UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 28 2019

Dr. David L. Hargett
Founder and Executive Director
Conestee Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 9111
Greenville, SC 29604

Dear Dr. Hargett:

Thank you for your December 13, 2018 letter to U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Acting Regional Administrator Mary Walker concerning Lake Conestee in Greenville, South Carolina.

Your letter focused on the issues associated with the Lake, which included fish, soils, sediments, historical releases, deposits in the former lakebed, and additionally, potential failure of the dam. I appreciate you relaying this information to EPA. Your information and data were forwarded to the Superfund Pre-Remedial Section for review and comment.

The Pre-Remedial Section conducted a thorough review of the data that you provided both in December 2018 and in February 2019. It was concluded that Lake Conestee would be best served by conducting a Preliminary Assessment (PA) that will allow EPA to evaluate the potential release of hazardous substances at Lake Conestee. We also believe that your letter meets the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.420 (b)(5), which allows any person who is, or may be, affected by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants to petition the EPA to conduct a PA. Therefore, EPA will enter Lake Conestee into its active PA database and initiate the PA. While our regulations require EPA to complete the PA within one year of the receipt of your letter, we understand your concerns and will conduct the PA as expeditiously as possible.

We also understand the need for repairs or replacement of the dam, however, the Superfund Remedial Process requires EPA to assess the environmental risks before initiating a remedial action and thus may not be the appropriate vehicle for your immediate goals. We have consulted with our partners at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and any dam replacement or repair questions should be directed to the SCDHEC Dam Safety Program's manager, John McCain, at (803) 898-8178.

We share your desire to find an effective solution to the sediment issues and potential dam failure that you are dealing with on Lake Conestee. We also appreciate the measures that you have taken to prevent human contact with the potentially contaminated sediments while simultaneously allowing residents of Greenville and the surrounding area to enjoy the Lake Conestee Nature Park.

EPA has assigned Jeff Crowley, Remedial Project Manager with the Superfund Pre-Remedial Program, to ensure the PA is conducted in a timely manner. If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA, please contact Mr. Crowley at (404) 562-9587.

Sincerely,

Franklin E. Hill, Director
Superfund Division

Cc: Mary Walker, Acting Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 4
Myra Reece, Director, Environmental Affairs, SCDHEC
G. Ken Taylor, Director, SCDHEC SARR