



Work to begin soon on WVU flood-control dam

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REEDSVILLE, W.Va. -- Work will soon begin on a nearly \$8 million rehabilitation of the Upper Deckers Creek No. 1 dam in Preston County.

The Monongahela Conservation District (MCD) has selected Nitro, W.Va.-based Triton Construction Inc. as the lead contractor for the project, which will see a new, roller-compacted concrete spillway installed on the earthen dam. A new riser also will be installed and the pool will be raised by ten feet, providing an increased water supply for customers of Public Service District No. 1 in Arthurdale.

The project will bring the dam, which is located on the West Virginia University JW Ruby Research Farm in Reedsville, into compliance with modern dam construction and design standards. It was originally built in 1969.

Triton Construction Inc. was the lowest of four bidders, coming in at \$7,970,000. The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA), along with engineering firm Gannett Fleming and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), reviewed all bids and recommended MCD select Triton Construction.

The bulk of the funding for the project comes from the Farm Bill passed by Congress in 2014. The state of West Virginia will be responsible for 35 percent of the cost, or about \$2 million.

“This is a much-needed project that will help ensure safety and meet the drinking water needs of the growing communities of Arthurdale and Reedsville,” WVCA Executive Director Brian Farkas said.

The dam is one of 170 small watershed flood-control dams in the state. It is also one of the 169 dams in West Virginia classified as “high hazard,” a federal designation meaning that human life could be lost if the dam were to fail. The designation does not refer to the dam’s structural integrity.

Work will begin Aug. 1 and is expected to last until late 2018. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for early August.

Designs for the project were provided by Camp Hill, Pa.-based Gannett Fleming. The firm will also continue to provide technical oversight on the project.