

Strathcona Dam Water Discharge Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #3

March – April 2026

Prepared by Stephen Watson

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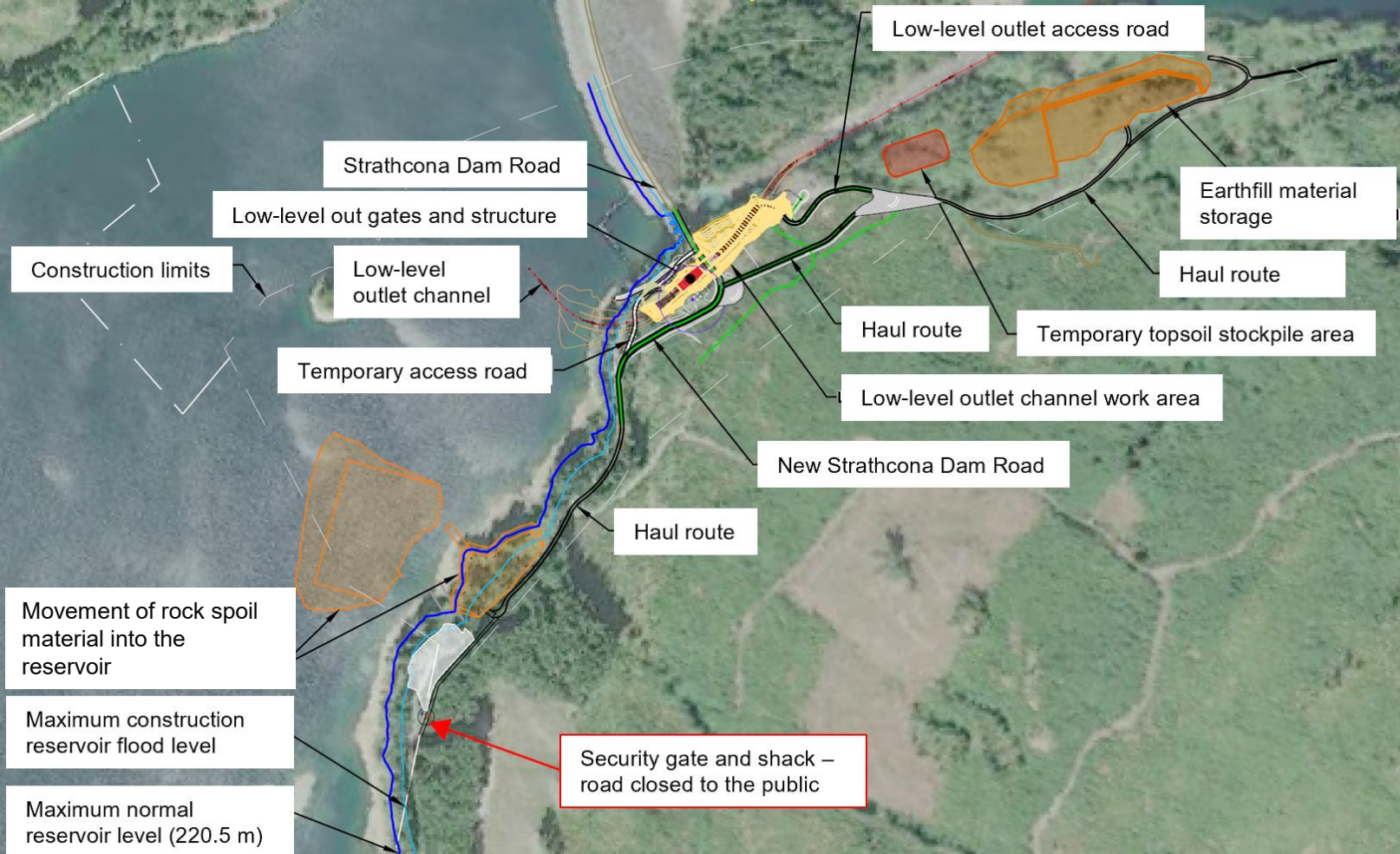
Project status and schedule

April 7: Work area for the low-level outlet channel.

- Complete: laydown areas and construction access roads essentially established, and office complex and additional parking complete.
- Ongoing: Realigned Strathcona Dam Road work and will become a haul road this spring.
 - Rock blasting along sections of the road work began in late March.
- April: Rock blasting began for low-level outlet channel.



Strathcona Dam site area



Construction diagram: outlet channel

The low-level outlet channel overlaid onto a site drone photo.

The outlet channel will be excavated from the existing spillway channel towards the reservoir. A rock plug will be left in place near the reservoir to allow for the construction of the low-level outlet facilities, including the two gates and hoists systems. Once those infrastructure works are complete, the last stage will be the rock plug removal and the channel fully open to the reservoir.



New Strathcona Dam Road alignment

Construction photos: site laydown areas

March 24: Preparing the primary laydown area upstream of the Strathcona Dam, shown in the background.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Crane barge. The large chains are ready to be deployed to hold and seal the silt curtains to the reservoir bottom



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Stored silt curtains on site to be deployed around the rock placement area within the reservoir.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Rock drilling commenced in late March to continue the work on the realigned Strathcona Dam Road.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Rock drill rig. Drilling holes for the placement of explosives, with the blasts having low ground vibration, to remove the rock.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Work on the new Strathcona Dam Road and soil removal for the low-level outlet channel.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Newly constructed Beaver Tail Road and in the background, soil removal to exposed rock for the low-level outlet.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Eastern section of the work site and the preparation and placement of removed soils.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

March 24: Temporary storage area for rock removed for the low-level outlet channel and Strathcona Dam Road.



Construction photos: site area

April 2: Rock blasting and excavation on the new Strathcona Dam Road, with a temporary haul route established in the foreground. In the background, ongoing work on preparing ramps, barges and cranes for the silt curtain installation and eventual rock placement.



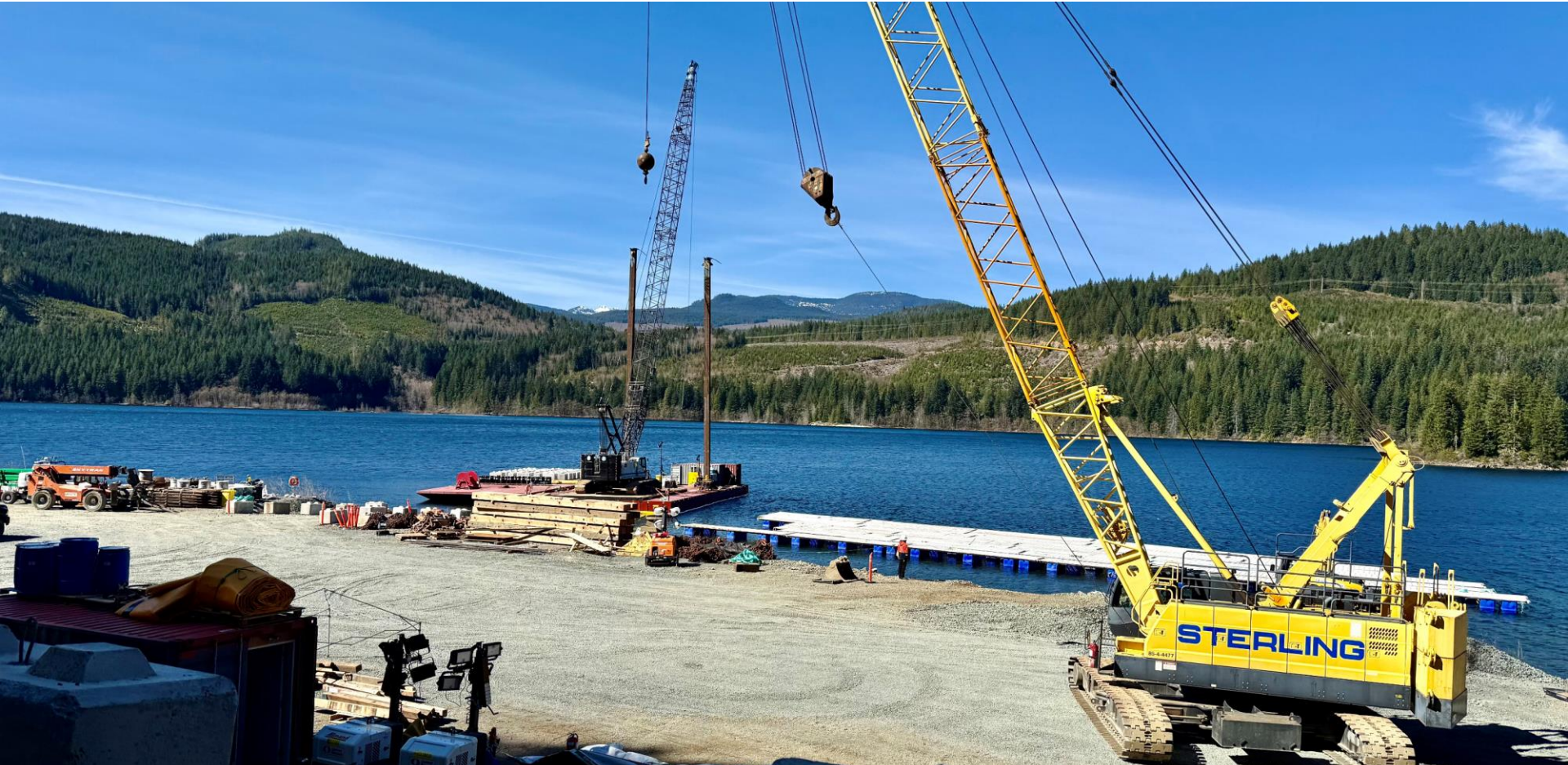
Construction photos: upper laydown area

April 7: Preparation of the marine floats that will be connected and frame the wider silt curtain containment area – the two curtains will hang from the floats and be sealed to the reservoir bottom. The silt curtains will contain water turbidity within the work zone.



Construction photos: upper laydown area

April 7: Another view of the work on the marine floats.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam

April 7: Panoramic view of the Strathcona Dam facility and the construction work area.



Construction photos: site area

April 7: Drilling work on the new outlet channel to the left of the existing spillway channel.



Construction photos: site area

April 7: Removal of rock blasted out for the new Strathcona Dam Road and Beaver Tail Road realignment.



Construction photos: site area

April 7: Road realignment work.



Construction photos: site area

April 7: Water management and treatment facilities.



Construction photos: site area

April 7: Eastern construction site area, with excavated rock temporarily stored in the containment area in the foreground.



Construction photos: upper laydown area

April 16: In the background, placing the anchored floating walkway to enable the placement of an inner and outer silt curtain. In the foreground, putting together the inner silt curtain that will hang from the walkway to the reservoir bottom.



Construction photos: site area

April 16: The blasting of rock for the low-level outlet channel began this month.



People profile – Scott Doust

Background:

Scott completed his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in Perth, Western Australia in 2014. He started his career in the Iron Ore Mining Industry. He then moved to Canada in 2016 to chase a lifestyle in the mountains. Scott worked on multiple large civil projects around BC including Kicking Horse Canyon and the John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade. He joined FlatironDragados in summer 2025 to be a part of the Strathcona project.

Home:

Perth, Western Australia. He currently lives in Campbell River.

Hobbies:

Scott enjoys snowboarding, rock climbing, fishing and camping.

Project Responsibility:

Scott is the Civil Superintendent for Flatiron Constructors Canada Ltd. He provides on-site leadership for work scopes including earthworks, marine, and drill and blast construction activities. He's also planning, directing and supervising day to-day field operations, coordinating with field engineers, craft workers, subcontractors and BC Hydro.

“Being part of the Strathcona Project Team is something I am proud of. It is very challenging and rewarding to work on such a complex project that contributes to improving critical infrastructure for the local community. The scenery isn't bad either!”

