



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

AMANDA LEFTON
Commissioner

Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
Comptroller
110 State Street, 15th Floor
Albany, NY 12236

SEP 30 2025

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 170 of the Executive Law, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has taken the following steps to implement the recommendations contained in the Office of the State Comptroller's audit report 2023-S-16, *Oversight of Dam Safety*. Please contact Andrew Fischler, Audit Director, at (518) 402-9761 if you, or your staff, have any questions.

Recommendation:

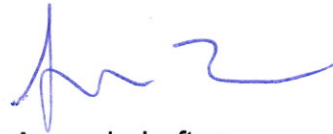
1. Improve regulation of dam owners in New York State, which may include, but are not limited to:

- **Completing and implementing enforcement procedures for dam owners that fail to operate and maintain a dam in a safe condition and fail to submit required documents to DEC as necessary.**
- **Assigning condition ratings to Hazard Class B and C dams and updating DEC's database accordingly.**
- **Increasing the number of timely inspections in alignment with DEC's goals for Hazard Class B and C dams.**
- **Establishing time frames for the completion of inspection reports.**

DEC's Division of Water (DOW) is in the beginning stages of developing dam safety program, compliance, and enforcement technical guidance that addresses dam owners who fail to operate and maintain a dam in a safe condition and fail to submit required documents (i.e., emergency action plans, engineering assessments, and annual certifications). In addition, DOW's Dam Safety Section staff have been assigning condition ratings to Class B and C dams (and updating the database) in conjunction with their dam inspection cycle, which has increased the number of dams with assigned condition ratings and the likelihood that all Class B and C dam inspections scheduled for 2025 will be completed. Furthermore, DOW has established

a 30-day goal for completing inspection reports after performing a field inspection. The goal will be included in the new technical guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Lefton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Lefton
Commissioner