



Q&A

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

East Reservoir – Portage Lakes State Park

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

A. ODNR is contracted with TetraTech 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 is scheduled in Spring, 2017 and will include 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 Road and North Turkeyfoot Road.

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

A. The design team is developing alternatives to minimize lake level impacts; normal lake operations should not be affected during construction. However, water levels may be lowered at any time, as needed, to meet dam safety needs. Also, ODNR plans to lower lake levels briefly (approx. 30 days) in Fall, 2017 as part of its routine bi-annual drawdown schedule that occurs in each odd-number year (i.e. 2013, 2015, 2017) to allow local area dock work and other maintenance, which does not result from or impact dam construction. A public announcement by Ohio State Parks of this routine bi-annual drawdown will be made in early fall.

Q. What is the dam construction project timeline?

A. Construction is expected to begin in Summer, 2017 and be completed by the end of 2018.

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

A. The design team is developing alternatives to minimize traffic impacts during the project. There may be some temporary impacts to local traffic for the purposes of moving heavy construction equipment into and around the site and for work within Portage Lakes Drive. Local notices and traffic flow will be maintained by the county.

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. 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.

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

A. There are none planned by ODNR as recreational features are not part of the design scope of services. However, ODNR is communicating with local entities to assist their efforts to obtain funding from external sources by providing information related to the dam improvements when requested.

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.

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 is processing a permit application from ODNR and has advertised a public hearing for April 27 to receive comments on the proposed dam improvements.

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/permitting.aspx>

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.

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.

Q. How can affected stakeholders provide input to ODNR regarding dam rehabilitation and improvement projects?

A. ODNR distributed a stakeholder survey in April, 2017 to obtain preferences on construction scheduling and to determine what construction topics were of particular interest. A public information sharing session with affected project stakeholders is being held May 11 at the Division of Wildlife District 3 office, 912 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron to share information on final project design, construction schedules and related topics of interest.

Questions, comments and concerns also may be emailed to:

adelbrocco@murphyepson.com with the firm MurphyEpson, or to, ODNR Division of Engineering at DamRiskReduction@dnr.state.oh.us



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