



News Release

US Army Corps
of Engineers
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Big changes to Tuttle Creek stabilization project

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Lower-than-expected water levels beneath Tuttle Creek Dam are expected to reduce the cost and duration of work to stabilize the dam in the event of an earthquake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said this week.

Because of the new data, the Corps is decreasing the amount of seismic stabilization by eliminating the planned work beneath the dam's upstream slope.

Bill Empson, project manager for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance project, said a new computer model, specifically developed to represent the individual soils at the site and to evaluate an earthquake on the dam, determined that the sands beneath the embankment were not as vulnerable to earthquake shaking as the original models showed.

The upstream face of the dam will be regraded and protected against wave action and equipment being used by the Contractor, Treviicos South, Inc. will be removed from the upstream side of the dam.

Construction to stabilize the downstream side of the dam is still necessary and equipment will be moved to the downstream side of the dam in the near future to begin that work.

Although the chances of an earthquake large enough to damage the dam occurring near Manhattan are small, a warning system was constructed to help protect the local community while the Corps of Engineers modifies Tuttle Creek Dam to meet current dam safety standards for earthquake effects.

For photos or for more information about the Tuttle Creek Dam Failure Warning System, visit the Corps' Web site at <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/tcdam/index.htm> or call Eric Cramer at (816) 983-3486.

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