

Policy Regarding the 100-year Floodplain at the Norton Reservoir

The extent of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF, or the 100-year floodplain) around Norton Reservoir is 103.65-feet (NGVD 1929). All permit applications submitted to the Conservation Commission shall use 103.65 feet as the base flood elevation.

Background:

The 100-year floodplain is shown on the FEMA F.I.R.M. community panel number 25005C0127F dated July 7, 2009 as a Zone A but lacks a determined base flood elevation prepared by FEMA. In evaluating the hydraulic and hydrologic evaluation of the Norton Reservoir Dam for compliance with Office of Dam Safety Regulations, Pare determined the 100-year floodplain as the 105.1-foot contour elevation¹. This was based upon using 8.5 inches of rainfall in a 24-hr period using the Northeast Regional Climate Center's Extreme Precipitation for this area (considered to be more accurate rainfall data based on observations at Cornell University). The Wetland Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) require the use of 7 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Therefore, the calculations were redone in 2012 utilizing the 7-inch value yielding a base flood elevation of 103.65 feet².

Posted with the Town Clerk May 23, 2012

¹ March 26, 2007 letter from Pare Corporation to Office of Dam Safety (Pare project no. 05142.00) and NOI application (DEP file no. 250-831) page 4: description.

² May 18, 2012 letter from Pare Corporation to Conservation Commission (Pare project no. 12137.00).