



For Immediate Release
December 8, 2005

Contacts:	David A. Easterbrooks	J. Matthew Bellisle, P.E.
	Pare Engineering Corporation	Pare Engineering Corporation
	8 Blackstone Valley Place	49 Walpole Street, Suite 2
	Lincoln, RI 02865	Norwood, MA 02062
	Tel: 401-334-4100	781-762-1442
	Fax: 401-334-4108	781-762-4780
	E-mail: deasterbrooks@parecorp.com	mbellisle@parecorp.com
	Web: www.parecorp.com	

PARE ENGINEERING CORPORATION PERFORMS EMERGENCY DAM SAFETY CONSULTING THROUGHOUT MASSACHUSETTS

NORWOOD, MA—Pare Engineering Corporation (PARE) responded on several fronts during the widespread flooding in October that threatened many of Southern New England's dams. Nine consecutive days of inclement weather caused heavy flooding throughout the region, taxing the capacity of many of the area's dams and creating crisis situations at several of them. For several days in October, the number one news story in New England was the imminent failure of the Whittenton Mill Pond Dam in Taunton, Massachusetts.

PARE served as the lead on-site engineer throughout the evaluation, development, and implementation of emergency remedial measures for Taunton's Whittenton Mill Pond Dam. With the devastation of Hurricane Katrina still fresh in the public's mind, the 173-year-old wooden dam was prominently featured on national news for many days as it threatened to breach. Recognizing the potential for loss of life and significant property damage, the Mayor of Taunton evacuated the downstream Taunton commercial district, while PARE worked with the City, the dam's private owner, and the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety to prevent a dam break. As the wooden dam was determined to be unrepairable, PARE evaluated potential flood control alternatives and devised a plan that utilized locally available building materials. This plan, which was reviewed and accepted by the Office of Dam Safety, created a temporary rock dam immediately downstream of the original structure. Aggregate Industries of Saugus, MA, provided material for this temporary structure from their Taunton Quarry, which was located in close proximity to the dam site. Working around the clock, equipment operators and laborers from G. Lopes Construction of Taunton installed approximately 1,700 tons of rock and fill in a 36-hour period. Once in place, portions of

the wooden dam were removed and the elevation of Whittenton Mill Pond was “lowered” to the height of the new structure, alleviating the threat to the city.



The 173-year-old wooden Whittenton Mill Pond Dam strains to hold back floodwaters.



Temporary rock dam constructed immediately downstream of original dam.

During the October rain events, PARE also assisted the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety by providing emergency response evaluations of several other dams in Southeastern Massachusetts, including the Rice City Pond Dam in Uxbridge, MA. With much of the downstream embankment of the Rice City Pond Dam eroded by floodwaters, PARE and local emergency officials determined that the dam was at risk of failing and that closure of the roadway that passes over the crest of the dam was prudent to provide for the public’s safety. In an effort to expedite repairs to the dam and reopen the roadway, PARE completed a remedial design within three weeks of the road closure. The firm is currently supporting the Office of Dam Safety during the construction of repairs.



Embankment Erosion, Rice City Pond Dam



Road Closure, Rice City Pond Dam

Due to the emergency situations in Taunton and Uxbridge, and the potential for similar life-threatening situations at other Commonwealth dams, Governor Romney ordered the emergency inspection of 186 of the state's high-hazard dams in late October. PARE was tasked by the Office of Dam Safety with the emergency inspection of 31 dams in Southeastern Massachusetts. PARE mobilized several inspection teams to expedite the inspections of these dams, which included earthen embankment, concrete and stone masonry structures owned by the state, municipalities and private owners. The inspections of all 31 dams were completed within 48 hours of notification, with continuous and immediate updates provided to the Office of Dam Safety throughout the inspection program, and detailed written reports provided within three business days.



Two of the 31 high-hazard dams inspected within 48 hours, per order of the Governor.

Established in 1970, PARE's 65-person staff provides comprehensive planning, engineering, permitting, and construction-phase services throughout the Northeastern United States. Working for a wide array of public and private sector clients, PARE offers special expertise in the areas of dams, waterfront/marine, highways, bridges, water/wastewater, site/civil, geotechnical, structural, municipal and environmental engineering. PARE operates from a full-service office in Norwood, Massachusetts, and its headquarters in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

####