

**Operation Guidelines
For Dams and Water Levels on
Megunticook Lake and Megunticook River**

1. The Camden Town Manager shall annually appoint a Dam Control Agent of his/her choosing to regulate the dam openings and lake water levels in line with the guidelines herein stated, in conjunction with the chairman of the Dam Advisory Committee.
2. The gate on the East Dam to be used for normal control of the level of the water in the lake. The gate on the West Dam to remain closed, with the exception of operational testing, or if needed to reach water level goals in special circumstances.
3. The gate opening on the East Dam should not be less than 1 ½ inches. This guarantees that at least the legal minimum flow of water will be released through the opening for downstream use.
4. **WINTER OPERATION:** (October 1 to Ice-Out) Starting October 1, it is desirable to lower the lake to a level of 20-25 inches below the spillway height. This should be accomplished by adjusting the gate opening so that the lake will be lowered gradually. Adverse weather conditions and existing snow pack should be taken into consideration when gate opening is adjusted.
5. **SPRING OPERATION:** (Ice-Out to July 4) Maintain an adequate gate opening that will keep the water near spillway level, or up to a maximum of 6 inches of water going over the spillway. Lower levels may be reached in anticipation of spring runoff or heavy rains. The goal is to maintain as stable a water level as possible for ecological purposes. Many fish and waterfowl, including loons, are nesting and rearing their young during this time period.
6. **SUMMER OPERATION:** (July 5 to October 1) A level as near to the spillway height as possible is desirable. After Labor Day, in anticipation of the hurricane season, begin to gradually bring the pond level to 20-25 inches below the spillway.
7. When the Camden Police Department dispatcher (236-3030) receives a call on **any** dam adjustment, a call shall be made immediately to the Dam Control Agent.
8. If the Dam Control Agent cannot be reached, the following shall be called until contact is made: **FIRST:** Wastewater Superintendent Ross Parker; **SECOND:** Fire Chief Chris Farley; **THIRD:** Camden Parks and Recreation Maintenance Foreman William Fitzcharles; **FOURTH:** Camden Town Manager

9. **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:** Adjustments to the dam gates and water levels which are not covered in the foregoing guidelines may be necessary in emergency or extreme situations as determined by the Dam Control Agent, or if unavailable the Wastewater Superintendent, Fire Chief Camden or the Town Manager. Unless the Dam Control Agent determines that there are exigent circumstances, the dam operator shall consult with either the Camden Town Manager or the Camden Fire Chief prior to making a determination that an emergency or extreme situation exists. The Dam Control Agent, or if unavailable, any Camden town employee appointed by the town manager, is hereby granted authority to adjust gate openings if an emergency situation exists. If an emergency is declared, a call must be placed immediately to Knox County Dispatch (236-3030 or 911) telling them to implement the **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**. A meeting of the full Dam Advisory Committee shall be held as soon thereafter if further action is necessary following any emergency adjustments.
10. **SPECIAL REQUESTS:** Requests to regulate the flow of water from private enterprise to be reviewed by the Dam Control Agent and the Camden Town Manager. If the request will have a major impact, or be of a long duration, it shall be reviewed by the full committee, with recommendation(s) made to the Camden Select Board, who will make the final decision.

Proposed revisions: August 10, 2009