

Mountain Run Watershed Dam No. 50 (Lake Pelham) Rehabilitation Project Culpeper County, Virginia

Fact Sheet
May 2019

History of the Dam:

Mountain Run Watershed Dam No. 50, known locally as the Lake Pelham, was constructed in 1972 by the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Culpeper with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Program.

The dam was constructed for flood control and water supply for the Town of Culpeper, Virginia. The dam creates a 220 acre reservoir that is also used for recreation.

The dam is one of five dams constructed in the Mountain Run Watershed project between 1959 and 1973.



A concrete labyrinth weir auxiliary spillway was constructed over the embankment during the rehabilitation project.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The dam was rehabilitated because the earthen auxiliary spillway did not have the capacity to pass the water volume required by current Virginia dam safety regulations.

The dam is classified as a high hazard because a failure of the dam could cause loss of life and property downstream.

Rehabilitation Details:

The rehabilitation project included constructing a concrete labyrinth weir auxiliary spillway over the embankment, installing an earthen berm across the existing auxiliary spillway, installing a stilling basin and riprap outlet protection below the dam and upgrading the water intake structure.

Project Cost:

The NRCS provided technical assistance and 65 percent of the total project cost. Project sponsors provided easements and land rights for the project and 35 percent of the cost.

Federal funds for the project were provided through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program funds.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the dam will bring the dam up to current State dam safety criteria and extend its life and benefits for another 50 years.

Rehabilitation will ensure the dam continues to provide flood protection, water supply, recreation, and protection of water quality.

Partners:

Town of Culpeper
Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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