



**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PORTAGE LAKES STATE PARK – EAST RESERVOIR
DAM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Q & A**

Q. What is the scope of dam rehabilitation at East Reservoir?

A. ODNR is contracted with Tetra Tech to provide investigations, preliminary design and final design alternatives. Their investigations of the dam structure at East Reservoir began in 2013; subsequent investigations revealed various deficiencies that require rehabilitation and improvement. Final design was completed in June, 2017 and included risk reduction measures intended to bring the dam and its appurtenances into compliance with the state's dam safety standards and industry best management practices.

Q. Where specifically will the dam improvements occur?

A. The dam includes three separate earthen embankment sections measuring a combined distance of approximately 1,400 feet. The spillway presently has a severe discharge capacity deficiency that is well below dam safety requirements. The proposed work will occur along the entire length of the dam and include the deteriorated spillway and lake drain structures and other dam appurtenances. The site location is roughly adjacent to Portage Lakes Drive between South Turkeyfoot and North Turkeyfoot Roads.

Q. Will water levels be lowered to complete this project?

A. Normal lake operations should not be impacted during construction. ODNR will temporarily lower the lake level approximately 15 inches below normal pool levels, beginning mid-October, in East, West, Turkeyfoot and North reservoirs. This will allow residents along the affected areas to work on their seawalls and docks. The biannual fall drawdown occurs in odd-number years (e.g. 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019) under direction of Ohio State Parks as a temporary water management action to assist community residents in their opportunity to repair personal property. These reservoir water levels will be returned to normal levels in late November. A public announcement by ODNR of this routine fall drawdown will be made in early fall. Please note, however, that water levels in the Portage Lakes system may be lowered at any time, as needed, to meet dam safety needs.

Q. What is the dam construction project timeline?

A. Late Summer, 2017 through Spring, 2019.

Q. What are the construction work hours?

A. The primary schedule is 7 a.m. to 7 pm Monday-Friday, which also was the schedule preferred by most residents and boaters who responded to an April 20 communications and construction survey. There will be acceptations due to weather and safety considerations. ODNR's overall goal remains to minimize impacts to area residents and other project stakeholders and to communicate the schedule changes promptly.

Q. Will construction be noisy?

A. Yes. The deep soil mixing equipment is loud, but equipment operations will not stay in one place for more than a few days. ODNR will provide more detail on when noise is expected to affect specific areas as more information becomes available.

Q. What impact will there be on local roadways and traffic flow?

A. There will be some temporary impacts to local traffic as heavy construction equipment is moved into and around the construction site. Additionally, there is some construction required on Portage Lakes Drive that will require a temporary and minor traffic detour. At least one lane in each direction will be maintained at all times with just one or two temporary exceptions when that phase of construction work occurs.

Q. What impact will there be on area businesses?

A. ODNR's goal is to minimize impacts on area residents, visitors and businesses as well as lake operations.

Q. Some docks will be affected by construction. Will ODNR be providing new docks?

A. The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft currently issues dock permits for more than 1,100 privately-owned docks throughout the Portage Lakes State Park. While recognizing the continued interest in securing recreational boat dockage each season, ODNR is not currently planning to increase the number of annual dock permits issued or building any new state-owned docks. We will continue to evaluate how we can assist the affected boating constituents as the East Reservoir Dam project moves forward.

Q. Is dredging included in the project scope?

A. No.

Q. Will a canalway, or other form of water trail, be built to link East Reservoir with the other lakes in the area as part of the East Reservoir dam rehabilitation project?

A. No. The project scope and funding are focused on dam rehabilitation and improvements that will make the dam structure and its appurtenances compliant with dam safety requirements and to keep residents safe. ODNR will consider any potential additional improvements that are not related to the dam after completion of the current dam improvements project.

Q. Are there areas of the project that will allow local communities to make additional improvements that do not include dam rehabilitation?

A. Recreational features like shared-use paths are not included in this dam improvements project. However, ODNR is communicating with local entities to assist their efforts to obtain funding from external sources for other potential local improvements.

Q. Are there emergency water control and management plans in place should a need arise to address a potential emergency situation, or flooding conditions during construction?

A. Yes. ODNR has plans in place to respond to an emergency and has worked in cooperation with area first responders and local Emergency Management Agency in emergency

planning and response. If you experience an emergency water or flooding situation, call 911.

Q. What is the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the East Reservoir Dam rehabilitation project?

A. ODNR has submitted a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow for project construction. The USACE held a public comment period in early 2017.

Q. Are there any other government entities involved in the project?

A. Matters involving roads and bridges are handled by Summit County; utilities are handled through Summit County, the City of Akron and other local utility providers. The Ohio EPA has approved and issued an environmental permit to ODNR.

Q. How much will the project cost and how is it funded?

A. Estimated project construction cost is \$28-\$33 million. Funding is provided through the State of Ohio's approved capital appropriations budget. An expenditure request from ODNR to release funds for the project was approved May 22, 2017 by the State Controlling Board.

Q. Where can final design plans be reviewed?

A. Due to security considerations, the final design drawings will not be released as a public record, and only shared with authorized project team members in secure settings per the needs of the project. We do encourage you to ask any specific questions or concerns you may have and we will do our best to provide answers.

Q. How will area residents, businesses and affected communities be informed of construction progress?

A. ODNR will post updates to its website at <http://engineering.ohiodnr.gov/> and provide responses to public queries in a timely manner. Electronic newsletter, email updates, news releases to local media also are utilized to provide project information as needed.