

September 2, 2026

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mayor Kline and City Clerk Herheim
City of Longville
P.O. Box 217
Longville, MN 56655

Dear Mayor Kline and City Clerk Herheim:

Thank you for your letter dated August 19, 2026, regarding the Girl Lake outlet. In that letter you requested an independent review of the Girl Lake rock arch rapids project and current water levels in the Child-Girl-Woman Lake chain and made a data request for the complete project record. I am pleased to respond to your requests.

First, as a long-time visitor to Longville, I know how important the Child-Girl-Woman chain is to the City of Longville, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appreciates your engagement. I also want to assure you that DNR has thoroughly reviewed the engineering analysis, survey data, construction records, and other available information. While we remain confident that the outlet was designed and built in accordance with all applicable requirements and the historic authorized runout elevation, we also recognize that questions remain about current conditions and how the outlet is performing.

Independent reviews are outside the DNR's normal practice; however, given the unique circumstances of this situation, we would like to work with the City to determine an appropriate scope for an independent review, identify an appropriate reviewer, and discuss sharing costs of such a review.

The DNR also will comply with the City's data request. Because the scope of an independent review may affect the City's immediate information needs, we would like to give the City an opportunity to consider whether it still desires the complete project record. In the meantime, because some information circulating locally does not reflect the project record, we've developed the enclosed fact sheet.

Thank you again for bringing these concerns forward. We appreciate the constructive approach reflected in your request and look forward to working with you on next steps. DNR's contact will be Nathan Kestner Nathan.kestner@state.mn.us or (218) 368-8747.

Sincerely,


Sarah Strommen
Commissioner

Enclosure: DNR Fact Sheet- Understanding low water levels in the Child-Girl-Woman Lake chain

cc: Senator Kari Heintzeman
Representative Josh Heintzeman
Cass County Board of Commissioners
Cass Soil and Water Conservation District
Melissa Kuskie, Director, Ecological and Water Resources Division, DNR
Ben Bergey, Regional Director, Region 1, DNR