



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA Successfully Raises Lake Placid Dam Gates Further Repair May be Needed

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On Wednesday, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) hydroelectric crews successfully raised the Lake Placid (TP-4) dam gates damaged during the November 2004 flooding. Lake Placid has begun impounding water and will remain approximately 12 to 18 inches below normal elevation during final repairs to the gates.

Lake Placid is still closed to the public until Monday, April 25, to allow time for GBRA and the Placid homeowners' association to replace buoys and mark other obstructions. Until then, a permit must be obtained from the GBRA general office in Seguin to access Lake Placid for removal of boats and to make essential repairs.

"Lake Placid dam has two spillway gates, each with an upstream and downstream section," said Allen Ognoskie GBRA division manager Hydro/RUD. "Gate 1 is located on the north side of the spillway and Gate 2 is on the south side. When we raised the gates on Wednesday, we noticed that Gate 2 was much slower to respond. It appears there may be some damage underneath the gate that could not be detected during the recent inspections and repairs."

Ognoskie said it appears that the upstream section of Gate 2 may have spread during the raising process and that additional work will be needed. "GBRA personnel were successful in placing the gate on locking bars and we are in the process of draining it again for further cleaning and internal inspection. This will take several days. During that time, Lake Placid should be approximately 12 to 18 inches below the normal elevation. GBRA is doing everything possible to expedite the repair work, including the use of a construction contractor in addition to our professional employees."

Depending on the results of the inspection, GBRA will determine if Gate 2 can be repaired in the raised position, or if the gates will need to be lowered again to complete the work. If necessary, this work could take several weeks and may require the lowering of Lake Placid.

GBRA will advise the public of the status of the repair process and schedule as they become known.