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News Flash

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Office of Public Affairs

USIBWC BRIEFS MIDDLE RIO GRANDE STAKEHOLDERS



Evelio Siller, Amistad Dam Field Office Area Operations Manager, took stakeholders on a tour of the dam and power plant on Feb. 19, 2025.

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) hosted meetings for key stakeholders in the Texas Middle Rio Grande region on February 19-20, 2025, to discuss the Amistad Dam mitigation plan, the Safety of Dams program, area operations, and updates on Rio Grande hydrology, water deliveries, and Minute 331.

Several attendees also got an opportunity to tour the Amistad Dam and Power Plant, and view sink holes that have been filled in on the Mexican side of the dam.

USIBWC Commissioner Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., welcomed the public joining in-person and online at the meeting venues in Del Rio and Laredo. She outlined the seepage challenges present at Amistad Dam since 1994 and how increased Congressional funding for her agency finally provided the resources needed to fix the problem.

"We want you to walk away knowing that correcting the issues at Amistad Dam, protecting this community, is really an important element of our work. It is a priority," Commissioner Giner said.

Civil Engineer Karla Benitez explained the plans to assist Mexico in rehabilitating the dam through the construction of a grout curtain and composite cut-off wall. Both countries are sharing the project's cost, which could range from \$80 million to \$276 million, depending on the required depth of repairs. Construction of the

grout curtain is expected to begin in July 2025, with the cut-off wall starting in January 2027, as long as funding is available.

Hydrologist Delbert Humberson shared an analysis of the Rio Grande from 1980 to 2020 that showed a reduction of water flowing into Amistad and Falcon dams over that time period.

Commissioner Giner said stakeholders needed to be aware of this situation "so you can advocate for yourselves as a community with the federal government, with state government, on investments and diversification of water."

Meanwhile, the Commissioner said USIBWC is pressing Mexico to catch up with its water deliveries using the tools provided in Minute 331.

Mario Gomez, USIBWC Acting Operation and Maintenance Chief, gave updates on the Safety of Dams program and ongoing and upcoming area operations activities. Evelio Siller, Amistad Dam Field Office Area Operations Manager, spoke to Del Rio stakeholders about his employees' long list of accomplishments from last year.

The presentations and video of the Del Rio meeting can be found here: [USIBWC Middle Reach Stakeholders Forum - February 19 & February 20, 2025 - IBWC](#)



After the meeting at the Laredo Water Museum, staff took Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner and other presenters on a personal tour of the impressive facility.