



## Utah Division of Water Rights Office of the State Engineer

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **State Approves Panguitch Lake Dam Reconstruction Following-up on 2024 Emergency**

**PANGUITCH, UTAH** – Construction of a new dam at Panguitch Lake is officially moving forward following final state and federal approvals.

The State Engineer approved the project on June 19, shortly after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the design met environmental standards under Programmatic General Permit-10 (PGP-10). A joint state-federal permit was issued on June 11.

With permits secured, the design engineer and dam owner, West Panguitch Irrigation Co, have selected a contractor, and construction on the \$3.7 million project is expected to begin in late summer or early fall 2025.

“We owe a tremendous thank you to the Utah Legislature for funding this project and to our partner agency, the Utah Division of Water Resources, for their collaboration,” said Utah State Engineer Teresa Wilhelmsen. “By working together, efforts to rebuild moved quickly and are underway.”

The final dam design was submitted in **May 2025** after several rounds of technical review. Earlier in the year, a state-only stream alteration permit was issued, and the engineering team responded promptly to feedback from the division’s Dam Safety and Stream Alteration Section.

The reconstruction effort follows an emergency at Panguitch Lake Dam in April 2024, when extensive cracking, which was likely due to ice pressure, forced officials to close State Route 143 and issue a flood watch. Crews lowered the reservoir and reinforced the dam to prevent a breach. An emergency spillway was quickly constructed to maintain safe water levels and meet storage restrictions.

Throughout summer and fall 2024, engineers conducted site investigations, refined design alternatives, and developed a biological evaluation for the proposed downstream dam. This work involved close coordination with the West Panguitch Irrigation Company, Garfield County, and the U.S. Forest Service.

A comprehensive design report and stream alteration application were submitted to the state in December 2024, setting the stage for the regulatory process that led to the June approvals.

Once built, the new dam will restore full function to the Panguitch Lake reservoir while significantly improving long-term safety and structural integrity.

### [Panguitch Dam Incident and Recovery Timeline of Events](#)

#### **About the Utah Division of Water Rights**

The [Utah Division of Water Rights](#) is a state agency within the **Department of Natural Resources**. It is led by the State Engineer who is responsible for administering water rights in accordance with Utah water law. The State Engineer also provides general supervision over the waters of the state, including their measurement, appropriation, apportionment and distribution.

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