



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Devils Lake, North Dakota



East ditch pump station construction

Contact

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Location/Description

To continue to meet the appropriate combination of levee and dam safety standards, it was necessary to raise the existing embankments protecting the city of Devils Lake, North Dakota, and extend the embankments to high ground. Previously, the embankments had been constructed to an elevation of 1460. The height required for the maximum pool elevation of 1458 (where flows would begin out of the natural outlet at Tolna Coulee) is 1466 to meet dam safety standards, with areas of higher wave run-up being slightly higher. When complete, the embankment length will increase from approximately 8 miles to more than 12 miles.

Status

Spring of 2012 saw minimal spring run-off and the lake did not rise appreciably. However, during the prior three springs, the lake rose 2 to 3 feet each year, cresting at an elevation of 1454.3. It is currently (September 4, 2012) at elevation 1452.0. Real time lake levels are available at the U.S. Geological Survey site at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nd/nwis/uv/?site_no=05056500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060.

The embankments are being raised to protect the city of Devils Lake in four phases. Phase 1, awarded in October of 2009, is essentially complete. Phase 2 was split into two contracts to allow for additional time to

address geotechnical challenges. Phase 2a, awarded in November 2010, is essentially complete. The Highway 20 reach, an integral part of the Devils Lake city embankment, is essentially complete. Phase 3, awarded in April 2011, is scheduled for completion in May 2013. Phase 2b, awarded in May 2011, is scheduled for completion in August 2013.

The construction work was phased so that an acceptable level of protection would be in place prior to the spring runoff of 2012. Along some reaches, temporary measures were taken to ensure continued protection for the city of Devils Lake to an elevation of 1463.

Once construction is complete, the city will be protected from the maximum pool elevation that could occur. No additional embankment raises will be required.

Authority

This project is authorized under Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies. Funding for construction was included in the 2009 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 111-32) and approved in the Project Information Report dated September 2009. The Corps' support to the Federal Highway Administration is provided under The Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535).

Fiscal

The construction project is currently estimated at \$167.8M. The construction is cost shared 75/25 between the Federal Government and city of Devils Lake.