



Bear Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project

Update

March 13, 2008

Chuck Bach
River Operations



Bear Creek project location





Action plan

- Ensure the safety of the dam
- Complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives for a long-term solution to leakage problem (August 2007)
- Implement EIS preferred alternative (September 2007)

Preferred alternative: benefits

- Retains intended benefits of flood protection, water supply, recreation, and economic development
- Provides protection from probable maximum flood
- Stable if karst leak reappears
- Allows water releases to be managed to:
 - Ensure appropriate seasonal minimum flows to support aquatic resources (including federally threatened or endangered species)
 - Minimize the effects of high-flow velocities downstream of the dam

TVA Bear Creek Dam (preconstruction)



Rendering of Bear Creek Dam after concrete berm is in place





Construction timeline

- 2007:
 - September: site mobilization
 - October: begin excavation
- 2008:
 - January: begin dewatering system installation
 - February: completion of sluice channel bridge; foundation treatment begins
 - November: construction of concrete berm
- 2009:
 - June: project completion

Phase 1 excavation



Major rock feature in Phase 1



Bottom of major feature



Rock surface preparation



Dental concrete placed in first feature





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www.tva.gov/river/bearcreek.htm

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January 2008

Since its completion in 1969, the earthen Bear Creek Dam has experienced foundation leaks. Previous efforts to control leaks have been ineffective over the long term.

Following periods of heavy rainfall, the reservoir level can rise, and increase the risk of dam failure. To reduce this risk, TVA prepared an Environmental Impact statement to evaluate alternatives for a long-term solution. After thorough study, public involvement, and several opportunities to provide comment, TVA signed a Record of Decision on September 10, 2007 stating it would build a roller compacted concrete structure at the downstream toe of the existing dam along with a water cutoff "wall" under the new structure to block water passage under the dam. Site preparation began in September 2007.



Construction Report Update

Excavation and Grouting:
Currently, work continues in Phase 1 near the spillway and Phase 2 on the right abutment. The construction forces are cleaning, inspecting and mapping the rock surface in Phase 1. The first open feature in the rock has been filled with dental concrete and is level with the surrounding rock surface. The next major feature is being cleaned and mapped.

Timeline

- Public scoping meeting in Red Bay, Alabama, on June 20, 2006. About 150 individuals attended.
- Notice of Intent appeared in the Federal Register on June 2, 2006.
- The Notice of Availability of the draft ES appeared in the Federal Register on June 1, 2007. The public comment period closed July 16, 2007.
- Public comment meeting in Red Bay on June 10, 2007. About 21 people attended and comments were generally supportive of