



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA Schedules Repairs to Lake Placid (TP-4) spillgates

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SEGUIN-For the last few months, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and its engineering consultants have been evaluating the condition of the TP-4 (Lake Placid) spillgates that were severely damaged in the November 2004 flood. Inspections of the damage actually began on the Saturday immediately after the flood.

Preparations are now being made by GBRA to begin repairing the spillgates. At the February 16 Board meeting, the GBRA Directors authorized the staff to hire a construction company to assist with the repairs and speed up the repair process. "We hope to have everything completed in time to open Lake Placid for the summer recreation season," said Allen Ognoskie, GBRA hydro system manager.

"Because the spillgates suffered extensive damage," said Ognoskie, "it has taken several months to obtain inspections from outside consultants, evaluate their recommendations, develop costs, and finalize the repair process." GBRA has hired the Holloman Corporation from San Antonio to assist GBRA Hydro employees with the necessary gate repairs to the structural steel members and wood timbers in each of the two roof-weir spill gates. Each of the two gates is 100 feet long and 12 feet high when they are in the raised position.

Both gates are currently in the "down" position, and initial repairs must be done while they are in that position. In order to begin repairs, the flow rate through Lake Placid must be about 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) or lower for the first three to four weeks of the process. The flow rate is determined by a number of factors, including the release from Canyon Reservoir, flows from Comal Springs and local tributaries, and weather conditions.

"At the present time, the flow at Lake Placid is over the spillgates and is too high to safely start the initial repairs," said Ognoskie. As soon as river flows are low enough to allow for safe working conditions, GBRA and Holloman Corporation will begin those initial repairs, which are expected to take approximately three to four weeks.

More-more-more

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Page 2 of 2

When the initial interim repairs are completed, the Lake Placid spillgates will be raised and locked in an up position for an additional six to eight weeks, while the permanent repairs are completed. During this process, the lake level will be near normal elevation. However, the public is advised that scheduled operations and repairs may be adjusted in the event of adverse weather conditions.