



Mossyrock Dam and Riffe Lake Levels Update – May 2021

In 2017, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) revised its earthquake predictions for the Cowlitz River basin. Although the probability of a large earthquake is very low, the updated predictions indicated that the spillway piers on Mossyrock Dam could potentially be damaged. In order to reduce this risk and protect public safety, we are holding Riffe Lake's elevation to about 30 feet lower than full (778 feet) for now.

Over the last four years, we have been collaborating with industry experts on the effects of these potential earthquakes to the dam.

We recently received new ground acceleration reports from the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center and we are incorporating those results into our ongoing studies.

The good news: We presented the updated studies to our Board of Consultants and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) earlier this year and, during that meeting, we came to an agreement about the appropriate level of seismicity for designing the potential solutions.

While some structures have consistent earthquake building codes, dams do not. Every dam has its own individual risk factors. Due to Mossyrock Dam's unique characteristics, we had to take the time to develop these new seismicity standards. Having them in place now is a huge step forward.

However, there are many more steps in this complex process, and each one must be reviewed and agreed upon by the Board of Consultants and FERC. This process often takes six months or longer for each step.

We are working hard to make additional progress on the possible seismic retrofits, but the bottom line is we are still years away from having a definitive solution. We greatly appreciate the public's patience as we work through this process, and we will share updates as they become available.