



VIA EMAIL – laura.paye@maine.gov

November 1, 2024

Ms. Laura Paye
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: DEP APPLICATION # L-31353-36-B-N, BUCKSPORT MILL LLC PETITIONS FOR RELEASE FROM DAM OWNERSHIP

Dear Ms. Paye,

On behalf of the Alamoosook Lake Association, we respectfully request that your department reject the petition filed with your office on October 11th, 2024 by American Iron and Metal (aka AIM, Bucksport Mill) seeking release of dam ownership and water level maintenance for three dams and their interconnected bodies of water located in Hancock County, specifically Alamoosook Lake, Toddy Pond and Silver Lake.

It is our view that your approval of this petition would have an immediate and deleterious effect on the community, property and environment related to the watershed that AIM wishes to abandon. Our concerns became embedded as we experienced the very apparent disregard that AIM has held for its responsibilities in maintaining the integrity of the dams, appropriate water levels and in acting with transparently with local entities.

Despite the obligations accepted pursuant to the company's purchase of commercial property related to the "Bucksport Mill", AIM has failed to honor its obligations of maintenance on the dam structures that were acquired in these business transactions. The company has also blatantly neglected its duty to provide maintenance reports to the community on the condition of the dams, causing further anxiety related to their structural integrity.

The towns and communities associated with the watershed have clear vision with regard to the importance of the dam system, and therefore completely understand the impact that their abandonment or removal would have on a wide scale. The safety of the downstream residences in multiplies townships would be imperiled in the event of waters being released by intention or neglect. A failure of this nature would pose significant danger to substantial portions of Orland, and even likely to the Town of Bucksport.

The environment would be egregiously impacted. Alamoosook Lake by itself is home to a wide range of indigenous wildlife as well as a critical water source to the many properties on the lake. It is a nesting place for our loons and ducks, a recovery base for the American Bald Eagle, a water source for the deer, beaver, moose, fox and vast wildlife that surround us. It is not just a recreational outlet to the inhabitants at the lake, it is enjoyed by the many swimmers, boaters, fisherman and hunters that flock here throughout the year. Our lake and the entire watershed support a thriving economy to the large and small businesses in the surrounding area.

We are certain that should AIM be allowed to abandon these structures, it would have a devastating impact economically and environmentally to the towns of Bucksport, Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot and Surry. We are very concerned that an approval of AIM's petition would grant the owner an immediate right to walk away from its duties of maintenance, resulting in failure of the dams and therefore the watershed system.

On behalf of our membership and the greater good of the surrounding community, we beseech you to reject the company's petition.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Jane Furrin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Treasurer, Alamoosook Lake Association

On behalf of:

Board of Directors
Alamoosook Lake Association