BC Hydro
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John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #16

May – June 2025

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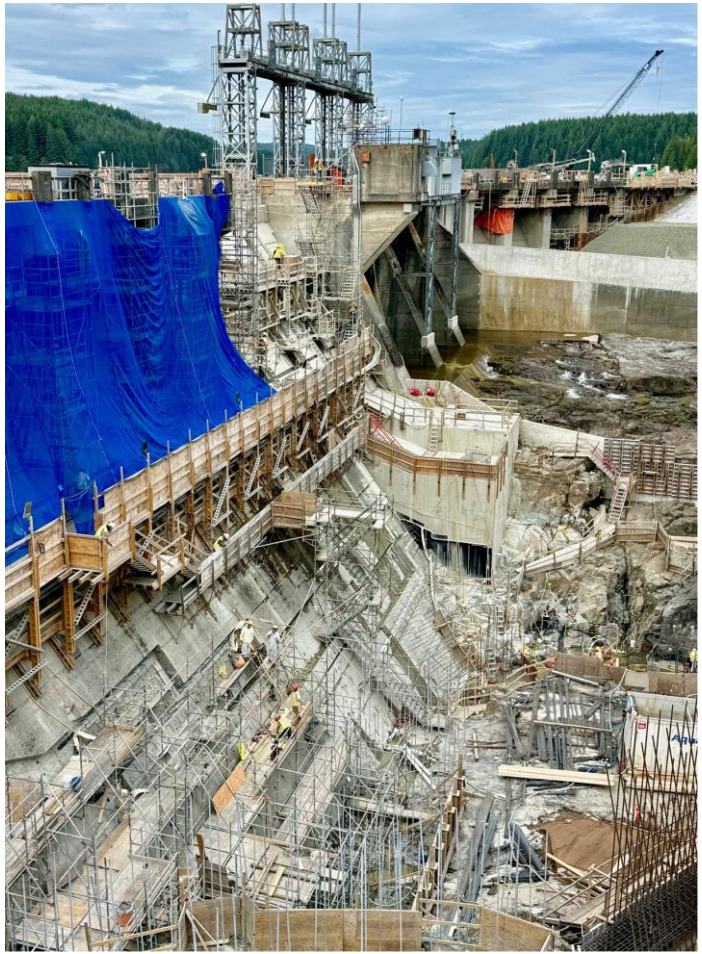
Project status and schedule

- As of May 31, our Aecon EBC General Partnership contractor has had 660,735 hours of work without a lost time accident.
- Work on a new elongated earthfill berm downstream of the old water intake and down the old penstock corridor continues.
- The dredgeate removal work on the upstream side of the Middle Earthfill Dam is complete. Placement of rock for the upstream berm has begun and is 15% complete.
- Work continues on the upstream and downstream side of the Concrete Main Dam to construct a new overflow spillway under the road deck.
- The placement of the downstream berm on the North Earthfill Dam is nearly complete and the densification of the berm will begin this summer.
- The civil work is the first three years of the six-year project and is about 70% complete.
- A Request For Proposal will be imminently issued for the project's hydromechanical work that includes three new spillway gates and hoist systems, and back up power and control buildings. The approximate three years of hydromechanical work is planned to begin in summer 2027, immediately following the completion of the current civil work upgrades in spring 2027.



June 16 photo of the Concrete Main Dam.

Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

June 12 photo from the Millennium Trail of the dredgeate containment berms. The trail to the Elk Falls Suspension Bridge goes over one of the berms and can be seen in the middle of this photo.

Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

June 12 photo from the public trail that leads to Elk Falls. The Millennium Trail is on the left side of the photo. This is the view looking downstream or eastward with the containment area filled in and capped. The revegetation work will commence this fall.

Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

June 12 photo looking westward from the public trail. The containment area is being filled in.

Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

June 2 photo of the berm placement work downstream of the old water intake dam in the background.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

June 16 view of the rock placement for the upstream berm. About 15% of the material has been placed.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

June 19 view of the rock material being brought in to then be loaded onto a barge for the berm placement upstream of the dam.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 2 view of the downstream work and the steel rods sticking up in the bottom of the photo. These anchors are drilled into the bedrock up to about 15 metres deep and will be within the concrete placements for water flow management from the spillway.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 2 view of the removed road deck to prepare for the new overflow spillway works. A new road deck will be placed above the overflow spillway when it’s complete.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 2 view of the drilling work to prepare for 119 steel anchors that will be installed across the length of the concrete dam.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 2 view of the drilling work. The drill holes will be up to 42 metres deep and will pass through the concrete dam and into the bedrock below.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

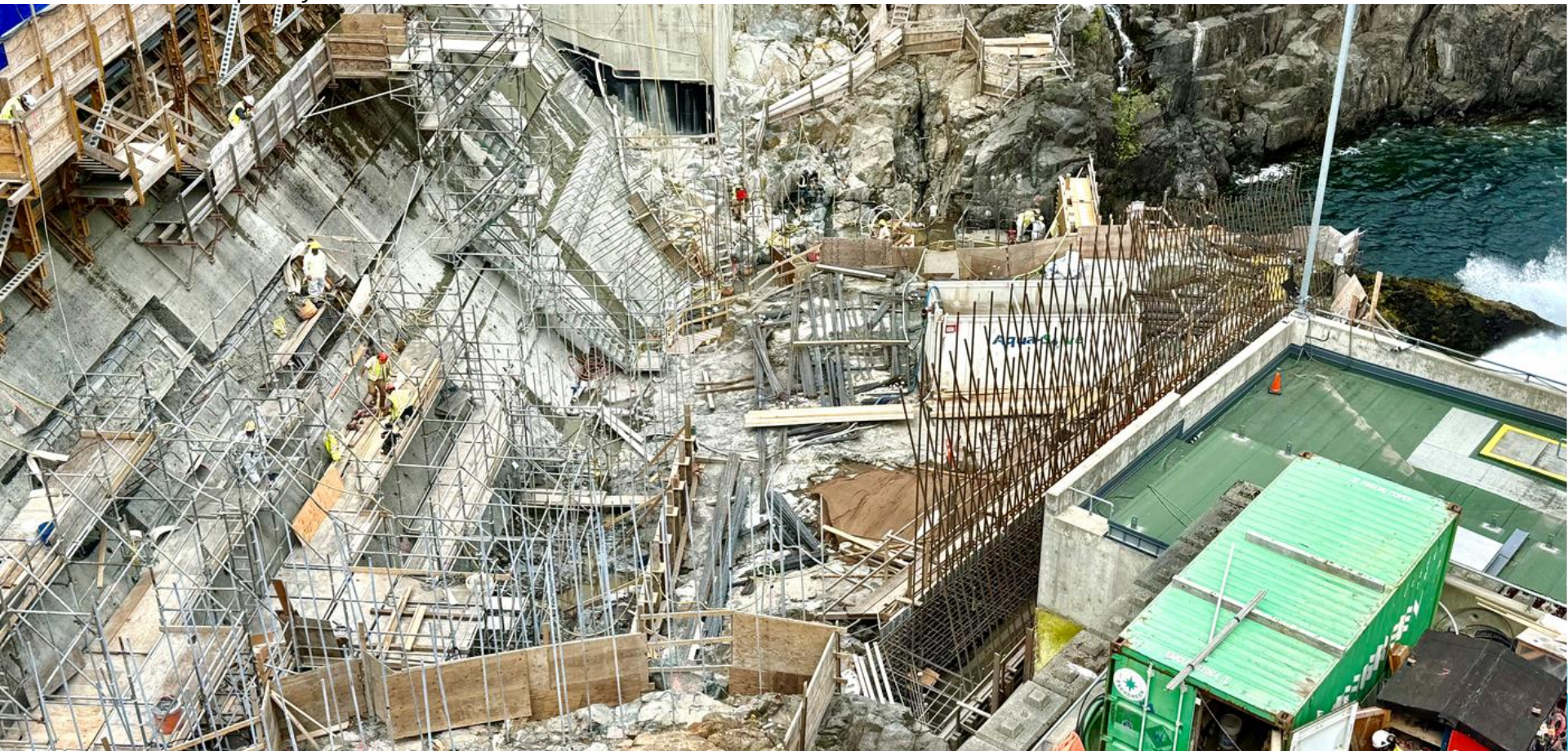
June 16 view of the anchor drilling activities from the spillway gates.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 16 view of the downstream side of the dam and the progression of the overflow spillway works. The blue netting is to prevent bird nesting.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 16 close-up view of the lower work area of the dam and all the rebar and anchors for the concrete works to manage water flow from the overflow spillway.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

June 19 view of the downstream side of the dam and the removal of a section of the road deck for the overflow spillway.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

June 2 photo showing the work on the downstream berm.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

June 2 photo with one of the removed silt curtains on the barge.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

June 16 photo showing the day the barge was moved out of the silt curtain containment area to begin the tree stump placement for fish habitat within the John Hart Reservoir.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

June 16 photo showing the completed placement of the downstream berm that will now go through a densification process – to compact the earthfill material.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

June 16 photo showing the entire area of the downstream berm.

Facility Tours

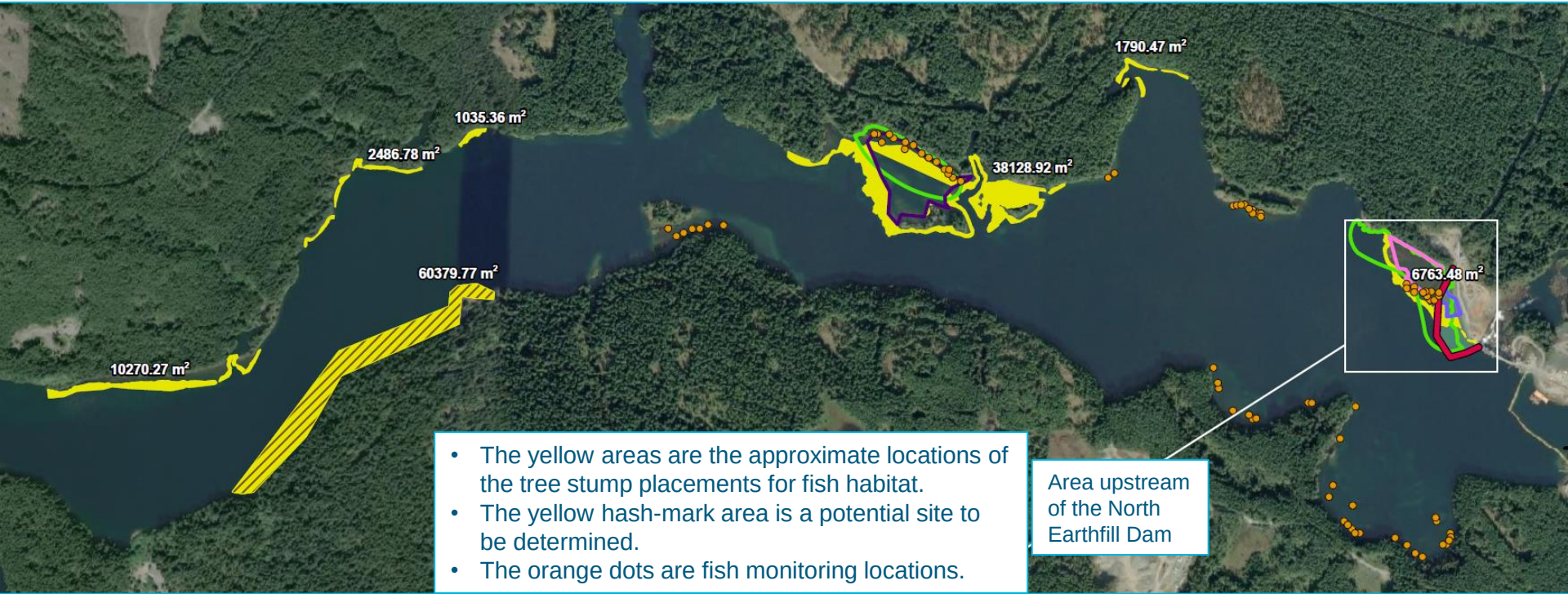
In June we had some members of the NDP Caucus and members from the We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum tour the project area. We appreciated their time with us to tour the project site and hear the latest updates.

Left photo on June 12: from left to right, Minister of Education and Child Care, Lise Beare; Minister of Infrastructure, Bowinn Ma; Parliamentary Secretary of Agriculture, Harwinder Sandhu, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, Adrian Dix; BC Hydro's Director of Dam Safety, Andrew Watson; and BC Hydro's John Hart Project Senior Construction Manager, Bill Wright.

Right photo on June 16: from left to right, Chief Councillor of the We Wai Kai Nation, Ronnie Chickite; BC Hydro's Indigenous Relations Specialist, Connie Strayer; We Wai Kai Nation Director of Education, Rachel West; Education Coordinator and Councillor of the Wei Wai Kum, Shelly Haunch; and BC Hydro's Indigenous Relations Senior Relationship Manager, Neil Rayner.

Environmental point of interest: reservoir fish habitat restoration work with tree stumps

About 480 tree stumps, mostly from the project work areas, will be anchored by steel cables to large rocks and placed by barge and crane throughout the John Hart Reservoir. The stumps may be 1-5 metres below the water surface. The work is part of the project's Fisheries Act Authorization and is to be complete by mid-August 2025. The work commenced the week of June his will create about 66,000 m2 of fish habitat.



- The yellow areas are the approximate locations of the tree stump placements for fish habitat.
- The yellow hash-mark area is a potential site to be determined.
- The orange dots are fish monitoring locations.

Environmental point of interest: reservoir fish habitat restoration work

June 18 photos of the tree stump placement work. The left photo shows the stumps prior to loading onto the barge, and the right photo shows one of the stumps anchored to a large rock being placed within the reservoir.

People profile – Brad Bird

Background:

Brad started with Geotech Drilling Services in 2008 as a drill assistant. He's progressed over the years to the current position as Drill Supervisor. Working with Geotech gave him the opportunity to travel all over Canada and beyond including Chile, Greenland, Iceland, and Alaska. Brad has specialized in helicopter drilling in remote locations, as well as off-shore and land-based geotechnical investigations. He also spent three years with one of Geotech's old sister company, Gregg Drilling and Testing Ltd. Brad has been able to transfer a lot of his drilling experience to his team. He has a passion for the drilling industry and tries to have a positive effect on projects ranging from pipeline routes, infrastructure upgrades, hydroelectric dams, and environmental assessments.

Home:

Brad moved as a young boy from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to Prince George.

Hobbies:

He enjoys travelling, hiking and hanging out with friends and family during my time off.

Project responsibilities:

Brad's role ranges from site/crew coordination, logistics, working with contractors, assisting in all aspects of the day-to-day drilling activities on the Concrete Main Dam, mentoring, and implementing and maintaining a safe and productive work site.

"I am very grateful of the opportunity to work on this project. It has been a pleasure to work with all the amazing teams from AEGP to the BC Hydro representatives – we work to maintain the highest quality of work, safety and environmental protection in completing our portion of this very unique and exciting job. And I get to stay in this beautiful place for a few months."