

Lake Tapps Reservoir Refill Frequently Asked Questions April 2015

Q. When will the reservoir be refilled?

A. Cascade began refill of Lake Tapps Reservoir on March 13, with the anticipation that the Lake would be at recreational level by Memorial Day weekend. After more than seven months of being down for significant repairs, maintenance and improvements, the eight miles of upper conveyance was filled first. Water began to fill the reservoir on March 27. The Governor has declared a drought emergency for much of the State, including the Lake Tapps area in Pierce County. There has been very little precipitation this spring and White River flows are at historic lows. Since refill is dependent on river flow and precipitation, it is now clear that refill by Memorial Day weekend will not be possible.

Q. Why did Cascade draw the reservoir down this far?

A. When Cascade purchased the entire White River Lake Tapps Reservoir system from Puget Sound Energy in 2009 for eventual municipal water supply, Cascade knew the system was more than 100 years old and would need improvements, fixes and enhancements. In order to implement the projects completed over the past seven months, it was necessary to draw the lake down to an elevation of about 500 feet (normal winter levels are elevation 535 to 538 feet and summer recreation levels are 541.5 to 543 feet). Cascade held a public meeting in June 2014 to inform the community of its plans and throughout the project has kept the Lake Tapps Community Council and community members and homeowners informed at every step of the project. As planned, drawdown did not begin until after Labor Day and the projects were completed for refill to begin in mid-March.

Q. What improvements did Cascade make?

- A. Cascade made the following improvements:
 - Repaired the barrier (dam) structure
 - Removed about 75,000 cubic yards of sediment from the flowline and performed necessary maintenance

- Rehabilitated and upgraded the headgates
- Replaced 2,300 feet of timber flume with a new concrete flume
- Repaired 1,500 feet of eroded floor of the existing flume
- Maintained, repaired and cleaned fish screens
- Inspected and repaired twin 10-foot pipelines
- Repaired 10-foot pipeline valves
- Installed dike piezometers
- Seismically retrofit Dike 3 and made safety improvements
- Completed condition assessment of the lower conveyance system that runs from the Lake back to the river
- Replaced tunnel intake trash rack
- Replaced tunnel intake stop logs
- Repaired tunnel intake fill gate
- Repaired concrete in 12-foot diameter tunnel
- Repaired valves and concrete in forebay
- Repaired valves and flow tubes at Power House

Q. What will the improvements mean to the system?

A. These projects will enable Cascade to operate the system in a more reliable and predictable manner not only now but for years into the future.

Q. Does this mean Cascade will now be using the reservoir for water supply?

A. No. But it is imperative for everyone that a healthy lake is maintained for the eventual use as municipal drinking water supply.

Q. What did this project cost?

A. Cascade invested over \$15 million in the 16 different enhancement and improvement projects.