

Old Reports

The following extracts from old reports. These were included in the "Limited Dam Safety Inspection Report" that was prepared by Jacques Whitford, Lincoln, RI

PASCOAG RESERVOIR, 1910, P10

The pascoag Reservoir was built in 1860 and covers an area of five hundred (500) acres.

The dam is four hundred, and seventy-five (475) feet long and twenty (20) feet high. The height of the top of the embankment is five (5) feet above level of full pond..

The surplus water is cared for by an iron cylinder three (3) feet in diameter and a spillway twenty-two (22) feet long. " .

I quote from a former report:

"The magnitude of this reservoir and the position of the dam at the head of a narrow ravine, in which, and within a distance of half a mile from the dam, are located five large factories and many dwelling houses, all demand that the security "of the structure may be certain."

Recognizing this fact, when the attention of the owner was called to the circumstance that the width of the top of the embankment had been alarmingly reduced in one place and the outer slope badly gullied by the action of the elements, he immediately proceeded to restore the embankment to its former safe lines, which are shown in Plate No. 614. Plate No. 615 represents longitudinal sections of the dam at the spillway and draw-off pipe*

PASCOAG RESERVOIR, 1924, p 5.

The dam at the Pascoag Reservoir, Pascoag, R» I., is in a very unsatisfactory condition* I have given a great deal of attention to this dam during the past year as I have deemed it of vital necessity that the water "be kept at a low level in the reservoir until extensive repairs have been made. The dam itself, an earth structure, is in "bad. condition owing to repeated washing without refill being made, the spillway raceway is clogged and obstructed and the draw-off facilities entirely inadequate considering the size of the reservoir and the conditions of the dam*



For these reasons I directed that the water should be kept low and this has been done. It is my understanding that financial and other arrangements are in the making to put this dam in a proper and safe condition.

PASCOAG RESERVOIR, 1928, P 55.

The dam at this reservoir has been the subject of considerable criticism in former reports and occasions great anxiety among the inhabitants of the village below in times of high water.

The spillway, twenty feet long of this immense body of water estimated at five hundred acres in area, is obviously inadequate for the drainage area of 8.42 square miles at the dam.

* For the past four years an order of this department has directed that the water level be kept two feet below the level of the spillway as a precautionary measure.

The mill was sold during the past year and engineers engaged by the new owners consulted this office with regard to changes that would permit the pond to be kept full. The following plans were then submitted to this department and approved. Late in November, however, I was informed that the owners had decided that they would not go ahead with the work for the present.

Following an investigation into the actions of the water in this reservoir during the flood of 1927 and checking these with calculations of the probable rise of water under similar conditions, I directed those in control of the structure that the level of the water was not to exceed a height of five and one-half feet below the level of the spillway and have been notified of their acceptance of this order.

The top of the embankment has been restored to grade and the trees and brush cleared, from the sides. Under these conditions no further anxiety for the safety of this structure is anticipated.

(It should be noted that the spillway in that time period was approximately 27 inches higher than it is 2007. Back then, a full lake meant the level was 11 feet – 4 inches versus our current level of 9 feet – 1 inch. Leo P.)