

The following Update has been provided by Orange County DPW Commissioner Erik Denega

Beaver Dam Lake - Dam Rehabilitation Project Update

10/3/2019

Below please find a recap of the Dam Rehabilitation Project since the project went out to bid and an update of the current status of the project.

Bids were received on March 20th 2018 and the low bid received was higher than the design consultants cost estimate and the NYS Comptroller's Office authorized maximum project cost. A new application had to be prepared and on June 18th 2018 was submitted to the NYS Comptroller's Office, for approval to increase the total project cost. Approval was received from the Comptroller's Office in September of 2018 and the project budget was increased.

Contracts were executed with the contractor, the notice to proceed was issued and work began in the winter of 2018. By the first week in December of 2018 the draining of the lake began and the lake was completely drained by mid-February 2019.

During the end of March 2019 unforeseen subgrade conditions were encountered within the dam spillway, which required further investigation and modifications to the design. The project design engineers investigated the conditions under the spillway, including selective demolition and corings, prepared design modifications and worked with DEC for approval of the modified design. The contractor prepared and submitted pricing for the additional work, which was an additional \$594,000 over the original contract value and exceeded the NYS Comptroller's authorized maximum project cost.

Over the next month DPW worked with the design engineer to further value engineer the design modifications and negotiated the pricing with the contractor for the additional work, which resulted in a cost savings of over \$475,000 and kept the cost within the project budget. Mid-July the contractor remobilizes to the site and resumed construction.

The design modifications, value engineering and price negotiations resulted in a project shutdown of approximately 4 months and is expected to result in 3 months of additional construction time, for an overall delay of 7 months for the project.

The current construction schedule has the lake beginning to be filled in spring 2020. The duration for the lake to be filled is largely dependent on the precipitation levels at that time. If it is necessary for there to be a winter shutdown, the start date for filling the lake and final completion will be pushed out further.

To date Demolition has been completed and construction of the new dam structure is underway. The steel training walls for the spillway and the new concrete buttress L-wall have been installed and the concrete cap for the dam core wall is currently being constructed.

The significant work items to still be completed are comprised of installing the Fuse gates, the two sluice gates, the structural fill and the drainage under the spillway, along with constructing the concrete spillway and settling basin.

Also related to the refilling of the lake, concerns have been raised regarding the substantial vegetation growth on the lake bottom and any potential impacts to the lake after it is refilled. OC DPW is communicating with an environmental consultant who is evaluating if any special considerations need to be made regarding vegetation growth prior to refilling the lake. When more information is available, it will be distributed to the District residents.