



# BALL MOUNTAIN DAM

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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Ball Mountain Dam is located in south-central Vermont on the West River, 3.0 river miles above the town of Jamaica, Vermont. The dam provides flood protection for several communities along the West River, including Jamaica, East Jamaica, Townshend, Harmonyville, and West Dummerston. The towns of Brattleboro and West Brattleboro, Vermont, with a combined population of 11,500, lie 26 river miles downstream, at the confluence of the West River with the Connecticut River. Under normal conditions, a 65-foot deep 75-acre pool is maintained behind the dam during the summer, and a 35-foot deep 20-acre pool is maintained during the winter. Under full pool conditions during flood events, the reservoir has a maximum depth of 211.5 feet, and a surface area of 810 acres. The drainage area of the reservoir is 172 square miles.



Construction of Ball Mountain Dam started in May 1957 and was completed in October 1961 at a cost of \$11 million. The dam embankment consists of small upstream rockfill and gravel fill zones abutting a large central glacial till impervious core. Inclined gravel and rock filter zones separate the core from the large downstream rockfill shell zone. The dam is 265 feet high and 915 feet long. It has prevented an estimated \$131 million in flood damages since it was placed in operation in 1961. The reservoir area offers recreational opportunities, including camping, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hiking, fishing, hunting, kayaking, whitewater rafting, canoeing, boating and nature study.

As a result of an aggressive operation and maintenance program and a responsive national inspection protocol, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has identified critical problem areas at Ball Mountain Dam.

The Corps of Engineers has determined that Ball Mountain Dam has foundation stability and seepage issues, and is in need of critical repairs for continued safe operation. Subsurface explorations were conducted at Ball Mountain Dam during the fall of 2009 in order to further explore and define these issues.

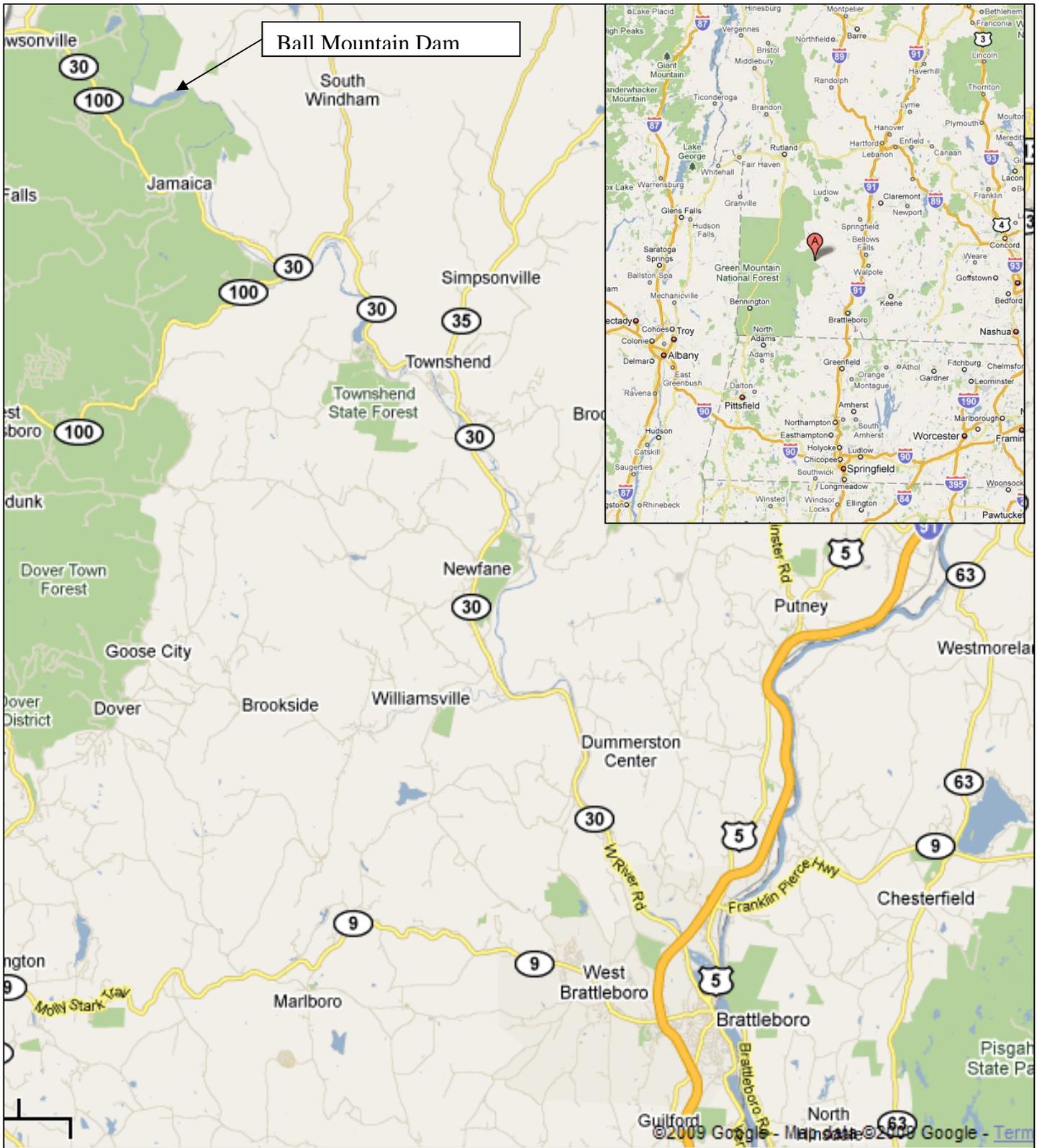
The Corps will reduce loading on Ball Mountain Dam by using the downstream Townshend Lake Dam to store additional water in the event of high water flows to the region. This will allow Ball Mountain Dam to maintain a lower pool level, thus reducing the pressure on the dam and reducing potential risks.

The Corps has already taken steps to reduce the possible risks to the area. Flood operation restrictions, maximum pool restrictions, and initial Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM), including increased surveillance and monitoring, have been implemented. IRRMs also include notifying the public and local, state and federal agencies, as well as holding emergency preparedness exercises. The Corps is also currently conducting subsurface explorations and detailed analyses in order to develop a long-term solution designed to increase the reliability of the dam.

For more information on Ball Mountain Dam, check the webpage on the Corps website at:  
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/bml/bmlhome.htm>.

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LOCATION OF BALL MOUNTAIN DAM