



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region • 2735 Airport Way • Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

Phone: (208) 334-2190 • Fax: (208) 334-2348 • Website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

June 10, 2013

Sands LLC
7154 W State ST #187
Boise ID 83714

RE: Robbs Creek Dams

Dear Mr. Loomis:

The purpose of this letter is to address recent applications for construction of dams and permitting of water storage reservoirs on Robbs Creek all located in Township 06N, Range 02E, Sections 4, 8, & 9.

Recent construction applications received by our agency propose the following new dam/storage facilities on the creek:

Water Right	Name	Dam Height (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)
#65-23431	Coneen	19.5	5
#65-23355	Alan	19.5	5

Two other existing dam/storage facilities include #65-11141 Home Lake in the upper drainage and Webster Lane Dam (Swensen) located between the proposed Alan and Coneen facilities.

Artificial hydraulic barriers (dams) that have a capacity of 10 acre-feet or less or a water storage height of 6 feet or less in a low hazard location are not subject to Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) dam safety regulation (§42.1711). Based on the water storage height and storage capacities of the referenced structures, none appear large enough to be subject to Department design review and regulation individually. However, our current review has revealed safety concerns regarding the facilities cumulatively. Coupled with the steep creek gradient, an embankment failure or large runoff event in the upper drainage potentially could initiate a chain reaction of embankment failures downstream if spillway capacities and embankment freeboard* are not adequate.

Recommendations

To help protect downstream life and property from the consequences of a failure and sudden release of water, however unlikely, the Department recommends that an emergency overflow spillway with a minimum depth of two (2) feet (freeboard) and minimum bottom with of 6 feet be constructed at the Home Lake, Alan, and Coneen facilities. Although not required you are nonetheless encouraged to engage the services of a licensed professional engineer to assist in the proper design and construction of your dams.

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Now therefore, the Department may consider the facilities exempt from dam safety regulation provided this recommendation for spillway construction is implemented at each facility. Please contact the Department once construction has been completed for an on-site confirmation.

Please be advised that the dam owner is responsible and potentially liable for any damages to downstream life and property that may result from a failure of their dam and uncontrolled release of water, regardless the height or amount of reservoir storage thereof.

Should you have questions, please contact me at the Western Regional Office 208-334-2190 or John Falk at our state office 208-287-4927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Westra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Westra".

John Westra, Manager

Cc: J. Falk, SO
Water right Files 63-11141, 65-2354, 65-23355, 65-23431,

*Freeboard is the vertical height between the lowest point along the top of the dam and maximum operating level of water in the reservoir.