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MOOSE CREEK DAM BARRIER WALL MODIFICATION PROJECT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District

Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project
North Pole, Alaska



Work involves constructing 4.5 miles of mix-in-place concrete barrier wall to depths of up to 65 feet

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Moose Creek Dam Barrier Wall Modification Project is USACE Alaska District's largest civil works project in more than 30 years.

In 2021, the district awarded the contract to Bauer Foundation Corp. of Florida and construction began in May 2022.

The two machines atop the dam, a cutter soil mixer and an auger, are being used to mix the existing gravel inside the structure with cement and bentonite to depths of up to 65 feet. This work will address the risks of aging infrastructure and extend the life of the structure for many years to come.

The project is scheduled for completion in January 2026 and the total estimated value of the work is about \$148 million.

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US Army Corps
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Construction on the Moose Creek Dam Modification Project began May 12, 2022

The Chena Project is the northernmost flood risk mitigation project operated by USACE! Since becoming operational in 1979, Moose Creek Dam has managed 30 high-water events to keep local communities safe from potential flooding.

FUN FACT!

In the summer of 1967, one of the worst disasters in the history of Alaska struck the Fairbanks area. Unusually heavy rains swelled the Chena and Little Chena rivers to 6 feet above their flood stage, causing more than \$80 million in damages and displacing nearly 7,000 people.

This disaster sparked the urgent need for construction of the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project. Work began in 1973 and was completed in 1979. Major components of the project include the Moose Creek Dam and Floodway, Tanana River Levee and drainage channels. Together, these features comprise the largest federal civil works project in the state.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, a dam modification study recommended the construction of a mix-in-place barrier wall along 4.5 miles of Moose Creek Dam.

This "mega project" will prevent the continuation of backwards erosion and piping that could cause erosion and jeopardize the integrity of the structure.

While this improvement work is underway, the dam will continue to operate and regulate the flow of the Chena River as necessary. The goal is to minimize impacts on public access to nearby recreation areas during construction.

USACE defines a "mega project" by the criteria of cost and duration; uniqueness; acquisition strategy and delivery method; national significance; critical nature of completion date; coordination of multiple prime contractors; coordination of multiple design agents; and overlapping or dependent project phases.

DID YOU KNOW?



Fairbanks following the 1967 flood event

