



NEWS

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Water Levels to Fluctuate on Area Lakes

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SEGUIN- Lake Placid will remain substantially below its normal level until storm-related flows decline to rates that will allow GBRA to inspect the spillgates at the TP-4 (Lake Placid) Dam. In addition, for a short period of time, Lake Dunlap and Lake McQueeney will be lowered to slightly below their normal levels in order to speed up the inspection.

According to Hydroelectric System Manager Allen Ognoskie, it appears that floodwaters and debris damaged the gates at the TP-4 Dam (Lake Placid). The spillgates at the hydro dams are lowered during flood events to pass high flows through the system. According to Mr. Ognoskie the gates at the Lake Placid Dam could not be raised to their normal operating position following Monday's flood. GBRA personnel cannot evaluation the extent of the damage until flows have declined and a visual inspection can be made. Flows are currently in the range of 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Mr. Ognoskie further stated that GBRA has Hydro System personnel and consulting engineers are ready to make the inspections this weekend, if possible.

In order to inspect the Lake Placid spillgates, flow rates and levels will need to re-regulated on other area lakes. On Friday night, November 26 and Saturday, November 27, the levels of Lake Dunlap and Lake McQueeney will be one to two feet below normal. Over that same period, the flow of water through Lake Placid and Meadow Lake will be slightly faster than normal.

While the levels of Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney and Lake Placid are lower than normal, property owners are encouraged to assess damage from the recent flood and take advantage of the limited time to do additional cleanup work. However, property owners are reminded to be very cautious during these activities because the levels of the lakes and the rate of flow can return to normal at any time.

In a related matter the Corps of Engineers is currently evaluating downstream flood conditions and planning releases from Canyon Dam to evacuate floodwater from the Reservoir. The level of Canyon is currently 925.5 feet which is approximately 16.5 feet above the normal operating level. GBRA Chief Engineer Tommy Hill stated that GBRA is hopeful that the inspection of the TP-4 dam can be made prior to the Corps of Engineers beginning releases from Canyon Dam. However, even if inspections are made this week, it is unlikely that repairs can be made to the TP-4 Dam prior to the anticipated release of water from Canyon Reservoir.

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In the likely event that the Corps of Engineers begins releasing water from Canyon Dam prior to GBRA making repairs to the TP-4 (Lake Placid) Dam, the spillgates at Lake Placid will remain down until the release from Canyon Dam is completed. That means that the level of the lake will remain substantially lower than normal. Mr. Hill stated that a release by the USACE could last for several weeks.

Once the TP-4 Dam inspections have been completed, GBRA will provide the public with a schedule for making repairs and returning Lake Placid to its normal elevation.