

September 1, 2022

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Shawn M. LaTourette, Chair and  
Members of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority

THROUGH: Marc Brooks, Executive Director  
New Jersey Water Supply Authority

SUBJECT: Communications and Correspondence

There are fifteen (15) items of communications and correspondence.

1. "Drought Watch: Lack of rain exposes areas at Manasquan Reservoir," by News 12 Staff, *News 12*, August 18, 2022
2. "NJ Water Supply Authority D&R Canal Dredging," NJ Infrastructure Bank project of the week, *www.njib.gov* newsletter, July 21, 2022
3. Letter to Marc Brooks from Clinton Township Mayor, Brian K. Mullay, dated July 21, 2022.
4. "Letter to the Editor: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient," by Robert Quinlan, *Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com*, July 7, 2022
5. "Letter to the Editor: Why I don't support closing Route 629," by Nick Corcodilos, *Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com*, July 8, 2022
6. "Editorial: Should 629 close?," *Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com*, July 11, 2022
7. "Security concerns could close part of a road around this popular N.J. recreation spot," by Larry Higgs, *NJ Advance Media for NJ.com*, July 18, 2022

8. "NJ officials want to permanently close road to protect the 3 Round Valley dams," 69 News, July 18, 2022
9. "Security concerns prompt possible road closure around Round Valley Reservoir," by Mike Deak, MyCentralJersey.com, July 22, 2022
10. "Letter to the Editor: Route 629 closure an unnecessary abuse on local community," by Joseph Lotito, Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com, July 25, 2022
11. "UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority cancels public meeting on Route 629 closure on Monday, Aug. 1," Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com, July 25, 2022
12. "Letter to the Editor: Re-open County Road 629 as soon as possible," by Robert B. Quinlan, Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com, July 25, 2022
13. "UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority explains Route 629 meeting cancellation," Hunterdon Review /www.newjerseyhills.com, July 28, 2022
14. "Clinton Township mayor responds to N.J. Water Supply Authority about Route 629 closure request," Hunterdon Review/www.newjerseyhills.com, August 1, 2022
15. "Route 629 closure proposal stalls," by Walter O'Brien, Editor, Hunterdon Review/ www.newjerseyhills.com, August 1, 2022

# DROUGHT WATCH: Lack of rain exposes areas at Manasquan Reservoir

Aug 18, 2022, 12:10pm Updated 6d ago

By: News 12 Staff

New Jersey is in a drought watch, and the state Department of Environmental Protection is asking all residents to conserve water.

## *Top Stories*

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The lack of rain has exposed areas of land at the Manasquan Reservoir that are not normally seen, with one park superintendent telling **News 12** the water level is probably 4 to 5 feet lower than normal with timbers that are normally underwater now exposed.

**MORE:** [20 handy tips to conserve water and save money this summer](#)



“You can see along the dam the difference between the high-water line and the wintertime and right now,” says Frank Huza, of Aberdeen.

It's believed the 4-billion-gallon reservoir is down closer to 75% capacity due to the drought. State officials are concerned as recent data shows groundwater levels along the coast are severely dry, with other reservoirs showing a serious loss of water with abnormally dry conditions.

"When I went here a few weeks ago, the water level was really low, it's like a puddle," says Joseph Korbul, of Hazlet.

The DEP says 30% of water use in the summer is for outdoor purposes, and that's the type of water use that could be scaled back to conserve.

While swimming is not allowed at the reservoir, kayaking and fishing is allowed, and all programs are still being offered for now. But if the water gets too shallow, some activities will need to be canceled.

Towns such as Fair Lawn in Bergen County and Denville in Morris County are asking residents to conserve or not use any water outside at all.

# NJ Water Supply Authority D&R Canal Dredging

**NJ I-Bank and NJDEP Helping to Improve  
New Jersey's Environmental Infrastructure, One Project at a Time**



Pictures courtesy of NJWSA

**NJ I-Bank Project of the Week: New Jersey Water Supply Authority D&R Canal Dredging Project. Authority receives \$36,844,043 in Water Bank loans. Estimated savings to ratepayers of \$5,879,183.**

The NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) recently completed clean water improvements that are being funded with approximately \$37 million in loans from the NJ Water Bank, a joint low-rate financing program jointly administered by the DEP and the NJ I-Bank. Total savings for this project is estimated to be \$5,879,184 over the 20-year term of the loan or 16% of the total project cost. In addition, this project created an estimated 44 direct construction jobs.

This canal dredging project removed approximately 182,488 cubic yards of sediment from a 10-mile segment of the D&R Canal between Route 27 and Amwell Road in Franklin Township, Somerset County. The purpose of the project was to improve water quality and maintain hydraulic capacity by removing accumulated sediment, aquatic growth, and debris. Dredging the canal reduced the velocity, sediment resuspension and raw water turbidity of the canal which functions as a major source of drinking water in the State.

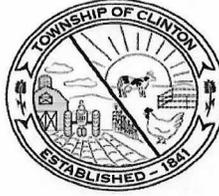


Phillip Kramer, Mayor of Franklin Township, noted the limited direct benefits of the dredging project to residents in his Township. Nonetheless, he recognized that "The canal is a reservoir and drinking water source for 1 million people in central New Jersey. Because the project was beneficial to so many people, we worked together with the Authority to complete the project as efficiently as possible. In return, the NJWSA agreed to mitigate for property damages created by the project, and everything was restored as promised. As a result, we are glad the project was a success: drinking water improved, jobs created, and ratepayers throughout the State saved money with strategic financing through the NJ Water Bank."

This project was designed by Urban Dredging Consultants Joint Venture and Dredged by JF Brennan Inc.

**For more information regarding borrowing through the NJ Water Bank, visit [www.njib.gov](http://www.njib.gov).**

**TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON  
HUNTERDON COUNTY**



Brian Mullay  
Mayor

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA  
Township Administrator

July 21, 2022

New Jersey Water Supply Authority  
1851 NJ 31  
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The Township received your June 10, 2022 request for a letter of support in advance of your formal request to the County of Hunterdon for permanent closure of a portion of County Route 629. At this point, the Township Council does not have sufficient information to take a formal position either supporting or opposing your request.

This request was discussed publicly at two separate Council meetings on June 22 and July 13, 2022. The second meeting drew a crowd of approximately 60 interested residents, predominantly from the area of Old Mountain Road. The public sentiment was almost unanimously opposed to the road closure. The public asked a number of appropriate questions to which neither I, nor the Council, had adequate answers. In the absence of relevant information, the Council was not comfortable making a recommendation on the proposed permanent closure.

As you will be able to tell from the audio of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was forwarded separately, most of the residents sought additional details on the proposal. Our suggestion is that the Water Authority and the County of Hunterdon review the audio from that meeting to get a sense of the residents' concerns and subsequently schedule a well-advertised public hearing to review the proposal in greater detail. It would be beneficial to have representatives from the relevant agencies present at the public meeting, in addition to representatives from the County and Authority. We believe it would also be helpful to the public to have written materials to review in advance of any public hearing.

Below is a summary of topics about which our residents had questions and that should be addressed in a public forum:

**1. Project description**

- Detailed description of exactly what change is being proposed.
- Exact locations where barriers would be erected.
- How pedestrian and bicycle traffic would be granted access, including adequate parking.
- Details from any traffic studies regarding impacts to nearby roads. e.g., the single lane railroad underpass on Cherry Street, and the intersection of Railroad Ave and Mountain Rd. for traffic heading toward County Route 523.
- Any other options that were considered. e.g., prohibiting truck traffic, but still permitting passenger cars.

**2. Benefits**

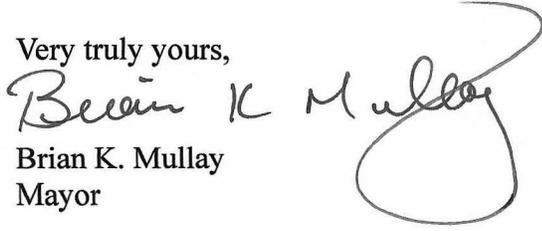
- To the extent permissible, describe the risks this closure intends to address.
- Review the identity and credentials of the organization that completed the risk assessment.
- Describe what a dike failure would look like.
- Review any quantitative estimates of the likelihood of various risk scenarios.
- Review the extent to which the closure reduces the risk. e.g., reduces the risk by 95%
- Describe any other benefits from the proposal. e.g., cost reduction, extended dike life, reduced traffic volume on local roads, etc..

**3. Impacts**

- Review the negative impacts of a road closure to nearby residents.
- Number of people likely to be impacted.
- Estimate of how many vehicle trips would have been taken over the road if it were not closed and how that volume is projected to grow over time.
- Makeup of the traffic – commercial vs personal vs other.
- An estimate of the average additional driving time by taking alternate routes versus 629. e.g., if driving from Old Mountain Road to Hunterdon Medical Center

Clinton Township is willing to help facilitate a public hearing at the appropriate time, as we expect most of the concerned public will be residents of the Township as well as Lebanon Borough.

Very truly yours,

  
Brian K. Mullay  
Mayor

cc: Township of Clinton Council (via email)  
County of Hunterdon (via email)

## Item #4

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/letter-closing-scenic-route-629-is-more-than-inconvenient/article\\_f7ca2bea-6c9c-50f9-8fe0-87ba7844bc42.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-closing-scenic-route-629-is-more-than-inconvenient/article_f7ca2bea-6c9c-50f9-8fe0-87ba7844bc42.html)

### LETTER: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient

Jul 7, 2022

TO THE EDITOR: For the benefit of those who might have missed the story over the holiday weekend, we've recently learned that the Clinton Township Council has quietly voted to permanently close the scenic County Route 629 roadway that wraps around a portion of Round Valley Reservoir.

This road has been in existence for well over 60 years but has been closed, presumably for repairs to one of the dams, for about three years now. The temporary closure has been an inconvenience to many area residents. However, its permanent closure will be so much more than an inconvenience; it will deprive us all of one of the most scenic drives in Hunterdon County and perhaps the State of New Jersey.

The closure will result in a waste of time and precious fuel for many who have used this roadway as a convenient and pleasant alternative to Route 22 from portions of Clinton, Lebanon Borough and Whitehouse to CR 629.

It's rumored that Hunterdon County and Clinton Township have closed this road for various reasons including "homeland security," which I believe is complete nonsense. Whatever the reason(s) for the closure, we residents, business owners and visitors alike should have been made aware of them in advance and our input should have been solicited before a decision was made.

Based on the discussions I've had with neighbors and friends, very few people were aware of this and object to the road's permanent closure.

At this time, I'd like to ask if any residents, business owners and/or others would be willing to attend the next public meeting of the Clinton Township Council at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, at the Public Safety Building at 1370 Route 31 North in Annandale. Let's let our voices be

heard. Let's hear the Township Council's reason(s) for the closure as well as their reasons for agreeing to it.

If you're unable to attend the township meeting but would like to voice your opinion, perhaps you'd like to send a letter or e-mail to the Clinton Township Mayor and/or Council members. Mayor Brian Mullay can be reached at [bmullay@clintontwpnj.org](mailto:bmullay@clintontwpnj.org), and Council President Marc Strauss, can be reached at [mstrauss@clintontwpnj.org](mailto:mstrauss@clintontwpnj.org).

Please note you don't have to be a township resident to attend and speak at a public meeting, but most municipalities require you to state your name and address at the microphone.

### **ROBERT QUINLAN**

*Mountain Road*

*Readington Township*

#### MORE INFORMATION



Round Valley rehab project hopes to close Route 629 permanently

(VIDEO) Clinton Township updates housing deals, eases land use applications

## Item #5

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/letter-why-i-don-t-support-closing-route-629/article\\_d20643b1-fde9-5faa-af1f-de2b115efd5a.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-why-i-don-t-support-closing-route-629/article_d20643b1-fde9-5faa-af1f-de2b115efd5a.html)

### LETTER: Why I don't support closing Route 629

Jul 8, 2022

TO THE EDITOR: Excerpts from an open letter to Marc Brooks, executive director, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA).

After contacting relevant officials and reviewing available documents, based on what I now know about the County Road 629 permanent closure proposal, I am presently 100 percent against it. I see no justification or evidence that it would be prudent to permanently close a major Hunterdon County through road that so many residents from Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough rely on. Moreover, while the county is spending tax dollars on an "eco-tourism" initiative, does it make any sense to close the most stunning, gorgeous drive through nature in Hunterdon County?

To change my position, first the NJWSA would have to provide a formal assessment and position statement from US Homeland Security, or other relevant authority, about new security risks at this specific dam and road. The document might be redacted for security reasons, but I need to see that a proper authority did the proper analysis and recommends the closure. Mayor Brian Mullay's opinion and whatever the NJWSA did or did not tell him is not sufficient. Violation of the NJ OPRA rules are not acceptable.

Second, NJWSA would have to provide an assessment and recommendations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the risk of damage to the dam from truck traffic on this specific dam and road. Did the State of NJ really put out a bid for dam work that would not withstand the kind of traffic that has been going over that road for over 60 years? The NJWSA noted to me that the NJ DEP has expressed only "verbal support of this proposal."

It seems everyone is "passing the buck" on approval to permanently close the road, and the only backstop is public outrage — and the only solution is public comment.

I am stunned that Clinton Township Council voted unanimously to not oppose the closure by stating that "it's the county's decision, not ours" and "we have no choice," without a shred of documentary evidence that the road closure is necessary, for any reason, whether engineering/structural or related to homeland security.

Where have we heard "we have no choice" before? For over 10 years residents of Old Mountain Road led the successful war to stop Pulte Homes from putting over 1,000 housing units on Windy Acres, even to the point of having to sue the township. If we had listened to "we have no choice" from then-mayor Tom Borkowski, the Planning Board and the council, there would be no Windy Acres Park today.

Do we have to sue someone again, this time to protect a road we rely on?

I'm even more stunned that the NJWSA would ask Hunterdon County to close the road and transfer it to the NJWSA without supporting documentary evidence. I'm shocked that NJWSA and the county would put the cart before the horse and, in a seemingly deft political ploy to pass the buck, first ask the towns for formal support when the NJWSA itself has offered the towns nothing formal upon which to base a decision the towns can defend to the public.

If there are legitimate "security reasons" that are documented and verified - even if some of this is "secret" - then our local and county governing bodies should have all the evidence they require to make an informed decision about closing the road. But they must be able to document and defend their decision.

This entire enterprise seems less than half-baked and steeped in bureaucratic and political manipulation of our naïve elected officials. I do not support the present shenanigans because this dog don't hunt.

I'm still waiting to see the information Mayor Mullay and the council used to support their premature action, which in any event is unforgivable for lack of any effort to first obtain public comment, especially from residents affected most.

I ask the NJWSA to kindly:

- Provide the public with evidence of independent assessments of this road and this dam/dike, as well as formal recommendations regarding road closure, from US Homeland Security and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Recommend to Clinton Township that the council repeal its premature, unsupported June 22 resolution — which was devoid of any documented basis or public input — because it's the right thing to do.
- Provide to Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough a complete, formal proposal that has the full, formal support of the NJ DEP and the county, prior to expecting the towns to provide formal resolutions of support. I'm sure you recognize the importance of due diligence when elected officials must make important decisions that affect taxpayers.
- Ensure that NJWSA and the towns have taken necessary and meaningful measures to inform residents about this proposal and to provide ample opportunity for public comment “to minimize potential for complaints in the future if the closure becomes permanent.”

While I respect the NJWSA's desire to ensure the safety and security of our towns, that is meaningless without protecting and ensuring the sacred right of the public to know what's going on and to participate fully in our own government.

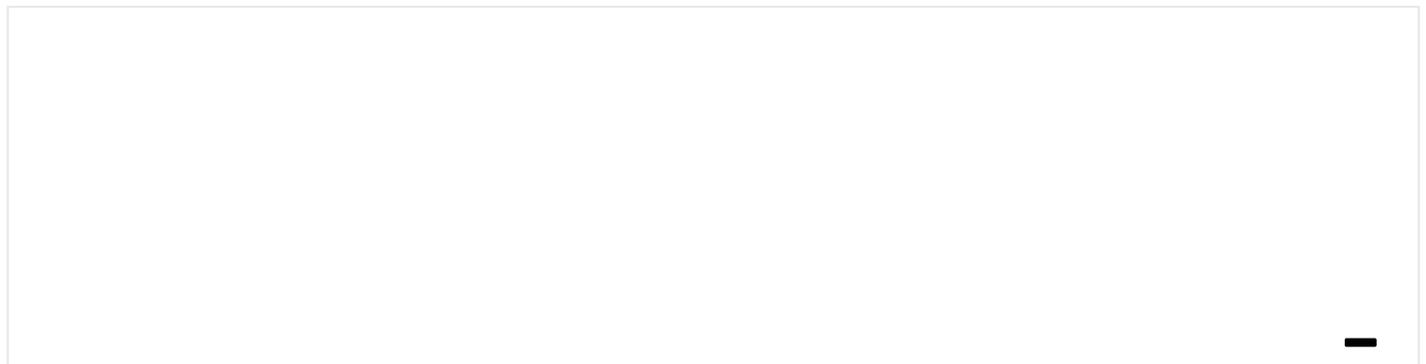
***NICK CORCODILOS***

*Ex-mayor*

*Old Mountain Road*

*Clinton Township*

MORE INFORMATION





**Round Valley rehab project hopes to close Route 629 permanently**

LETTER: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient

(VIDEO) Clinton Township updates housing deals, eases land use applications

(VIDEO) Lebanon Borough OKs nearly \$400,000 pumper fire truck bonds

EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

(VIDEO) Clinton Township residents voice concerns over Route 629 closing

UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority cancels public meeting on Route 629 closure on Monday, Aug. 1

LETTER: Re-open County Road 629 as soon as possible

(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents

## Item #6

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/opinion/editorial/editorial-should-629-close/article\\_cc542732-4021-5a89-a6ce-1877787093ad.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/opinion/editorial/editorial-should-629-close/article_cc542732-4021-5a89-a6ce-1877787093ad.html)

### EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

Jul 11, 2022

The word has spread from recent Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough council meetings that the The New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) hopes to close scenic County Route 629 permanently, with access only for pedestrians and bicycles.

That road has been “temporarily” closed since April of 2020 a temporary closure during the Round Valley Dam project on the Round Valley embankments, which was allowed by Hunterdon County Engineering at the request of NJWSA.

The NJWSA said it has had “informal conversations” with the county engineers, the Borough of Lebanon, and Clinton Township about making the existing temporary closure of County Road 629 permanent, and have asked the mayors of Lebanon Borough and Clinton Township to support the idea before NJWSA requests the closure formally from the county.

But as the word has leaked to the general public from meeting stories about Clinton Township Council and Lebanon Borough Council in this newspaper, the general public has already started to mount a defense.

Let’s just say nobody seems to be very thrilled about the idea. To be honest, neither are we.

That particular drive is one of the most spectacular views in the county, with a scenic panorama of the Round Valley Reservoir in all its glory.

The water authority claims the purpose of the proposed closure is to improve dam safety, and security. It says failure of any of the three Round Valley dams would have a catastrophic impact on downstream residents and water supply to more than one million people in central New Jersey.

But, the reservoir has been there since the 1960s with no major problems or even close calls, at least none that have been made public.

We think the NJWSA has the responsibility of putting together all the salient facts to support its claims, come to those local meetings in person to explain their thinking, and really let the residents get to know what is really at stake here, why, and to prove it. Residents have already started to their feelings in letters to the editor to the **Hunterdon Review**, as you can read on this page.

Clinton Township's ex-mayor Nick Corcodilos, who, with residents, fought a battle about a dozen years back to keep 1,000 Pulte Homes off Windy Acres, which is now a lovely open space property.

He asked how, while the county is spending tax dollars on an "eco-tourism" initiative, does it make any sense to close the most stunning, drive through nature in Hunterdon County.

Corcodilos asked the NJWSA directly to provide a formal assessment and position statement from U.S. Homeland Security, or other relevant authority, about the alleged new security risks.

He also said NJWSA should provide an assessment and recommendations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the risk of damage to the dam from truck traffic on this road.

He said local government is "passing the buck," and "the only backstop is public outrage — and the only solution is public comment."

Another letter Old Mountain Road resident Robert Quinlan, agrees with Corcodilos that while the temporary closure is inconvenient, a permanent closure will be much more.

He recommends, as do we, that Clinton Township residents attend the next public meeting of the Clinton Township Council at 7 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, July 13, at the Public Safety Building at 1370 Route 31 North in Annandale, or at least send an e-mail to Mayor Brian Mullay at [bmullay@clintontwpnj.org](mailto:bmullay@clintontwpnj.org).

Lebanon and Readington residents might just get ready to do the same locally. It's only a matter of time.

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE 

## Security concerns could close part of a road around this popular N.J. recreation spot

Updated: Jul. 18, 2022, 9:01 a.m. | Published: Jul. 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.



A fall file photo from 2020 shows fall colors at the Round Valley Reservoir in Clinton Township. The water supply

authority that runs the reservoir wants to close part of Route 629 in Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough because of security concerns about an earthen dam the road crosses. Ed Murray | NJ Advance Media for

By [Larry Higgs | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

A winding, scenic part of Route 629 that parallels the shoreline of the Round Valley Reservoir in Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough and crosses a dam could be closed to vehicles, but remain open to pedestrians and cyclists if [a New Jersey Water Supply Authority's request](#) is approved.

The authority made the request to two municipalities to support of the concept, which the Hunterdon County commissioners have the final decision on. Homeland security reasons were cited by the authority for the request to close Route 629 between Cherry Street and Old Mountain Road to just east of the driveway to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's "fish labs," and near a parking lot for a boat ramp.

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But residents are skeptical about the security reasons cited and said closing the road would force them to drive more than a mile out of their way. Residents debated the issue with the Clinton Township Council last month and again on Wednesday.

Mayor Brian Mullan said Clinton Township officials haven't made a decision on if they will endorse the authority's request. Hunterdon County has the final decision because Route 629 is a county road.



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He told residents on Wednesday that the council was not supporting or opposing the request, needing more information from the authority, and that a letter from the township would include residents' concerns. He is also drafting a letter to residents explaining the issue.

"The reason for the request is to improve dam safety (security)," said Marc B. Brooks, Water Supply Authority executive director. "Failure of any of the three Round Valley dams would have catastrophic impacts on downstream residents and water supply to over 1.5 million people in Central New Jersey."

At issue is the Round Valley Dike, which Route 629 crosses, and is the only one of the three dams that permits unrestricted vehicular access. Restricting vehicular access has only been made as an "informal proposal," he said. It is the only earthen dam in the state with a road crossing over it, officials said.

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A site-specific study was performed by the DEP's Bureau of Dam Safety, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which recommended consideration of restricting vehicular access to the dike, Brooks said.

“Due to security concerns, we cannot share the specifics of the study in a public forum,” he said.

Authority officials discussed the idea informally with the Hunterdon County director of public works/engineer, who suggested that the authority make a formal request to the county, with letters of support from Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough as that section of Route 629 passes through both municipalities, Brooks said.

The authority made formal requests to each municipality on June 10, seeking to permanently close that section of Route 629 to vehicular traffic while leaving it open to pedestrians and bicycles, he said.

Route 629 has been temporarily closed for reservoir construction since 2020, and residents who live along it access the road from the Lebanon Borough end, Mullay said. He told residents that additional public hearings about the issue would be held by the county Board of Commissioners.

Residents who spoke at the Clinton council meeting on Wednesday said they were skeptical about the homeland security reasons given by water supply officials, and that closing the road would be inconvenient.

“You don’t understand how frustrated we are on Old Mountain Road,” said resident Mark Blrashedy. “Twice I had to rush my wife to hospital, she couldn’t wait for an ambulance, that was the road I used. If they (the authority) tell you we’re in danger for terrorism, there is nothing a car can do that a boat can’t or a guy with a vial to poison the water.”

Several residents, who identified themselves as retired police officers, questioned why law enforcement isn’t involved if there is a security threat.

“There are so many reasons to keep it open, but the Water Supply Authority isn’t law enforcement,” said Robert Quinlan, who identified himself as a retired police chief.

“There are a number of law enforcement agencies that use it, local police, State Police, state park Rangers, county sheriffs and New Jersey Transit police.”

At a minimum, if there was a specific security threat, Quinlan said he’d like to have a law enforcement agency announce they were investigating it.

“If there were a credible threat, that entire place would be closed, this is pure fear mongering,” said Robert MacNamara, who also identified himself as a retired police officer. “There’s something fishy going on at Round Valley. This homeland security threat isn’t going to fly.”

Another woman asked what the authority would need to do to keep the road open, but improve reservoir security. One Old Mountain Road resident told the council he was in favor of the idea.

“It’s not safe for kids, it had been a commuter cut through to Route 31, out-of-towners speed through on weekends,” said Matt Brino. “There are upsides to converting it to a dedicated pedestrian walkway you might want to consider.”

Making it a pedestrian and bikes only road might require additional approval from the state Department of Transportation.

“If a municipality or county wishes to permanently close a roadway to vehicular traffic, but (have it) remain open to pedestrians and bicyclists, the jurisdictional owner would have to follow the process to get NJDOT approval for a pedestrian mall,” said Stephen Schapiro, a DOT spokesperson.

That process includes passing an ordinance, and forward it to the NJDOT Bureau of Traffic Engineering and follow other state laws regulating creation of a pedestrian mall.

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*Larry Higgs may be reached at [lhiggs@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:lhiggs@njadvancemedia.com).*

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## Item #8

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/western-newjersey/nj-officials-want-to-permanently-close-road-to-protect-the-3-round-valley-dams/article\\_33fd9590-0762-11ed-93ae-cb3ce1ec6cfc.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/western-newjersey/nj-officials-want-to-permanently-close-road-to-protect-the-3-round-valley-dams/article_33fd9590-0762-11ed-93ae-cb3ce1ec6cfc.html)

### NJ officials want to permanently close road to protect the 3 Round Valley dams

69 News

Jul 18, 2022



CLINTON TWP., Pa. - A road closure in part of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, could become permanent in order to protect a series of dams.

County Road 629 in Clinton Township has been closed for more than two years at **Round Valley** park, from Cherry Street and Old Mountain Road to the boat ramp parking lot.

Authorities want to make the closure permanent, because of concerns about "bad actors" posing a "very serious threat" to three earthen dams, according to the **Clinton Township website**.

## Local Trending News

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The website did not elaborate on the threat.

Officials said they are concerned about dam safety, because if any of the dams fail, there would be "catastrophic" impacts to water supply in central New Jersey.

If officials get their way, 629 would only be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

# Security concerns prompt possible road closure around Round Valley Reservoir

**Mike Deak**

MyCentralJersey.com

[View Comments](#)

0:32

1:44

CLINTON TOWNSHIP – The New Jersey Water Supply Authority, which operates Round Valley Reservoir, intends to ask the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners to permanently close a road around the reservoir because of security concerns.

But the issue has unleashed a torrent of opposition by neighbors, who not only say the closure would be an inconvenience but also doubt the authority's concerns about security.

"If there has been a threat to security," Old Mountain Road resident Pete Geiger asked at the Township Council's July 13 meeting, "how come it has been open?"

For more than an hour on July 13, neighborhood residents told the council that they oppose the plan to close County Road 629 south of the intersection with Old Mountain Road.

"Something fishy is going on," said Stanton Mountain Road resident Robert McInernery. "This homeland security BS is not going to fly."



He added that the authority is "fear mongering."

"If it's a significant threat, don't you think we should be prepared?" said Willow Brook Lane resident John Papa. "I love that road."

**Also see:** [Scuba divers working underwater in Round Valley Reservoir project](#)

"There are so many reasons to keep that road open," said Mountain Road resident Robert Quinlan, a retired police chief. "I haven't heard any valid reason to close it."

The road has been closed since April 2020 during the refurbishment of the reservoir's dam system. The road, known as Cherry Street in Lebanon Borough, approaches the reservoir through a one-lane underpass under NJ Transit's Raritan Valley Line, then circles around the crest of state's largest reservoir in one of Central Jersey's most scenic drives on top of one of the dams.

The authority, in a statement provided to the township, said though specific details cannot be shared, "a very serious threat to earthen dams by bad actors would be facilitated by vehicular access to the structure."

If the dam fails, the authority said, it "would have catastrophic impacts on downstream residents and water supply to over one million people in central New Jersey."

Round Valley and Spruce Run reservoirs provide water through the Raritan River to New Jersey American Water's pumping stations in Bridgewater and Franklin.

The authority has asked Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough to provide letters of support for the proposal.

But Mayor Brian Mullaney said that the township has decided not to write a letter until the authority provides more information.

Mullaney acknowledged that the permanent closure of the road would be a "huge inconvenience," especially for those residents on Old Mountain Road who use the road to get to Route 31 and Hunterdon Medical Center in Raritan Township.

The mayor told residents that this is "the beginning of a long process" and the final decision will be made by the county commissioners.

The authority has not yet made a formal request to the county for the permanent closure of the road.

The authority said the road would remain open only to pedestrians and bicyclists. Keys to the gates would be provided to Clinton Township, Lebanon Borough and Hunterdon County emergency responders, the authority said.

The authority also said that it has received "verbal support" for the plan from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Dam Safety.

Thomas McCaffrey, chairman of the township's Zoning Board of Adjustment, agreed with the mayor that the township needs more information before deciding to support the plan.

"It's way too early," he said.

*Email: [mdeak@mycentraljersey.com](mailto:mdeak@mycentraljersey.com)*

*Mike Deak is a reporter for [mycentraljersey.com](http://mycentraljersey.com). To get unlimited access to his articles on Somerset and Hunterdon counties, please subscribe or activate your digital account today*

## Item #10

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/letter-route-629-closure-an-unnecessary-abuse-on-local-community/article\\_f4bd574e-85c6-5efc-b311-521212eccddd.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-route-629-closure-an-unnecessary-abuse-on-local-community/article_f4bd574e-85c6-5efc-b311-521212eccddd.html)

# LETTER: Route 629 closure an unnecessary abuse on local community

Jul 25, 2022

TO THE EDITOR: As the owner of Lebanon Cheese, I was very grateful to the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) for including me in information and feedback regarding the temporary closure of the access road during repairs to the dam during its planning stages.

They seemed to earnestly care about the impact upon the community and local businesses, and interested in making accommodations during the “temporary” inconvenience. This no longer seems to be true. It is only through local social media that I discovered that a permanent closure of the access road is being contemplated or has been decided.

For decades, I have encouraged my commercial drivers and the drivers of my suppliers to utilize this road. I didn't think it was courteous to borough residents to have them unnecessarily endure commercial traffic and noises through the borough when a viable alternative existed. I expressed this concern with the NJWSA representatives at the time, and was assured this would only be a temporary closure and inconvenience.

In addition to the issue presented above, forcing us to detour around the access road to Flemington and southbound destinations has added an approximately eight additional miles per trip for each of my vehicles headed in that direction, which is our most common route. We have on average at least five to 10 trips per day on that route, which equates to well over 1,500 to 3,000 gallons of wasted fuel and more than \$7,500 - \$15,000 per year wasted expense as basically an unnecessary tax upon our business.

In these times, when small businesses like ours are struggling to keep going, that expense makes a huge difference. Please inform the powers that be that a decision to not reopen this access road as promptly as possible is an unnecessary abuse upon the local community, taxpayers, and businesses, and to exclude them from this process is inexcusable.

**JOSEPH LOTITO**

*Railroad Avenue*

*Lebanon*

**MORE INFORMATION**



(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents

## Item #11

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/news/update-nj-water-supply-authority-cancels-public-meeting-on-route-629-closure-on-monday-aug/article\\_1df1123a-41bc-5ca3-aede-e18515e67cb6.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/news/update-nj-water-supply-authority-cancels-public-meeting-on-route-629-closure-on-monday-aug/article_1df1123a-41bc-5ca3-aede-e18515e67cb6.html)

BREAKING

### UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority cancels public meeting on Route 629 closure on Monday, Aug. 1

Jul 25, 2022



The New Jersey Water Supply Authority Board will have an open public meeting regarding Route 629 at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1 at 2 p.m., in its building located near Spruce Run Reservoir off Route 31 next to Riley & Jake's Restaurant.

Photo by Robert Quinlan

**CLINTON TWP.** – A previously announced meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) regarding the possible closure of County Road 629 scheduled for 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1. has been canceled, according to a statement by the authority.

Recent council meetings in both Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough have seen many negative comments about the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's proposal to close the scenic County Road 629 around the Round Valley Reservoir.

The meeting was to have taken place at the authority's building located near Spruce Run Reservoir off Route 31 next to Riley & Jake's Restaurant or via teleconference.

#### MORE INFORMATION



(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents

(VIDEO) Clinton Township residents voice concerns over Route 629 closing

EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

LETTER: Why I don't support closing Route 629

Round Valley rehab project hopes to close Route 629 permanently

LETTER: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient

## Item #12

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/letter-re-open-county-road-629-as-soon-as-possible/article\\_58ef8ce2-eaca-5369-9234-7cb5b8f5d7a4.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-re-open-county-road-629-as-soon-as-possible/article_58ef8ce2-eaca-5369-9234-7cb5b8f5d7a4.html)

# LETTER: Re-open County Road 629 as soon as possible

Jul 25, 2022

TO THE EDITOR: This is in reference to the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's initiative to permanently close the section of County Route 629 that borders Round Valley Reservoir. Like most area residents, I'm strongly opposed to this idea.

Instead of permanently closing this scenic county road, I believe it should be reopened as soon as possible. It's been closed for almost three years for "repairs" and this has adversely affected the quality of life for many residents of the area.

I recently had the opportunity to fly over the reservoir and observe the roadway, which appears to be in excellent condition and safe for vehicular traffic. I made this observation on a weekday, during regular business hours. I noted very little construction activity and no trucks or heavy equipment on the roadway.

Based on my recent observations, it appears that the roadway is now closed for convenience and perhaps traffic safety at one or two points where trucks may need to cross it. Admittedly, my aerial observation was very brief; I don't suggest that construction workers and equipment doesn't use or cross the roadway during their regular working hours.

Traffic safety is a valid concern but it can surely be accomplished without the continued closure of the roadway. Instead of paying security guards to sit near the gates that block public access to the road, why not use the funds to post traffic officers (or flagmen) at the few points where trucks need to cross it?

To continue the 24/7 closure of Route 629 while construction appears to be crawling at a snail's pace during business hours is unduly burdensome on the public. There appears to be no valid reason to keep the road closed around the clock any longer.

In my opinion, the Water Supply Authority's supposed concern for security (their primary argument to permanently close the road) is bogus. For them to suggest - 21 years after 9/11 - that security is suddenly their major concern is insulting.

Incidentally, during my recent flight over the area I observed boaters and kayakers very near the two towers and dikes on both sides of the reservoir. There've been signs in those areas for years, warning boaters to "keep back 200 feet." If the Water Supply Authority is genuinely concerned about security (as they assert), I don't believe boaters would be permitted within the restricted zones - or anywhere else on the reservoir for that matter.

To my knowledge and based on my research to date, there's never been a dam physically attacked in the United States. With all the other prominent, potential targets in 50 states, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority would like us to believe that some hypothetical "bad actors" will be coming after Round Valley! This is nothing short of fear-mongering.

So why do they want to see Route 629 permanently closed where it borders Round Valley? I believe we're dealing with state bureaucrats who don't appreciate how beautiful that roadway is, nor do they understand how important it is for residents of the area who've used it for 60 years. Through various taxes, many of those residents funded the construction of the reservoir as well as years of maintenance to the roadway. Now the Water Supply wants to take it forever.

While some of us may have the ability to enjoy the reservoir from a boat or view it from an airplane, most residents have only been able to behold its beauty from the roadway that borders a small section of it. If the Water Authority has its way, the reservoir may never again be visible to the majority of residents and visitors to the area.

I hope the Hunterdon County Commissioners will hear the voices of their constituents and reject the Water Authority's ludicrous proposal to permanently close this scenic roadway. It's a gem of Hunterdon County and crucial to local travel. Let's get it reopened as soon as possible.

**ROBERT B. QUINLAN**

*Mountain Road*

*Readington Township*

**MORE INFORMATION**



**UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority cancels public meeting on Route 629 closure on Monday, Aug. 1**

(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents

(VIDEO) Clinton Township residents voice concerns over Route 629 closing

EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

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Round Valley rehab project hopes to close Route 629 permanently

LETTER: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient

## Item #13

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/news/update-nj-water-supply-authority-explains-route-629-meeting-cancellation/article\\_1df1123a-41bc-5ca3-aede-e18515e67cb6.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/news/update-nj-water-supply-authority-explains-route-629-meeting-cancellation/article_1df1123a-41bc-5ca3-aede-e18515e67cb6.html)

BREAKING

# UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority explains Route 629 meeting cancellation

Jul 28, 2022



The New Jersey Water Supply Authority Board will have an open public meeting regarding Route 629 at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1 at 2 p.m., in its building located near Spruce Run Reservoir off Route 31 next to Riley & Jake's Restaurant.

Photo by Robert Quinlan

**CLINTON TWP.** - A previously announced meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) regarding the possible closure of County Road 629 scheduled for 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1. has been canceled, according to a statement by the authority.

Recent council meetings in both Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough have seen many negative comments about the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's proposal to close the scene County Road 629 around the Round Valley Reservoir.

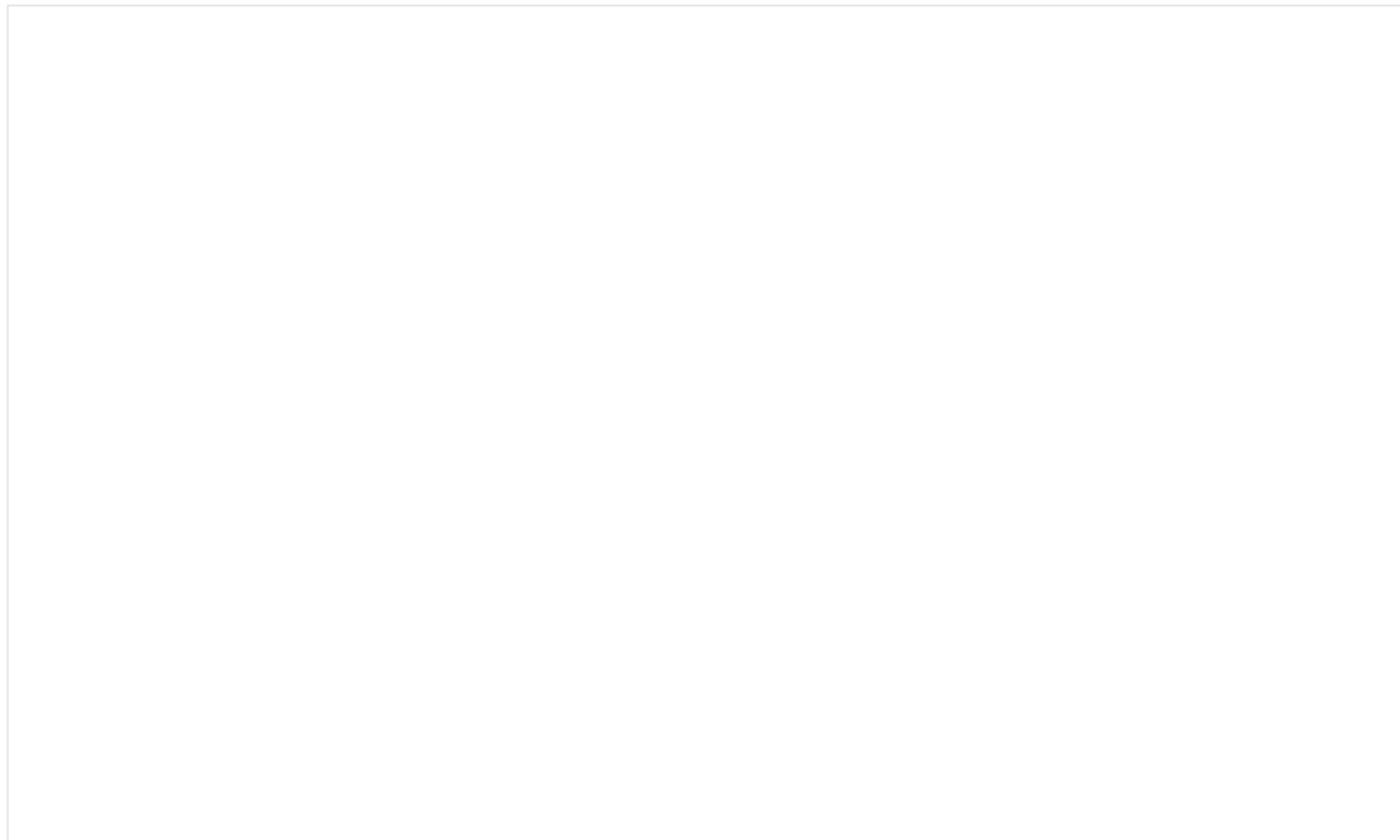
The meeting was to have taken place at the authority's building located near Spruce Run Reservoir off Route 31 next to Riley & Jake's Restaurant or via teleconference.

"The Aug. 1 board meeting has been cancelled," said Marc Brooks, executive director, of the NJWSA. "It is not unusual for the NJWSA to cancel its board meeting in months where there are no formal resolutions critical to authority operations that require board vote."

"This was the case in August especially given the late date of the prior board meeting which was held on July 11. It was on July 11 because the July 4 holiday was on a Monday this year. Our board meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. Any proposal and/or resolution regarding the potential permanent closure of CR 629 will be addressed at a future board meeting."

*For news of future NJWSA meetings, visit <https://www.njwsa.org/authority-meetings.html>.*

#### MORE INFORMATION





**(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents**

(VIDEO) Clinton Township residents voice concerns over Route 629 closing

EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

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LETTER: Re-open County Road 629 as soon as possible

Clinton Township mayor responds to N.J. Water Supply Authority about Route 629 closure request

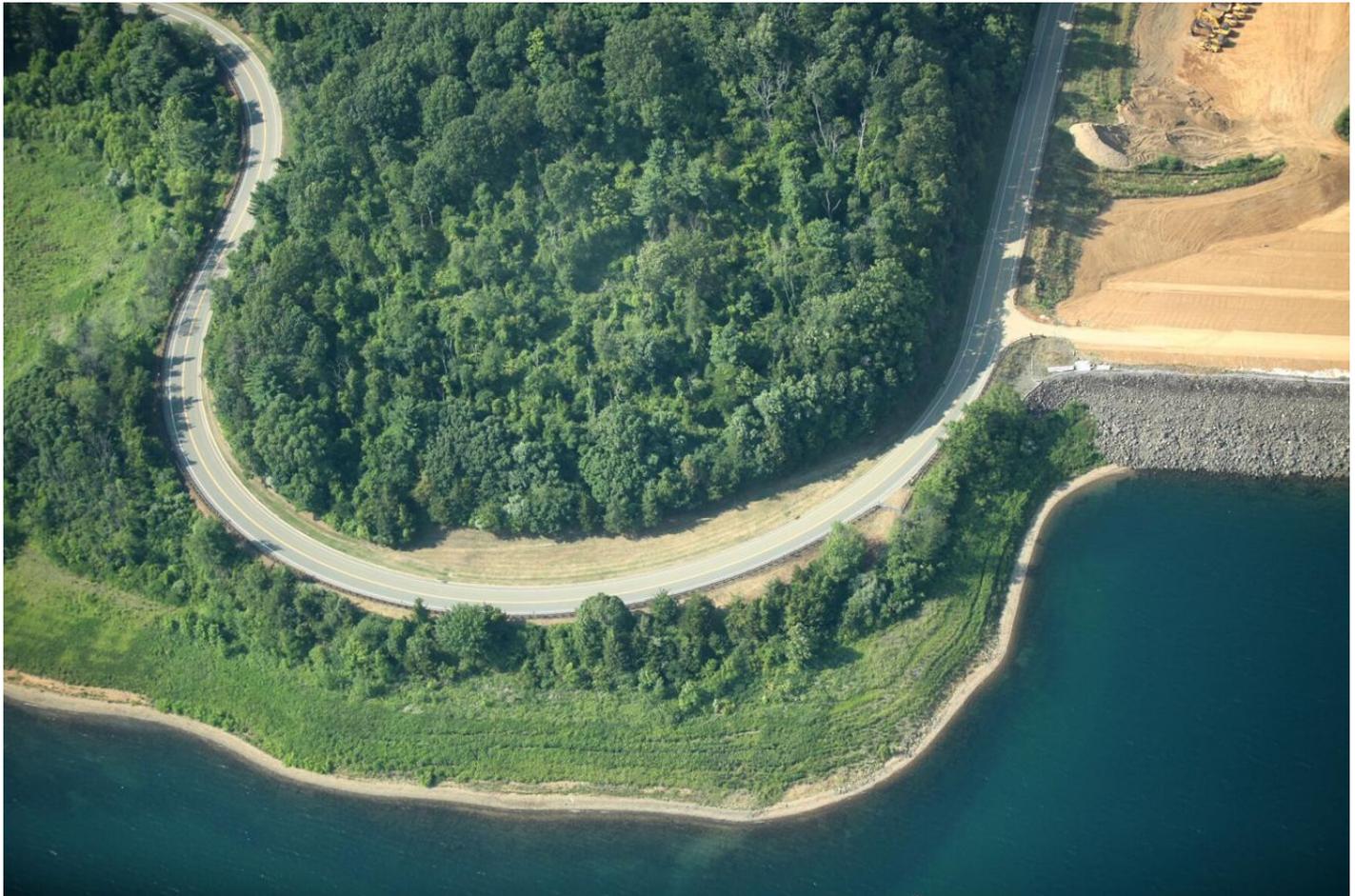
## Item #14

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/news/clinton-township-mayor-responds-to-n-j-water-supply-authority-about-route-629-closure-request/article\\_f10e3907-26f4-5994-bec4-6c6cadad69f4.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/news/clinton-township-mayor-responds-to-n-j-water-supply-authority-about-route-629-closure-request/article_f10e3907-26f4-5994-bec4-6c6cadad69f4.html)

TOP STORY

# Clinton Township mayor responds to N.J. Water Supply Authority about Route 629 closure request

Aug 1, 2022



Shown is an aerial view of County Road 629 around Round Valley Reservoir.

Photo by Robert Quinlan

**CLINTON TWP.** – A brief comment by Mayor Brian Mully at the Township Council's Wednesday, June 22 meeting about the potential closing of scenic County Route 629 near Round Valley Reservoir and Recreation Area opened a hornets nest of public reaction in local press and social media that drew many residents to oppose the closure at the council's July 13 meeting.

At the June 22 meeting, the council discussed the potential closure of Route 629 after New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJSWA) had asked both Clinton Township and Lebanon Borough to weigh in and support

the proposal, which is officially a county decision. The proposal calls for the road to most likely still be open for pedestrian walking and biking, but not motor vehicles. It has already been closed to vehicular traffic during construction since April 2020.

Mayor Brian Mullay suggested writing a letter to the NJWSA stating that the council understands the closure, and while it would be an inconvenience, it is ultimately a county decision.

Here is Mayor Mullay's letter to Marc Brooks, executive director, of the NJWSA.

### ***The Letter***

"The township received your June 10, 2022 request for a letter of support in advance of your formal request to the County of Hunterdon for permanent closure of a portion of County Route 629. At this point, the Township Council does not have sufficient information to take a formal position either supporting or opposing your request.

"This request was discussed publicly at two separate Council meetings on June 22 and July 13, 2022. The second meeting drew a crowd of approximately 60 interested residents, predominantly from the area of Old Mountain Road. The public sentiment was almost unanimously opposed to the road closure. The public asked a number of appropriate questions to which neither I, nor the Council, had adequate answers. In the absence of relevant information, the Council was not comfortable making a recommendation on the proposed permanent closure.

"As you will be able to tell from the audio of the July 13th meeting, which was forwarded separately, most of the residents sought additional details on the proposal. Our suggestion is that the Water Authority and the County of Hunterdon review the audio from that meeting to get a sense of the residents' concerns and subsequently schedule a well-advertised public hearing to review the proposal in greater detail. It would be beneficial to have representatives from the relevant agencies present at the public meeting, in addition to representatives from the County and Authority. We believe it would also be helpful to the public to have written materials to review in advance of any public hearing."

Mullay then listed topics about which township residents had questions and that the mayor felt should be addressed in a public forum. Among them are:

- Detailed description of exactly what change is being proposed.
- Exact locations where barriers would be erected.

- How pedestrian and bicycle traffic would be granted access, including adequate parking.
- Details from any traffic studies regarding impacts to nearby roads.
- Any other options that were considered, e.g., prohibiting truck traffic, but still permitting passenger cars.
- To the extent permissible, describe the risks this closure intends to address.
- Review the identity and credentials of the organization that completed the risk assessment.
- Describe what a dike failure would look like.
- Review any quantitative estimates of the likelihood of various risk scenarios.
- Review the extent to which the closure reduces the risk. e.g., reduces the risk by 95 percent
- Describe any other benefits from the proposal, e.g., cost reduction, extended dike life, reduced traffic volume on local roads, etc.
- Review the negative impacts of a road closure to nearby residents.
- Number of people likely to be impacted.
- Estimate of how many vehicle trips would have been taken over the road if it were not closed and how that volume is projected to grow over time.
- Makeup of the traffic – commercial vs personal vs other.
- An estimate of the average additional driving time by taking alternate routes versus 629. e.g., if driving from Old Mountain Road to Hunterdon Medical Center

Mayor Mullay concluded by saying that "Clinton Township is willing to help facilitate a public hearing at the appropriate time, as we expect most of the concerned public will be residents of the Township as well as Lebanon Borough.

*The next Clinton Township Council meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at the Public Safety Building, at the Public Safety Building at 1370 State Route 31 North in Annandale.*

## MORE INFORMATION



**Round Valley rehab project hopes to close Route 629 permanently**

UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority explains Route 629 meeting cancellation

(VIDEO) Clinton Township updates housing deals, eases land use applications

LETTER: Re-open County Road 629 as soon as possible

(VIDEO) Lebanon Council gets earful from Route 629 closure opponents

(VIDEO) Clinton Township residents voice concerns over Route 629 closing

EDITORIAL: Should 629 close?

LETTER: Route 629 closure an unnecessary abuse on local community

LETTER: Why I don't support closing Route 629

LETTER: Closing scenic route 629 is more than inconvenient

## Item #15

[https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon\\_review/news/route-629-closure-proposal-stalls/article\\_85d483b5-5428-5f19-8305-46b00af9cd51.html](https://www.newjerseyhills.com/hunterdon_review/news/route-629-closure-proposal-stalls/article_85d483b5-5428-5f19-8305-46b00af9cd51.html)

TOP STORY

# Route 629 closure proposal stalls

By WALTER O'BRIEN Editor  
Aug 8, 2022



The New Jersey Water Supply Authority has paused its interest in closing County Route 629 to vehicular traffic while it

After hearing a groundswell of opposition from residents in Clinton Township, Lebanon Borough and beyond, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority has paused its interest in closing County Route 629 to vehicular traffic while it updates studies about security risks to the reservoir and its dams.

Public meetings in both Lebanon Borough and Clinton township have seen strong opposition to the NJWSA's request to find support from those towns for its proposal to close Route 629 to all but bicycle and pedestrian traffic, citing, among other things, risk to security that could conceivably cause damage to the earthen dams and potential "catastrophic" flooding, according to the NJWSA.

County Road 629 has been closed since December 2019, from the corner of Cherry Street and Old Mountain Road to just east of the driveway to the NJDEP fish labs east of the parking lot access to the Round Valley Fish and Wildlife Boat Ramp. This was originally proposed as a temporary closure during the construction project on the Round Valley embankments and was authorized by the Hunterdon County Engineering Department at the request of the NJWSA.

According to the NJSWA in the latest project update from Wednesday, Aug. 3, it "has had informal conversations with the Hunterdon County Engineering Department, the Borough of Lebanon, and Clinton Township about making the existing temporary closure of County Road 629 permanent.

"Following the informal discussions, a request for support of the permanent closure was made to the mayors of Lebanon Borough and Clinton Township in advance of a formal request to Hunterdon County. If the closure is approved, the authority intends, after all construction is complete, to continue to allow public access on the road for pedestrians and bicycles only.

"Vehicular access would be provided to the emergency staff of Lebanon Borough, Clinton Township, and Hunterdon County, as well as to other appropriate law enforcement agencies, similar to the access that has already been provided to these groups for other authority-owned secure areas at Round Valley and Spruce Run.

"The purpose of this proposed change is to increase the safety of residents downstream and the security of their water supply by protecting the earthen dam under County Route 629 from acts of sabotage or terrorism which could be facilitated by vehicular access to the structure. The authority has demonstrated its commitment to dam safety by undertaking the current large-scale construction project at Round Valley Reservoir. In a site-specific and confidential study conducted by the Department of Homeland Security and Army Corps of Engineers and sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Dam Safety, implementation of access control and vehicular barriers to the Round Valley earthen embankments was recommended for consideration."

According to the NJWSA and that study, failure of any of the three Round Valley dams would have "catastrophic impacts on downstream residents and on water supply for more than 1.5 million people in central New Jersey." The Round Valley Dike is the only one of the three embankments at Round Valley with unrestricted vehicular access to the crest.

Lebanon Mayor James Pittinger, at that borough's council meeting on Wednesday, July 20, said the council will not take a stance on the road closure at this time, feeling that themselves and the public deserve more information before they can confer amongst themselves and formulate an opinion.

Clinton Township Mayor Brian Mullay wrote a letter to the NJWSA stating that before he and the township would consider any letter of support, the NJWSA needs to provide substantial new information, including complete details of the and reasons for it, traffic studies of nearby roads, other options considered, the risks this closure would address, negative impacts to residents, and any benefits the closure might have.

The NJWSA responded that it is not aware of any imminent credible threat to the Round Valley Reservoir embankments or dams and that the ongoing large-scale construction at the Round Valley embankments was the result of a "holistic review of the structural and functional health of the structures, performed by a team of internationally recognized embankment experts to ensure the integrity of the dams and extend the operating life of the reservoir."

It also states that the NJWSA has made no request for temporary or permanent closure of any public roads at the Round Valley South Dam, and that the land under County Road 629 is owned by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority but Hunterdon County maintains a right-of-way.

"For the road to be permanently closed, approval is required from the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners. The authority understands that any such county approval would take place at a public meeting. The authority has not yet made a formal request to the county to permanently close the road. While the specifics of the security concerns cannot be shared publicly, the authority is committed to sharing all information required for decision-making with the appropriate members of Hunterdon County staff or commissioners."

### ***On Pause***

"At this point, no further action on the proposed road closure request to the county will proceed until an updated study has been completed and reviewed," the NJWSA stated.

The NJWSA's Capital Projects Committee has requested that the authority obtain an update to the above-noted dam safety study. Staff have begun discussions with the NJDEP, New Jersey State Police, Homeland Security, and the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain such an update.

If following receipt and review of the updated study, the NJWSA determines that closure of the road is warranted to eliminate an unacceptable risk to public health and safety, the matter will be presented at a regular, public NJWSA meeting for the its consideration of a resolution

authorizing the executive director to make a formal request to the county to vacate the right-of-way to the road. At that time, public comment will be allowed either in person or remotely.

"The authority's Board of Commissioners would only approve or reject a resolution that would permit the formal request to be made to Hunterdon County to permanently close the road," the NJWSA statement stated.

*For NJWSA meeting schedules, agendas, and connection information for remote access, visit <https://www.njwsa.org/authority-meetings.html>.*



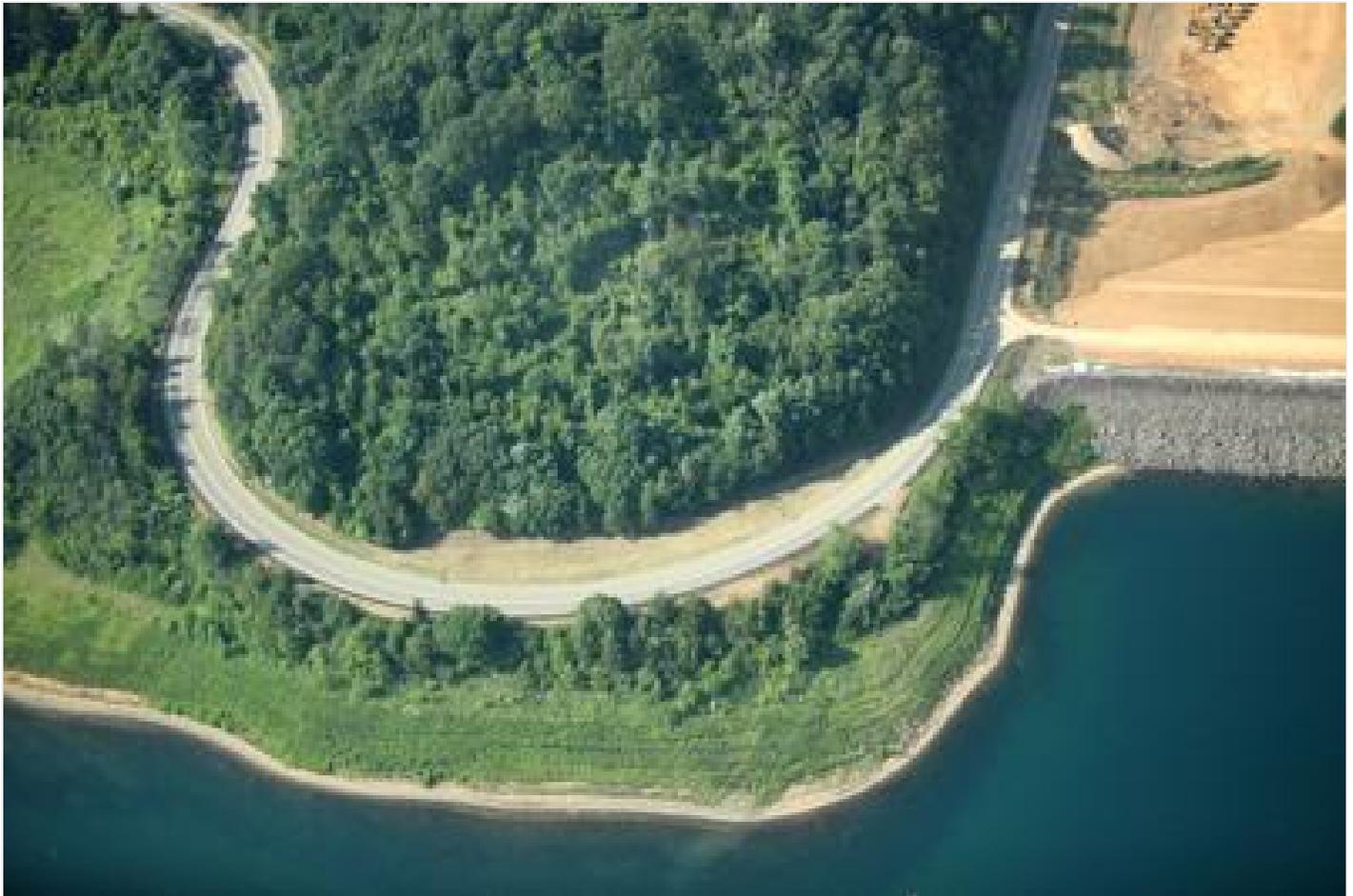
**NJ-Water-Supply-Authority-Letter-072122.pdf (897.48 KiB)**  
5 hrs ago



**ROUND VALLEY RESERVOIR UPDATE 080322**  
5 hrs ago

"At this point, no further action on the proposed road closure request to the county will proceed until an updated study has been completed and reviewed," the NJWSA stated.

#### MORE INFORMATION



**Clinton Township mayor responds to N.J. Water Supply Authority about Route 629 closure request**

Residents address county commissioners about potential Route 629 closure

UPDATE: NJ Water Supply Authority explains Route 629 meeting cancellation

Hunterdon County farmers' market summer round up

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