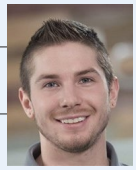
Four Lakes Task Force

Dam Construction Updates | Secord and Smallwood Dams

NOTES FROM GROVER
the Construction Manager

SECORD



- Dewatered the left embankment
- Major excavations of the auxiliary spillway are underway
- Installation of steel sheet pile for the auxiliary spillway is 95% complete with the backfilling of the basin excavations taking place
- Dewatered the low level outlet (downstream of powerhouse) and the concrete footings will be poured shortly

SMALLWOOD

- Demolished the powerhouse building to the floor slab with only the turbine remaining to be removed
- The majority of the steel equipment within the powerhouse will be sold to assist funding the project
- Installed all steel sheet pile for the auxiliary spillway
- Poured first concrete for the upper stilling basin slab of the auxiliary spillway, utilizing the on-site concrete batch plant

TECHNICAL FEATURE

Over **25,000 cubic yards of concrete** will be used on Secord and Smallwood dams. To ensure all placed concrete meets design requirements, we use a tool called the Giatec SmartRock Wireless Concrete Sensor. The SmartRock sensor measures and reports poured concrete internal temperature and external temperature readings every 15 minutes. If placed concrete reaches curing temperatures that are either too high or too low during the hydration process, the concrete could suffer from cracking, shrinkage, loss of durability, or overall strength loss. With the SmartRock sensor, the FLTF construction team can monitor all concrete pours and be certain a quality product has been constructed.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The operations crew completed the monthly dam inspections and the Smallwood siren test, and all went well. They also did the confined space entry into the galleries at Secord and Smallwood to read the piezometer wells (used to measure underground water pressure). Annual smoke detector tests, the walking surface and machinery guarding inspections were all completed this month. Mowing of the grounds and the embankments was ongoing throughout the month as conditions for growth have been favorable.

SAFETY

As the number of contractors increases at both Smallwood and Secord dams, ensuring safety is an ongoing process that requires strong communication and mutual understanding among all project participants. The onboarding process of new contractors on site has proven to be effective and sets a precedent for a safety-first culture.

QUALITY

Steel sheet pile driving and material installations, such as granular backfill placement, for construction of the auxiliary spillways are closely monitored by the project team to ensure a durable final product.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Proposed updates to site access at Secord Dam was granted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and FLTF is currently coordinating with them and responding to questions on permit modifications.