


Created near the top of Turkey Hill, the Sugden Reservoir Dam impounds the waters of Shaw Brook and Turkey Hill Creek creating the Sugden Reservoir for waterpower storage. This waterpower supplied industry in both the Upper and Lower Wire Village, sections of North Spencer, Massachusetts.^[1] The first wire-making industry in the country used this watershed for waterpower. Owned first by the Prouty Brothers (a famous Spencer Family), a wire mill that became Wickwire-Spencer, was purchased by Richard Sugden who improved the mills by creating the Sugden Reservoir in 1882. At one time, Spencer had eleven factories and twenty-six buildings for wire drawing along Turkey Hill Creek and the Seven Mile River^[2]. Never used for potable water, this reservoir provided only industrial waterpower storage. The energy storage was considerable because of the high elevation of this reservoir relative to the mouth of Turkey Creek where it enters the Seven Mile River.

Sugden Reservoir	
	
Location	Spencer, Massachusetts, USA
Surface area	85.3 acres (34.5 ha)
Average depth	11 ft (3.4 m)
Max. depth	22 ft (6.7 m)
Shore length¹	2 mi (3.2 km)
Surface elevation	840 ft (256 m) MSL
Settlements	Spencer, Paxton



[Dam ISSUES](#) Monday, August 2, 2010

As everyone can see, we are losing a considerable amount of water this year. There are two reasons for this. The first is that we have not had any substantial rains in June or July. The second is that we are still letting out a little more than is coming in. The dam gate is broken and will not seal all the way.

We have asked for help through the town and have received good support so far. They have brought in engineers and dive

crews to assess the situation. We should have a report back for the annual meeting.

There has been a temporary plug put on the inlet side to slow the water flow going through. This is just a small patch to help out for now. It has slowed the flow going out a lot. We will be looking into a permanent solution should this situation arise again.

We will also be sending out letters to our representatives, which will include a demand to have Moose Hill opened up to allow more water to come through. In 1980 when the dam was built as a flood zone protection, Sugden Reservoir was suppose to get enough water to maintain our levels. This is not happened and we need to get to the bottom of this.

For now let's hope for the best and check back for the latest updates.

_Al Stolarczyk

MOOSE HILL UPDATE, LETTER TO OUR REPS

Written by Al Stolarczyk

Monday, 16 August 2010 15:04

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Sent via first class mail, email and facsimile to the recipients indicated below

August 9, 2010

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is James O'Brien and I am sending this correspondence on behalf of our client, Alan R. Stolarczyk, in his capacity as President of the Sugden Reservoir Association located in Spencer.

Mr. Stolarczyk and the Sugden Reservoir Association have serious concerns pertaining to their lake. For several years they have been attempting to learn who is responsible for maintaining the lake at a proper level as a result of the building of Moose Hill Reservoir in 1980. They have encountered a severe lack of water flow over the years since Moose Hill Reservoir

was built and have thus far been unable to determine the entity responsible for its management.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter dated August 11, 1980, from Richard E. Kendall, the then-commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to William D. Ekleberry (then-chairman of the Spencer Board of Selectmen), Neil Rivers (then-spokesman for Sugden Reservoir residents), and Ralph Warren (then-secretary of the Spencer Conservation Committee) regarding the construction of Moose Hill Reservoir and its impact on Sugden Reservoir.

As you can see from finding no. 2 in the enclosed letter, the DEP stated that "Sufficient flow will be released from Moose Hill Reservoir and contributed from watershed areas below Moose Hill Reservoir to maintain the water level of Sugden Reservoir at present levels and assure continuous flow."

A quick glance at the lake clearly shows that the current level of the lake is simply not being kept to the "present level" referenced in the letter from the DEP. Mr. Stolarczyk and the Sugden Reservoir Association estimate that the current level of the lake is approximately 18" down from the dam overflow level.

The current level of the lake affects not only the lake but several points to which the lake flows, including the Seven Mile River and Turkey Hill Brook. The low level of the lake and its effect on the Seven Mile and Turkey Hill have an impact on wildlife, fish and other aquatic species that require the river(s) to flow freely. The level of the lake will also have a profound effect on Quaboag Pond.

On behalf of Mr. Stolarczyk and the Sugden Reservoir Association, we are requesting your help with this matter. This is a situation that needs an expedient resolution. The lake is losing its water for no reason which, in addition to the concerns illustrated above, could lead to poor water quality and an aquatic imbalance for the species in the lake.

Moose Hill Reservoir must be monitored and adjusted accordingly on at least a monthly basis to ensure proper flows of water to the reservoirs, streams, rivers and ponds below that rely in part on the flow from Moose Hill Reservoir.

We look forward to your prompt reply to the concerns outlined in this correspondence. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

James M. O'Brien, Esq.

Enc.

CC: Client Adam Gaudette

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MOOSE HILL PROJECT STALLED BY DEP

Written by Al Stolarczyk

Friday, 04 September 2009 13:44

This is good news for Sugden Reservoir. This should be left alone and the water shed should be in place for all to benefit from. This also benefits everyone on the 7 mile river.

**Moose Hill request rejected by DEP
LEICESTER SELECTMEN**

By Betty Lilyestrom CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — Selectmen have learned that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has rejected the request of the Moose Hill Water Commission for conditional approval of the unused Moose Hill Reservoir as a potential surface water source.

The board is upset that it took the DEP seven months to reply to the request.

In the letter the commission received on July 21, the DEP said it would not approve the request until all the steps outlined for the commission last year have been completed.

Selectmen and Town Administrator Robert Reed said, however, that what the town had been seeking was to have some of the steps pointed out as sufficient for conditional approval.

They said they had been told to work with a consultant to determine which steps they should follow to do this, and had been working with Jon Beekman of SEA Consultants since December on the project.

"After talking with Mr. Beekman, we have asked the DEP to give us a couple of manageable steps we could take to at least get conditional approval of the project," said Mr. Reed. "Now, after leaving us waiting for a full seven months, they're saying that it's not going to happen."

Mr. Reed described the action as "a huge step backward" and said he had talked with Mr. Beekman, who said he doesn't know what to do next.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Thomas V. Brennan Jr. directed that the DEP letter be copied to the town's state representative and senator as well as to Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray, who was interested in the project because he felt it could benefit Worcester, where he was formerly mayor, as well as Leicester, Mr. Brennan said.

Selectman Stanley Zagorski wanted to determine the cost of following all the required steps.

Mr. Reed estimated that would take "multiple six figures and a couple of years to complete."

"And we would then have to go before DEP for approval, which we might not get, and we would have spent all that money and time for nothing," he said.

Thanks

SUDGEN BOARD MEMBERS

Written by Al Stolarczyk

Friday, 04 September 2009 15:32

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