

County of Berks – County Statement

Antietam Dam Inspected and Confirmed Sound

Reading, PA— 07/21/2023 — The structure and performance of Antietam Dam was recently reevaluated following the extraordinary rain and flooding from July 9, 2023. The historic nature of the storms and the serious, localized rainfall caused the water level at the Antietam Dam to top off at nearly five feet over the spillway.

According to Schnabel Engineering, LLC, from Maryland, the Antietam Dam is sound and performed as it was designed, allowing the water to spill over into the dam's spillway. The water level of Antietam Lake never flowed over the crest of the dam and nothing abnormal was observed.

The engineers noted that Antietam Lake is a recreational lake, and the Antietam Dam is not a structure that is intended to function as flood control. Despite the severity of the July 9 flooding, the rainfall did not approach the maximums for which the Antietam Dam is designed.

Antietam Dam had been rehabilitated in 2011 when the dam and the dam parapet was strengthened and stabilized by reinforcing the dam masonry and anchors into the bedrock.

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For more information (media only):

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