remediation and decommissioning are roughly the same, however, there is a great deal of contingency built into both estimates. Regardless, however, it is understood that there will be more long-term operational costs for maintenance should remediation option be pursued.

There are many aspects of this that should be reviewed with the Board given the implications of both choices. As such, I would like to review this matter with the Board at their January 4, 2016 work session meeting. The Village Engineer can also attend to review these options with the Board and the staff recommendations.