

John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #23

July – August 2026

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Project status and schedule

- Safety: As of July 31, our Aecon EBC General Partnership (AEGP) contractor has had 1,086,884 hours of work without a lost time incident.
- Ongoing work 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.
- Ongoing work on the flood protection works placed across the top of the earthfill sections of the dam.
- Work continues on the Concrete Main Dam improvements, including overflow spillway under the road deck and anchoring the dam to the bedrock below.



August 13: John Hart Dam.



Construction photos: Old Penstock Corridor

August 13: The Campbell River Hydroelectric Discovery Centre, from February 1 to July 31, has had 6,484 visitors who have learned more about the watershed and the Campbell River system dam safety upgrade projects. Visitors to date are up 8% over the same period in 2025.



Visitor comments from inside the Discovery Centre:

"Wonderful that they have this place to inform the public."

"Wow! This work is incredible."

"The engineering in these projects is amazing!"

"Great Information."

"Impressive projects!"

"I'm going to get my group to come in – it's pretty interesting in here."

"Hats off to the engineers, planners and workers that made this happen."

"This was like a field trip."

"This place is full of good information."

"It's good to see that projects like these can be done without making waves."

"This was great. I will be coming back!"

"So glad we popped in."

"Very interesting."

"What remarkable work is being done on all these dams."

"It's good this place is open. Public education is important."

"Fascinating."

"I never knew how much work goes into making these projects happen."

"I've heard about these projects but never paid attention. It's great to be able to come here and learn about them now."

"I can't believe the engineering that went into this."

"There is so much information here, it's hard to take it all in at once."

"Very impressive how they take care of the land and the wildlife."

"Such wonderful information in here. Thank you."

Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

July 9: Fraser River Pile & Dredge crews demobilizing from the site after the successful removal of the double-silt curtains and piles.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

July 9: Excavating down, including the removal of the temporary construction guide wall used for the installation of new water seepage barrier, to then place compacted clay-like material that acts as an upper water seepage barrier to near the dam crest.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

July 9: New water seepage barrier in the foreground with the old seepage barrier under the excavator bucket. The clay-like water seepage barrier material is being placed above the barriers. The added water barrier height along the entire length of the earthfill sections of the dam is to manage maximum flood events from heavy rain and snowmelt from multiple tropical-based storms.

Temporary power pole to be relocated.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

July 9: Another angle of the two water seepage barriers and the eventual placement of the clay-like water seepage barrier material.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

July 15: Work progression and the placement and compaction of clay-like till material above the seepage barriers.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

August 6: Placement of the flood protection material as the work area moves closer to the Concrete Main Dam.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

August 13: Same view and now placing fill material above the clay-like till material.



Construction photos: Middle Earthfill Dam

August 13: Placing material for levelling and compaction. There is too much work activity by the Concrete Main Dam so crews will move over to place the added water barrier height along the North Earthfill Dam. They will complete this earthfill section later.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 9: Work on the overflow spillway including piers to support the new road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 9: Ongoing work on the overflow spillway with the curved rebar work, and the piers to support the new road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 9: Work of the first section of the road deck, closest to the spillway gates, that will see the first concrete placement.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 9: Ongoing work on the overflow spillway and new road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 15: View across the spillway channel area to the steel anchor installation taking place across the full length of the concrete dam.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 15: Placement of a bundle of three steel anchors, with the inset photo providing a closer view. The anchors are placed within the drill holes completed earlier in the project that go thru the concrete dam and into the bedrock below to anchor the dam in place.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 15: Steel anchors ready for placement. They are up to 13 metres long with the longest anchor hole being 57 metres.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

July 15: Another vantage of the steel anchor drilling work.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

August 6: Work activity on the new road deck by the spillway gates.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

August 6: First completed placement of concrete for the road deck. Crews working on barrier formwork on both sides of the road.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

August 6: Downstream side view of the work on the overflow spillway and road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

August 13: Work on the overflow spillway and road deck.



Construction photos: Concrete Main Dam

August 13: John Hart Dam. Water flows to the John Hart powerhouse were restored after planned annual maintenance work.



People profile – Mike Weston

Background:

Mike started working for Aecon in 2020 as a coop student. He completed three internships with two of them at Site C, working on the Powerhouse and Headworks. He completed the Civil Engineering program at the University of Victoria in 2022 and then was back to Site C working full-time on the Water Intake and Penstocks. He started on the John Hart project in May 2023 and helped to set up the early phases of project construction.

Home:

Mike moved to Campbell River in 2006 and has called it home ever since.

Hobbies:

Mike enjoys golfing, camping, fishing, and hunting.

Project responsibilities:

Mike has been mainly overseeing and supporting, as the Aecon EBC field engineer, the concrete works. This includes the formwork, shoring, rebar, drilling and doweling, concrete removals, and crane planning.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to work on a project of this scale so close to home. Being part of a project that directly impacts my community has given me a greater sense of pride and investment in its success. I’ve also been fortunate to work on multiple BC Hydro projects early in my career. Over the past four years, I’ve been exposed to a variety of work scopes, which has supported my development as an engineer. I’m especially proud to be part of the strong team that Aecon, EBC, and BC Hydro have assembled to successfully deliver this project.”

