



JEFF DEMOSS / The Deseret/Liaison

The Oneida Narrows Dam on the Bear River in Franklin County, Idaho, creates a reservoir that is approximately 5 miles long and can hold nearly 11,000 acre feet of water.

Bear River dams operator shelves plan for a fifth dam — for now

PacificCorp has federal OK to study another hydroelectric facility but chose to delay it after receiving feedback and considering overall system priorities in the West.

By JEFF DEMOSS
The Deseret/Liaison

The owner and operator of four hydroelectric power-generating dams along the Bear River — three in Idaho and one in Utah — has decided to delay plans for a fifth dam that would be built in the middle of a popular recreation area in southeast Idaho, but isn't abandoning the idea of pursuing the project in the coming years.

Last summer, PacificCorp received permission from federal regulators to study the feasibility of a "pumped-storage project" in the Oneida Narrows of Franklin County. The regional utility company identified a site just downstream from the existing Oneida dam for the project, which would create a new reservoir on the western hillsides above the narrows.

Water from the Oneida Narrows reservoir would be pumped about 1,000 feet uphill and stored in the reservoir during times of low electricity demand, then released as needed during times of peak demand, especially during the hottest times of the summer season. PacificCorp estimates the new project would generate up to 200 megawatts of power — enough to supply roughly 150,000 homes — as the water tumbles downhill through generating turbines and back into the main reservoir.

Unlike the existing dams in the area, the new dam would not be built directly in the river channel. However, PacificCorp estimates the water level in the reservoir could fluctuate as much as six feet over the course of a single day as water is pumped uphill into the new reservoir, which according to documents filed with the Idaho Department of Water Resources could store up to 3,400 acre-feet of water — more than 30% of the existing reservoir's total capacity.

While providing a reliable source of electricity to accommodate a growing human population, such rapid fluctuations in reservoir levels could also create significant disruptions to the local ecosystem, and would likely have major impacts on access for the people who come to recreate on the reservoir that has existed since the Oneida dam was completed in 1920. The area is one of the few stretches of the Bear River that provide public access, and is ecologically important for many species of fish, birds, mammals and other wildlife, as well as a variety of native plants.

Last September, PacificCorp formally initiated the federal process of evaluating the pumped-storage project. At the time, the utility was looking to amend its current license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which oversees dams across the nation including the Oneida hydroelectric dam, as well as the Grace and Soda generating facilities located upstream in Caribou County. Under the original timeline, PacificCorp planned to submit an application for the new project in late 2024 or early 2025.

After receiving considerable public feedback — much of it in opposition to the project — and considering other priorities throughout the six Western states in which it operates, PacificCorp recently decided to fold the Oneida pumped-storage proposal into the company's overall license renewal process for the three Idaho dams that comprise the Bear River Project, according to company spokesperson Dave Eskelsen.

That decision essentially means the pumped-storage proposal has been delayed for at least three years, if not longer.

"In evaluating current study needs, processing the public input received and the short timeline for a license amendment, we have decided to not pursue adding the Oneida pumped-storage proposal to the current Bear River Hydroelectric License through the capacity amendment process," Eskelsen wrote in response to an email inquiry from the Leader. "Instead, we will wait until the reissuance of the Bear River Hydroelectric Project starts in 2027."

The current license agreement for the Bear River Project is set to expire in 2033, and Eskelsen wrote that the process for a FERC license renewal typically takes about five years to complete.

He also reiterated that the Oneida pumped-storage project, along with similar

projects that PacificCorp is exploring in other states including one near Cutler Reservoir near the border of Box Elder and Cache counties in northern Utah, is still in the early exploratory phases.

"These pumped-hydro storage proposals remain proposals at this point, subject to further study before a decision would be made," Eskelsen wrote.

'WE'VE WON THE BATTLE, MAYBE NOT THE WAR'

When Jordan Menzel received the news that PacificCorp was scaling back its timeline for building the new dam, he and other opponents of the Northern Band of the Shoshone tribe, farmers and others who want to preserve the narrows as they exist today.

"We felt a sign of tremendous relief," said Menzel, owner and operator of Maple Grove Hot Springs resort on the shore of the reservoir, 3.5 miles upstream from the existing dam. The decision to delay the pumped-storage project "allows us to focus on the long-term side of things."

Menzel has been a key figure in organizing various stakeholders in opposition to the new dam, including sportsmen, conservationists, members of the Northern Band of the Shoshone tribe, farmers and others who want to preserve the narrows as they exist today.

He and others created a new group called Friends of the Narrows, and started an online petition last December that has since obtained nearly 3,500 signatures.

Menzel has a personal stake in the outcome. When PacificCorp drew down the level of the reservoir last fall as a test for how the new project would impact water levels, it essentially drained Maple Grove's source pond, which provides the steaming, mineral-laden waters that are the lifeblood of the hot springs retreat.

However, he said the motivation for opposing the new dam extends well beyond his business interests.

"The movement represents a constituency from Bear Lake all the way to the Great Salt Lake," Menzel said. "Boaters, fishermen, members of the Shoshone, neighbors, people from the Salt Lake Valley, Franklin County, Cache County, all over southern Idaho — well beyond the hot springs, that's for sure."

"Essentially the public has spoken up that this is not the appropriate project to pursue with the goal in mind," he said. "In a way, we've won the battle — but maybe not the war."

While PacificCorp is backing away from its expedited effort to build the new dam, the pumped-storage project is still on its radar. The company maintains active applications on file with the IDWR to secure the water rights needed for the project.

"The change applications are still active," Eskelsen wrote on April 29. "As we look toward the revised schedule ... we'll review the process with the Idaho Department of Water Resources."

Anyone wishing to file a formal protest against the approval of these applications must do so with the IDWR by Monday, May 6.

GROWTH AND POWER NEEDS

In order to provide electric power to a region that has seen some of the most rapid population growth in the United States in recent years, PacificCorp has been exploring a variety of options to meet the rising demand — a mix of traditional fossil fuels as well as renewable resources including wind, solar and hydropower.

The company is considering other locations for pumped-storage projects, including another on the Bear River near Utah's Cutler Dam, located along the border of Box Elder and Cache counties.

Pumped-storage technology is attractive to utilities and energy users because not only is it a renewable resource, but having that energy stored and ready to produce on short notice to meet peaks in demand greatly improves the reliability of the electric grid.

Having a resource that can be tapped instantly like that is becoming increasingly important, Eskelsen said, as utilities are shifting their production away from traditionally reliable fossil-fuel sources to renewables like wind and solar power, which generate plenty of power but don't always provide the same around-the-clock reliability.

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3 Beauty Product Mistakes That Make You Look Old

... And The "Pop Star Nutrient" Women Are Raving About That Helps Them Go From "Grandma To Gorgeous" with a Brighter, Even Skin Tone in 28 Days!

Fine lines, wrinkles, and loss of firmness torment many women despite consistent and complicated skincare routines. Yet, according to Dr. Al Sears, a renowned anti-aging expert from Palm Beach, Florida, it's NOT your fault. "Genetics and aging don't mean looking old anymore," he said. There's another approach that delivers real results for your skin.

Dr. Sears has over 30 years of clinical practice in an exclusive part of Palm Beach. He has helped over 25,000 distraught women go from "grandma to gorgeous." Patients come from far and wide to see his unique insights into natural skin health. They also come to learn what truly delivers timeless, near "ageless" beauty. And now, he's sharing his revolutionary formula, Restore. It features a game-changing, "pop star nutrient." This nutrient takes center stage in promoting a smoother, more even complexion.

But before we dive into the incredible benefits of Restore, Dr. Sears warns of 3 common formulation dangers in common beauty products. They are almost impossible to avoid. This is especially true if you use off-the-shelf skincare products.

3 Beauty Product Mistakes You Just Can't Avoid (Unless...)

Mistake #1: Pore-Clogging Ingredients. Many women may realize that trendy products contain pore-clogging ingredients. These can leave skin looking dry and dull. However, the "pop star nutrient" in Restore — Madonna lily — works differently. Research has shown it promotes an even skin tone. In a study in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, participants used Madonna lily extract for 28 days. They had better skin brightness and a more even skin tone around the eyes. Italian researchers found more exciting results in another study. It found that Madonna lily extract has strong antioxidants. They can prevent the free radicals from UV exposure. The extract is a potent antioxidant that improves your skin's appearance as you age.

Mistake #2: Skin-Irritating Fragrances. Dr. Sears says that using scented cosmetics is the second mistake many women make. These products can irritate the skin, make it look dull and dry, and disrupt moisture balance. This leads to visible signs of aging, like wrinkles, fine lines, and sagging skin. "It's a shame," says Dr. Sears, "many of my patients are using scented products that could make their skin look WORSE. Not enough women know there are great ingredients out there that deliver better beauty results, all without irritants. That's what Restore is about."

Mistake #3: Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals. The third mistake is the most concerning. Many women don't know that cosmetics can hide harmful chemicals. These include parabens, phthalates, and PEGs. These chemicals affect hormone balance. Clinical research shows a potential link between aging skin and these invisible chemicals that penetrate the skin. They mimic or amplify estrogen, making wrinkles and fine lines appear more noticeable.

Exclusive Natural Blend Smooths Look Of Wrinkles

Restore sets itself apart by blending powerful botanicals, vitamins, and essential oils. They work together to visibly smooth the look of wrinkles and fine lines, giving your skin a more even tone. The formula includes:

Guarana seed extract and coenzyme Q10 are typically not found in store-bought moisturizers. Japanese research shows that coenzyme Q10 can improve the skin's appearance. It may also boost hydration over time.

It has Shea Butter, Hyaluronic Acid, and Vitamin E, without the presence of sulfates, synthetic fragrances, or skin-irritating alcohols. Hyaluronic acid is a powerful moisturizer. It can absorb 1,000 times its weight in water, helping to keep a youthful look.

Avocado and olive oil help make skin look plump and smooth without clogging pores.

Research from France has shown that avocado oil supports skin cell metabolism for a soft, silky feel.

Restore is also loaded with Vitamin C, which British researchers have found addresses the appearance of wrinkles and dryness. "In Restore, we use magnesium ascorbyl phosphate. It's a stable form of vitamin C that is safe and less likely to disrupt the body's hormones," explains Dr. Sears. "That means the antioxidant molecules stay intact so they can protect skin from harmful free radicals."

But Restore's effectiveness comes



Make 'old' looking skin appear young again — in just minutes!

from its advanced liposome technology. It delivers the 31 nutrients to your skin where they're needed and ensures they stay there. "Regular skin creams don't have these same capabilities," explains Dr. Sears.

Real Women, Real Results: The New "Grandma To Gorgeous" Transformation in High Demand. Women who have tried Restore are raving about the results they see in the mirror. One reason why Restore keeps selling faster than Dr. Sears anticipated is how quickly it starts to work.

"Restore is a great product! I'm shocked how fast it works. It looks like my fine lines have been filled in and my skin looks tighter. I love having younger-looking skin. I'm telling all my friends Restore works. Why go with the expensive skin options when there's Restore?" Says Cathy C.

Taylor raves, "After using Restore for about a week, I notice my skin appears to have more volume... definition... and is even softer too! I love Restore because it's so gentle, and I had no negative side effects. I will continue to use Restore and recommend it to all my friends!"

And Tony B. wrote, "I use Restore on my face in the morning and at night. I don't see as many face wrinkles as before. So many people say 'my gym think I'm only 60' — but I'm 78-years-old! The best part is that this cream doesn't need a doctor's visit and is 100% natural."

Forget About Expensive Alternatives That Don't Work

The cosmetic industry rakes in millions of dollars each year on expensive serums and alternatives that deliver temporary, lackluster result. These alternatives often come with a laundry list of cheap chemicals that do more harm than good for your skin. Yet the price tag will easily cost you hundreds — or even thousands of dollars!

But with just ONE bottle of Restore — you get a total of 31 natural skin beautifying nutrients that help give your skin a younger looking... fresh... and vibrant complexion for decades to come. And for a fraction of the price too!

Look Good YOUNGER — In Just Minutes!

After you receive your RISK-FREE supply of Restore, here's a simple 2-step process I want you to follow:

Step 1: Before you apply Restore, place a warm washcloth on your face for 5-7 minutes. This helps open your pores for even faster action of all 31 skin-beautifying nutrients in the formula.

Step 2: Use gentle upward movements to your face and neck as you apply a thin layer of Restore to your skin.

Repeat these steps in the morning and then again in the evening to experience maximum results from Restore.

How To Get Restore Risk-Free With Dr. Sears' 100% Money Back Guarantee

To secure your supply of the revolutionary Restore formula, call the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-724-0239 TODAY. It's not available in retail stores," says Dr. Sears. "The hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer quickly."

And because Dr. Sears feels so confident in the transformative power of Restore, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee, so you can experience the difference for yourself completely risk-free. "Just send back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you my money back."

Call NOW for free at 1-800-724-0239 to secure your supply of Restore. Use Promo Code NP424R25 when you call. Our customer care team is ready and waiting for your call, but if phones are busy, please keep calling until you get through and complete your order. Claim yours now while supplies last.

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