Minidoka Dam Spillway & Headworks Replacement Project

Project description: Due to concrete deterioration on the spillway and both irrigation headworks structures, a $21.3 million construction project was initiated at the century-old Minidoka Dam. Record Steel and Construction Inc, of Meridian Idaho, is doing the work at the dam overseen by Reclamation’s Pacific Northwest Region Construction Engineering Group.

The work includes demolishing the existing 2,237-foot-long pier and stop log structure and replacing it with a new roller-compacted concrete spillway structure and control gates. Construction began in November 2011 and will be completed by March 2015. Funding comes from both Minidoka and Burley Irrigation Districts and Federal appropriated dollars.

The multi-phase construction project will be implemented over the next four years to accommodate irrigation deliveries and flood control operations at the dam.

Current activity: South Gated Spillway Structure
Crews have been placing concrete on the new south gated spillway since mid-May. Nearly 2 million pounds of concrete (approximately 420+ cubic yards) are placed in each section, with 3 sections placed every two weeks. Concrete crews work continuously for 12 -15 hours until the placement is complete. The concrete is delivered to the construction site by ready-mix trucks, with each truckload carrying eight cubic yards and with a new truck arriving every 20 minutes.

The ogee spillway design is S-shaped to accommodate water flow and because of this, some center sections are 12 feet deep. The foundation, meticulously cleaned of all loose soil and rock, is over 1350 feet long and 45 feet wide.

Concrete work on the 12 gated bays is scheduled to be completed by July 2012. Control gate operating hardware will be installed in the fall of 2012.

The new spillway gates are located just north of the south canal headworks and the upstream of the existing pedestrian access bridge.

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Archived News Release Sept 2011:
Reclamation Awards $21 Million Contract for Replacement of the Spillway at Minidoka Dam