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Cooper, Kathy

From: David Plank [tuscademe@yahoo.com]
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To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Dam safety

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I live in an area that is seeing the construction of numerous impoundments. Who will oversee these modifications to the landscape in the future?
The Department of Environmental Protection?

The Department oversees the construction and operation of dams through the Dam Safety Program. **The Dam Safety Program historically has been and continues to be a model for similar state programs across the country.**

The Dam Safety Program oversees the regulation and safety of approximately 3,200 dams and reservoirs throughout this Commonwealth to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and property downstream of dams. The goal is to assure proper planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, monitoring and supervision of dams and reservoirs. The Dam Safety Program also oversees removal of dams that are no longer needed by their owners.

To carry out the responsibilities mentioned previously and remain a National leader, the Department must ensure adequate funding for the Dam Safety Program. The revenue generated by the Department will ensure that adequate and consistent monitoring, compliance and inspection of dams will occur and reviews will be accomplished in a timely manner. **The revenue from this fee package will restore key positions in the Dam Safety Program to better protect the public.**

The Department of Environmental Protection is already overwhelmed by the arrival of a rush of gas well drillers.

Make sure that our protections are strengthened in these turbulent times. More resources, not fewer, must be assigned to our concerns for the future.