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## Trustees get plan to demolish third Twelve Mile River dam

### Project to reduce PCB risk moves forward without Pickens County

*By Anna Simon  
Clemson Bureau*

PICKENS — A proposal to remove a third Twelve Mile River dam was finalized Tuesday and sent to trustees who will meet Monday to begin allocating a \$9 million PCB settlement.

The proposal was sent by three non-profit environmental groups — Upstate Forever, Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lake Hartwell Association, and the Easley-Central Water District. It was sent without Pickens County, which declined to be lead agency for the project due to concerns regarding potential liability for contaminated sediment.

“We are sorry the county did not feel comfortable joining us but appreciate their support for the project,” said Larry Dyck, a river restoration expert and Lake Hartwell Association board member who lives on the Twelve Mile.

“Our submission is a strong proposal that focuses all of its attention and request for funding on the removal of the third dam, the restoration of the river for fish migration and natural sediment transport and on providing a viable water source for the Easley-Central Water District,” Dyck said.

The proposal, designed with the assistance of an engineering firm, “does keep us pretty whole, does solve all the problems,” said Larry Hudson, board chairman of the water district.

The water district has no objection to removal of the dam provided there’s no cost or interruption of service to customers. “Those were the guidelines we all worked under,” Hudson said.

Pickens County Council declined the lead role in the project after meeting with attorneys behind closed doors late Monday and instead made formal requests regarding removal of two lower dams and contaminated sediment from behind in a separate but related project under the PCB settlement.

The county reiterated its support for removal of the third dam but asked for greater safeguards and compliance with county standards in removal of the two lower dams by Schlumberger Technology Corp.

Dyck said the county does need a long-term agreement with Schlumberger and shares the concern over sustainability of a storage site on private property near the river where contaminated sediment from behind the lower dams will be permanently placed.

The site “clearly has the long-term potential to impact Camp Creek and Twelve Mile River,” Dyck said.

A federal judge has recommended that \$3 million be used toward removal of the third dam; however trustees allocated no money to the project in a draft report, citing lack of a project sponsor.

The settlement stems from PCB contamination of the Twelve Mile and Lake Hartwell, where health advisories are posted warning against eating certain fish likely to carry PCBs in their fat.

More than 400,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, were released between 1955 and 1977 from the former Sangamo-Weston capacitor manufacturing site in Pickens, now owned by Schlumberger. The settlement orders Schlumberger to remove two lower dams.

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