From: Abby Kuranz
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: DNR Must Consider Removing the Estabrook Dam
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:02:16 PM

Department of Natural Resources Kristina Betzold,

I'm writing you to ask that you recommend removing the Estabrook Dam located on the Milwaukee River in Glendale. The Estabrook Dam currently impairs the health of the Milwaukee River and will continue to do so to an even greater extent if repaired.

The Estabrook Dam affects the natural flow of the river and does not allow fish to swim freely up and down stream. It also traps sediment, which builds up over time and degrades the quality of water upstream the Dam. Once flushed downstream at the enormous expense of Milwaukee County taxpayers, the sediment releases bacteria and pollutants into the river, which are eventually released into the Milwaukee Estuary and Lake Michigan.

While repairing the dam with a fish passage structure will cost Milwaukee County taxpayers over $6 million, and the decision will need to be addressed yet again at the end of the Dam's 20-year lifespan, removal is a much cheaper and permanent solution that will cost Milwaukee County taxpayers a one-time fee of $1.7 million.

The Estabrook Dam also increases flood risk for upstream homeowners and poses a risk to public safety if it fails. Repairing the dam won't solve any of these problems.

In order for there to be a comprehensive review of the impacts of the Estabrook Dam on the Milwaukee River and the community that relies on that river, this evaluation must include an evaluation of all options. Without considering removal as an option, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has not fully informed the public of the positive and negative impacts of this decision.

Thank you,

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