



NEWS

**GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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Media Advisory – Lake Placid Update

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 17, 2005

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- In January 2005 the engineering firm Freese and Nichols provided the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) technical specifications for structural repairs to the TP-4 Dam spill gates damaged during the November 2004 flood.
- In January 2005 two contracting companies were interviewed and evaluated.
- On February 16, 2005 the GBRA Board of Directors approved an agreement between GBRA and the Holloman Corporation to perform the repair work.

Method of Repairs

- The condition of the spill gates requires the repairs be made in two phases.
- The first must be completed prior to raising the gates. **This is estimated to take 3-4 weeks.**
- The second phase will be performed with the gates in the “up position”. **It is estimated that this phase will take an additional 6-8 weeks.** The lake will be near the normal elevation during the second phase of the repairs.

Flow Requirements for Repairs with workers under the gates

- The start date will be determined by weather and river flow conditions. In order for the contractor to safely work on the gates the flow must be diverted through the hydroelectric turbine pit. **The dimensions of the turbine pit and the elevation of the spill gates (in the down position) are such that in order to keep water off the gates the flow must be less than 500 cubic feet per second (cfs).**

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Current Conditions

- On, March 17, 2005, Canyon Lake elevation is 910.12 ft. msl. The top of the conservation pool is 909.00 feet mean sea level (msl). When the elevation is above 909 the U.S Army Corps of Engineers are in control of the release rates. The Corps is presently releasing 1,9700 cfs through the main release tunnel, and the Comal River flow is 466 cfs, which results in a combined total flow of 2,436 cfs. GBRA Chief Engineer, Tommy Hill, estimates the release rate may continue another several weeks depending on future rain events.

Regulation Alternative

- Plans are being discussed on how to control the flow and start the repair project as soon as possible. It is anticipated that when the flow decreases to 1,100 cfs at Lake Dunlap, the Lake can be lowered 1.6 feet during the nighttime hours by passing approximately 1,800 cfs through the Hydro System. Then, during the day, Dunlap will be refilled while passing 450 cfs through the power plant. This should allow approximately 9 hours of work time on the TP-4 spill gate. This process would require approximately 3-4 weeks to complete the first phase. Under this alternative, Lake Dunlap would be approximately 20 inches below the normal elevation Monday through Friday beginning at 5:00 AM each morning and returning to normal elevation by 5:00 PM each afternoon. The 1,800 cfs flow will begin at 6:00 PM each afternoon and continue until 5:00 AM each morning, Sunday through Thursday of each week.

GBRA has requested the Corps of Engineers to allow a temporary re-regulation plan at Canyon Reservoir to help accommodate work at TP-4. Once Canyon Reservoir is below elevation 909 msl, the request is to cut the release rate to 600 cfs and then allow Canyon Reservoir to fill to elevation 910 msl, before increasing the outflow. As long as a major rain event does not occur, this would provide time needed to make the initial TP-4 repairs. The Corps of Engineers has indicated they would consider this re-regulation plan, but will not make the final decision until the Reservoir has been drawn down closer to elevation 909 msl, and until the upstream watershed has stabilized.