Lower Baker Dam safety and modernization project

Seepage reduction project mobilization

This letter is to inform the Concrete community of upcoming construction activity at the Lower Baker Dam.

After nearly a decade in permitting and design, PSE will begin work on a safety and modernization project to reduce water seepage through the dam foundation and abutments. This important maintenance work will ensure the continued reliability and structural integrity of the dam for decades to come.

The seepage reduction work will occur in two phases:

- Phase 1: Mobilization. To prepare the site for seepage reduction work, crews will complete mobilization and site prep activities, including building a temporary in-water platform, which will be the primary worksite for crews during construction. Work is expected to begin in mid-January 2022 and take approximately two years to complete.
- Phase 2: Construction. Once mobilization and site prep activities are complete, crews will begin construction. Construction will entail installing a "grout curtain" a series of holes drilled into the bedrock and injected with cementitious grout. Grout holes have been located to target areas that are susceptible to seepage. This process is expected to take approximately two years to complete. We will share more details on what the community can expect during this second phase of work ahead of construction start, anticipated in 2024.

Phase 1: Mobilization details

- What: Mobilizing and staging equipment and crews
- When: Expected to begin in February 2022 and last approximately two years

Work hours are typically Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: The mobilization effort will take place within the quarry along Baker River Road, East of Lake Shannon. Once construction begins in 2024, crews will begin work at the Lower Baker Dam Facility.

What you can expect

- Increased traffic and noise from trucks and heavy machinery
- The boat launch will remain open throughout construction

PSE's commitment to safety

As always, the safety of our customers, employees and service providers remains our top priority. In the field, PSE and service provider crews adhere to all statewide and corporate COVID-19 safety requirements. To ensure safety, our crews continue to maintain social distancing with customers in the field, and we ask our customers to do the same.





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What is seepage?

Seepage is the process of water leaking through the dam, foundation or abutments. While seepage is a typical occurrence with dams, it needs to be controlled to prevent foundation erosion or damage to the concrete structures over time. PSE has regularly managed seepage at Lower Baker Dam since its construction in 1925, using the best technology available at the time.

Contact Us

We understand the inconvenience of construction work and thank you for your patience as we aim to complete our work with as little disruption as possible. If you have questions or concerns about PSE's work at the Lower Baker Dam, please contact me at the contact information below and reference project number 103007361.

For more information regarding our work at the Baker Hydroelectric project, please visit our webpage at pse.com/bakerriver.

Sincerely, John Bickford, Project Manager Puget Sound Energy 1-888-404-8773 | major.projects@pse.com

