



## **ADVANCING EFFORTS TO FIX BUCKEYE LAKE DAM**

Buckeye Lake has long been one of the state's most popular lakes for its recreational value and is vital to economic development and tourism in the region. Earlier this year, Gov. Kasich announced plans to replace the nearly 200-year-old, 4.1-mile earthen dam, after the nation's foremost dam safety experts at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers released an alarming report detailing unacceptable deficiencies in the dam, which could lead to a catastrophic failure putting lives at risk. Based on the U.S. Army Corps' report and to protect the lives of the people downstream, ODNR left the lake at its lower winter pool water level to reduce the pressure that would be put on the dam. At the same time, the agency immediately began working on plans to fix the dam as quickly and safely as possible

**ODNR has been exploring best engineering methods to replace Buckeye Lake Dam:** ODNR engineers and hydrologists have been working to identify a safe, efficient option for replacing the dam and consulting with industry experts across the country, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The concept of constructing a berm, strengthened with multiple cement reinforced columns, is a successful proven technology, which will stabilize the Buckeye Lake Dam long into the future. ODNR believes that strengthening the underlying soil using this soil mixing technique will expedite completion and potentially allow water levels to be raised sooner. With this process, ODNR will be able to put a cement mixture in front of the existing dam, alleviating concerns of water seepage through the dam. This innovative technology has been used successfully both in the U.S. and internationally.

**Construction could begin as early as this year:** Original estimates were that a new dam could cost \$150 million, but this technology has the potential for achieving considerable cost savings. Thanks to \$25 million in funding through the newly signed state budget, Ohio now has funding in place to start construction once formal plans have been developed. This funding will enable ODNR to quickly secure a construction manager and not waste any time in beginning construction. Pending approval from the state's Controlling Board, construction could start by the end of this year.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The Kasich Administration has made it a priority to keep Buckeye Lake residents safe and replace Buckeye Lake Dam as quickly as possible, while pursuing the best design method that will serve the lake and protect those downstream for the next century.

