

Project Update

Gardom Pond Dam

Capital Regional District | August 2019

The CRD is aware of ongoing discussions and questions regarding the project to lower the water level and decommission the dam at Gardom Pond. In response to these questions, the FAQs on the [Gardom Pond capital project website](#) have been updated with the information below.

What is the current status of the project?

The outlet channel stream construction is now complete from south of the dam embankment down to the property on Razor Point Road. The culvert improvement has been completed across Razor Point Road and asphalt will be reinstated shortly. During the pond lowering process, outflow was diverted into the newly constructed outlet channel to test riprap fortification and construction and monitor water quality. The water continues to flow well, contains no visible sediment and is monitored daily.

The pond level is now reaching the original stream outlet level and preparation for the final stage of the decommissioning work is underway. The contractor has temporarily left site for approximately one week during which time the dam embankment and exposed shoreline will dry out. Construction will resume upon their return and will include the completion of the outlet channel directly south of the embankment, modifications to the existing fire standpipe, completion of the RPID waterline connection and lowering of the dam embankment. Once this remaining construction is complete the final stage of the work will involve revegetation of the exposed shoreline, landscaping and clean-up.

Has the impact on local groundwater been considered?

(UPDATED August 9, 2019)

Building on a 2011 study by Ryzuk Geotechnical, in 2013 the Engineering firm AECOM was engaged to prepare an evaluation report on the Gardom Pond dam that would compare the impacts and costs of upgrading the dam to current Provincial Dam Safety Standards with the impacts of decommissioning the dam, based on conceptual designs.

As part of the AECOM study, Thurber Engineering was engaged for a further geotechnical assessment as well as to perform an assessment of potential water supply impacts. The scope of work for the latter included a review of available well drilling logs, a review of pertinent surficial geology mapping and a request to selected property owners to fill out a water supply survey questionnaire. The assessment was to be qualitative in nature, and was

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only to provide comments on the relative risk (e.g. low, medium, high) of there being potentially negative impacts to the wells.

The summary of the assessment of potential water supply impacts is as follows:

“In our opinion, based on the well construction details and depths of bedrock fractures identified in the driller’s reports, the presence of Gardom Pond is unlikely to have a significant effect on the nearby well yields and water quality. From the limited information reviewed here, the relative risk to significant impact to groundwater wells as a result of dam decommissioning is considered low. A more detailed assessment of the potential impacts would require the installation of monitoring wells and an extended period of groundwater monitoring which is outside the scope of this study.”