

Lake Houston Dam and Lake Houston

OWNER

City of Houston.

ENGINEER (Design)

Ambursen Engineering Company (original).
Brown & Root, Inc. (1970 erosion control).

LOCATION

On the San Jacinto River in Harris County, 18 miles northeast of Houston.

DRAINAGE AREA

2,828 square miles.

DAM

Type	Earthfill and concrete spillway section
Length (total)	12,097 ft
Height (concrete)	46 ft
Height (earthfill)	65 ft
Top width	Varies

SPILLWAY

Location	Between the earthfill sections
Type	Concrete slab and buttress
Length	3,160 ft
Crest elevation	43.8 ft above msl
Control for water release	2 tainter gates, each 18 by 20.5 ft
Elevation of tainter gate sill	27.3 ft above msl

OUTLET WORKS

Water supply	2 conduits, each 6 ft diameter
Low-flow release	Sluice gate, 36-inch diameter

STATE AUTHORIZATION

Permit No. 1323 (Application No. 1394) November 26, 1941, authorized impoundment of 152,000 acre-feet of water and use of 112,000 acre-feet annually.
Permit No. 1411 (Application No. 1510) July 19, 1947, authorized increase of capacity to 160,000 acre-feet and annual use to 168,000 acre-feet and allows irrigation of 1,500 acres of land.

RESERVOIR DATA (Furnished by city of Houston based on sedimentation survey made in 1965)

FEATURE	ELEVATION (FEET ABOVE MSL)	CAPACITY (ACRE-FEET)	AREA (ACRES)
Top of dam	62.3	—	—
Spillway crest	43.8	146,700	12,240
Sill of tainter gates	27.3	22,800	4,180
Invert of 6 ft conduits	23.3	9,830	2,240
Invert of 3 ft sluice gate	21.3	6,180	1,450
Usable conservation storage space	—	140,520	—

GENERAL

Construction started	January 21, 1952
Dam completed	April 9, 1954
Storage began	April 9, 1954
General contractor	Elmer Gardner Construction Company and Swope Brothers
Estimated cost	\$14,850,000
Erosion control work 1971	George Consolidated
Estimated cost	\$ 2,700,000

