

Project Update 5/6/2024

Major work is complete at both the North Dam (dam facing Lebanon Borough) and at the Dike (dam crossed by CR 629). Minor items may need to be addressed after a final walkthrough as the project nears completion, but no significant work is occurring or planned at this time.

Major earthwork was completed at the South Dam (dam facing Molasses Hill Rd) in August 2023. During fall 2023, the Contractor worked to restore the embankment and surrounding areas to preconstruction condition. This included topsoiling/seeding, tree planting, installing turf reinforcement matting and dam instrumentation/monitoring equipment, decommissioning soil erosion/sediment control measures, and paving. This work continues in spring 2024.

As part of the rehabilitation project and as a safety measure, the reservoir water surface elevation was lowered in fall 2019 and was kept at or below elevation 360 feet for the duration of the project (25 feet lower than normal pool). In fall 2023, with major earthwork complete at all three embankments, the Authority began a pumping program to refill the reservoir to elevation 385 feet (normal pool). On April 26, 2024, the pumping program ceased for the season. During the pumping program, the pool elevation rose by more than 23 feet, which represents over 17.5 billion gallons. Reservoir elevation data is available here: <https://www.njwsa.org/raritan-operations-data.html> (click on the operations report link). Pumping was stopped approximately 1.5 feet below full pool. This was intentional to provide “space” for rain events that may occur prior to our release season which typically starts in June or July.



Contractor restoring areas that were used for staging and stockpiling during construction. New tree plantings in reforestation areas can be seen in background.



Contractor restoring areas near the South Dam that were used for staging and stockpiling during construction.



Contractor restoring areas near the South Dam that were used for staging and stockpiling during construction.