

Dam Rehabilitation Update August 8, 2026 (John Callaghan, Hudson River Black River Regulating District)

- DEC issued formal approval-to-fill last week, a key milestone for the project
- Project ran 36 months vs. the planned 24; water levels kept normal throughout all three construction seasons
- Challenging hydrology: record ice year, rapid inflow, Great Sacandaga 15ft over target elevation
- Contractor (C.D. Perry of Troy) now on punch list; engineer is Colliers Engineering Design
 - Punch list issued the prior week; conference call held to confirm scope
- Site restoration underway, including new car-top launch and parking area (16-20 spaces estimated)
- Contractor expected to demobilize by end of September; site fully open by then
- Dam structure sound; engineers say it can retain water for another 500+ years if maintained
- New real-time water gauge data live on the regulating district website, replacing USGS feed
 - More interactive than the old USGS site; feedback welcomed
- Light pollution concern raised by attendees
 - Commitment to turn off non-operational lights when staff not present
 - Request to angle lights toward dam rather than toward houses; will be reviewed