



PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam are located in Lawrence Township of Tuscarawas County, Ohio along the flood plain of the Tuscarawas River, which is a tributary of the Muskingum River. The site is most easily accessed by traveling Ohio State Route 212 east from Exit 93 off I-77 (Bolivar Exit). Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam are appurtenant structures to Dover Dam and are located approximately four miles upstream of the dam on the Tuscarawas River. Dover Dam is a dry dam and retains pools only during high water events to attenuate downstream flooding in coordination with other Muskingum Basin projects.



Zoar Levee

Zoar Levee provides flood damage reduction benefits to Zoar Village and provides protection when Dover Dam is retaining a pool above elevation 890 feet (a 3-year event). As such, the original crest elevation of the Zoar Levee was designed to correspond to the spillway elevation of Dover Dam at elevation 916 feet, with an additional 3 feet of freeboard for a resulting crest elevation of 919 feet. Following work in 1951 (discussed later) the crest elevation was raised to elevation 928.5 feet. The federal government still maintains flowage easement upstream of Dover Dam to elevation 916 feet. Without Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam, all portions of Zoar



Village located at or below elevation 916 feet would have been evacuated at the time of Dover Dam's construction.

Zoar Levee was constructed in 1937. The levee is a rolled-earth filled embankment with an impervious core and a crest length of 3,893 feet. The levee is constructed of zoned earthen fill with a central impervious core, sandy inner shells and impervious outer shells.

In 1951, the federal government made further investments in protecting Zoar Village. These investments raised the levee crest elevation from 919 feet to elevation 928.5

feet. These outer shells, consisting of about 280,000 cubic yards of material were added on top of 330,000 cubic yards from the original construction. Today, the levee's maximum height is 45 feet.

The crest width is 8 feet, except for reaches that incorporate two roadways. Route 212 crosses the levee briefly in a north-to-south general orientation. Dover-Zoar Road, splits off Route 212 on the levee crest and runs along the crest of the levee heading west before it drops off to the south.



For discussion purposes, USACE generally breaks the levee into two reaches. The Ball Field reach of the levee is that portion located west of Route 212 and is called such due to the presence of a base ball field. The Ball Field reach is built upon a thin alluvial blanket atop thick glacial outwash deposits, approximately 130 feet thick in the deepest valley section. These can be divided into upper and lower zones, averaging about 30 feet and 100 feet thick, respectively.

The Upper Glacial Outwash is especially pervious and highly variable, generally composed of sands and gravels with only a small amount of silty, fine-grained material. The Lower Glacial Outwash is not quite as conductive, and also tends to contain fairly prevalent clay and silt seams. The alluvium is a thin (usually only up to 5 feet landward of the levee) impervious to



semi-pervious sandy clay and silt blanket atop the outwash. Being thin, this blanket is prone to heaving and cracking with relatively low uplift pressures, resulting in concentrated seepage exit points. In some locations, this blanket appears to be absent altogether.

The Rock Knoll reach is that portion of the levee located east of Route 212 and is characterized by glacial and alluvial deposits of variable thickness, situated on a localized bedrock high point that extends upward to the base of the levee; this area was “high ground” prior to the raising of the levee in 1951. This Rock Knoll consists of jointed and fractured sandstone and limestone, interbedded with shale within several feet of the base of the levee.

Zoar Diversion Dam

Zoar Diversion Dam was also constructed in 1937. It is located on Goose Run, approximately 1,000 feet upstream of Zoar Levee and was built to control interior drainage as a retention structure for runoff from the Goose Run watershed. The diversion dam is a rolled earth-filled embankment with an impervious core. It is approximately 500 feet long and 35 feet high with a crest width of 16 feet and a design crest elevation of 932 feet. The diversion dam consists of approximately 75,000 cubic yards of



zoned earthen embankment with a central impervious core and pervious shells. A thin layer of alluvium was left underneath the shells of the dam, but the core sits directly on bedrock. The diversion dam foundation and abutments contain similar rock conditions described for the Rock Knoll reach of the levee.

The diversion dam is designed to retain a pool up to its crest and has a spillway, called a diversion channel, at elevation 916 feet. Above this elevation, water is diverted through the diversion channel, which empties into Dover Dam’s flowage easement outside the levee. This diversion channel can also allow water retained by Dover Dam to back onto the Diversion Dam in the event a pool exceeds elevation 916 feet.

The purpose of the Zoar Diversion Dam is to limit flows of Goose Run to prevent interior flooding. In normal conditions, Goose Run flows through the dam’s gated 3-x-3 foot concrete culvert (controlled by a single sluice gate beneath a concrete intake tower). Downstream of the diversion dam, Goose Run travels through Zoar Village, crossing 2nd Street before it empties into a ponding area on the Rock Knoll side of the level. Under normal conditions, Goose Run flows underneath Zoar Levee through a 3-x-3 foot culvert. This culvert can be closed by a single sluice gate, located on the exterior embankment of Zoar Levee.



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However, when Zoar Levee's exterior face is loaded by Dover Dam's pool, the outflow culvert underneath the levee must be closed. Zoar Pump Station is then used to pump water from Goose Run over the levee.

Zoar Pump Station

Zoar Pump Station was added in 1950 at the location Goose Run exits Zoar Levee to pump water released from Zoar Diversion Dam over the levee. The pump station also collects water from Zoar Village's interior storm water systems and the seepage collection measures put in place along the interior toe of the Ball Field and Rock Knoll reaches of the levee. When originally built, two (2) pumps were installed with a capacity of pumping 15,000 gallons per minute (gpm) each, although room for a third pump was incorporated into the design.



Between 2010-11, a third 15,000 gpm pump was added, all three pumps were automated, and a diesel powered emergency generator was installed. Today, the Zoar Pump Station can pump up to 45,000 gpm of water to the exterior of Zoar Levee. Pumped water exits the exterior slope of Zoar Levee via flap gates.

[For further information, please contact](#)
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