Smithers Lake Dam and Smithers Lake

OWNER

Houston Lighting and Power Company.

ENGINEER (Design)

Ebasco Services, Inc.

LOCATION

On Dry Creek in Fort Bend County, 10 miles southeast of Richmond.

DRAINAGE AREA

24.2 square miles. Runoff is supplemented by water purchased from the Richmond Rice Association.

DAM

Type	Earthfill
Length	3,000 ft
Maximum height	18 ft
Top width	12 ft
Top elevation	71.0 ft above msl

SPILLWAY

Type	Concrete ogee section
Crest length (net)	90 ft
Crest elevation	56.0 ft above msl
Control	3 tainter gates, each 30 by 15 ft

OUTLET WORKS

Water is diverted by pumps and circulated through the condensers and returned to the lake by a canal.

POWER FEATURES

W. A. Parish powerplant has 4 units with total capacity of 1,241,000 kw.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

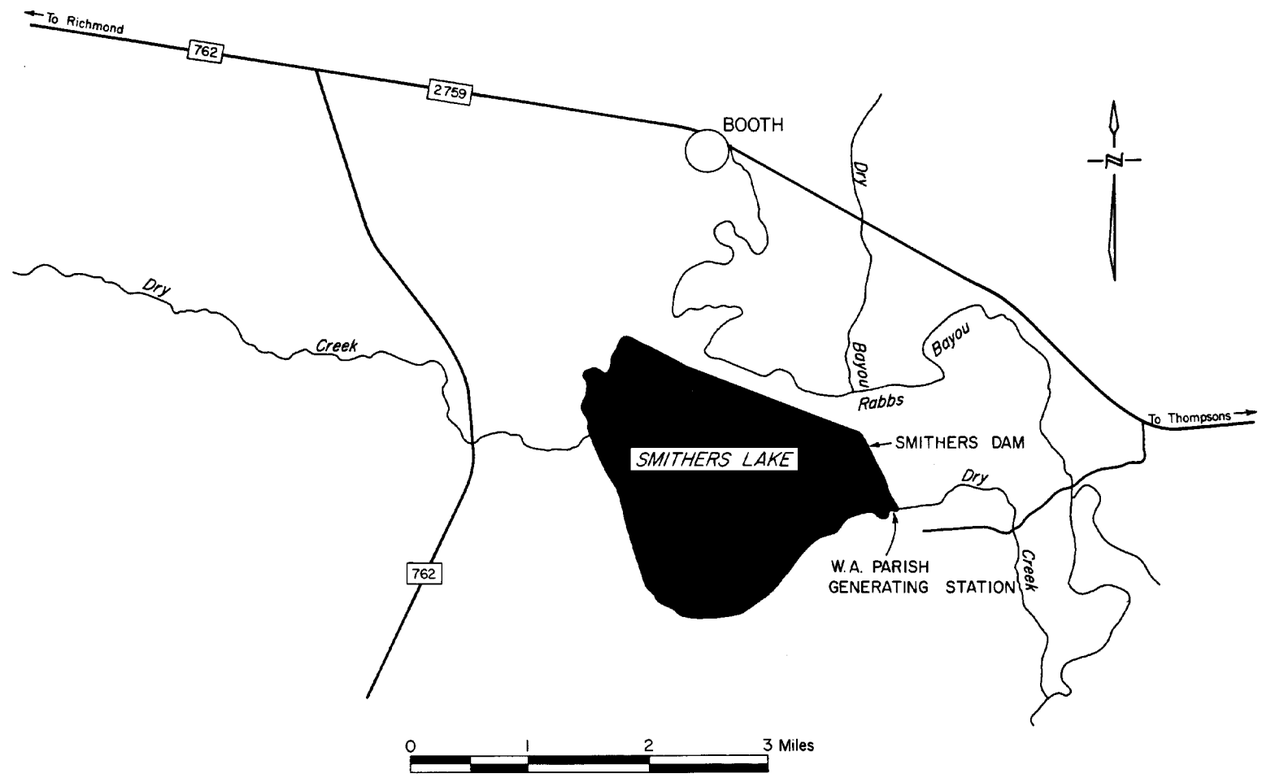
Permit No. 1812 (Application No. 1950) February 1, 1956, to Houston Lighting and Power Company allows storage of 16,500 acre-feet and use of 8,000 acre-feet of water for cooling purposes. Water is purchased to maintain operating level.

RESERVOIR DATA (Based on 1969 area-capacity curves)

Capacity	18,700 acre-feet at elevation 66.0 ft above msl
Area	2,480 acres at elevation 66.0 ft above msl

GENERAL

Construction started	August 22, 1956
Dam completed	July 1, 1957
Impoundment of water began	October 15, 1957
First generating unit in operation	March 1958
General contractor	Ebasco Services, Inc.



Information courtesy of Houston Lighting and Power Company

SMITHERS DAM AND SMITHERS LAKE