

Strathcona Dam Water Discharge Upgrade Project – Community Construction Report #5

July – August 2026

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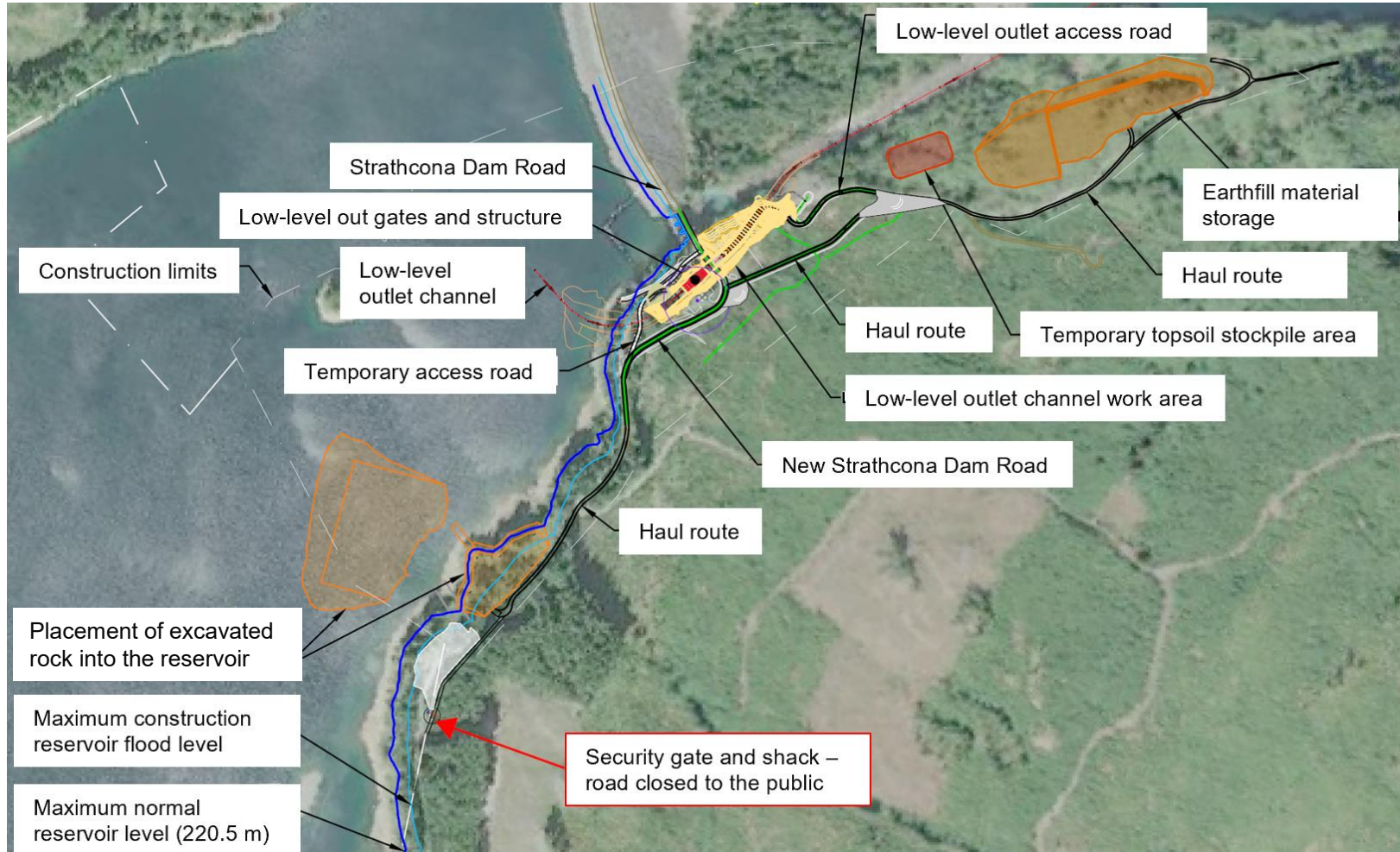
Project status and schedule

August 13: Work on the new outlet channel.

- Safety: About 125 people working at the site. As of July 31, our FlatironDragados contractor has had 76,055 hours of work without a lost time incident.
- Ongoing: Rock blasting and rock removals for the outlet channel.
- Concrete placements for water control infrastructure placed within the outlet channel is planned to begin in fall 2026.



Strathcona Dam site area



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

July 15: Drilling work within the outlet channel to prepare for the next rock blast.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

July 15: Closer view of the work area and the placement of blast mats.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

July 15: Looking upstream at the channel outlet excavation work.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

July 15: Closer view of the lower channel outlet that will tie into the existing spillway channel.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

July 15: Crews preparing for another rock blast.



Construction photos: rock placement within silt curtain area

July 15: Rock placement area and high water turbidity is contained by the silt curtains, with the clean water outside. Inspection and maintenance of the curtains, as is being done here, takes place as needed.



Construction photos: rock placement within silt curtain area

July 15: Water treatment facilities. As rock is placed into the reservoir, water within the silt curtain area is removed (and treated) to maintain balance of pressure or equilibrium.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam Road

August 6: Loading rock onto a barge.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam Road

August 6: Another view of the rock loading. In the background, rock from the second barge is dropped to the reservoir bottom.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam Road

August 6: View from the lower road by the outlet channel of the rock placement within the silt curtains.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 6: The outlet channel and wider work area.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 6: Ongoing work on the outlet channel.



Construction photos: Strathcona Dam Road

August 6: On left, a water truck places water to control dust. At centre, the concrete base for the crane is complete, and the assembly can begin for the construction crane.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 6: Rock scaling and inspections of the channel wall.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 6: Closer view of the rock scaling work.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 13: A crew being lifted out of the channel. Stacked blast mats are shown that are used during the rock blasting process to prevent fly-rock.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 13: Location of the road bridge that will be placed across the channel for Strathcona Dam Road and tower crane foundation.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 13: Upper channel area with the silt curtains in the background.



Construction photos: Outlet Channel

August 13: For construction traffic and hauling, there are numerous radio check-ins and areas (green tent) where staff coordinate safe traffic flow. In the background, the various buoys in the reservoir are for water quality monitoring.



Construction photos: rock placement

August 13: Pause in rock hauling and loading as a full barge is moved into place for the rock to be placed on the reservoir bottom.



Construction photos: rock placement

August 13: Moving in the full barge, and when complete, the empty barge will be moved over to the ramp for loading.



People profile – Nick Lehnart

Background:

Nick graduated from BCIT in Civil Engineering in 2016. He spent 13 years with Fraser River Pile & Dredge (FRPD), delivering a wide range of marine-based projects including environmental remediation, scour protection, maintenance dredging, ferry terminal rebuilds, port expansions, and bridge upgrades. Prior to joining BC Hydro, he was the Project Manager for FRPD overseeing the in-reservoir and piling scope at the John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project. Nick joined BC Hydro in January 2026 to be involved on the Strathcona Dam Water Discharge Upgrade Project.

Home:

Originally from North Vancouver, Nick now calls Campbell River home, where he lives with his wife and two kids.

Hobbies:

Nick and his family enjoy boating, fishing, camping, biking, skiing, and exploring the North Island.

Project Responsibility:

Nick is a Construction Manager with BC Hydro, responsible for coordinating project execution, supporting contractor and engineering teams, and ensuring work is delivered safely, efficiently, and to the required technical standards. His years in marine construction inform his approach to the project's technical and operational challenges, particularly within the in-reservoir scopes.

"I'm grateful to contribute to this critical infrastructure project that challenges us to think critically and solve problems in real time. It's the combination of complexity, teamwork, and purpose that makes this work meaningful."

