

LAKE PLACID DAM (TP)-4

Seguin, Texas | Guadalupe County

Background. Lake Placid Dam (TP)-4 is one of six dams that was constructed to create a hydroelectric power grid for the Guadalupe River Valley between 1927-1932. TP-4 was completed in 1932. The State Board of Water Engineers authorized the construction of the Lake Placid/TP-4 Dam in 1929, which allowed the Hunt Development Company to appropriate 995,000 acre-feet of water annually for hydroelectric generation.

Spillgate Number 2. On October 14, 2021, spillgate Number 2 failed in the down position at the dam with no ability to impound water and maintain the normal pool elevation required for hydroelectric generation. Utilization of the original bear trap spillgates is among the earliest record of this engineering mechanism used in Texas.

Repairing the Dam. The project will replace the two existing bear trap gates with two new hydraulically actuated steel crest gates, and the foundation will be modified to maintain the structural stability of the spillway.

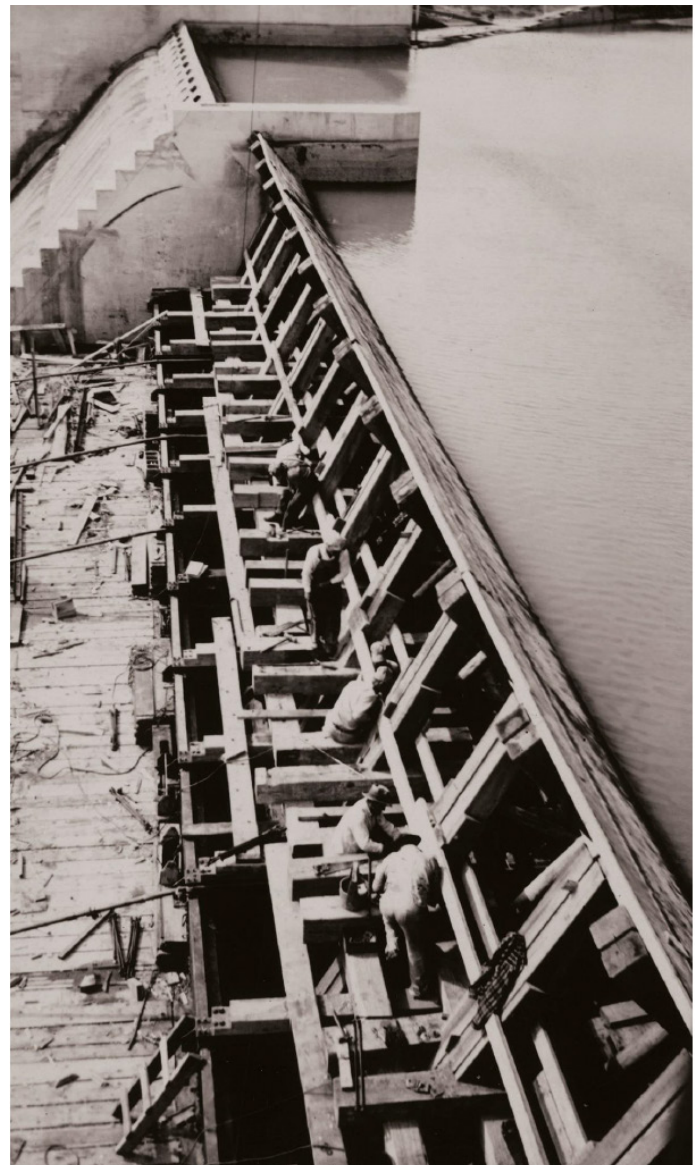
The existing earthen dam embankments are armored partially with concrete; however, additional concrete armoring is needed to meet the current Texas Commission on Environmental Quality dam safety standards. A new maintenance bridge will be installed above the spillway providing access for a gantry crane to transport stop logs for emergency repairs and provide entry for spill gate maintenance.

Significance. Lake Placid Dam is listed as a National Registered Historical Place because it was one of the earliest hydroelectric power generation providers to nearby communities. Once completed, hydroelectric power generation will resume and lake levels will return to previous elevations.

Partners: Lake Placid Water Control and Improvement District (WCID No 1.)

Estimated Completion: 2025

Estimated Cost: \$42.6M



Looking south Ca. 1930. Photo from GBRA archives.



Lake Placid Dam powerhouse.