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Construction Update: Instrumentation Ensures Dam Safety

First impressions aren't always accurate when dealing with engineering a dam repair. "It's like a puzzle, figuring out which piezometer reacts to which activities," said Lead Dam Safety Engineer Carol Ford, describing the water table and water pressure data her team collects 24/7 from more than 100 locations around the dam. "We correlate the times of events according to the drilling and grouting activities," she adds. The instruments automatically issue texts and emails based on water spikes or falls. Ford, a longtime Tri-Cities resident, holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Florida State University, and is seen at left with one of the piezometers.

"Backyard Engineers" and TVA-Sponsored Robotics Teams Featured at Mini Maker Faire

"High energy" best describes the second annual Mini Maker Faire -- a part of the annual Tri-Cities FunFest summer festival -- held in Kingsport on July 24. With everything from paper dresses to homemade R2-D2s, the Maker Movement elevates "do-it-yourself" to a new level. Four volunteers from the Boone Dam project manned TVA's booth and fielded questions about hydropower during the event. We also sponsored three of the participating Robotics teams, all a part of TVA's support of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to help prepare Tennessee Valley students for the jobs of the future.



At top, students from Cherokee High School in Rogersville in their castle. At bottom, Lenny Peterson and Terry Campbell explain a working model of Raccoon Mountain.

How to Receive Regular Updates

"The Boone Dam Weekly Update" is published each week to help keep TVA's 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: [Boone Repair](#) and via email distribution.

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