

DAM CONCERNED CITIZENS

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The Dam Concerned Citizens, Inc. is a citizen advocacy group that is primarily focused on the safety of the Gilboa Dam and the Schoharie Reservoir it impounds. The DCC, Inc. was formed, unofficially in December 2005, the first official meeting having been held on March 14, 2006, and shortly thereafter incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under Section 402 of the Laws of the State of New York. Article III of our by-laws states: "The purposes for which the Corporation is organized is to improve the safety, protection and welfare of Schoharie Valley residents from the threat of flood by causing speedy and thorough repairs to be made, and flood mitigation capability to be added to the Gilboa Dam; inform people about dam issues and flood hazard response; and provide the public a voice in dam and flood issues".

The corporation recognizes a widespread dam safety problem and seeks to accomplish the following goals not only locally at the Gilboa Dam, but worldwide: (1) use of the highest design, construction, operation, maintenance and inspection standards on dams; (2) independent oversight of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of dams by qualified dam engineers, at no cost to local governments or residents; (3) dam owners' indemnification of downstream residents and local governments for financial costs and losses attributable to dams; and (4) increased media awareness and improved quality of media reporting on dam and flood issues.

In addition to the foregoing corporate purposes and except as otherwise provided herein, the Corporation shall have all the general powers set forth in Section 202 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, together with the power to solicit and receive grants, bequests and contributions for corporate purposes. Special thanks are due to Lester Hendrix of Schoharie, NY, for his website which dealt with issues of dam safety and for his hard work in helping to create DCC, Inc.

Issues currently being pursued by DCC, Inc., as well as the ones already mentioned, include:

1. **A continuous, sub-surface release of reservoir water into the Schoharie Creek below the Gilboa Dam at a rate of 50-75 cfs.** Such a "conservation release" would help to restore the biosphere below the dam to some semblance of its pre-dam condition and should not impede the ability of the reservoir to fulfill its purpose of providing drinking water for NYC.
2. **Continuous maintenance, upkeep and operations of the 4 large siphons placed on the Gilboa Dam in 2006.** These siphons are capable of discharging approximately 900 cfs at peak efficiency. This approximates the Shandaken Tunnel's maximum output. Until the low level outlet works are installed, there exists no viable sub-surface or low level outlet in the Gilboa Dam, the siphons are a useful, temporary tool to lower reservoir levels by discharging water up and over the Gilboa Dam

into the Schoharie Creek. During the state of emergency at the Gilboa Dam from October 2005-December, 2006, water was discharged in excess of Ashoken Reservoir needs through the Shandaken Tunnel, simply to keep the Schoharie Reservoir levels low enough to avoid the risk of a sliding failure. This caused high water problems on the Esopus Creek but was deemed an acceptable practice as the risk of dam failure at Gilboa was unacceptable. DCC Inc. does not wish to impose any further burden on the Esopus watershed and therefore supports the continued presence of the siphons at the Gilboa Dam.

3. Continuous monitoring of the 80 post-tensioned anchors on the masonry portion of the Gilboa Dam, via “sentinel anchors” placed adjacent to the Gilboa Dam. These anchoring devices exert downward pressure on the spillway, which is a gravity dam, helping to increase its overall factor of safety. DCC, Inc. would like to see a sentinel anchor installed on the Gilboa Dam spillway so that actual measurements, of tension exerted on the submerged bed rock, could be observed.

4. The creation of a position of “public inspector” for the renovation work to be done on the Gilboa Dam commencing in the fall of 2010. This inspector would report to the public of any deficiencies, difficulties, or problems encountered in the rebuilding of the Gilboa Dam. There will be many agencies and entities represented by inspectors at the dam work site. However, none of them report directly to the public. In light of past difficulties at the Gilboa Dam, the public is entitled to know the unfiltered and unvarnished truth about the Dam as work continues.

5. The construction of a additional “Crest Wall” on top of a portion of the existing spillway of the Gilboa Dam. Based upon the success of the 220' long 5.5' deep Notch placed in the Gilboa Dam in 2006, used to lower reservoir levels, void creation for high water events and flood attenuation, DCC, Inc. firmly believes an additional flood attenuating device in the form of a “Crest Wall” should surmount the existing spillway. More details on this “Crest Wall” can be obtained by going to the DCC, Inc. website at www.dccinc.org.