

John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #21

March - April 2026

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Project status and schedule

- **Safety:** About 100-120 people working at the site. As of March 31, our Aecon EBC General Partnership contractor has had 964,980 hours of work without a lost time incident.
- **Project milestone:** the upstream berm at the Middle Earthfill Dam and the downstream berm at the North Earthfill Dam are both complete. All upstream and downstream berms complete.
- Work commenced on a new drainage channel connecting the Middle Earthfill Dam drainage system to the Old Intake Dam drainage system and weir by the Elk Falls Park.
- Flood protection across all structures will commence soon and will be completed in summer 2026.
- Work continues on Concrete Main Dam improvements, including overflow spillway under the road deck and anchoring the dam to the bedrock below.



April 7: Concrete Main Dam and work on the overflow spillway.



Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

April 7: Public trail that goes to and from Elk Falls. The trail safely moves over one of the berms that contains the materials removed for the seismic upgrades at John Hart Dam. A revegetation plan will be implemented in fall 2026 and spring 2027.



Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

March 12: Wide view of the work on the Old Intake Dam and the berm placement work in the John Hart Reservoir



Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

March 12: Final piece of concrete about to be removed from the upper section of the Old Intake Dam.



Construction photos: Old Intake Dam

April 7: Berm work over the Old Intake Dam in the foreground.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

March 12: Barge and crane work on the upstream berm.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

March 12: The last few weeks of rock placement for the upstream berm.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

March 12: Crews getting ready to dismantle one of the barges as work on the berm nears completion.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

March 11: Vantage of the work activities from the berm placed into the reservoir.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

March 11: Final coordinates of the corner berm placement near the silt curtains and City of Campbell River domestic water supply intake. Since the beginning of the project there has been close coordination with the City of Campbell River's Water Department.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

April 7: Completed upstream berm and the demobilization of the barges. The two silt curtains, once the turbidity settles, are planned to be removed in the next few months. The inner silt curtain will be removed first, then the outer curtain, and then the removal of the steel piles. Throughout this removal process there will be close communication with the City of Campbell River.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 12: Work on the overflow spillway including piers supporting the new road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 12: Looking back in the other direction.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 12: Rebar placement for the overflow spillway piers to support the new road deck above.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 12: The overflow spillway concrete work, including a large training wall in foreground to direct water flow.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 23: Rebar work for the upper curved surface of the overflow spillway. The temporary metal cofferdam is on the right.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

March 23: Work on the overflow spillway.



Construction photos: John Hart Reservoir

March 23: Vantage of the John Hart Dam upgrades from the other side of the John Hart Reservoir.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

April 7: Work on the overflow spillway.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

April 16: Overflow spillway work including piers to support the new road deck. All concrete removals for the spillway are complete.



Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

March 11: Large berm, including filter and drainage layers, along the downstream side of the dam.



Construction photos: North Earthfill Dam

March 11: Final touches on the downstream berm.



Construction photos: completed berms

April 7: Middle Earthfill Dam on the left and North Earthfil Dam on the right. Berms complete.



People profile – Liam Kelly

Background:

Liam graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Sligo Institute of Technology in his native Ireland. His first role was working on water treatment facilities with Sligo Council in Ireland. In 2014, Liam moved to Vancouver to work as a design engineer for Atkins-Realis and was part of their design team for the John Hart Generating Station Replacement Project. In 2018, he joined BC Hydro on the Site C project as a submittals coordinator. In 2024, he moved on as a Field Engineer to the John Hart project and a key member of the Construction Management Team.

Home:

He has called Campbell River home since 2024.

Hobbies:

Liam likes skiing and travelling to new places with his family. Although with a 2-year-old daughter and 7-month-old son free time is pretty limited.

Project responsibilities:

As one of BC Hydro's John Hart Construction Managers, Liam's responsibilities include managing the contract and working with the general contractor AEGP to ensure the work is completed safely, efficiently, on time and on budget.

"It's great to be able to play a role in securing the power supply in BC with clean renewable energy."

