



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Seattle District

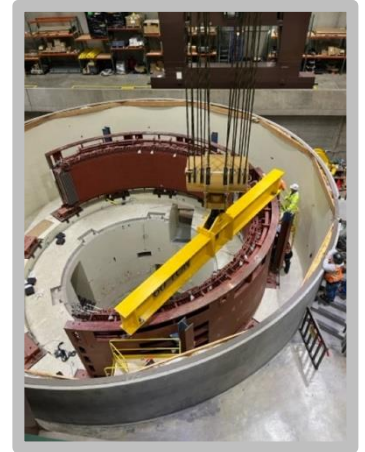
Libby Dam Generator Unit 6 Installation Project

Area of Effort: Cutting Red Tape

Initiative: Increasing Hydroelectric Output from USACE Facilities

Background:

Initially authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1950 for flood control and hydroelectric power, Libby Dam's mission has since expanded to include environmental stewardship, ecosystem restoration, and recreation. The concrete gravity dam on the Kootenei River 17 miles upstream from Libby, Montana, forms Lake Kootenai extending 90 miles upstream and 46 miles north of the Canadian border. Although the original authorization included a downstream reregulation dam and eight generators, only Libby Dam was built and four generators were placed in service in 1976. Units 5, 6, 7 and 8 were fabricated, but warehoused after Congress defunded the program nationwide. The reregulating dam was removed from the original authorization by court decision, but the four generators not installed remain authorized under the 1950 Act. Unit 5 was placed in service in 1984. The current generator Unit 6 project is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration Power Generating Assets Program.



Project Summary:

Libby Dam Generator Unit 6 assembly is the first new generating unit installed in over 30 years by Seattle District and Northwestern Division in support of Bonneville Power Administration. The unit will be commissioned after being assembled with components largely warehoused since the 1980's. Once online, it will offset lost power generation, maintain required water flow, provide operational flexibility and flood risk management, when other units are offline for required maintenance and during long term outages. The \$37 million construction contract awarded 2024 is scheduled for completion in 2027. When completed, it will enable operational flexibility when other units are offline and increase hydropower reliability at Libby Dam.

The Libby Dam Generator Unit 6 installation project leverages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' capability to optimize its authorized purposes of flood risk management, navigation, fish spawning and recreation, while modernizing and expanding its generating capacity.

The installation of Generator Unit 6 will allow Libby Dam to maintain generation, water flow and flood risk management when other units are offline, increasing the dam's hydropower reliability. Unit 6 will enable increased hydropower production in that routine inspections and maintenance of the longer serving Units 1-5 can be conducted without decreasing the capacity of the total hydropower operations. The new unit can operate in place of any older unit while maintenance occurs, directly contributing to reliability through redundancy and operating consistency.



Authority:

Flood Control Act of 1950, Public Law 81-516