



Q&A

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

North Reservoir – Portage Lakes State Park

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

A. ODNR is contracted with Tetra Tech to provide investigations, preliminary design and final design alternatives. Their investigations of the dam structure at North Reservoir began in 2013; subsequent study revealed various deficiencies that require rehabilitation and improvement. Final design, which is anticipated by the end of 2018, 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 two separate earthen embankment sections measuring a combined distance of approximately 650 feet. The spillway presently has a severe discharge capacity deficiency that is well below dam safety requirements. The proposed work will primarily consist of placement of a new buttress wall, or dam wall, using a deep-soil mixing technique. Additional work will include remediation of the spillway and additional improvements to ensure the structure meets dam safety requirements.

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

A. Normal lake levels and operations should not be affected by construction. However, water levels may be lowered at any time, as needed, to meet dam safety needs.

Q. What is the construction project timeline?

A. Construction schedules are yet to be determined. Once final design has been completed and accepted, the necessary permits acquired and a construction firm is hired, then preliminary construction schedules can be developed and shared publicly. It

is hoped that construction activity could begin during early 2019 with project completion occurring sometime in 2020.

Q. What impact will there be on homeowners along the dam and adjacent to the project site?

A. Homeowners were notified that a property survey was to be conducted in early 2018 to establish where the state property line is located. It will be completed in Spring, 2018. ODNR's goal is to minimize construction impacts to homeowners along the dam.

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 purpose of moving heavy construction equipment into and around the site.

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

A. Yes. ODNR has plans in place to respond to an emergency.

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

A. In Spring, 2018 ODNR plans to submit a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to the Ohio EPA to allow for project construction.

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.

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

A. Estimated project construction costs are being developed. Funding is provided through the State of Ohio's approved 2019-2020 capital appropriations budget.

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

A. ODNR will post updates to its project website at <http://engineering.ohiodnr.gov/northreservoir> 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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA each can be expected to offer a public comment period after receiving a permit application from ODNR. Additionally, ODNR will maintain its community outreach efforts to publicly provide project information prior to construction start and during construction. To request more information on ODNR's dam rehabilitation projects, persons may write to:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Dam Risk Reduction Project
2045 Morse Road, Building E-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Or send an email communication to DamRiskReduction@dnr.state.oh.us