

GRAND TRAVERSE POLITICS OVER-RIDE PUBLIC SAFETY

The Grand Traverse County Commissioners and Administrator have decided to risk dam safety by ordering Peterson Machinery Sales to remove their equipment related to dam safety at Boardman and Sabin Dams as follows;

- Onan Emergency Power Generators.
- Direct Current Battery Back-up Systems.
- Atlas-Polar Trash Rake System.

This equipment has been installed and connected to the main power supply for Boardman and Sabin Dams for the purpose maintaining 24/7 power to the SCADA control unit as well as emergency power to the flood gates, spillway gates and penstock head gates. If this equipment is removed the following disaster could result;

In the event of severe storms and heavy rainfall, in conjunction with power failure, the central station personnel would loose monitoring of water levels and be unable to anticipate dam failure from possible over-topping. This risk is compounded if failure occurs at Brown Bridge Dam. In that event, the need for complete and instantaneous data from the SCADA units at Boardman and Sabin Dam would be imperative but since our safety equipment would have been removed, there would be no data available to facilitate emergency response. Further, the county Dept. of Public Works (DPW) personnel would be un-able to operate any of the gate systems, under power, to control water flow. In the case of Boardman and Sabin Dams this loss of control could result in failure of both dams and total destruction at Logan's Landing and South Airport Road with likely consequences at Boardman Lake and the Union Street Dam. Our Onan Generator Sets and the battery backup units have been installed in such a manner as to be sequenced into use without any interruption of power to the SCADA unit as well as providing emergency power for gate operations. The county DPW have indicated they have portable generators, however, a portable unit is not acceptable in this scenario for obvious reasons. Our generator and battery back-up system has been engineered and installed to eliminate any possibility of power loss to the operate the SKADA system and spillway and penstock head gates. The existing county equipment is not capable of providing this level of dam safety. Further, the county personnel have not been trained and experienced for emergency response to power or equipment failure in the face of potential dam failure. Our equipment was specifically designed and installed to reduce dependence upon human decisions and responses. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) mandates and requires such redundant and reliable systems as is currently installed at Boardman and Sabin Dams. They (FERC) have advised against removal of any equipment which places the community at risk.

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Additionally, Peterson Machinery has also been ordered to remove the Atlas-Polar Trash Rake System at Boardman Dam which is critically necessary to clear debris from obstructing water flow at the dam. This equipment is used weekly by the DPW and allows for safe and efficient removal of logs, branches and debris which otherwise block water flow and raise pond water levels. Peterson Machinery purchased this equipment from Traverse City Light & Power in Dec. 2007 and has allowed the DPW free daily use for over 2 ½ years.

We have not only allowed the county free use of this equipment for over 2 ½ years but we were willing to continue such use, had they not demanded our removal of it. The replacement of not only the emergency power systems but also the trash rake system will cost the taxpayers at least \$40,000. This is an absolute waste and is strictly a political tactic at the taxpayers expense.

Charles R. Peterson
Peterson Machinery Sales