

Zosel Dam operational plan for winter season water levels on Osoyoos Lake.

Washington State Department of Ecology has provided updated information on expected water levels for the winter season from late November 2015 through to March 2016. Please click on this link for more information: [Zosel Dam update](#)

Osoyoos Lake levels starting to drop in Fall season.

Starting on September 15, water levels on Osoyoos Lake will begin to decline from the summer high level of close to 912 ft towards the elevation of 911.5 ft as of November 1, 2015 in accordance with the IJC Orders for Osoyoos Lake. The gradual drop in lake levels will be achieved through the operation of Zosel dam at the outlet of Osoyoos Lake.

Drought conditions in effect for Osoyoos Lake.

On July 28, 2015, the International Joint Commission (IJC) approved a temporary variance from the standard, non-drought rule curve for Osoyoos Lake (specified in Condition 7 of the Order) that had been in effect up to this date. As a result, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is allowed to operate Zosel Dam according to the drought-condition rule curve specified in Condition 8 of the Order until November 1, 2015, even though the drought criteria specified in Condition 8 have not all been met. The IJC approved the variance under Condition 10 in recognition of the need for more flexibility in the operation of Zosel Dam during this year's extreme hydrologic conditions that have led both Washington State and British Columbia to declare respective drought emergencies and drought response measures.

This variance provides additional flexibility to the operator of Zosel Dam in consideration of worsening drought conditions in the Okana/ogan Basin. The IJC drought criteria under Condition 8 of the IJC Order were not met this year, since Okanagan Lake filled to a normal level earlier in the summer, but continued hot and dry weather has led to an unusually rapid decline of Okanagan Lake levels, since reaching its peak level, with an associated decrease in the inflow to Osoyoos Lake from the Okanagan River. Zosel Dam operations may be able to gradually raise the level of Osoyoos lake, towards the upper limit of 912.5 ft (as allowed in the new temporary variance) as well as allowing the lake to go as low as 910.5 ft later in the summer, if the current dry weather conditions persist.

Washington State Department of Ecology's press release about the operational implications of this variance for Zosel Dam (and water levels on Osoyoos Lake) can be accessed at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2015/105.html>

Water levels in Osoyoos Lake are rising for Spring.

Please see attached information from Washington State Department of Ecology (March 16, 2015):

[Washington Department of Ecology NEWS March 16, 2015 Zosel Dam Osoyoos Lake](#)

Osoyoos Lake Winter Levels

Please see following link for information on Osoyoos Lake levels during the winter months (November 2014-March 2015):

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/dams/zosel.html>