

Plum Creek Watershed Dam No. 18 Rehabilitation Project Spencer County, Kentucky

Fact Sheet
February 2016

History of the Dam:

Plum Creek Watershed Dam No. 18 is located in Spencer County, Kentucky and was constructed by local watershed project sponsors with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Spencer County is located east of Louisville and west of Lexington.

The dam is one of eleven flood control dams in the Plum Creek Watershed Project located in Spencer and Shelby Counties. The watershed also extends into Bullitt and Jefferson Counties and covers approximately 24,000 acres. The flood control dams protect cropland and local residents from the threat of serious flooding.



A supplemental toe drain system was installed in the dam during rehabilitation to control seepage through the dam to improve its long-term stability.



A new principal spillway inlet tower was constructed to meet current design criteria.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The dam was constructed as a low hazard dam, but the State dam safety agency found the dam did not meet current dam safety criteria and it needed to be rehabilitated.

Rehabilitation Details:

A supplemental toe drain system was installed and the inlet tower for the principal spillway was replaced. The purpose of the supplemental toe drain system is to control seepage through the dam and improve long-term stability of the structure. A house downstream in the breach zone was elevated to get it above the breach zone elevation.

Spencer County implemented a “breach zone” building ordinance to control future downstream development within the breach zone of the watershed dams. The Spencer County Conservation District and the Plum Creek Watershed Conservancy District administered the home elevation portion of the project. NRCS managed the structural work on the dam.

Project Cost:

The NRCS provided technical assistance and 65 percent of the cost of the project. Project sponsors provided 35 percent of the cost. Construction cost for the rehabilitation of the dam was \$116,023.50

Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the dam extends the life of the dam for another 50 years. It will ensure the safety of the dam and those citizens living and working downstream and will continue to provide flood prevention benefits.

Partners:

- Spencer County Conservation District
- Plum Creek Watershed Conservancy District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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