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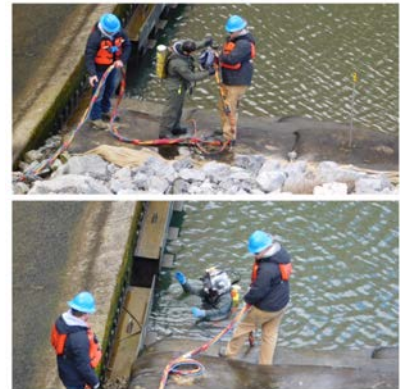
*Jimmy Billings tests gages used on the "grout gator" for HMG operations.*

### **Progress Update: Maintaining Equipment Key to Moving Forward**

High mobility grout work is continuing hundreds of feet below the surface at Boone Dam. When "construction" is occurring out-of-sight underground, the importance of accurate data and readings becomes critical. Enter Jimmy Billings. As an Instrumentation and Electronic Technician, Jimmy ensures that the gages used in our High Mobility Grouting operations are calibrated and stay within compliance every day. One of his daily stops is the "grout gator," an all-terrain vehicle that serves as a centralized location to direct the injection of the grout in order to reach desired flow rates and pressures. Gages on the "gator" are calibrated to ensure we know exactly how much grout is being routed through hoses and into injection rigs on the dam.

### **Routine Inspections Help Ensure Dam Safety**

Dam safety inspections are part of our commitment to ensure the safety of the public. Even during winter temperatures, divers were in the water last month at Boone performing visual inspections of the filter berm just downstream of the powerhouse. Capturing visuals with a helmet cam and in constant contact with the shore, the diver in the water is assisted by two other divers who control his air and water cables and continuously monitor his safety (*see photos at right*). After reviewing the video, the divers reported the filter berm remains intact with little change since their last inspection.



Another part of our dam safety program includes inspections of the sluice gate and sluice tunnel every five years. The sluice gate and tunnel are located near the base of the concrete dam. When the sluice gate opens, a "rooster tail" is created from the velocity in the water that drags standing water from the flip bucket (at the base of the spillway) downstream. This leaves less water to pump out so the inspector can access the sluice tunnel and downstream portion of the sluice valve for inspection. While impressive to see, this watery display is routine and is not connected to our efforts to correct the seepage in the earthen embankment.





Senior VP Bob Deacy was presented with a children's book by Bristol VA-TN Rotary Club President Katy Sikorski.

### **Bristol Library Receives Donated Book from TVA Update**

TVA Senior Vice President, General Construction Projects & Services, Bob Deacy recently spoke to approximately 75 Bristol VA-TN Rotary Club members about the ongoing construction project at Boone Dam. But, the Rotary members won't be the only ones to walk away with a little extra knowledge. In recognition for his participation, Bristol VA-TN Rotary Club president Katy Sikorski presented Bob with a copy of the children's book, "Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site." It's part of the club's custom to donate a book in honor of each speaker to the Bristol Public Library. Now, the next generation of construction engineers can also be inspired to build projects that will make peoples' lives better.

### **TVA Again Sponsors Popular ETSU EagleCam**

It's nearly Valentine's Day and our favorite local American bald eagle duo is already feeling the love. The couple, who make their home near Winged Deer Park, delighted people from around the world last spring as they raised their young eaglet in real-time. If they follow last year's pattern, eggs will show up shortly, then one or two eaglets should arrive in March. Watch the popular "EagleCam" (now with two cameras) at <http://www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/cameras.php>.



Mother and Father Eagle are preparing the nest near Winged Deer Park in Johnson City.

**New Community News Updates:** Remember, we'll keep you informed in between monthly editions of this newsletter through the new "Community News" section of the [Boone website](#). We'll also update the @BooneRepair Twitter feed and, if needed, provide special newsletter editions. You can always e-mail us questions at [boonelake@tva.gov](mailto:boonelake@tva.gov), or stop by the TVA Community Relations trailer at the intersection of Boone Dam and Minga Roads.

**How to Receive Regular Updates** "The Boone Dam Update" is published monthly 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.

*If you'd like to be included on the Boone Update email distribution list, please visit [Boone Repair](#) and submit your email address where you see "Sign up below to get weekly updates via email."* Learn more the Boone Project and other TVA activities on Facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/TVA> and on twitter @BooneRepair.

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