



PROJECT UPDATE



SPRING 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues work on Herbert Hoover Dike, the 143-mile structure surrounding Lake Okeechobee. Since 2001, the Corps has made a significant investment, over \$1 billion, in projects designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of the aging structure.

DIKE HISTORY

In the late 1920s, flooding from hurricanes killed thousands of people living in communities around the lake. As a result, Congress authorized the Corps to construct a series of levees. In the 1930s, the Corps built 68 miles of levee on the south shore of the lake, and an additional 16 miles of levee near the city of Okeechobee on the north.

Following another hurricane in 1947 that left much of south Florida under water for weeks, Congress authorized a project that raised and widened the existing levees. Congress also authorized the Corps to build an additional 59 miles of levee, bringing the dike to the 143-mile footprint that it has today. In 1960, the series of levees was renamed the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The dike was built with gravel, rock, limestone, sand and shell. These natural materials allow water to seep through the embankment. As the water level in the lake increases, the seepage can lead to internal erosion. Without intervention, the movement of material within the dike could cause the dike to fail, putting thousands of people in harm's way.

REHABILITATION

In the 1990s and early 2000s, the Corps observed issues at the dike during high water events in Lake Okeechobee. These issues included movement of dike material, such as sloughing, the development of sinkholes, and other erosion. The Corps dealt with issues immediately to keep the dike from failing. A series of studies was undertaken on various sections of the dike. As the results of those studies became available, the Corps began rehabilitation of the dike.

WORK COMPLETED/ONGOING

Since 2001, the \$1 billion invested by the Corps resulted in the following work at the dike:

- Construction of a 21.4 mile seepage barrier (known as a partial-penetrating cutoff wall) between Belle Glade and Port Mayaca on the southeast side of the lake, an area previously identified as Reach 1.
- Replacement of eight water control structures. These structures (also known as “culverts”) posed a failure risk due to loss of embankment material into and along them.
- Removal of one additional water control structure.
- Filling of toe ditch and quarry between Belle Glade and Port Mayaca.
- Replacement of 18 water control structures is ongoing.
- Construction of 6.6 miles of seepage barrier is ongoing between Belle Glade and Lake Harbor.

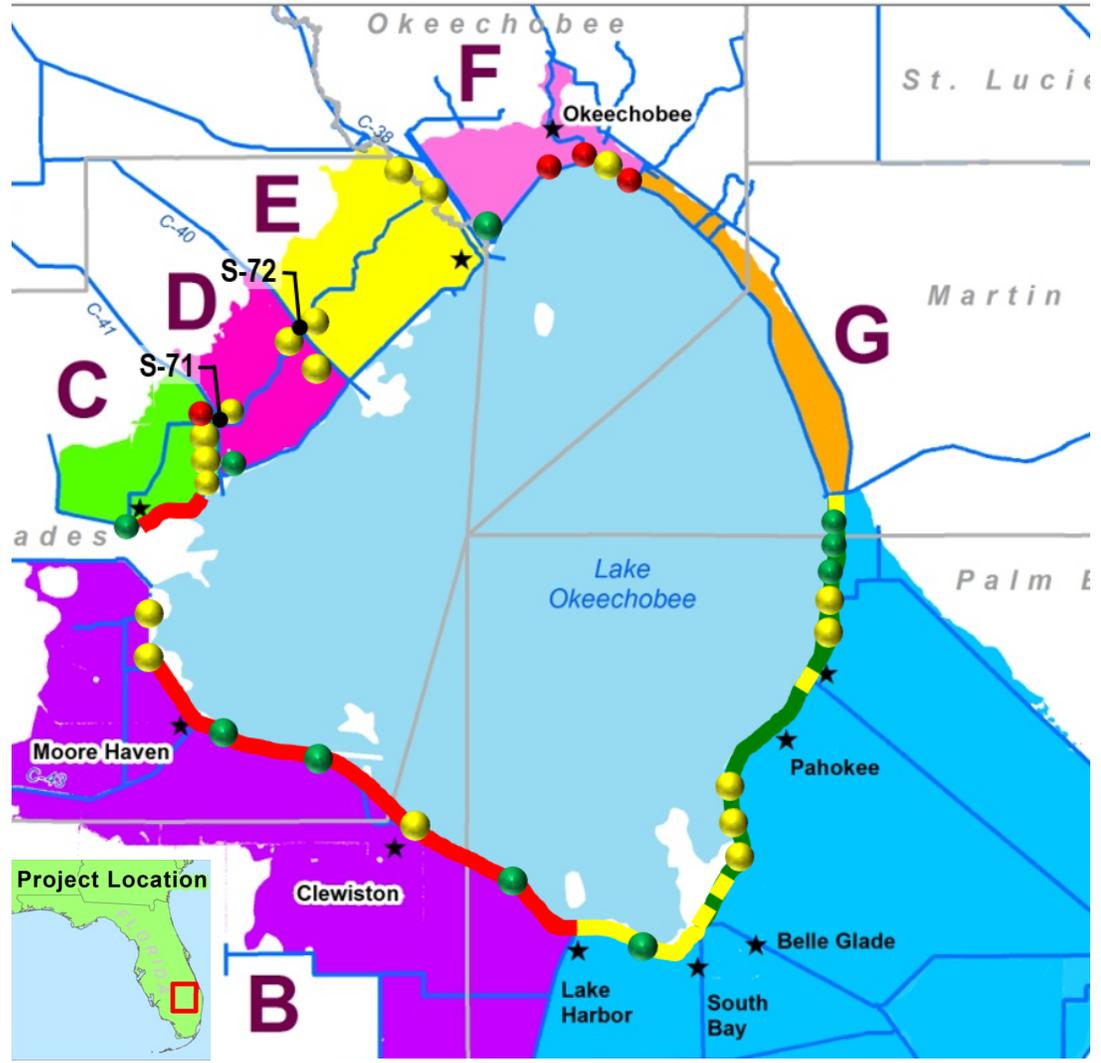


FUTURE WORK

The Corps plans to complete the following rehabilitation work at the dike:

- Replacement of water control structure. The Corps has 18 structures in various phases of construction. The Corps plans to award a contract for the final replacement structure next year.
- Abandonment of three water control structures located near Okeechobee at the north end of the lake.
- Construction of 28.6 miles of seepage barrier along the south and west sides of the dike. The Corps plans to award multiple contracts over the next two years for the construction of a partial-penetrating cutoff wall from Lake Harbor, through Clewiston, Moore Haven and Lakeport.
- Raising the HHD embankment at the S-71 and S-72 structures on the Indian Prairie and Harney Pond Canals. This helps reduce the risk of overwashing/overtopping by raising the height of the structure to match the height of the adjacent embankment.
- Armoring the State Route 78 bridge abutments at the Harney Pond Canal. Placement of rock at this location reduces the risk of dike failure due to storm surge brought about by a tropical system with a high lake level.

HHD Common Inundation Zones



- Cutoff Wall Completed
- Cutoff Wall Ongoing Construction
- Cutoff Wall Planned
- Culvert Replacements / Removals Completed
- Culvert Replacements Ongoing Construction
- Culvert Replacements / Abandonments Planned

COST/SCHEDULE

The Corps estimates the total cost of the rehabilitation effort to be more than \$1.8 billion. The HHD project is fully funded to completion with the FY2019 President's Budget, the State of Florida's \$100 million contribution and inclusion in the Supplemental Plan. The Corps anticipates rehabilitation work will continue through 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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