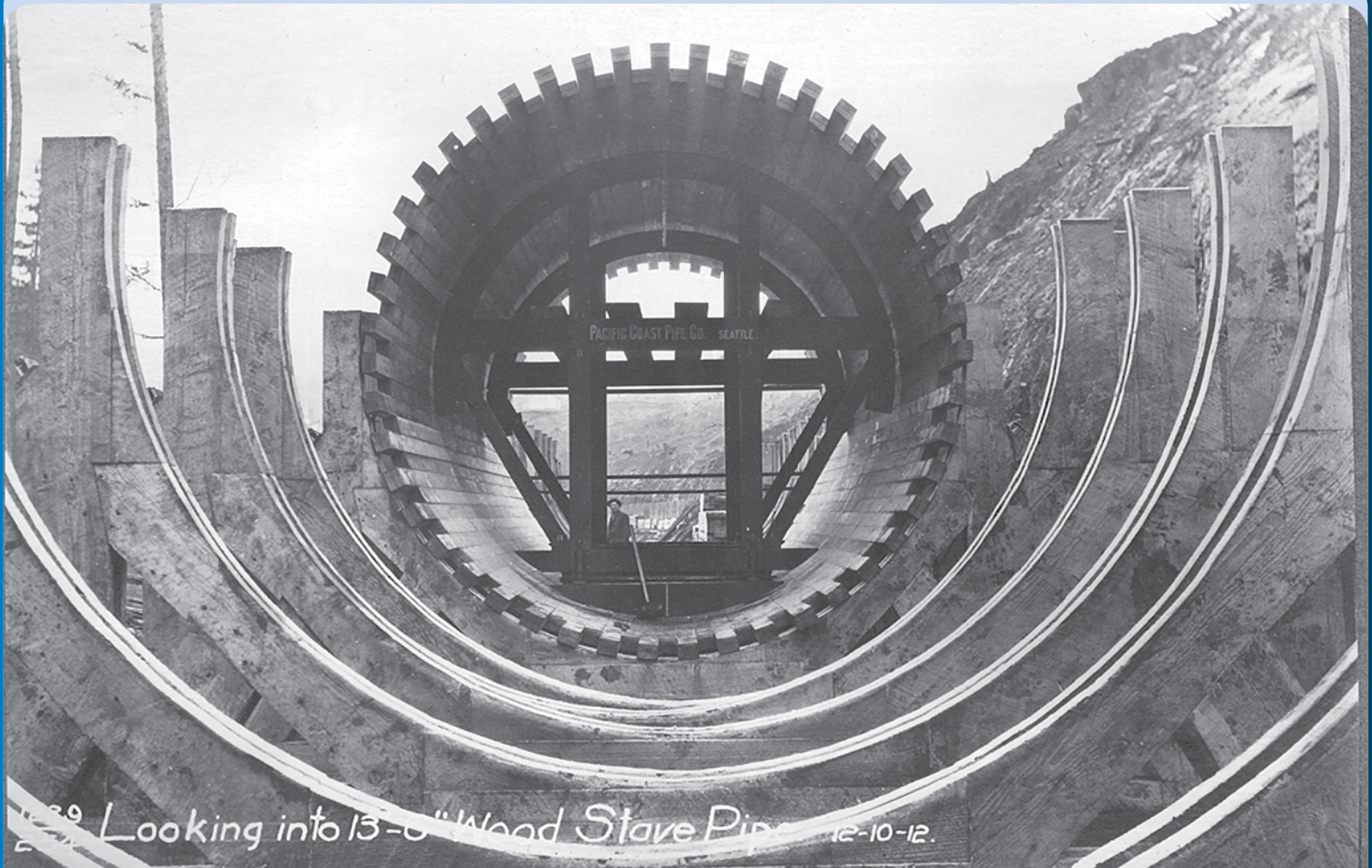


# Condit Dam Decommissioning History and Key Dates



## Condit's unique history

The Condit Dam dates to the earliest years of Northwestern Electric Company, a firm that merged into Pacific Power & Light in 1947, and is known today as PacifiCorp. PacifiCorp operates in six western states and serves approximately 1.7 million customers. The dam is an important part of PacifiCorp's history and its electricity production has powered thousands of homes for several generations. The Condit Dam was supplying renewable, emission-free and cost-effective power before any of these phrases became popular. It was originally built to support the Crown Willamette Paper Co. in Camas, Wash. and the growing municipal market from Washougal, Wash. to Portland, Ore.

The dam came on line at a time when Woodrow Wilson was president, Washington's population had just crested one million and a ballpark called Fenway became the newest jewel in professional baseball. The dam was relatively large for its time and in terms of generating capacity, the project was ranked 12th in the West. If anything distinguished Condit from its predecessors, it was

the massive water pipeline, or flowline, that delivered water to the turbines. A 1913 publication of Engineering News called the flowline at Condit Dam "probably the largest wood-stave pipe in the world."

The transmission line from the Condit powerhouse to Camas, Wash. was the first to be built through the Columbia River Gorge and represented an early use of aluminum line reinforced with steel. Its construction was complicated by the fact that there was no road along the north bank of the river. Materials and supplies were transported by steamer to various landings where they were hauled to work sites by horses or, in particularly rugged places, carried by hand.

## Multiple attempts at fish passage unsuccessful at Condit

Fish passage played an important role in the history of the dam as evidenced by the multiple attempts to assist fish in navigating the structure. Fish ladders were part of Condit's original design,

*continued*

but these facilities twice washed out due to floods during the early life of the dam. After the second washout, the Washington State Fisheries Department required Northwestern Electric to contribute to construction of a state fish hatchery rather than rebuild the fish ladders. A final attempt was made in 1925, when experiments were done on a newly designed fish elevator, without success. Just as in the 1920s, PacifiCorp understands the importance of appropriate fish passage, but the cost to customers must also be considered. In the case of Condit, removing the dam instead of installing expensive fish passage over or around the project is the best alternative for customers.



Condit Powerhouse during the early years of operation

### Key Dates – Condit’s Present

KEY DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES	DATE
All regulatory and removal designs approved by FERC	June 2011
Work initiated to reinforce Northwestern Lake Bridge and reroute City of White Salmon’s water supply line	June 2011
Floating barriers placed in White Salmon River to notify boaters of decommissioning activity	July 2011
Docks removed/secured from Northwestern Lake	August 2011
Northwestern Lake drawdown begins – Lake drawn down 10 feet	August 2011
Powerhouse Road and boat ramp near Condit Dam closed	August 2011
Northwestern Lake closed to all boating, swimming and wading	August 2011
Tunneling project begins at Condit Dam	Late August 2011
<b>BREACH DAM AND DRAIN NORTHWESTERN LAKE</b>	<b>LATE OCTOBER 2011</b>
Project area (Northwestern Lake shoreline down to water’s edge and White Salmon River shoreline downstream to powerhouse) closed; upstream river area to Northwestern Lake park boater take-out remains open.	Late October 2011
PacifiCorp initiates sediment management actions in former Northwestern Lake	November 2011
Condit Dam demolition and concrete disposal along flowline begins	May 2012
Condit Dam and other facilities removed from White Salmon River	August 2012
Boat launch modifications completed at Northwestern Lake park	August 2012
White Salmon River within former project area opened to boaters	September 2012
Project completion	October 2012

### Key Dates – Condit’s Past

HISTORY OF THE CONDIT DAM	DATE
Ben C. Condit Dam and power generation facilities completed	1913
Customers in Camas, Wash. and Portland, Ore. receive power from the Condit Dam via a new transmission line through the Columbia River Gorge	1913
Original wooden fish ladder washed out during flood (Ladder rebuilt)	1914
Second fish ladder washed out by flood (Ladder not rebuilt)	1918
Fish hatchery built to mitigate for loss of fish ladder	1919
Experimental fish elevator attempted and failed	1925
Condit project issued its first operating license following enactment of the Federal Power Act; license effective May 1, 1965	1968
Condit Dam upgraded with various structural reinforcements	1972
PacifiCorp’s first federal operating license expires	1993
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issues Environmental Impact Statement requiring PacifiCorp to install fish ladders and screens for fish passage	1996
PacifiCorp requests that FERC halt the relicensing proceedings in order to reach a settlement agreement to decommission the Condit Dam	1997
PacifiCorp agrees to Settlement Agreement to decommission the Condit Dam	1999



Scan code here with your smart phone to link to PacifiCorp’s Condit Dam page or go to [pacificorp.com/condit](http://pacificorp.com/condit)