

One Independence Mall
615 Chestnut Street, 6th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404



FEMA

June 30, 2023

Michael Armbrister
Executive Director
West Piedmont Planning District Commission
P.O. Box 5268
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Dear Michael Armbrister:

The Amendment to the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), originally approved on April 11, 2022, has been approved. The approval is based on a letter from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management dated February 16, 2023. The revision to the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional HMP is recorded as follows:

Mitigation Actions:

- Utilize the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) grant program to plan for, design, and implement HHPD rehabilitation measures.
- Conduct probabilistic dam failure analysis for HHPDs in the region.

Please make the amended addendum available to the public and include it in the next HMP update. If you have questions about the HMP or mitigation grant funding, contact Debbie Messmer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at (804) 897-9975. I commend you for your dedication to reducing future disaster losses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Wolfe".

Sarah Wolfe, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch
FEMA Region 3

cc: Debbie Messmer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, VDEM
Cole Taggart, All Hazards Planner, Region 6, VDEM
Mike Guzo, Chief Regional Coordinator, Region 6, VDEM
Jonathan Simmons, Disaster Response and Recovery Officer, Region 6, VDEM
Michael Armbrister, Executive Director, West Piedmont Planning District Commission



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

9711 Farrar Court, Suite 200, North Chesterfield, Virginia 23236
TEL 804.267.7600 TDD 804.674.2417 FAX 804.272.2046

SHAWN G. TALMADGE
State Coordinator of
Emergency Management

MICHELLE T. OBLINSKY
Acting Chief Deputy
State Coordinator of
Emergency Management

February 16, 2023

April Cummings
Mitigation Division Director
FEMA Region III
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

RE: West Piedmont Planning District Commission Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
Amendments: High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum

Dear Ms. Cummings:

Please find attached a request for amendment of the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has reviewed the plan and found that the enclosed amendment is needed to address High Hazard Potential Dams and projects that jurisdictions intend to execute.

The amendment has been reviewed and is in cooperation with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (PDC), as well as VDEM and we are proud to be submitting the proposed amendments on behalf of the West Piedmont PDC for your approval.

If you need additional information about the plan or this amendment, please contact Cole Taggart, All Hazards Planner, VDEM Region 6, at cole.taggart@vdem.virginia.gov or at 804-998-0249.

Sincerely,

Debbie Messmer

Debbie Messmer
State Hazard Mitigation Officer

**West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan
High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum 2022**

Dam Owner and Virginia DCR Participation and Comments

West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) staff utilized the Virginia Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS) to access information about all dams in Virginia that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) tracks. WPPDC used DSIS to access read-only information about individual dams and sets of dams, including ownership, permits, emergency plans, inspection dates, and inundation studies.

The following list of dam owners, obtained through DCR DSIS, were contacted by email on November 28, 2022 to provide comments on the West Piedmont Hazard Mitigation Plan and the High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum 2022. Comments were received from four dam owners, and the comments are included below.

Id Number	Dam Name	County	Owners
67001	Upper Blackwater River Dam #6	Franklin	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
67002	Upper Blackwater River Dam #4	Franklin	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89002	Leatherwood Creek Dam #5	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89003	Beaver Creek Dam	Henry	City of Martinsville-John M Kahle
89004	Leatherwood Creek Dam #3	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89005	Leatherwood Creek Dam #2A	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89006	Leatherwood Creek Dam #4	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89007	Leatherwood Creek Dam #6	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89008	Marrowbone Creek Dam #1	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89009	Horse Pasture Creek Dam #2	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89012	Horse Pasture Creek Dam #1C	Henry	Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District-Daphne Jamison
89013	Smith River Dam	Henry	City of Martinsville Electric Dept-Dennis Bowles, Supt. Of Electrical Operations
89018	Patriot Centre SW Pond #2	Henry	Henry County -Timothy W Pace
89039	Hunt Country Farms Dam	Henry	Hunt Country Farms Property Owners Association-Edward P. Snyder
141001	Talbott Dam	Patrick	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - SE Region (Atlanta)-Wayne King
141002	Townes Dam	Patrick	
141008	Braswell's Dam	Patrick	Payson N. and Sara J. Sullivan-Payson N. and Sara J. Sullivan
143001	Leesville Dam	Pittsylvania	Appalachian Power Company (AEP also)-Jim Fariss, Manager of Hydro Generation

**West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan
High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum 2022**

143002	Cherrystone Creek Dam # 1	Pittsylvania	Town of Chatham -Richard G Cocke
143003	Cherrystone Creek Dam # 2A	Pittsylvania	Town of Chatham -Richard G Cocke
143004	Burton Dam	Pittsylvania	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources-John Kirk
143050	Pittsylvania Power Station Raw Water Storage Basin Dam	Pittsylvania	Virginia Electric and Power Company-Shaikh Z Rahman, Dominion Energy-Mohammed Alfayyumi

Comments from Dam Owners:

Beaver Creek Dam, City of Martinsville: We've recently completed our spillway repairs, our annual inspection, and our Dam Inundation study, along with our Emergency Action Plan and tabletop training. We've received our operations permit and filed our documentation with all regulatory agencies. Also, we are considered Satisfactory, as regards condition.

Patriot Centre SW Pond #2: The amendment looks fine from HC's perspective.

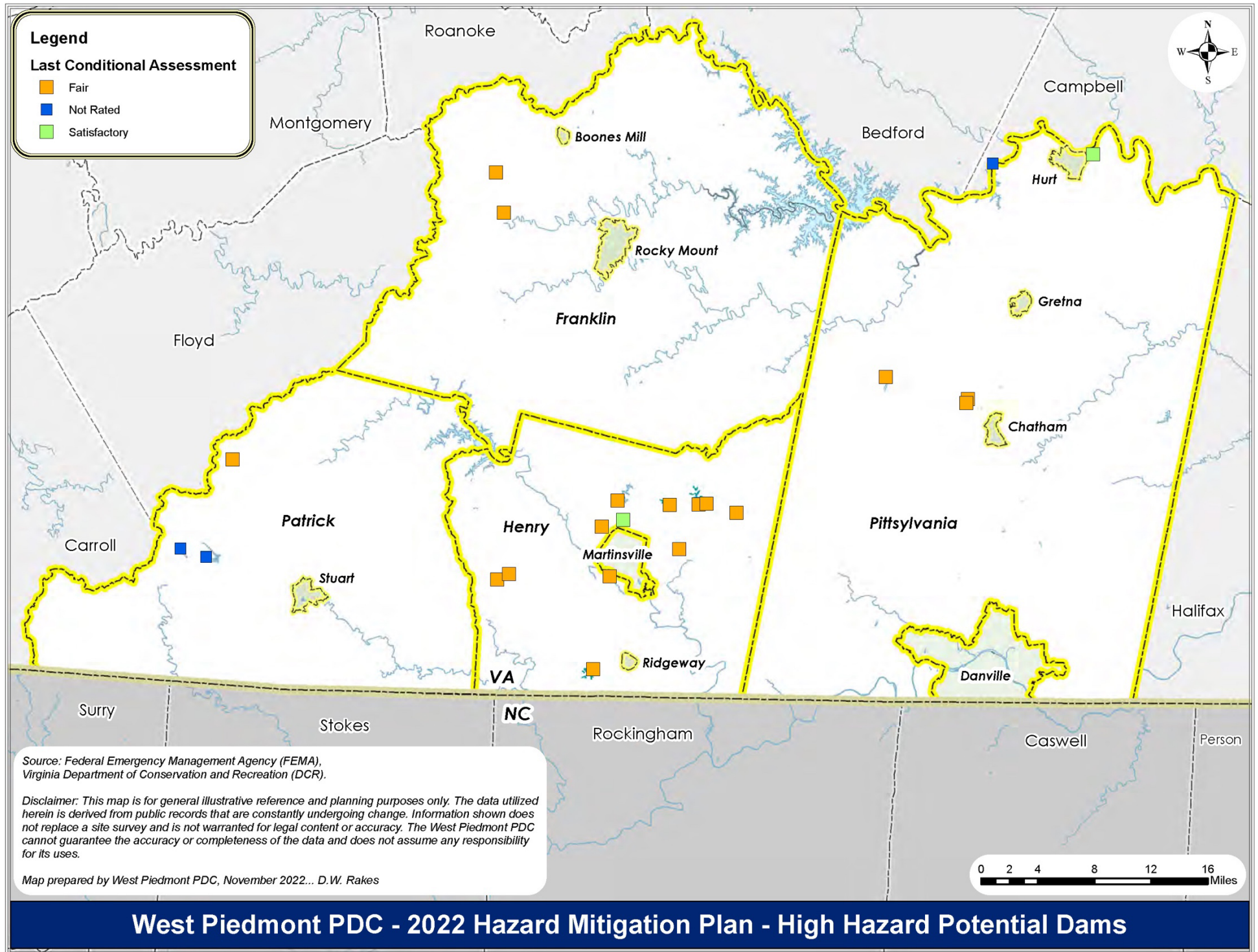
Pittsylvania Power Station Raw Water Storage Basin Dam: Dominion Energy is in the process of decommissioning and removing the Raw Water Storage Pond Dam (ID# 143050) at the Pittsylvania Power Station. I expect that dam will be completely removed in the next year or two.

All Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District Dams: The Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District has Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) on all of our watershed dams. In addition, one of these dams in Henry County, Leatherwood 5 (Lawrence), is currently in a rehab project that is being overseen by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Of our 10 dams, only one (Marrowbone) has adequate spillway capacity. We also have remote monitoring equipment on four dams with hopefully three more soon to follow.

Known High Hazard Potential Classification Dams NOT Regulated by Virginia DSFPM

VDEM Region	VA ID Number	Dam Name	Regulatory Agency	Owners	Hazard Class	Locality
6	143001	Leesville Dam	FERC	Appalachian Power Company	High	Pittsylvania County
6	141001	Talbott Dam	FERC	FERC- SE Region (Atlanta)	High	Patrick County
6	141002	Townes Dam	FERC	Northbrook Carolina Hydro II, LLC	High	Patrick County
6	089001	Philpott Dam	Army Corps of Engineers	Army Corps of Engineers	High	Franklin County
6	019002	Smith Mountain Combination Pump Storage	FERC	Appalachian Power Company	High	Pittsylvania County

West Piedmont High Hazard Potential Dams



**West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan
High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum 2022**

Mitigation Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal	Objective Activity Category	Objective	Action	Hazard(s) Addressed	Municipality & Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Goal 1. Reduce future damages, losses, and risks to the community by protecting natural and built infrastructure (homes, businesses, utility infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property) from the effects of hazards.	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Objective 1.2. Integrate relevant structural hazard mitigation techniques and monitoring of community facilities/ infrastructure to minimize future loss and damages.	Work with HHPD dam owners to apply for funding from the Rehabilitation of HHPD Grant Program to implement planning projects, design activities, and repair, removal, and other structure or nonstructural measures to rehabilitate eligible high hazard potential dams in the county.	Dam Failure	WPPDC
	Structure and Infrastructure Projects Capability & capacity building	Objective 1.4. Consistently plan, incentivize, and prepare for future physical mitigation projects.	To prepare for future HHPD mitigation actions, conduct a probabilistic dam failure analysis for at least the highest risk dam (or dams) and have the information integrated into the WPPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan's risk assessment. Analysis can be conducted using data and tools available through Virginia DSFPM.	Dam Failure	WPPDC

**West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan
High Hazard Potential Dam Addendum 2022**

West Piedmont Planning District Commission

Utilize the Rehabilitation of HHPD Grant Program to plan for, design, and implement HHPD rehabilitation measures.

Category	Structural Project, Capability & capacity building
Hazard	Dam Failure
Objective(s) addressed	1.2
Cost benefit	The fallout from a dam failure hazard has the potential to be severe. Preventing a dam failure has immense cost savings.
Background	Work with HHPD dam owners to apply for funding from the Rehabilitation of HHPD Grant Program to implement planning projects, design activities, and repair, removal, and other structure or nonstructural measures to rehabilitate eligible high hazard potential dams in the county.
Estimated cost	High
Funding sources	Rehabilitation of HHPD Grant Program
Responsible party	Public Works, Dam Owners
Completion date	Long-term

Conduct probabilistic dam failure analysis for high hazard potential dams in the region.

Category	Capability & capacity building
Hazard	Dam Failure
Objective(s) addressed	1.4
Cost Benefit	This analysis would be an initial project scoping step to further plan direct mitigation projects that would address potential dam failure issues that could cost loss of life, economic losses, and property damage.
Background	To prepare for future HHPD mitigation actions, conduct a probabilistic dam failure analysis for at least the highest risk dam (or dams) and have the information integrated into the WPPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan's risk assessment. Analysis can be conducted using data and tools available through Virginia DSFPM.
Estimated Cost	Low
Funding sources	Operating budgets
Responsible party	PDC
Completion date	Ongoing