



March 10, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Richard Green, Town Chair  
Town of Pleasant Springs  
2354 County Rd N  
Stoughton WI 53589-2873

Dear Mr. Green,

Thank you for the phone conversation on Wednesday March 3, 2026, addressing concerns expressed in a letter from the Town related to the City of Stoughton's Yahara River Project, and the following Department of Natural Resources permit docket numbers:

IP-SC-2025-13-00417 (dredging),  
IP-SC-2025-13-00418 (structure),  
IP-SC-2025-13-00535 (Streambank stabilization),  
IP-SC-2025-13-03869 (New Dam, *boulder structure*)  
IP-SC-2025-13-03142 (Dam Abandonment, *headrace & tailrace fill*)  
see the [Public Notices](#) search the above docket numbers.

This public notice was published in the Wisconsin State Journal on February 12, 2026, to meet the state law requirements. The City of Stoughton also ran the notice in a locally distributed newspaper. I am writing this letter to formally clarify any misunderstanding or misinformation that may exist within your community.

The above five permit applications were submitted by the City of Stoughton to the Department of Natural Resources- Waterways Program for review are presently reviewing all comments as submitted during the open public comment period which ended March 8, 2026. These permits are all associated with City's Riverpark-phase 1, improvements and changes proposed are located downstream (east) of the City's dam. A public hearing for these permits was held on Tuesday Feb. 24, 2026, at 6:30PM Stoughton City Council chambers and virtually.

To restate a section of the public notice for the above permit dockets: *The applicant (City of Stoughton) proposes to abandon the powerhouse of the existing Stoughton Dam by filling the headrace (upstream) and tailrace (downstream) channels leading to and from the powerhouse building. The plan under review does not modify the concrete gated section of the existing Stoughton Dam, nor does it propose any permanent changes to water levels in the millpond and channel upstream of the Stoughton Dam.*

To add further clarification to the above docket numbers and the City's permit application, I've included a map of the project footprint for the City's Riverpark phase 1. As you can see from the map, the planned dam modifications are limited to the powerhouse, headrace, and tailrace, and do **not** include any changes to the concrete gated section that controls upstream water levels. Also, as part of the City of Stoughton's Riverpark phase 1, the City will be required to conduct a substantial clean-up of contaminated sediment that is located within the tailrace. This clean-up is in coordination with other adjacent contamination located on uplands in and around the powerhouse structure. If the Department determines that it will issue the above five permits, the City will need to do a temporary drawdown of the large dam to complete the necessary sediment clean-up and headrace and tailrace abandonment.

The City of Stoughton has indicated that phase 1 is intended to function as a standalone project, and the Department of Natural Resources has reviewed it as such. A Department decision on the phase 1 project elements described in the above five permit application dockets does *not* eliminate the need for the City to seek and obtain additional permits for any future planned project phases not covered within the scope of the phase 1 application materials. The City has stated that they hope to apply for a phase 2 project, which would further modify the concrete gated section of the existing dam, and you may be aware that the City has already submitted a request for revised permanent water levels, associated with this planned phase 2. However, this request does not yet contain the required supporting information for review. Once complete plans and supporting documentation are submitted for any future project phases, the Department will evaluate these projects on their own merits relative to the appropriate permitting standards in Ch. 30 and 31, Wis. Statutes.

Again, I want to assure you and your Town residents that the concrete gated section of the City of Stoughton's Yahara River Dam will not be modified as part of the above five permit application dockets currently under review. **If and when** the City of Stoughton requests permanent modifications to the water level and submits complete dam modification permit applications for future project phases, the Department's review will include an opportunity for review and comment by the public. Riparian owners impacted by proposed permanent water level changes will be notified of the opportunity to provide comment prior to a Department decision.

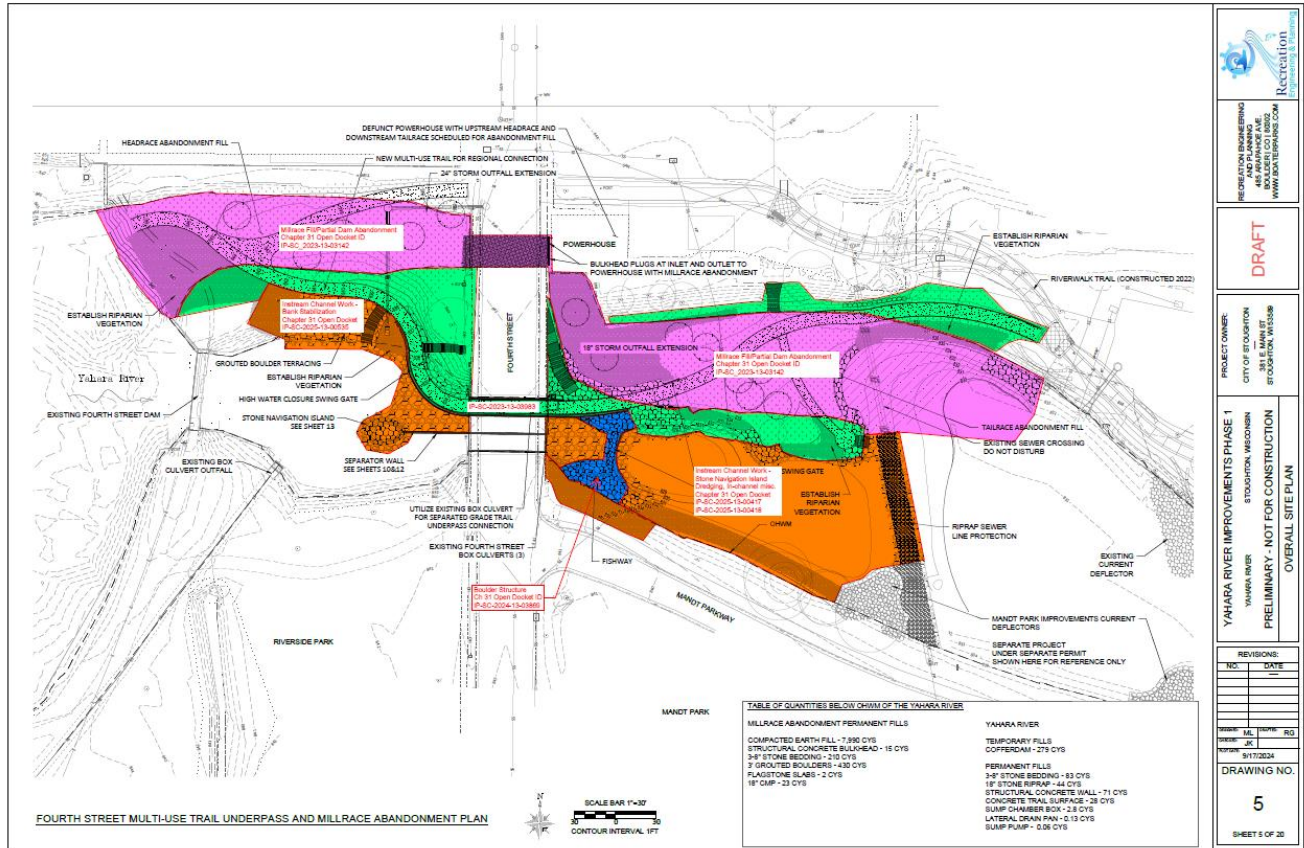
Thank you for taking the time to clarify this matter for your Town residents.

Sincerely,

*Jeff J Schure*

Jeff Schure

City of Stoughton – Riverpark phase 1 maps



PITO = put-it and take out locations for recreational access.