



PO Box 4949, Syracuse, NY 13221-4949
OTISCO LAKE DAM REHABILITATION
TOWN OF MARCELLUS
JANUARY 2016 UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Over 100 years old, the Otisco Lake Dam has made it possible to provide drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents throughout Central New York. The dam has been upgraded and improved many times over its life. Over the last few years the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been working with dam owners to verify the condition and safety of large dams throughout the state. During the evaluation of the Otisco Dam, OCWA's engineers found that the details of the original timber piles used in the foundation of the dam are uncertain. Testing showed that the dam is stable and safe. However, the ability to estimate how the dam would perform during an unforeseen catastrophic event (like Hurricane Sandy) was limited by the uncertain details. OCWA was provided two options; 1) Perform more testing to measure how well the timber piles work, or 2) Strengthen the dam so that the performance of the 100+ year old piles became unimportant. To be conservative and to ensure the stability of the dam, OCWA chose to install additional anchors that will secure the dam in place for the long term.

UPDATE

The rehabilitation project is complete for the season. All ten anchors are successfully installed, tested and capped. The Contractor will return again in the spring to complete some minor work along the larger spillway areas filling and sealing the joints. This work will not affect the active spillway and thus can be performed independent of the level in the lake.

LAKE LEVEL UPDATE

As shown in the Figure below, as of January 8, 2016 we are at about 2 inches below the spillway, which is about 18 inches above normal for this time of the year. The recent rains have brought the lake up substantially in past weeks. The siphon will be shut down soon and the flow through the gate will resume once the contractor has removed their equipment from the base of the dam.

THANK YOU

We thank everyone for their patience with the project. It has progressed smoothly and successfully and we are pleased to see it come to completion.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Andrew Weiss at 315-455-7061 x 3108, or ajweiss@ocwa.org, or at the address above.

55 YEAR AVERAGE OTISCO LAKE LEVEL MEASURED AT THE DAM SPILLWAY

Current Lake Level 1-8-2016

1960-2014

