



Bureau of Indian Affairs

Western Nevada Agency

email: newsmedia@bia.gov

Website: <https://www.bia.gov/WeberDamResponse>

Weber Dam Response

Key Messages June 16, 2023

The BIA is closely monitoring the Walker River stream flows and conducting daily visible inspections of Weber Dam.

An inspection of the Dam in May 2023 revealed open and offset joints between the Dam's service spillway slabs and sediment in the service spillway drains, early indications the soil under the service spillway chute may be experiencing erosion.

- The spillway is functioning normally.
- Out of an abundance of caution, engineers and scientists from [BIA's Safety of Dam's Program](#) are taking proactive measures to provide for public safety and to protect the structural integrity of the Weber Dam facility.
- Walker River is at Flood Stage. Hydrologists predict the reservoir elevation to remain **below** the emergency spillway crest (between 4204.9' and 4206.6') through July 14.

On May 17th, the BIA Superintendent, Western Nevada Agency in Carson City, Nevada declared a Level 1 Response at Weber Dam.

- A Level 1 Response indicates an unusual situation at the Dam that triggers increased levels of monitoring.
 - [DOWL](#), an engineering, planning, surveying, and Professional Services Firm with an office in Reno, Nevada is providing 24/7 monitoring services of the facility.

Response Level	Activity at Dam to Trigger Response Level Activation	BIA Response Activities	Community Action
Level 1 (Ready) Indicates an unusual situation that triggers increased levels of monitoring.	An inspection of the Dam in May 2023 revealed open and offset joints between the Dam's service spillway slabs and sediment in the service spillway drains, early indications the soil under the service spillway chute may be experiencing erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct 24/7 monitoring services of the facility.• Mobilize rock riprap, gravel, and construction equipment to the Dam.• Proactively remove Weber Dam's fuse plug.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know your flood risk.• Take a household inventory of valuables.• Store important documents.• Pay attention to authorities and safety officials and where to find official information.

Due to the open and offset joints between the Dam's service spillway slabs and sediment in the service spillway drains that was also detected in the May inspection, BIA is taking additional precautionary measures.

- BIA is proactively removing the Dam's fuse plug, a rock embankment feature of the emergency spillway that is intended to wash out in a predictable manner to lower the water elevation of the reservoir should it exceed its holding capacity.
 - Removing the fuse plug should minimize downstream flows in the event the service spillway becomes unusable.
- BIA is proactively moving rock riprap, gravel, and construction equipment to the site in the event action needs to be taken to slow erosion of the service spillway chute foundation.
 - On June 15, BIA awarded a contract to Chiricahua Procurement LLC, a company based in Albuquerque, NM to provide heavy equipment, rock, and gravel to Weber Dam.
 - A BIA Civil Engineer (Construction Specialist) with the Division of Water and Power - Safety of Dams Branch will oversee the removal of the fuse plug.
 - Estimated timeframe for equipment to start arriving on-site is June 21.