



June 23, 2015

Today TVA is launching a new electronic newsletter – *“The Boone Dam Weekly Update”* – to help keep our stakeholders informed on the activities associated with repairing the earthen embankment at Boone Dam. These updates and other information are available at TVA’s website: [www.tva.com/boonedrawdown](http://www.tva.com/boonedrawdown) and via email distribution.

### **Status of Investigation**

TVA is moving as quickly as possible to determine the best solution for repairing the earthen embankment at Boone Dam. Since the March 2015 informational session, a lot has been learned about the seepage and erosion issue. Our investigation has shown that more water is seeping through the foundation of the dam than would typically be expected. A contributor to the seepage is the high water table from the area just east of the dam. Both sources of seepage and subsequent erosion have created an extensive network of seepage paths beneath the dam. As a result, TVA Dam Safety experts, along with industry experts, continue working to understand the extent of the seepage and erosion, and determine a permanent fix. TVA is working toward a late July 2015 announcement of the permanent solution.

The lowering of the reservoir as well as installation of a temporary sand and gravel berm on the river bank just below the dam has greatly reduced the erosion occurring through the foundation of the dam.

TVA has dam safety inspection staff on site around the clock to monitor and look for any changes at the dam.

### **Current Construction Work and Grouting Project**

At the March meeting, TVA discussed a grouting (a mixture of cement, sand and water) project in the toe area of the dam that would begin in late spring. This work has not begun. It was better for us to understand the extent of the issue before starting a grouting project that might not help solve the problem.

Currently, work is underway to prepare the Boone Dam site for mobilizing equipment as soon as the repair is determined. We are building roads, laydown yards, moving in office and construction trailers, bringing power to the area, and other site preparation work.

In mid-July, equipment will begin arriving as part of a test-grouting project that will be underway by the end of July. The project will provide valuable information on the most effective type of grouting method for the final solution as well as a better understanding of geological conditions below the earthen embankment. Also, the area downstream of the dam, including the parking lot for the dam's control building, will undergo a transformation in an effort to get all surface drainage away from the toe of the dam. In addition, the utilities in the area will be rerouted or updated. More information will follow in the coming weeks on the specifics of these projects.



Current activities at the Boone Dam site include building of roads, laydown yards and other site preparation work.



Laydown yards have been built to stage equipment and materials in preparation for construction activities at the Boone Dam site.

### **Additional Lake Access and Recreation Area**

TVA is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) on permitting and access for new boat ramps and a swim beach. These additional ramps will improve lake access for boaters while the reservoir is at lower water levels. As announced last week, we submitted a permit application to TDEC for boat ramp extension projects and a new swim beach recreational area at Boone Reservoir. TDEC is conducting a public comment period on the permit application, which will be open through July 6.

The boat ramp extension projects are located at Devault Bridge, Pickens Bridge and TVA-owned property near Boone Dam known as Tract 22R. The 22R project also includes plans for a new swim beach recreational area. TVA is moving forward with these projects to provide access to the lake in the near term and in the event the lake will be held down longer than originally anticipated.

Specific details on the proposed projects and the process for the public to submit comments can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/ppo/#water>.

If the permits are approved, work will begin immediately on the projects.

### **Community Outreach**

TVA's President and CEO, Bill Johnson, met with the media a few weeks ago and said that while we can't speculate on how long the water levels will be low, we do intend to repair the dam and refill Boone Lake. Boone Lake is a top-level priority for TVA. But, we have two overarching issues -- our first issue is safety; our second is the need to do it right. Johnson said we don't want to be back in 10 years telling the communities we have to do it all over again.

On June 15, 2015, TVA held a meeting with stakeholders from the Tri-Cities communities who have sent questions/comments to TVA via the Boone web page on the TVA website. The focus of the meeting was for TVA to listen and better understand how to meet stakeholder communication and information needs. We will implement many of the suggestions over the next several weeks, including a revised webpage and increased information sharing, such as these regular updates.

Recent speaking engagements by TVA staff on Boone Dam have included the Northeast Tennessee Realtors Association, First Tennessee Development District, TVA Retirees Association Upper East Tennessee Chapter, Elizabethton Rotary Club, and Washington County Economic Development Council. If you are interested in scheduling a TVA speaker for a group or organization, please contact TVA at: [boonelake@tva.gov](mailto:boonelake@tva.gov).

TVA has been working with local communities through contributions and sponsorships. Recent activities include: Kingsport Chamber Foundation FunFest, Boone Lake Association Reservoir Cleanup Partnership, Friends of Olde Downtowne Blue Plum/First Friday Events, Boone Watershed Partnership Education Outreach Initiatives, Bristol Chamber Foundation Conservation Camp, Daniel Boone High School, ETSU, and Speedway Children's Charities.

### **How to Receive Regular Updates**

If you'd like to be included on the Boone Update email distribution list, please visit [www.tva.com/boonedrawdown](http://www.tva.com/boonedrawdown) and submit your email address where you see "Sign up below to get weekly updates via email".

Thank you,

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