



SPECIAL MEETING – NOTIFICATION –RESIDENTS

May 7, 2025

Dear Residents,

This letter is to inform you of an upcoming Special City Council Meeting scheduled for **Monday, May 19, 2025, at 3:30 PM**. The meeting will take place at the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Office, located at 1087 E. Newell St., White Cloud, MI.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting has been called in response to a recent order issued by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on April 18, 2025. This order mandates that the city immediately pursue a permit to lower the water level of the pond by 6–7 feet—a significant action that will impact our community and environment.

This order stems from a feasibility study the city commissioned as part of the Dam Risk Reduction Grant process. Conducted over 18 months and completed in February, the 300-page study was reviewed by EGLE, which then requested a formal recommendation from engineering firm GEI. In mid-April, GEI recommended a drawdown of approximately 7 feet, similar to the level observed during the board break last summer. EGLE has asked that this be completed “as soon as practically possible.” **The reason for this draw down recommendation is due to deficiencies that were identified in a Feasibility Study in February, stating that the dam cannot withstand a 200- year storm.** The city received a recommendation from GEI on April 4th after an initial order from EGLE on 04/01/25 to ask for a reasonable timeframe with goals, which we sent and determined with GEI were sufficient. (these documents are included in the correspondence available to you online or at city hall)

If you would like access to the documents including email correspondence, EGLE orders, notes, etc. Please visit: www.cityofwhitecloud.org – under Public Notices. I’ve put all the information under one link titled “EGLE Dam Orders- Apr. 2025” or stop at city hall for a copy. They are available at the desk for your review.

City's Response and Concerns

Upon receiving this directive, the City sought to negotiate a more reasonable timeline—one that would allow for community input, engineering consultations, and exploration of funding sources. Unfortunately, these requests were denied.



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Due to this lack of cooperation, I requested the mayor's involvement. A meeting was held on April 30, 2025, between the Mayor, City Manager, EGLE representatives, and GEI, resulting in a narrow agreement: EGLE will allow a public Special Council Meeting by May 19. However, the City must begin the permit application process immediately, and the drawdown must begin no later than June 9, 2025—pending permit approval.

On May 1, the city received a \$40,000 estimate from GEI for the drawdown permit. This cost exceeds the City Charter threshold for the City Manager's approval, and, more importantly, it represents an unfunded mandate being pushed onto our residents without due process or community consideration. I have since notified EGLE of our decision to decline moving forward unilaterally and have requested their participation at the May 19 meeting. GEI will also be present to explain their recommendations and answer questions.

A History Dam Management

Since my appointment as City Manager in January 2022, we have taken significant steps to ensure Dam safety. Working closely with our Department of Public Works Supervisor, we have implemented a daily monitoring protocol, logging water levels, weather events, and dam performance for over three years. Not once during this time has the water overtopped the dam. These measures reflect our dedication to public safety and proactive governance.

Despite this record of responsible management, EGLE has shown little willingness to collaborate or respect local input. We received GEI's technical recommendation dated April 4 only the following week—yet were immediately expected to act on it without Council review or public input.

My Position

Let me be candid: this is deeply frustrating. The current timeline being forced upon us is unreasonable. According to EGLE's updated directive:

- Permit application must begin ***immediately*** in collaboration with GEI and be submitted by May 20, 2025. (\$40,000 expense)
- Water drawdown must begin on or before June 9, 2025, pending permit approval.
- The city retains full responsibility for dam operations under Part 315 until drawdown is completed.

We believe this action disregards the community, environmental, and financial impacts on our residents. Furthermore, it is built upon a narrative of imminent risk that is not supported by the historical record, including the 1986 dam failure, which, while significant,



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did not result in loss of life even under poorer conditions and less oversight than today. More progress has been made in dam management and structural improvements over the past two years than in the entire decade prior to my tenure

Your Voice Matters

I am calling on you—residents—to stand with us. We cannot allow our community to be sidelined or railroaded by unfunded state mandates. **We must have a voice in the future of our dam, our lake, and our city.**

I have formally requested that representatives from EGLE be present at the meeting. Mr. Horak and Mr. Tremble will be present, as well as, GEI Engineer Dan DeVahn, has confirmed his attendance, and they will be available to present their findings and answer questions.

I also encourage you to contact our local representatives and lobbyists, as their support may prove instrumental in helping us navigate this process. The Mayor and I have a meeting with Representative Fox next Tuesday morning and are in contact with MML regarding navigating forward.

Please join us at the Special City Council Meeting on:

Monday, May 19, 2025, at 3:30 PM
Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Office
1087 E. Newell St., White Cloud, MI

Your presence and input are vital as we navigate this critical challenge. Please understand this a mandate on our local unit that is not funded nor supported by our local unit. This is at a State of Michigan Level – through EGLE Dam Safety Unit.

The contact information for EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Orders coming from Mr. Horak are as follows:

Thomas Horak, P.E.
Dam Safety Unit
Water Resources Division, EGLE
517-231-8594
horakt@michigan.gov



SPECIAL MEETING – NOTIFICATION –RESIDENTS

Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., Supervisor

Dam Safety Unit

Water Resources Division, EGLE

517-420-8923

trumblel@michigan.gov

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and commitment to protecting the future of our community.

Sincerely,

April M. Storms

City Manager

Office: 231-689-1194

Cell: 231-250-2471

citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org

In Order 5.7.25
back to 4.1.25

April Storms

From: April Storms
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Horak, Thomas (EGLE); Trumble, Luke (EGLE)
Cc: Brian Miller; Slotkin_CDS@slotkin.senate.gov; SenROutman@senate.michigan.gov; josephfox@house.mi.gov; jlamacchia@mml.org; White Cloud DPW
Subject: RE: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

Good Morning Thomas,

We have provided the full feasibility study to the council, along with GEI's recommendation. Unfortunately, under the Open Meetings Act, only elected officials were allowed to participate in public meetings remotely and vote during the height of the pandemic. That temporary amendment to the OMA, which permitted public bodies to meet and vote electronically, **expired on December 31, 2021**. It was only applicable during the COVID-19 emergency. As a result, while the council may attend remotely, they are not permitted to vote under current law.

The council has received nearly daily updates, including our ongoing email correspondence, all communications from GEI, and my updates with EGLE. Every council member was hand-delivered all pertinent information last week following our meeting, and again on Thursday, including GEI's cost estimate.

It is clear that I received GEI's recommendation and, shortly after, a separate directive from EGLE dated April 18, 2025—leaving me with less than two weeks to comply which is what resulted in the request of the Mayor for the 04/30/25 meeting.

Following our April 30, 2025, meeting, the Mayor and I could not have anticipated that the "permit" we agreed to move forward with completing would carry such a significant cost burden. In the meantime, I am actively seeking other alternatives. The Mayor and I are scheduled to meet with a state representative next Tuesday, and I spoke with a lobbyist this morning to assist in exploring potential solutions to handle the environmental approach. We also have leaned into the MML for additional guidance on how we might be able to move forward with this mandate that we can't afford.

Additionally, we held a city election yesterday. As with many small communities, preparing for and executing an election is a demanding task—especially for those of us who wear multiple hats. I worked a 15-hour day focused entirely on election administration. As the City's sole administrative authority and the appointed election chair, there are multiple authorities and responsibilities that fall directly on me. Despite these constant demands, I will continue to be timely and responsive in all communications and will honor and respect the process as much as I am able—within the scope of my legal authority and management role to do so. However, I simply do not have the authority or capacity to fulfill the actions you're requesting—nor am I willing to violate the city charter to do so. As the dam owner, we have accepted the decision to hold the meeting on May 19th, and that is when the meeting will take place.

Should EGLE proceed with enforcement, the City will comply. However, we cannot be expected to implement an order for which there is no allocated funding. **This is not a refusal to comply**, though it continues to be interpreted that way.

If EGLE issues a drawdown order and is willing to undertake the environmental work and associated costs, we will absolutely do everything within our ability to facilitate the process. But we simply cannot carry out actions that are financially out of reach. We are not understanding how a mandate can be issued without accompanying resources, while still expecting immediate compliance from a small municipality. It places us in an impossible position—and that, quite frankly, does not make sense to me.

If an alternative is identified that falls within my City Manager expenditure authority—such as EGLE collaborating to fund or support this mandate—I will move forward with processing the draft and preparing the necessary documentation ahead of the May 19th meeting. I have also asked the city council to provide independent direction if they wish for me to proceed differently. However, I believe the extensive communication between myself, GEI, and EGLE clearly demonstrates that we have gone above and beyond in fulfilling our due diligence. I have embraced the responsibility of leading with integrity, respect, and a proactive mindset. I initiated follow-up meetings with GEI after the feasibility study, secured a professional recommendation at EGLE's request, collaborated with GEI to develop a timeline for response, and completed multiple rounds of grant applications—including detailed reporting and budgeting of our local match.

To suggest that I am intentionally neglecting the duties of my position is both inaccurate and unfair, and I find such an implication deeply concerning.

I will plan on seeing you and Luke at the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Meeting on May 19 at 3:30 p.m. The council has received the complete packet of correspondence, including all relevant communication, emails, GEI's recommendation, the feasibility study, and any other materials to ensure they are fully informed and prepared.

Have a great day,

April Storms
City Manager

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams

From: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:09 AM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>; Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>
Cc: Brian Miller <bjmiller45@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

April and Brain,

Thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention, however, it is EGLE's position that further delay beyond what has already been agreed upon; permit application submittal on or before May 20, 2025, and commencement of drawdown on or before June 9, 2025, is not acceptable. The GEI feasibility study and recommendation letter identify several deficiencies with the dam that endanger the dam and identify interim risk reduction measures, specifically drawdown of the impoundment, that need to be implemented as soon as practical to ensure the safety of the dam. The longer it takes to implement these interim risk reduction measures, the more likely it is that a dam failure will occur.

EGLE urges the City to consider any alternatives available in order to expedite its internal processes and gain necessary approvals to submit a permit application and begin the drawdown within the agreed upon timelines. The City should consider, at a minimum, providing the feasibility report and recommendation letter to City Council via email, if that hasn't already occurred, meeting virtually to obtain necessary approvals ahead of the May 19, 2025, planned council meeting, discussing with GEI to potentially refine their scope of work and roles and responsibilities to potentially realize some cost savings, and initiating consultation with EGLE and DNR related to anticipated permit conditions such that plans to address those concerns can be included in the forthcoming permit application.

The City received GEI's report and recommendation letter over one month ago. It is EGLE's position that given the severity of the deficiencies identified in the report and urgency of the recommended drawdown, that the time that will have passed between receiving these documents and the May 20th permit application submittal date will have provided sufficient time to engage with City Council, obtain necessary approvals, and enlist the services of your consultant, as necessary, to prepare and submit a timely permit application. Any further delay will go against the recommendations of your engineer and result in violation of the April 18, 2025, EGLE Dam Safety Order. Violation of an order will result in escalated enforcement action, as authorized under Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

Luke and I are available to assist with any of these discussions and convey the urgency that is commensurate with a situation of this nature. I am also available for the May 19 council meeting and plan to attend.

Thomas Horak, P.E.

Dam Safety Unit

Water Resources Division, EGLE

517-231-8594

horakt@michigan.gov

From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>

Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:59 AM

To: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>; Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>

Cc: Brian Miller <bjmiller45@gmail.com>

Subject: FW: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Dear Mr. Horak & Mr. Tremble,

I wanted to provide an important update regarding the permitting process with GEI. The city was given an estimate for the necessary permitting work on Thurs., May 1st which I have attached for your review. The total cost is projected at \$40,000—well beyond my authority to approve without formal approval from the Council for the expenditure itself.

Given the upcoming election tomorrow and GEI's limited availability (they are only available on Monday, May 5; unavailable from May 7–16), along with Dan's surgery and absence during our regularly scheduled meeting on May 13th, we have scheduled a special meeting for Monday, May 19, which will be his first day back.

I must emphasize that I am not authorized to proceed with any portion of the estimate without the Council's approval due to the cost of each individual element exceeding the City Manager's authority to approve. This project is not currently budgeted, and I cannot reallocate, move, or expend funds independently. I am also not

willing to violate Charter provisions by moving forward without proper approval, especially when the Council has not yet had the opportunity to review GEI's recommendation tied to this expenditure.

If it were possible to convene a meeting later this week or if GEI were available to attend our regularly scheduled meeting next Tuesday evening, I would certainly have pursued that option. However, those alternatives are not feasible. As such, I'm currently faced with either violating Charter requirements or delaying compliance with EGLE's request for permit work.

I want to be clear that this delay is not due to unwillingness to cooperate but is simply a result of logistical and legal constraints. Furthermore, I have maintained full documentation of our communications with GEI regarding timelines and my responses and the collaborative efforts that took place in an effort to do this as quickly as practical and possible.

Once the Council convenes, we can collectively proceed and identify what funding we would utilize, as this significant expense was neither anticipated nor discussed during last week's meeting with the Mayor and EGLE representatives which we weren't expecting. The Mayor and I were under the impression this permitting cost would be below the CM's threshold of approval to begin. We had no idea and could not have anticipated the enormous impact this would have on our city's budget.

I will continue to move forward, planning for the public meeting and contacting other agencies to see how we can proceed with permitting without absorbing a \$40,000 unfunded mandate. If EGLE has funds to assist with moving forward with the permitting process, then I'd certainly be open to exploring that option in the meantime.

Lastly, will EGLE be able to provide a representative at the Special Board meeting on Mon., May 19th at 3:30pm? I think it's important that the community understand the EGLE order and mandate and we move forward having provided the most information possible.

Thank you,

April Storms
City Manager

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams

From: April Storms
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:28 AM
To: DeVaun, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: RE: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

Good Morning Dan,

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure the board room or coordinate a meeting of this scale with only three days' notice and no office hours between Thursday afternoon and this morning. Additionally, our team is currently preparing for the upcoming election tomorrow. Additionally, as required by state law, our City Clerk must download the epollbook at 4:00 PM today—a process that can take anywhere from 15 minutes to two to three hours, depending on system demand and how smooth it goes. The Clerk also serves as the official recorder for meeting minutes so that would have been a conflict that we couldn't

have avoided. Please also note that our election staff is currently working extended hours, having staffed the office over the weekend as required, and will be working a 15-hour day tomorrow.

Given these constraints, we will proceed with the special meeting as scheduled for **Monday, May 19th at 3:30pm.**

Regarding the permitting request, I do not have the authority to approve expenditures of this magnitude without City Council approval. If the cost were minimal—within \$500—I could proceed with preparation. However, with the permit alone being \$10,000 of the total \$40,000 of potential expenses. I am not comfortable moving forward without Council's approval. This meeting allows for Council members to speak directly with GEI and ask necessary questions before any action is taken. This is a reasonable request on my part.

EGLE will need to determine their next steps independently. At this time, we will continue preparing for the May 19th meeting and will fulfill our responsibility to provide accurate information and appropriate public engagement in the interim. It is important to emphasize that this is not an emergency situation; the city's position on this project remains unchanged from where it has stood over the past two years.

If EGLE chooses to pursue an emergency order or funding the permit independently, that is within their authority. However, it is not appropriate for the city to be asked to absorb unfunded mandates or bypass the approval processes laid out in our city charter. I have consulted with other professionals and am confident in my decision to proceed as planned, ensuring transparency and ethical governance.

If residents have further questions or concerns before the meeting, I am happy to direct them to the appropriate parties driving this initiative, both GEI and EGLE, especially where city collaboration or communication has not been adequately sought.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this process.

April Storms
City Manager

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams

From: DeVoun, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 7:54 AM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Subject: RE: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

Good Morning April,

Were you able to get an emergency meeting scheduled? Just trying to figure out my schedule for the day.

Thanks,

GEI DANIEL DEVAUN
Senior Project Manager
cell: 616.915.7013



From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 8:35 AM
To: DeVaux, Dan <ddevaux@geiconsultants.com>
Cc: McDermott, Janeen <JMcDermott@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Can you please call me when you have a few minutes? I have a few questions as far as the permitting process. This isn't something I can move forward with without council's approval. We don't have \$40,000 to do this – we used 100% of our funds budgeted and saved for the Dam Repair/Feasibility Study and the Safe Routes to School project.

Unfortunately, I'm going to have to schedule an emergency council meeting next week and get direction on moving forward.

*April Storms
City Manager*

"The greatest leader is first a servant." ~ John C. Maxwell

From: DeVaux, Dan <ddevaux@geiconsultants.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 7:59 AM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Cc: McDermott, Janeen <JMcDermott@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: Drawdown Permitting Support Services

April,

Attached is our proposal for the permitting support of the emergency drawdown effort. Because there is some uncertainty about the level of effort needed to meet regulatory needs for this situation, this contract is being billed on a time and materials basis. Please review and let me know if you have any questions. If everything looks good, please sign and return and we'll get started in earnest.

Thanks,

GEI

DANIEL DEVAUN
Senior Project Manager
cell: 616.915.7013
4472 Mount Hope Road | Suite A | Williamsburg, MI 49690



May 1, 2025

Ms. April Storms
City of White Cloud
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, MI 49349



Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

RE: White Cloud Dam Drawdown Permitting Support, White Cloud, Michigan

Dear Ms. Storms:

GEI Consultants of Michigan, P.C. (GEI) appreciates the opportunity to continue providing engineering and consulting services for the White Cloud Dam on the White River in White Cloud, Michigan. EGLE Dam Safety has issued an order to immediately pursue drawdown of the impoundment to minimize risk to the dam associated with the deficiencies identified in the recent Feasibility Study. This proposal is for permitting support for the drawdown effort.

Scope of Services

In order to prepare an EGLE Joint Permit Application and support regulatory requirements of the drawdown, GEI proposes to perform the following tasks:

- Task 1 – Joint Permit Application preparation
- Task 2 – Wetland Delineation
- Task 3 – Stranded Organism Monitoring
- Task 4 – Project Management and Meetings

Task 1: Joint Permit Application Preparation

Task 1.1: Joint Permit Application Preparation

GEI will develop an EGLE Joint Permit Application for the project and submit the application via the MiEnviro Portal. The City will receive a request for fee payment from EGLE and will be responsible for payment. It is anticipated that the application will include Parts 301 – Inland Lakes and Streams, Part 303 – Wetlands, and Part 315 – Dam Safety. Prior to submission of the permit application, we will coordinate with regulatory and resource staff to discuss and agree upon project specific permitting requirements. It is anticipated that permitting sketches outlining the areas impacted by the drawdown of the impoundment will be developed for the application. It is anticipated that a wetland delineation will be required as part of the application. Task 2 covers the work associated with the wetland delineation. It is anticipated that preparation of the JPA could take up to 2 weeks following notice to proceed and cost up to \$10,000.

Deliverable:

- EGLE Joint Permit Application with project sketches

Task 2: Wetland Delineation

Task 2.1: Wetland Delineation

GEI will perform an on-site evaluation to delineate wetlands according to criteria defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which includes evaluation of soils, vegetation, and hydrology. This wetland delineation protocol is the accepted method by EGLE. GEI will flag wetland boundaries with high visibility flagging tape and/or wire flags. Wetland boundaries will be mapped in the field concurrently with delineation services using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology with equipment capable of providing sub-meter accuracy. GEI will complete USACE Wetland Data Forms and analyze and compile data in report format to accompany a

GIS/CAD generated map. Please note that EGLE requires that wetland delineation reports with completed USACE Wetland Data Forms be submitted as part of the permit application package for any project with proposed wetland impact activities. Given this is an emergency permit process, it is expected that the wetland delineation report will follow the submission of the JPA. GEI will submit a copy of the final report, map, and data forms to the City.

During the feasibility study, GEI identified that the White Cloud impoundment was flagged as potential habitat for three state listed species: wood turtle (threatened), Blanding's turtle (special concern), and pickerel frog (special concern). During the wetland delineation, evaluation of suitable habitat or presence of these species will be performed and reported.

The wetland delineation will be completed within 3 weeks of notice to proceed with the report following 2 weeks later. The estimated fee for the wetland delineation is \$6,000

Deliverable:

- Wetland Delineation and Threatened & Endangered Species Assessment Report

Task 3: Stranded Organism Monitoring

Task 3.1 Stranded Organism Monitoring

GEI anticipates that during the drawdown, EGLE and DNR will require stranded organism monitoring. GEI will prepare a Stranded Organism Monitoring Plan for EGLE and DNR review and approval. It is anticipated that this plan will include daily monitoring of the impoundment water levels, near shore areas that are being dewatered, identify, document and as necessary relocate stranded organisms, and preparation of a technical memorandum summarizing the findings of the monitoring effort.

For the purposes of estimating level of effort, we anticipate daily monitoring of the impoundment by two staff over the duration of the drawdown (anticipated to be 7 days). The estimated cost for the stranded organism monitoring effort is \$18,000.

Deliverable:

- Stranded Organism Monitoring Plan
- Stranded Organism Monitoring Technical Memo

Task 4: Project Management and Meetings

Task 4.1 Project Management and Meetings

Our project manager, Dan DeVaun, PE will participate in coordination meetings with the City and regulatory agencies and will facilitate internal coordination to advance the emergency drawdown permit. We anticipate up to three (3) virtual meetings. Additionally, this task will include tasks such as internal coordination, health and safety plans, and other administrative needs. This task is estimated to cost \$6,000.

Project Cost

The above-described scope of work will be conducted on a time and materials basis for each task. GEI's cost for the scope of work described is estimated at \$40,000 which will be invoiced monthly based on time and materials expended.

Task	Fee
1. Joint Permit Application Preparation	\$10,000
2. Wetland Delineation	\$6,000
3. Stranded Organism Monitoring	\$18,000
6. Project Management & Meetings	\$6,000

May 1, 2025

Total	\$40,000
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Assumptions:

- The proposed scope does not include any turbidity monitoring. It is assumed that enough of the impoundment will remain to capture most sediment that may be mobilized from the upstream reaches. However, EGLE may require turbidity monitoring.

Schedule

GEI will perform tasks as outlined in each task description above. It is anticipated that the JPA will be prepared and ready for submission within 2 weeks of the notice to proceed. Supplemental information will follow submission of the application.

Terms

GEI will perform the proposed scope of work according to the attached Standard Professional Services Agreement. Work will be performed on a time and materials basis in accordance with the attached Fee Schedule. Please sign and return one copy of the attached agreement, which will serve as our contract and notice to proceed.

We look forward to providing professional services to you on this project. Please feel free to contact me, at (616) 915-7013 or ddevaun@geiconsultants.com should you need any additional information or have questions regarding our proposal.

Sincerely,

GEI CONSULTANTS OF MICHIGAN, P.C.



Dan DeVaun, PE
Senior Project Manager



Janeen McDermott, PE
Senior Water Resources Engineer

Attachment(s): Standard Professional Services Agreement and 2025 Fee Schedule

STANDARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

1. AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between

GEI Consultants, Inc., 4472 Mount Hope Road, Suite A, Williamsburg, MI 49690 and

Client

City of White Cloud, 12 North Charles Street, White Cloud, Michigan, 49349

By this Agreement, the parties do mutually agree as follows:

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

GEI shall perform the services described herein and in **Exhibit A**.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Agreement shall be the latter of the acceptance dates indicated in Article 16, Acceptance. Acceptance of this Agreement by both parties shall serve as GEI's Notice to Proceed with the services described in **Exhibit A**.

4. FORCE MAJEURE

- a) Force Majeure "Event of Force Majeure" means an event beyond the control of GEI and CLIENT, which prevents a Party from complying with any of its obligations under this Agreement, including but not limited to, acts of God (such as, but not limited to, fires, explosions, earthquakes, drought, tidal waves and floods, epidemics, war, hostilities, acts of terrorism, riot, commotion, strikes, go slows, lock outs or disorder, unless solely restricted to employees of GEI or its subcontractors.
- b) Neither CLIENT nor GEI shall be considered in breach of this Agreement to the extent that performance of their respective obligations (excluding payment obligations) is prevented by an event of Force Majeure. Either CLIENT or GEI shall give written notice to the other upon becoming aware of an Event of Force Majeure.

5. COMPENSATION

- a) CLIENT agrees to pay GEI in accordance with the payment terms provided in **Exhibit B** but in no event later than thirty (30) days of CLIENT's receipt of invoice.
- b) GEI will submit invoices monthly or upon completion of a specified scope of service in accordance with GEI's standard invoicing practices, or as otherwise provided in **Exhibit B**.
- c) Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice. Payments will be made by either check or electronic transfer to the address specified by GEI, and will reference GEI's invoice number.
- d) Interest will accrue at the rate of 1% per month of the invoiced amount in excess of thirty (30) days past the invoice date, or as otherwise provided in **Exhibit B**.
- e) In the event of a disputed or contested invoice, only that portion so contested will be withheld from payment, and the undisputed amounts will be paid.

6. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- a) GEI will perform its services under this Agreement in a manner consistent with that degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised by members of GEI's profession currently practicing in the same locality under similar conditions. GEI makes no other representations and no warranties, either express or implied, regarding the services provided hereunder.
- b) GEI shall correct deficiencies in services or documents provided under this Agreement without additional cost to CLIENT; except to the extent that such deficiencies are directly attributable to deficiencies in CLIENT-furnished information.
- c) Unless otherwise specifically indicated in writing, GEI shall be entitled to rely, without liability, on the accuracy and completeness of information provided by CLIENT, CLIENT's consultants and contractors, and information from public records, without the need for independent verification.

* following 4.30.25
mtg.

April Storms

From: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 1:14 PM
To: April Storms; bjmillier45@gmail.com; ddevaun
Cc: Horak, Thomas (EGLE)
Subject: RE: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

Good catch. Thank you for making that correction.

Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., Supervisor

Dam Safety Unit
Water Resources Division, EGLE
517-420-8923
trumblel@michigan.gov

From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 1:11 PM
To: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>; bjmillier45@gmail.com; ddevaun <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Cc: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Please see amended date in red below.

Thank you.

*April Storms
City Manager*

"The greatest leader is first a servant." ~ John C. Maxwell

From: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 12:21 PM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>; bjmillier45@gmail.com; ddevaun <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Cc: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

Hi Brian and April,

Thanks for taking the time to meet today. I wanted to follow up to with some key bullets from that meeting:

- EGLE accepts the timelines outlined below with the following modifications:
 - The City will work with their engineer to immediately engage with EGLE and DNR staff to ensure that the permit application to be prepared addresses both safety and environmental concerns with lowering the White Cloud Mill Pond.

- The permit application will be submitted on or before April (correction) May 20, 2025, for expedited review by EGLE.
- The drawdown will commence on or before June 9, 2025, assuming authorization from EGLE is provided.

This deviation from EGLE's April 18, 2025, dam safety order are acceptable under the following terms/considerations:

- The City is reminded that the safety of the dam remains the primary concern and that the City has the authority and responsibility under Part 315 to take any necessary actions to ensure the safety of the dam.
- EGLE concurs with GEI's April 4, 2025, letter recommending that drawdown of the impoundment occur as soon as practical to provide interim risk reduction until a long-term solution for dam safety can be implemented. Any delay in lowering the impoundment level increases the risk that damage to or failure of the dam could occur.
- EGLE agrees that City Council and public engagement are important parts of this process but urges the City to consider ways to expedite these processes to the extent possible, such that dam safety is not compromised. The safety of the dam needs to be the number one concern when considering timing of interim risk reduction measures and these should not be delayed unnecessarily.
- The timeframes outlined above may need to be reconsidered if weather conditions or condition of the dam structure dictate that action be taken sooner.
- The City will continuously monitor the dam and stream flows and operate the dam, as appropriate, to ensure the safety of the dam until draw down of the impoundment occurs.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like Dam Safety Staff involvement in the public engagement process, please let us know.

Thanks again,
Luke Trumble

Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., Supervisor

Dam Safety Unit
Water Resources Division, EGLE
517-420-8923
trumbl@l@ichigan.gov

From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Cc: DeVaan, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: [EXT] Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Good Morning Thomas,

I spoke with Dan from GEI earlier today and have just emailed him two available meeting dates—May 13 and May 19. Given the anticipated number of questions, I believe it is important that Dan attend personally. He has longstanding experience with EGLE, the city, and has served as my primary point of

contact throughout my tenure as City Manager. His familiarity and open line of communication make him the most suitable person to address the recommendation and questions.

Due to a scheduled medical procedure on May 12, Dan will be unavailable for the regular City Council meeting on May 13. Accordingly, I have scheduled a **special meeting on Monday, May 19 at 3:30 PM**. The purpose of this meeting will be to review GEI's recommendation and EGLE's order, and to provide the board with the opportunity to ask questions directly.

Additionally, I have a meeting with the mayor this afternoon at 4:00pm. I plan to discuss Dan's recommendation to begin the permitting process with GEI, with the intent of having the permit ready for submittal following the May 19 meeting. While this action does not mitigate or reduce the associated risks, it may be a step towards doing the necessary leg work with the DNR, permitting process, etc.

I'm asking EGLE to understand the board's need to engage directly with the City Engineer regarding the recommendation that led to the order for drawdown. Dan understands the need for this communication and while none of us can predict the future, we will measure and monitor the water daily in between now and the meeting on May 19th meeting. We will error on the side of caution and reach out to EGLE if there is any significant reason for concern or overtopping. Dan has been copied on this email for visibility. If the Mayor is okay with me proceeding with GEI for the permit process over the next few weeks, then the intent would be that after the May 19th meeting the permit would be ready. This is the best compromise that I can offer at this point until my board can have the opportunity understand this recommendation and order that is being ordered.

Please let me know if this is an acceptable plan moving forward and if so, if you could provide me something in writing allowing this extension so that I can provide the city council with the order that says May 1, everyone understands the extension to May 19 meeting, and that there is not a lot left in our hands at this point and the purpose for this meeting and Q&A.

Best regards,

April M. Storms
City Manager

"The greatest leader is first a servant." ~ John C. Maxwell



April Storms

From: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Trumble, Luke (EGLE); April Storms
Cc: ddevaun
Subject: RE: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thanks for your email, April.

We understand the City Council's desire to engage directly with your engineer to understand the recommendation for immediate drawdown and to ask directed questions. However, since the proposed meeting with the Council and your engineer causes further delay, it is not advisable to wait until after the meeting to submit a permit application. EGLE will still recommend that a permit application be submitted as soon as practicable to start the process. The City is advised that under Section 31512(1) of Part 315, "When immediate action is necessary to protect the structural integrity of a dam, the department may issue a permit before the expiration of the 20-day period referred to in section 31511(1). This subsection does not prohibit an owner from taking action necessary to mitigate emergency conditions if imminent danger of failure exists." Additionally, Section 31520 states that "The owner shall notify the department as soon as possible of any necessary emergency drawdowns, repairs, breaching, or other action being taken in response to an emergency condition." In short, it is the dam owner's responsibility to make sure that proper action is taken to ensure that the safety of their dam is protected. Submitting a permit application as soon as practicable is to the City's benefit in that it allows EGLE to consider potential impacts to life, infrastructure, and resources and allows the City to avoid impacts to natural resources and violation of environmental statutes. If it is possible to meet even sooner, or to submit the permit application ahead of the meeting and then hold the meeting while the permit is under review, that would be advisable.

Thanks,

Thomas Horak, P.E.
Dam Safety Unit
Water Resources Division, EGLE
517-231-8594
horakt@michigan.gov

From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Cc: ddevaun <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

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Best regards,

April M. Storms
City Manager

"The greatest leader is first a servant." ~ John C. Maxwell



April Storms

From: April Storms
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Horak, Thomas (EGLE)
Cc: DeVaun, Dan
Subject: Follow-Up to April 18, 2025 Correspondence

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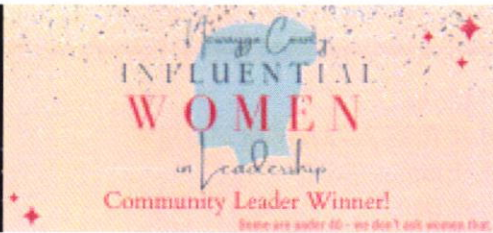
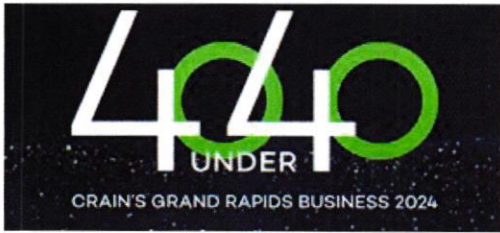
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Best regards,

April M. Storms
City Manager

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GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 18, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

City of White Cloud
April Storms, City Manager
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349-0607

Dear April Storms:

SUBJECT: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), Dam Safety Unit has received and reviewed the City of White Cloud's (City) April 15, 2025, response to EGLE's April 1, 2025, Dam Safety Order. The City's response included an April 4, 2025, letter from GEI which included several recommended actions to ensure the safety of the dam, including immediate drawdown of the impoundment to the extent practicable. EGLE's April 1st Dam Safety Order directed the City to take the following actions as authorized under Section 31518 of Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended:

1. Develop a high-level plan and schedule to address the deficiencies at the dam. This plan will help us set reasonable deadlines for making both short term and long-term decisions and carrying out those decided upon remedial actions. Please provide this plan for review by May 1, 2025. The schedule should include the following deadlines, and the intermediate milestones needed to reach them.
2. Finalize a plan for interim risk reduction measures. This plan may include interim repairs, drawdown, or other measures. Implement the plan as soon as practicable. This plan will likely require input from your engineer and a permit from EGLE. Provide the plan to EGLE for review by June 2, 2025.
3. Finalize a plan for long-term remedial action. This plan should include a repair or removal plan, or a proposal for an alternative dam modification project. Provide this plan to EGLE for review by November 3, 2025.

The City's April 15th response to EGLE proposes to provide the interim risk reduction plan by August 31, 2025, and to implement the plan sometime after that. However, the April 4th GEI letter included with the City's response recommends immediate drawdown of the impoundment to the extent possible by removing all stoplogs and opening all gates at the dam's spillway, which is expected to lower the impoundment by six (6) to seven (7) feet. The City's proposal to delay implementation of necessary risk reduction measures, including drawdown of the impoundment, until after August 31, 2025, does not align with the recommendations of GEI and presents an unacceptable risk of failure of the White Cloud Dam.

As stated in EGLE's previous communication, the White Cloud Dam is regulated under Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.31501 *et seq.*; and the corresponding administrative rules. Section 31518 (7) of Part 315 states:

If, based on the findings and recommendations of the inspection report and an inspection by the department, the department finds that a condition exists which endangers a dam, it shall order the owner to take actions that the department considers necessary to alleviate the danger.

The results of the GEI Study and April 4, 2025, letter, indicate that conditions do exist that endanger the dam. Further, GEI's recommendation for an immediate drawdown indicates the risk of delaying action. Therefore, you are hereby ordered under Section 324.31518 to take the following corrective actions to alleviate danger at the dam:

Within two (2) weeks, by May 2, 2025, apply for a permit to drawdown the impoundment, Lake White Cloud, by six (6) to seven (7) feet, as recommended by your engineer. Initiate drawdown of the impoundment when authorized by EGLE. Maintain the drawdown of the impoundment, to the extent possible, unless authorization for refilling is provided by EGLE. The EGLE joint permit application package can be downloaded from our website at: MiEnviro.Michigan.gov/ncore/external/home. All provisions of the April 1, 2025, Dam Safety Order remain in effect.

Community engagement is still encouraged to keep the public informed of necessary short-term actions being taken and to obtain input on the long-term remedial actions. However, interim risk reduction measures, including drawdown of the impoundment, are necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the dam, and cannot be delayed. We anticipate your cooperation in resolving this matter. If you have any questions about this dam or permit requirements, please contact me at 517-231-8594 or HorakT@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas J. Horak', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Thomas J. Horak, P.E.

Dam Safety Unit

Water Resources Division

cc: Don Barnhard, City of White Cloud DPW
Kelli Arnold, City of White Cloud Clerk
Abigail Watkins, P.E.M., M.E.P., Newaygo County Emergency Services
Dan DeVaun, P.E., GEI
Janeen McDermott, P.E., GEI
Mark Tonello, DNR
Helana Nelson, EGLE
Rebecca Huska, EGLE
John Delehanty, EGLE
Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., EGLE
Mason Manuszak, EGLE

April Storms

From: DeVaun, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:53 AM
To: April Storms
Subject: RE: draft egle response
Attachments: egle dam safety resp 04.15.25 - DD edits.docx

Hi April,

I think the letter looks good. I've added a couple of edits. Only thing they may push back on before excepting this as meeting criteria #1 and #2 is commitment to the interim measure (drawdown) and the schedule. I'm hoping my edits make it clear that this is being considered, but requires a decision by the council and more consultation with EGLE and other stakeholders.

GEI

DANIEL DEVAUN
Senior Project Manager
cell: 616.915.7013
4472 Mount Hope Road Suite A Williamsburg, MI 49690



From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:11 AM
To: DeVaun, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: [EXT] draft egle response

EXTERNAL EMAIL

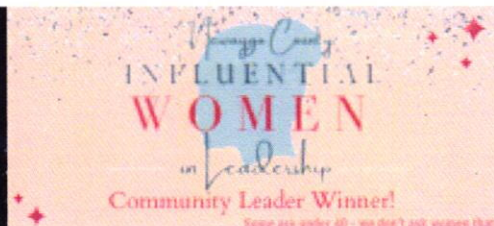
Good Morning Dan,

This is what I drafted to send to Thomas tomorrow when I give it to the council. Would you be willing to review and offer feedback or edit it with additional information that you think may help meet the criteria for #1 & #2?

Thank you,

April M. Storms
City Manager

"The greatest leader is first a servant." ~ John C. Maxwell





Letter - w/ D. DeVaux
Email 4.14.25

April 15, 2025

EGLE Dam Safety Unit
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
PO Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

RE: Response to Correspondence Received April 7, 2025 — Dam Safety Compliance

Dear Thomas Horak,

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 1, 2025, outlining the necessary next steps to address the deficiencies identified at our dam. We understand the importance of developing a comprehensive, phased approach to ensure both interim safety and long-term sustainability of this infrastructure.

As outlined in your order, the city has been tasked with:

1. **Developing a high-level plan and schedule** to address deficiencies and establish reasonable deadlines for both short- and long-term decisions and remedial actions. This plan is due for your review by **May 1, 2025**.
2. **Finalizing a plan for interim risk reduction measures**, such as interim repairs, drawdown, or similar strategies, to be submitted to EGLE for review by **July 30, 2025**.
3. **Finalizing a long-term remedial action plan**, including dam repair, removal, or an alternative modification proposal, due for EGLE review by **November 3, 2025**.

We are pleased to confirm that the City has talked with its engineering consultant and received the formal recommendation from GEI Consultants on April 7, 2025, and a copy of that report is attached for your records. Based on a review of GEI's findings, we believe these recommendations fulfill the requirements set forth in Items 1 and 2 of the order. Implementation of the interim measure will require review and approval from the City Council as well as consultation and permitting from EGLE. We intend to press forward with these activities as outlined in the following schedule.

To summarize, the City has established the following high-level schedule and targets to guide our next steps:



- **June 2025** – Host a Community Forum in collaboration with GEI to discuss their recommendation and gather public input. EGLE Dam Safety Unit is invited to participate in this meeting to ensure transparency and foster open dialogue.
- **August 31, 2025** – Target date to:
 - Finalize a decision on **interim risk reduction measures** including collaboration with EGLE on permitting interim dam safety measures.
 - Identify and pursue **alternative funding sources** for both interim and long-term work.
- **November 3, 2025** – Submit a finalized **long-term remedial action plan**, which will include options for repair, removal, or modification of the dam. This plan will be developed in consultation with engineers and will reflect input from City Council, Administration, and community stakeholders.

We will continue to engage our engineering partners and incorporate public feedback throughout this process. In the spirit of collaboration, I encourage your team to attend the public forum as we refine these plans.

Additionally, I would like to highlight a comment made by Mr. Horak during our phone discussion on April 9, 2025, in which he acknowledged that there have been “significant leaps forward” since I’ve assumed this position. We’re pleased to report that, thanks to the consistent, proactive efforts of our Department of Public Works including daily water level monitoring and rainfall forecasting, we have not experienced any overtopping events in the 3.5 years since these additional monitoring measures were implemented. While we fully recognize that this does not eliminate the underlying risk, this and our completion of the Dam Risk Safety Grant Funding projects does reflect the effectiveness of our current monitoring practices and our ongoing commitment to risk reduction.

We appreciate your ongoing patience and support as we develop a solution that is both effective and reflective of our community’s best interests. Should you require additional documentation or clarification, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly. Otherwise, if we do not hear back, we will assume that this response satisfies the requirements for Items 1 and 2 and will proceed with implementing the target dates as proposed.

Sincerely,

April Storms
City Manager

Attachments: GEI Consultants Recommendation Report (Received 04/07/2025)



Dam Safety Progress Timeline (2022–2025)

2022

- **Initiation of Daily & Monthly Maintenance Logs**
 - Implemented daily water level monitoring and maintenance documentation.
 - Monthly maintenance reports began and have continued consistently.
- **Zero Overtopping Events**
 - Under current leadership, no overtopping events have occurred—a strong indicator of proactive dam management.

2022–2023

- **Feasibility & Disposition Study Initiated**
 - City partnered in a \$150,000+ feasibility study in collaboration with EGLE and engineering firm GEI.
 - Scope included structural assessments and analysis of both “dam-in” and “dam-out” scenarios.
- **Structural Repair Work (Phase I)**
 - Completed stabilization of concrete in the **primary spillway**.
 - Addressed **erosion issues** at both spillways to reduce failure risk.
 - All repairs identified in EGLE’s latest inspection were executed.

2023

- **Continued EGLE Collaboration**
 - Ongoing consultations with EGLE representatives.
 - Regular technical updates shared through engineering meetings and community briefings.
- **Monthly Engineering Consultations**
 - City staff held dozens of meetings with engineering consultants to track progress and align with state safety recommendations.

Summer 2024

- **Comprehensive Repair Work Plan Launched**
All activities coordinated with EGLE for compliance and safety oversight.
 - **Concrete Spalling Repairs – Primary Spillway**
 - Addressed critical joint spalling under South State Street.
 - Used concrete anchors and mesh reinforcement for deeper deterioration.



- **Vertical Drilling & Chemical Grouting**
 - Sealed seepage zones with injected chemical grout along primary spillway walls.
- **Flowable Fill Placement**
 - Filled voids at berm/spillway interface; coordinated to minimize gate closure time.
- **Auxiliary Spillway Enhancements**
 - Extended concrete sidewalls with structural reinforcement, improving flood resilience.

Summer–Fall 2024

- **Feasibility Study (Part 1) Completion**
 - Delivered to the City in **February 2025**.
 - Included engineering analysis of current dam conditions, long-term risk, and financial impact evaluations.

April 2025

- **Final Recommendations Received from GEI**
 - Despite initial study delivery in February, GEI's official recommendation arrived **April 2025**.
 - Included updated **hydrologic modeling** and **stability assessments** based on recent near-overtopping data.
- **Study (Part 2 Completed) Findings**
 - Identified need for additional geotechnical investigations to improve modeling accuracy.
 - Emphasized operational strategies to reduce overtopping risk.

April 1–15, 2025

- **Good Faith Coordination with GEI and EGLE**
 - On April 1, GEI requested a **recommendation**.
 - City promptly responded on **April 15**, prior to the requested **April 30 deadline**, in full collaboration with EGLE and coordinated with GEI engineers on response to EGLE's correspondence received **April 1**.

Ongoing Community Engagement

- **Public Forums & Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Hosted forums with EGLE officials, board members, local leaders, and residents.
 - Transparent communication maintained throughout feasibility process.
- **Acknowledgement of Leadership Improvements**



- EGLE official Mr. Horak publicly acknowledged:

"The management of the White Cloud Dam has significantly improved over the past three years—I cannot deny that."

The City Manager respectfully requests the courtesy and collaboration necessary to act in the best interest of our community, including meaningful engagement between the project engineers and the board. Given that the feasibility and dam improvement project has taken three years to complete, allowing only two weeks to respond to the final recommendation is not only unreasonable, it undermines the significance and complexity of the work that has been undertaken and the impacts it has on our residents, homeowners, community and recreation.

April Storms

From: April Storms
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 9:27 PM
To: DeVaun, Dan
Cc: McDermott, Janeen
Subject: Re: EGLE WRD Dam Safety Correspondence: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

I just think that would have been nice to share before now. I'm not making the decision to move with drawdown permitting without the council being informed and having some understanding. Otherwise, I'm to blame.

I'll proceed the way I feel necessary. At this point, it feels as if neither GEI or EGLE are being honest with me in correspondence because both have had multiple contacts in the past 2 wks and opportunities to weigh in, it's certainly not been "flexible" as Mr. Horak stated or met the conditions of items 1 or 2 as you stated.

Have a good weekend.

April Storms
City Manager

From: DeVaun, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 12:51:55 PM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Cc: McDermott, Janeen <JMcDermott@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: RE: EGLE WRD Dam Safety Correspondence: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

Hi April,

I sympathize with the challenges of the timing being pushed on you to implement the drawdown. However, you are able to achieve risk reduction with this drawdown, with minimal cost and no physical changes to the dam. This allows for greater time to work through the decision-making process of next steps. While I understand the concern the community will have with seeing the lake drawn down, it is important to understand that we can't actually predict when a dam will fail. We can only assess the level of risk based on a dam's condition and performance. Currently, the White Cloud Dam is at an unacceptably high level of risk. Based on this condition, EGLE has decided that immediate drawdown is the only acceptable solution. Frankly, it's hard to argue with that given the level of risk reduction for minimal effort.

In order to move forward with the drawdown, you will need to coordinate with EGLE to get an emergency permit. We can help you with that, but it does take a nominal effort to pull together the materials and submit the application. If you would like, Janeen can pull together a Time and Materials proposal to complete that task. Let us know if you'd like us to get started on that and the application.

Sincerely,

GEI

DANIEL DEVAUN
Senior Project Manager
cell: 616.915.7013
4472 Mount Hope Road | Suite A | Williamsburg, MI 49690



From: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 10:45 AM
To: DeVaan, Dan <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>
Subject: [EXT] Fw: EGLE WRD Dam Safety Correspondence: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

EXTERNAL EMAIL

My correspondence wasn't even due to him until 4/30. I could have waited but in good faith made an effort to be timely.

I really don't get it bc between my convo with you and him and he said "flexible" timeliness this is not even negotiable.

So nice to start the weekend!

April Storms
City Manager

From: Preston, Kendra (EGLE) <PrestonK6@michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 9:14:18 AM
To: April Storms <citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org>
Cc: White Cloud DPW <dpw@cityofwhitecloud.org>; Kelli Arnold <clerk@cityofwhitecloud.org>; Abby Watkins <abbym@newaygocountymi.gov>; ddevaun <ddevaun@geiconsultants.com>; McDermott, Janeen <JMcDermott@geiconsultants.com>; Tonello, Mark (DNR) <TONELLOM@michigan.gov>; Nelson, Helana (EGLE) <NelsonH1@michigan.gov>; Huska, Rebecca (EGLE) <HuskaR2@michigan.gov>; Delehanty, John (EGLE) <DelehantyJ@michigan.gov>; Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>; Manuszak, Mason (EGLE) <ManuszakM@michigan.gov>; Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Subject: EGLE WRD Dam Safety Correspondence: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

Good morning,

Please see the attached correspondence regarding the White Cloud Dam. If you have any questions regarding the specifics of this correspondence, please contact Thomas Horak at 517-231-8594 or HorakT@Michigan.gov.

Thank you,

Kendra M. Preston, Secretary

Dam Safety Unit

Water Resources Division

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

517-388-0791 | PrestonK6@Michigan.gov

Follow Us | Michigan.gov/EGLE





GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

EGLE

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 1, 2025

Rcd 4-7-25

VIA E-MAIL

April Storms, City Manager
City of White Cloud
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349-0607

Dear April Storms:

SUBJECT: White Cloud Dam, Dam ID No. 526

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), Dam Safety Unit has received and reviewed the White Cloud Dam Disposition Feasibility Study (Study) completed by Janeen McDermott, P.E., and Dan DeVaun, P.E., both of GEI Consultants, dated February 14, 2025. The Study analyzes the dam's current hydraulic, geotechnical, and structural conditions and identifies factors of safety related to modern dam safety standards. The study goes on to propose alternatives to repair the deficiencies identified in the Study and to remove the dam, including high level, long-term cost estimates for each alternative. The City of White Cloud (City) has been presented with this report and is expected to develop a plan based on the findings of the Study.

Regardless of the long-term plan the City wishes to pursue, the Study identifies significant issues at the dam that may require more immediate risk reduction measures while the long-term plan is developed. Hydraulically, the dam is unable to pass the 0.5% chance (200-year) design storm event without overtopping regardless of gate operation. Even with all stoplogs removed from the dam, the 1% chance (100-year) storm event comes within 0.5 feet of overtopping the concrete floodwall on the upstream side of the crest. This is an inappropriate amount of freeboard for a high hazard dam. The hydraulic analysis presented in the Study, in part, helps corroborate previous concerns with capacity that stem from recent activations, or near activations, of the roller compacted concrete overflow emergency spillway.

The Study's geotechnical analysis also raises significant concerns with the stability of the dam. Although the dam is currently stable, the factor of safety for global stability is concerningly less than modern industry standards. The calculated factor of safety for normal pool level is only 1.2 while it should be at least 1.5. When the impoundment rises to a flood pool elevation, the factor of safety drops to 1.1 while it should be at least 1.4. For reference, a factor of safety of 1.0 means the dam can handle exactly the calculated load it is expected to experience with no buffer. A factor of safety less than 1.0 means that the dam is expected to fail under that loading condition.

Additionally, the Study indicates that the principal spillway inlet structure does not meet the minimum factor of safety of modern design standards related to overturning. Further, it identifies the principal spillway wingwalls, chute wall span, and slab that spans between the chute walls as being out of compliance with current design guidelines. GEI also recommends completing an in-depth bridge inspection, replacing, or shoring up the existing structure.

For a summary of observed and calculated deficiencies, see Table 3-8 on pages 38 and 39 of the Study. The deficiencies are presented in multiple categories that include Dam Safety, Public Safety, Operation, and Maintenance.

The White Cloud Dam is regulated under Part 315, Dam Safety, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.31501 *et seq.*; and the corresponding administrative rules. Section 324.31518 (7) states:

If, based on the findings and recommendations of the inspection report and an inspection by the department, the department finds that a condition exists which endangers a dam, it shall order the owner to take actions that the department considers necessary to alleviate the danger.

The results of the Study show that conditions do exist that endanger the dam. Therefore, please review the Study's findings with your engineer and propose a plan and schedule to address the concerns. It is expected that the next steps will likely only be temporary risk reduction measures while the City considers the alternatives identified in the Study. Since the primary deficiencies of the dam are caused or exacerbated by an increased impoundment level, drawdown of the impoundment must be considered at least until a long-term plan is devised.

You are hereby ordered under Section 324.31518 to take the following corrective actions:

1. Develop a high-level plan and schedule to address the deficiencies at the dam. This plan will help us set reasonable deadlines for making both short term and long-term decisions and carrying out those decided upon remedial actions. Please provide this plan for review by May 1, 2025. The schedule should include the following deadlines, and the intermediate milestones needed to reach them.
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April Storms, City of White Cloud
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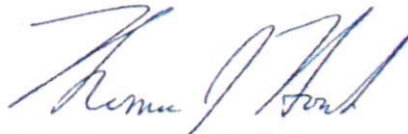
Most of the repairs and risk reduction measures the City will consider, including a drawdown, will require a permit from EGLE. The EGLE joint permit application package can be downloaded from our website at:

<https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home>.

We anticipate your cooperation in resolving this matter. If you have any questions about this dam or permit requirements, please contact me at 517-231-8594 or

HorakT@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Horak".

Thomas J. Horak, P.E.
Dam Safety Unit
Water Resources Division

cc: Don Barnhard, City of White Cloud DPW
Abigail Watkins, P.E.M., M.E.P., Newaygo County Emergency Services
Dan DeVaun, P.E., GEI
Janeen McDermott, P.E., GEI
Helana Nelson, EGLE
Rebecca Huska, EGLE
John Delehanty, EGLE
Lucas A. Trumble, P.E., EGLE
Mason Manuszak, EGLE

Rcd 4-7-25

April 4, 2025
Project No. 2302435

VIA EMAIL: citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org

April Storms
City Manager
City of White Cloud
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349

**Re: White Cloud Dam Recommendation Letter
White Cloud, Michigan**

Dear Ms. Storms:

Based on our discussion with you on Thursday March 20th, we are providing this formal recommendation letter to accompany the White Cloud Dam Feasibility Study delivered to you on February 17, 2025. Given the identified deficiencies at the dam and the elevated risk of dam failure, GEI recommends the City pursue an immediate drawdown of the impoundment to the extent practicable. This drawdown will need to be implemented in coordination with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Dam Safety unit, and following receipt of a permit from EGLE.

Existing Condition of the Dam

The White Cloud Dam is classified as a high hazard potential dam. Dams with a high hazard potential are those where a failure or mis-operation could result in expected loss of life and severe impacts. As of May 25, 2022 the White Cloud Dam was determined to be in poor condition by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Dam Safety unit. A poor condition rating means a dam safety deficiency is recognized for loading conditions that may realistically occur. Remedial action or further investigations and studies are necessary to determine risk.

GEI completed a comprehensive review of existing information associated with the dam including review of previous dam safety inspections, available as-built drawings, and a site visit to the dam. Our team also completed geotechnical and structural field investigations and subsequent analysis, and a hydrology and hydraulic analysis of the existing structure.

Through these reviews and engineering analyses the following observations and deficiencies have been identified and have been categorized as follows.

- **Dam Safety:** Ensuring dams are constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that protects people and property from the risk of failure.

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- Public Safety: Protection of people and their property from harm.
- Operations: Activities involved in maintaining and protecting a dam and the area of affects.
- Maintenance: Regular work performed to keep dam safe and functioning.

Category	Observation/Deficiency
Dam Safety	Insufficient hydraulic capacity to pass the 200-year design flood.
	Dam modifications required to modify parapet wall to span gap of protection at current boat launch.
	Insufficient global factor of safety of right earthen embankment.
	Seepage at downstream toe of right earthen embankment.
	Tailwater erosion at downstream right earthen embankment.
	Concrete deficiencies located throughout the principal spillway.
	Primary spillway intake global stability – overturning, does not meet current industry standards for factors of safety or resultant location.
	Primary spillway intake and chute concrete structural elements do not meet current industry standards for factor of safety (demand to capacity ratios).
	Structural stability concern associated with severe deterioration of beams supporting the existing bridge over the primary spillway.
Public Safety	Install signage and floating barriers (booms) upstream of the spillways to warn and redirect swimmers and boats away from the spillway hazards.
	Deteriorating fencing and guardrail embedment along roadway shoulder and adjacent to primary spillway chute.
	Install fencing at auxiliary spillway crossing.
Operation	Remove sandbagging as part of the EAP.
	Update O&M Plan with results of H&H Analysis regarding stoplog operation to prevent overtopping.
	Trash rack in auxiliary spillway not in use.
	Install staff gauge to monitor and record impoundment levels.
Maintenance	Rotation of flood wall at left embankment with possible upstream toe erosion.
	Fill and armor eroded area at auxiliary spillway left downstream wall.
	Remove vegetation from embankments.
	Cracking in pavement along crest of dam.
	Deterioration of RCC overtopping section on downstream left embankment.
	Minor concrete deficiencies at the auxiliary spillway walls.
	Deteriorating steel bracing across primary spillway chute to be removed.
	Minor concrete repair to traffic barrier over auxiliary spillway.
	Inadequate riprap along waterline of upstream slopes.

The dam safety deficiencies are of biggest concern as they pose the greatest risk to the City of White Cloud and downstream people, environment, property, and infrastructure.

The lack of sufficient hydraulic capacity means that if a large flood event occurs, the existing dam structure does not have the ability to pass enough flow to prevent the impoundment from filling and overtopping the dam in an uncontrolled manner. This could lead to dam failure during a flood and significant impacts downstream of the dam, including potential loss of life.

The gap in the parapet wall, the short concrete wall that runs nearly the entire length of dam, requires City of White Cloud staff to place sand bags in order to prevent uncontrolled overtopping during large

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flood events. Given the dam's inability to pass large flood flows, this gap in the wall is a significant risk to uncontrolled overtopping and potential dam failure.

The seepage visually observed on the right earthen embankment indicates there is saturated conditions in the earthen embankment under normal impoundment water surface elevations. Increased water surface elevations in the impoundment may increase flow through the earthen embankment and this could cause a dam failure.

The low global factor of safety of the right earthen embankment and stability concerns associated with the primary spillway and bridge over the primary spillway indicate these features of the White Cloud Dam are at risk of failure as they do not meet current industry standards during normal conditions or during flood events. If any one of these were to fail, this could cause a dam failure.

Based on the severity and risk associated with the deficiencies above, GEI recommends that immediate actions be taken to reduce the risk of dam failure to the extent practicable.

Immediate Recommendations

The dam safety deficiencies of greatest immediate concern are the lack of sufficient hydraulic capacity and the seepage and insufficient global factor of safety at the right earthen dam embankment. A drawdown of the impoundment is recommended to lower the risk associated with these deficiencies. The water level within the impoundment should be lowered to the maximum extent possible by removing all stop logs from both the primary and auxiliary spillways.

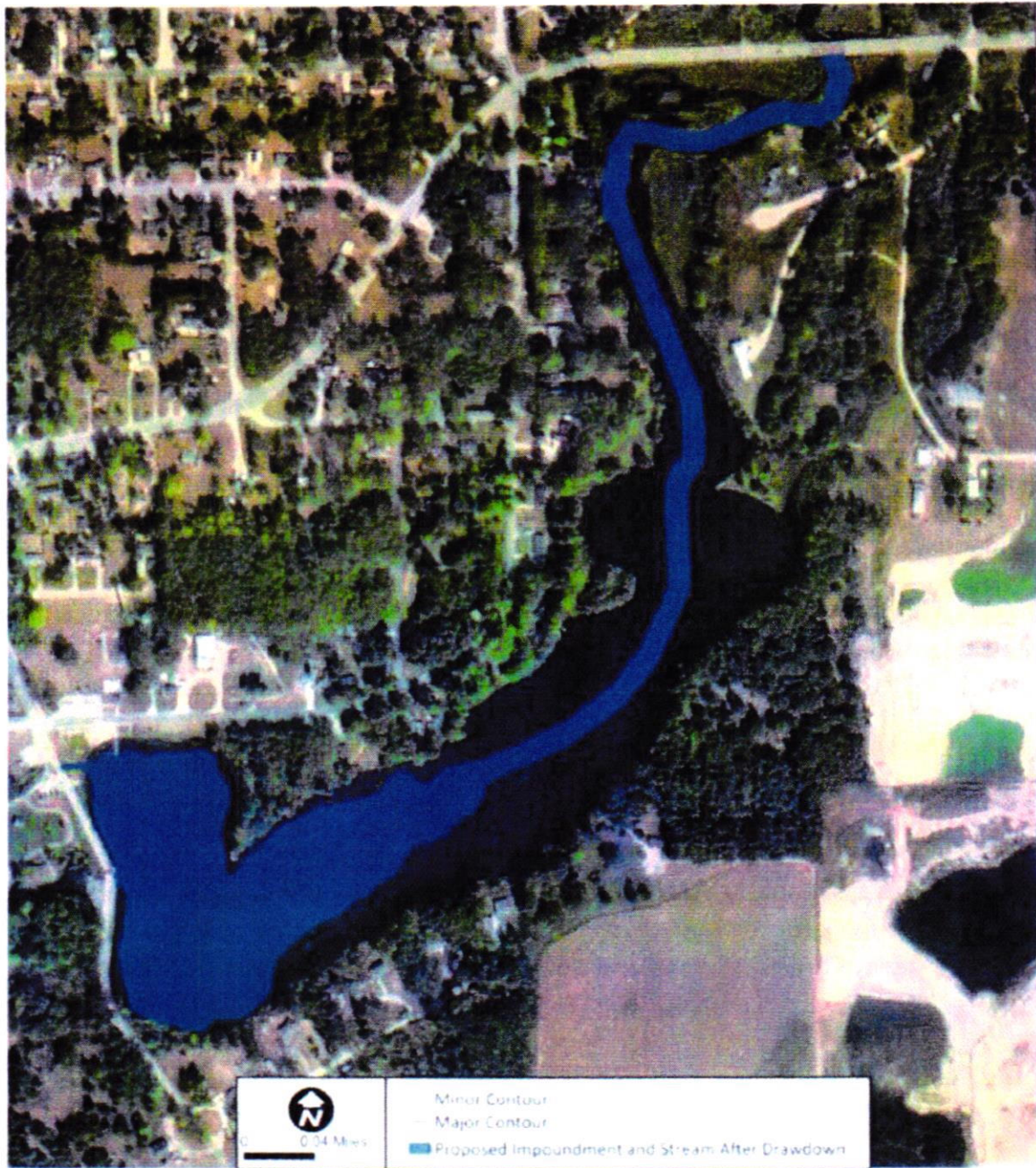
Before a drawdown is completed, the City needs to submit a Joint Permit Application through the MiEnviro Portal here: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/maps-data/mienviroportal>

What will a drawdown look like

The recommended drawdown will lower the normal water surface elevation in the impoundment approximately 6-7 feet during normal flows, like what was seen in late August/early September 2024. The approximate limits of the new impoundment during normal flow are depicted in Figure 1 below.

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Figure 1. Approximate limits of White Cloud impoundment after drawdown during normal flow.



The drawdown will expose impounded sediment, primarily in the upper impoundment area and edges of the current impoundment, and in the near term following the drawdown there will be bare soil exposed. The native seed bank held within the soils will fairly quickly (2-3 weeks) germinate and green vegetation will establish (2-3 months), similar to Figure 2.

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Figure 2. Pigeon River cuts a channel through the muck where there once was an eight-foot-deep impoundment behind the dam. (Photo Credit: Howard Meyerson)



Source: (<https://howardmeyerson.com/2014/09/30/golden-lotus-dam-permanent-draw-down-complete-removal-to-come/>)

Long Term Recommendations

The White Cloud Dam has significant dam safety deficiencies which should be addressed through rehabilitation of the dam or dam removal. The City of White Cloud needs to decide which alternative presented in the feasibility study they wish to pursue and then seek funding sources (e.g. grant funds, special assessment district, taxes, etc) to fund the selected alternative including engineering design, permitting, and construction costs.

Summary

Given the identified deficiencies at the dam and the elevated risk of dam failure, GEI recommends the City pursue an immediate drawdown of the impoundment. This drawdown will need to be implemented in coordination with the EGLE Dam Safety unit and following receipt of a permit from EGLE.

We are also aware that the City received a response from EGLE regarding the feasibility study on April 1, 2025. In this letter EGLE ordered the following corrective actions to address the White Cloud Dam deficiencies:

1. Develop a high-level plan and schedule to address the deficiencies at the dam. Due May 1, 2025.
2. Finalize a plan for interim risk reduction measures. Due June 2, 2025.
3. Finalize a plan for long-term remedial action including a repair or removal plan, or a proposal for an alternative dam modification project. Due November 3, 2025.

April 4, 2025

The immediate drawdown of the impoundment recommended by GEI addresses the second requirement. GEI can assist you with the first and third requirements as well as the permitting for drawdown of the impoundment through a new contract, scope of work, and fee.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss continued services with GEI, please feel free to contact me at 734-680-1612 or jmcdermott@geiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GEI CONSULTANTS OF MICHIGAN, P.C.



Janeen McDermott, P.E.
Senior Water Resources Engineer



Dan DeVaun, P.E.
Senior Project Manager

JMM/DLV

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GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 1, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

April Storms, City Manager
City of White Cloud
12 North Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349-0607

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April Storms, City of White Cloud
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April 1, 2025

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