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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2023

MAYOR TOMPKINS DIRECTS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO START REFILLING TOWNSHIP LAKES ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 1, 2023

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP, DECEMBER 1, 2023: At the direction of Mayor Jack Tompkins, the Township's Department of Public Works applied for, and received Lake Lowering Permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the following lakes:

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|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Big Pine Lake | (Permit #23-112) | 5. Mirror Lake | (Permit #23-116) |
| 2. Colony Lake | (Permit #23-113) | 6. Spring Lake | (Permit #23-117) |
| 3. Little Pine Lake | (Permit #23-114) | 7. Washington Lake | (Permit #23-118) |
| 4. Long lake | (Permit #23-115) | | |

The Department of Public Works began lake lowering activities on Monday, October 30, 2023. Weir Gates or Sluice Gates located on the respective dams were incrementally opened over the course of a two-week period to lower lake surface waters in a controlled fashion. Lake surface waters were released to permit-approved depths of not more than three feet in each lake, measured from the crest of the spillway, and have remained lowered from November 15, 2023 to December 1, 2023, with the purpose of assisting with invasive vegetation and weed control within our lake systems.

With the lakes lowered to permitted levels by November 15th, the freeze of invasive vegetation and weeds within the lakes began. Overnight temperatures between November 15th and November 30th were at or below freezing for twelve of the fifteen nights, causing a die off of unwanted vegetation in and around our lake shorelines. With twelve nights of temperatures at or below freezing, our vegetation and weed control program has met its goals for 2023, and as a result, Mayor Tompkins has directed the Department of Public Works to start the refilling process in each lake. The Department of Public Works made the required notification to the NJDEP of our intent to start the refilling process, and Public Works staff were assigned today to start incrementally closing the water control gates at each dam. Over the coming days, department staff will monitor lake and flow levels, continue to incrementally close gates, and maintain strict compliance to permit conditions during the refilling process. All lakes are expected to be back to normal surface water levels by Friday, December 8, 2023.