

## Bath County Hydropower Video Transcript

1

00:00:00,110 --> 00:00:02,670

- Bath County Station is  
located in Western Virginia

2

00:00:02,670 --> 00:00:04,570

in Bath County and the Allegheny mountains

3

00:00:04,570 --> 00:00:06,210

close to the border of West Virginia.

4

00:00:06,210 --> 00:00:09,710

Bath County is a pump storage  
hydroelectric station,

5

00:00:09,710 --> 00:00:13,860

and it's owned 60% by Dominion Energy

6

00:00:13,860 --> 00:00:17,270

and the remainder is with  
FirstEnergy and LS Power.

7

00:00:17,270 --> 00:00:22,270

Pump station is unique in that  
we store energy off the grid.

8

00:00:23,090 --> 00:00:25,720

Our fuel is electricity,

9

00:00:25,720 --> 00:00:29,750

and we have a volume of  
water we call the power pool

10

00:00:29,750 --> 00:00:32,300  
that we pump to the upper  
reservoir, and we utilize that

11  
00:00:32,300 --> 00:00:35,240  
during the daytime to  
generate electricity.

12  
00:00:35,240 --> 00:00:37,920  
The FERC license was issued

13  
00:00:37,920 --> 00:00:40,830  
to construct this facility in 1977.

14  
00:00:40,830 --> 00:00:43,210  
Construction commenced soon after that.

15  
00:00:43,210 --> 00:00:44,410  
At the height of construction,

16  
00:00:44,410 --> 00:00:48,300  
we had 3,400 contract employees building

17  
00:00:48,300 --> 00:00:50,910  
the two earth and rockfill  
dams and the power station.

18  
00:00:50,910 --> 00:00:54,620  
And in 1985, the station  
was declared commercial.

19  
00:00:54,620 --> 00:00:58,070  
Bath County represents close to 13%

20

00:00:58,070 --> 00:01:00,900  
of the pump storage capacity  
in the United States.

21  
00:01:00,900 --> 00:01:02,780  
As of 2021, Bath County

22  
00:01:02,780 --> 00:01:06,270  
was the largest pump storage  
hydroelectric station on earth.

23  
00:01:06,270 --> 00:01:08,170  
- Bath County's total output capability

24  
00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:10,410  
is over 3000 megawatts.

25  
00:01:10,410 --> 00:01:12,060  
And to put that into perspective,

26  
00:01:12,060 --> 00:01:16,970  
that's enough energy to  
supply over 750,000 homes.

27  
00:01:16,970 --> 00:01:21,970  
When energy is needed, large  
valves open at the powerhouse,

28  
00:01:23,330 --> 00:01:27,700  
and it allows the water to  
flow from the upper reservoir

29  
00:01:27,700 --> 00:01:31,930  
through the large power  
tunnels in the mountain

30

00:01:31,930 --> 00:01:35,250

which turns turbines which are connected

31

00:01:35,250 --> 00:01:39,200

to very large generators

which produces electricity.

32

00:01:39,200 --> 00:01:42,740

That water then flows

into the lower reservoir.

33

00:01:42,740 --> 00:01:46,880

And when energy is not in high demand,

34

00:01:46,880 --> 00:01:48,510

that process is reversed

35

00:01:48,510 --> 00:01:50,380

and that water is then pumped

36

00:01:50,380 --> 00:01:53,850

from the lower reservoir

back to the upper reservoir.

37

00:01:53,850 --> 00:01:57,270

A thousand feet into the

mountain behind the station

38

00:01:57,270 --> 00:02:01,210

is 12 miles of very large

tunnels that interconnect

39

00:02:01,210 --> 00:02:04,310

the lower reservoir to  
the upper reservoir.

40

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:07,390

- Bath County provides  
tremendous grid stability.

41

00:02:07,390 --> 00:02:10,630

We can have one unit  
online in about six minutes

42

00:02:10,630 --> 00:02:12,710

and we can have all six units online

43

00:02:12,710 --> 00:02:16,060

providing approximately 3000 megawatts

44

00:02:16,060 --> 00:02:18,210

in less than 15 minutes.

45

00:02:18,210 --> 00:02:20,840

That is a tremendous asset for the system.

46

00:02:20,840 --> 00:02:22,530

We have daily inspections.

47

00:02:22,530 --> 00:02:25,760

From those inspections,  
we gather information

48

00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:29,010

so that we can schedule work  
during our planned outages

49

00:02:29,010 --> 00:02:31,430  
and maintenance outages on the units

50  
00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:33,470  
and through those inspections

51  
00:02:33,470 --> 00:02:35,850  
and replacing parts on the units

52  
00:02:35,850 --> 00:02:39,520  
that makes us us much more reliable

53  
00:02:39,520 --> 00:02:42,027  
to be able to generate when  
called upon by the system.

54  
00:02:42,027 --> 00:02:45,750  
- The water here is pristine  
and we take great pride

55  
00:02:45,750 --> 00:02:47,850  
in the fact that the water that comes here

56  
00:02:47,850 --> 00:02:50,580  
through the station leaves just as clean

57  
00:02:50,580 --> 00:02:52,710  
as it entered the station property.

58  
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:56,350  
There's about 99 acres here  
around the recreation area

59  
00:02:56,350 --> 00:02:59,100

that's been switched to being managed for pollinators.

60

00:02:59,100 --> 00:03:01,610

We decided to implement the pollinator pods

61

00:03:01,610 --> 00:03:04,540

because it was just a more sustainable approach.

62

00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:08,160

Growing grasses, we allow them to grow to flower

63

00:03:08,160 --> 00:03:11,460

and actually spread different species

64

00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:15,140

so that there is a diversity here now for the pollinators.

65

00:03:15,140 --> 00:03:16,930

And we also see a lot of activity

66

00:03:16,930 --> 00:03:19,610

of birds and small mammals in these areas.

67

00:03:19,610 --> 00:03:22,740

The recreation area opened in 1989

68

00:03:22,740 --> 00:03:25,550

and there's two ponds here on the recreation area.

69

00:03:25,550 --> 00:03:30,540

There's a pond that's 45 acres  
and another that's 27 acres.

70

00:03:30,540 --> 00:03:32,294

We work in coordination with

71

00:03:32,294 --> 00:03:35,710

the Department of Wildlife  
Resources to manage these ponds

72

00:03:35,710 --> 00:03:39,910

and keep track of the  
species, the amount of fish,

73

00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:41,750

and also the health of the fish.

74

00:03:41,750 --> 00:03:46,750

Rec area has a beach area,  
there are 27 dry camp sites,

75

00:03:47,290 --> 00:03:50,900

a picnic pavilion and  
other picnic facilities.

76

00:03:50,900 --> 00:03:52,700

Healing waters is a program

77

00:03:52,700 --> 00:03:56,890

where veterans and wounded  
active service members

78

00:03:56,890 --> 00:03:59,360



are brought in, given the equipment

79

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:01,310

and taught how to fly fish.

80

00:04:01,310 --> 00:04:03,460

Veterans that come here have said

81

00:04:03,460 --> 00:04:06,630

that they've found fly  
fishing therapeutic.

82

00:04:06,630 --> 00:04:09,900

There is a guide for  
each one of the veterans,

83

00:04:09,900 --> 00:04:11,380

and some of those actually came

84

00:04:11,380 --> 00:04:14,770

through the Healing Waters  
program and have made comments

85

00:04:14,770 --> 00:04:17,730

that the program actually  
helped to save their lives.

86

00:04:17,730 --> 00:04:20,863

- We've got a great  
group of employees here.

87

00:04:21,890 --> 00:04:24,270

The integrity is high  
and the teamwork is high.

88

00:04:24,270 --> 00:04:27,630

And pretty much everybody  
here at Bath County

89

00:04:28,520 --> 00:04:30,644

is really committed to their jobs.

90

00:04:30,644 --> 00:04:33,311

(bright music)