



PO Box 4949, Syracuse, NY 13221-4949  
OTISCO LAKE DAM REHABILITATION  
TOWN OF MARCELLUS  
SEPTEMBER 2015 UPDATE

The rehabilitation project of the dam is scheduled to begin this month. The General Contractor is M. Hubbard Construction Co. Inc. of Skaneateles, NY who will be mobilizing to the site in the next week or two. They will begin with the delivery of materials and construction of the temporary support structure that will ultimately be the work platform for the equipment used to install the anchors through the dam. As the work progresses we will provide additional updates.



There have been many questions regarding the level of the lake during this work. We have provided a figure below that summarizes the historic lake levels and shows where we are now. In the previous article we mentioned that our goal was to be 12 to 18 inches below the spillway for the start of the project. As shown in the figure below, as of September 2, 2015 we are at 12 inches below the spillway, which is 6 inches above normal for this time of the year. This is adequate for the work and we have closed our gates down to the minimum for maintaining adequate flow in Nine Mile Creek. Based on the current level, here is what to expect for the next few months:

**Normal Weather:** If the weather for the fall is typical for Central NY, the lake level will continue to drop about 1 inch per week. This drop is normal for this time of year. You can see this in the figure below. Historically the lake reaches its lowest level each year in November.

**Very Dry Weather:** If we experience a drier than normal fall season, the lake may drop faster. The good news is that as of the beginning of September, we are actually about 6-inches higher than normal. This is shown by the yellow dot on the figure below. This should help avoid abnormally low lake levels even if the fall is very dry.

**Very Wet Weather:** If we experience a lot of rainfall, or a tropical storm or hurricane passes over the watershed, the level of the lake may actually rise. The rise in level is generally acceptable unless it reaches the top of the dam spillway. Experience has shown that very large storms can fill the lake faster than can be controlled. If that occurs, we will wait for the storm to pass and then will adjust the lake back to the target 12 to 18-inches below the spillway to allow to work to continue.

Below is a preliminary schedule for the work. The project is intended to be complete by the end of the year, weather permitting. As the work commences we will provide updates to the schedule.

**Preliminary work schedule:**

Mobilization and Construction of Drilling Platform: September

Drilling and Anchor Installations: September-November

Masonry repointed/Concrete work: October

Completion and Monitoring: December

As the initial materials and equipment are delivered to the site there will be minor increased truck traffic around the facility access driveway. We ask that everyone be cautious as they approach this area. We appreciate your patience as the contractor works to maneuver their supplies and equipment onto the site.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Andrew Weiss at 315-455-7061 x 3108, or [ajweiss@ocwa.org](mailto:ajweiss@ocwa.org), or at the address above.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

# 55 YEAR AVERAGE OTISCO LAKE LEVEL MEASURED AT THE DAM SPILLWAY 1960-2014

