



Memorandum

OFFICE OF CAPITAL PROGRAMS

DATE: April 11, 2003
TO: Bonnie Johnson, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: James C. Adams, Capital Programs Director
SUBJECT: Comments to the AEP proposed "Preliminary Thresholds Regulations for Public Use Docks"
CC: File

The proposed "regulations" are difficult to evaluate because they have no rationale associated with each "numbered rule". Because of this it is difficult to make suggestions to the proposals. If justifications were given then it might be possible to provide an improved or different way to accomplish the same objective. Therefore, my comments are based on my limited understanding of the proposals.

The proposals are written in such a fashion that might preclude the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries from engaging in boating access development on Smith Mountain Lake. This is because certain standards applied by the Department are in conflict with the proposed "Courtesy dock and ramp" section. The Department describes in a posted article on our Website (http://www.dgif.state.va.us/boating/bldg_boat_ramps.html) the considerations for developing boating access. I am not for sure how the proposed regulations apply to these considerations. The boating access standards employed by the Department are commonly used by the **STATES ORGANIZATION FOR BOATING ACCESS (SOBA)**. **SOBA is an organization devoted to the acquisition, development and administration of public recreational boating facilities nationwide. SOBA provides a forum for the exchange of views, ideas, concepts and experiences related to all aspects of recreational boating facilities. DGIF has been a member of SOBA and primary contributor for 15 years.**

The "Courtesy dock and ramp" rules that are in conflict with DGIF boating access standards

are:

Number 7. The Department's standard pier design is fixed and we currently have four fixed piers on Smith Mountain Lake.

Number 8. The Department's standard ramp width is 16 feet and if a double lane ramp is proposed the ramp will be 32 feet.

Number 10. The Department's standard ramp thickness is a minimum of 6 inches and have considered changing the thickness to seven inches 9 (use dependent).

Number 11. This setback standard may pose a problem because ramps are placed depending on the topography of the land (above and below water surface).

Please let me know if I can assist further.

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