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John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #19

November – December 2025

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Project status and schedule

- John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project video #4 has been released: https://vimeo.com/showcase/9592965?video=1146687350
- As of November 30, 2025, our Aecon EBC General Partnership contractor has had 854,128 hours of work without a lost time accident.
- Work on a new elongated earthfill berm below the old water intake dam is complete. The berm will eventually cover the Old Intake Dam and join the upstream berm that's part of the Middle Earthfill Dam.
- The placement of rock for the upstream berm at the Middle Earthfill Dam is about 70% 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 densification work of the berm on the downstream side on the North Earthfill Dam is complete. A total of 500 compactions zones were completed. Work has started to bring in material and complete the upper side of the berm to the road level by spring of 2026.
- The Request for Proposal for the hydromechanical work, the spillway gates, has been issued on BC Bid in December.

December 9 view of the work on the Concrete Main Dam.

Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

December 2: The base of a large berm is on the left, and on the right, a view looking down the corridor to the containment berms in the distance. The weir works, for water management, is located near the middle of the photo and moves to the left into the forest area as shown by the blue arrows.

Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

December 9: The completed weir works that leads surface water down to a holding pond, then under the trail and into the forest.

Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

November 3: Rock placement activities by the Old Intake Dam and the John Hart Reservoir.

Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

November 3: Earthfill material being placed upstream of the Old Intake Dam.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

November 3: Work on the upstream berm and it extending into the reservoir. The blue lines show the old shoreline area.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

November 19: Placing rock material for the upstream berm, and in the foreground, spare piles used to anchor the barge in place.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

November 19: Worker walkway across the Middle Earthfill Dam. A safety measure to keep workers away from moving equipment.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

December 2: Placing rock in the reservoir for the upstream berm.

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

December 9: Ongoing work on the upstream berm placement.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

November 3: Concrete work on the downstream overflow spillway facility.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

November 3: Crews going over plans for the annual spillway gate tests to ensure they are reliable. While the new upgrades take place across the dam, the old infrastructure continues to be maintained for reliability until it is replaced.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

November 19: Work on the downstream side of the dam.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

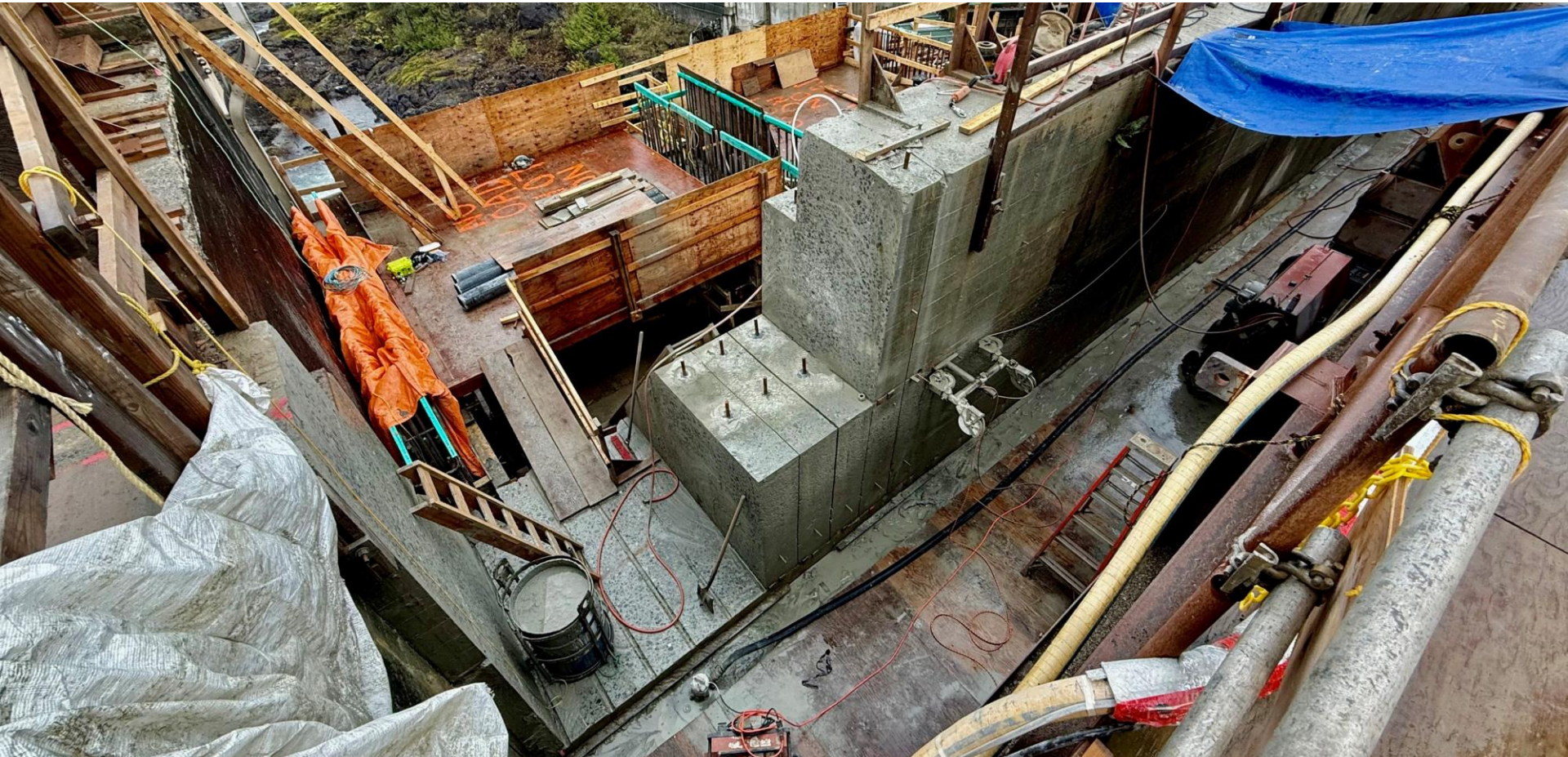
November 19: Work on the downstream side of the dam, and the formwork to protect the low-level outlet valves during future water releases from the overflow spillway.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

December 2: The first cuts in the upper face of the dam for the overflow spillway. A milestone. The temporary metal cofferdam in the background holds back the water in the reservoir.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

December 2: A view from the cofferdam of the concrete cutting and how the pieces are removed with vertical and horizontal cuts.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

December 9: View across the work area for the overflow spillway, with a higher-than-normal water release down Elk Falls Canyon.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

December 9: Looking across from other side of the dam of the work area for the overflow spillway.

Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

December 9: Work on the overflow spillway.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

December 2: With the densification work complete, material is now being placed to complete the downstream berm.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

December 2: Another view of the berm placement work. The material begins with sand, gravel and then rock on the outage edge.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

December 9: Advancements on the berm placement.

Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

December 9: View across the spillway channel of the berm work on the dam.

People profile – Jason Stewart

Background:

In 2016, Jason was offered a job with Aecon to work on the John Hart Generating Station Replacement Project. He had just graduated from UBC with a Degree in Civil Engineering and it was a great introduction to hydroelectric facilities and BC Hydro capital projects. In 2019, Jason transitioned to the Site C Project and spent over four years as Aecon's Lead Engineer for the Water Intake Structures and Penstocks. In May 2023, he returned to Campbell River to join Aecon's team to build the John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project. He says it was nice to come home and escape the -40 C winters of Northern BC.

Home:

Campbell River

Hobbies:

Jason likes snowboarding, mountain biking, weightlifting, and motorcycles.

Project responsibilities:

Jason is the Project Engineer for the Aecon EBC General Partnership. He's heavily involved in scheduling and cost considerations, and oversees all engineering tasks, including the development of methodology and procedures to perform the work safely.

"Next year will mark a decade of working on hydroelectric projects. I am grateful for this start to my career and being able to work in my hometown is a huge bonus. The construction delivery of these projects is complicated to say the least, and I think our success stems from an incredibly dedicated and experienced team, and BC Hydro being a collaborative client."