

Bluestone Dam and Reservoir

“To exit, hit the “X” on your browser’s tab for this page.”

Bluestone Dam

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Dravo Corporation of Pittsburgh, PA

Bluestone Dam, located at Hinton, is one of the major flood control dams in West Virginia. It has the largest drainage area and flood storage capacity of any dam in the state. It is built across New River, one mile above its junction with the Greenbrier River and two miles below the confluence of New River and Bluestone River.

Originally intended to aid in flood control in the New and Kanawha River valleys and to generate hydroelectric power that could be sold to liquidate the cost of construction. Bluestone Dam was authorized in 1935 by an executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt. Construction on the project began in 1942. In December of 1943, with only one-third of the project completed, work was suspended because of World War II. Work resumed in January 1946, and the dam was completed for operational purposes on December 31, 1948 and totally completed in 1952.

The approximate cost was \$30 million. With a drainage area of 4,565 square miles Bluestone Dam controls 44 percent of the river flow through the populous. It is a concrete gravity dam 165 feet high and 2,061 feet long, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Normal release of water from the Bluestone Lake is accomplished through 16 sluices in the base of the dam. The 790-foot spillway has 21 flood gates. There are also six sluiceways for hydroelectric power that have not been used in the early decades of the dam's history. The maximum discharge capacity is 430,000 square feet per second. The dam contains 942,000 cubic yards of concrete and 7,800 tons of steel.

Bluestone Dam (Continued)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Dravo Corporation of Pittsburgh, PA

Its lake has a summertime surface of 2,040 acres and is very popular with boaters, skiers, and fishermen. Bluestone State Park, located on the Bluestone River about three miles above the dam, provides lodging, camping, a restaurant, and recreational facilities. The Bluestone Dam celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1999, when the Army Corps of Engineers estimated that the dam had prevented more than \$1.6 billion in flood damages.

Bluestone ended its first half-century with important improvements under way. The lake became a major supplier of public water in 1997, serving Hinton and Princeton and a large area between and around those two communities. Reinforcements were added to the dam under the federal Dam Safety Assurance program, with the work continuing through the early years of the 21st century. Simultaneously, work began to add hydroelectric capacity to the dam, in a partnership between Hinton and other communities and private industry.

This Article was written by Michael M. Meador

Last Revised on January 04, 2011 Sources Casto, James E. Bluestone Dam Celebrates 50 Years. Wonderful West Virginia, (1999). "Bluestone Lake," Pamphlet. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1999. Cite This Article Meador, Michael M. "Bluestone Dam and Lake." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 04 January 2011.

Vintage 1946 – 1948 Videos of Bluestone Dam Construction

(Downloads courtesy of Jim Noel)

[7 minute](#)
[Video](#)

*No Audio
Construction*

[10 minute](#)
[Video](#)

*Narrated
Fort Springs Quarry
1946 Flood
Construction*

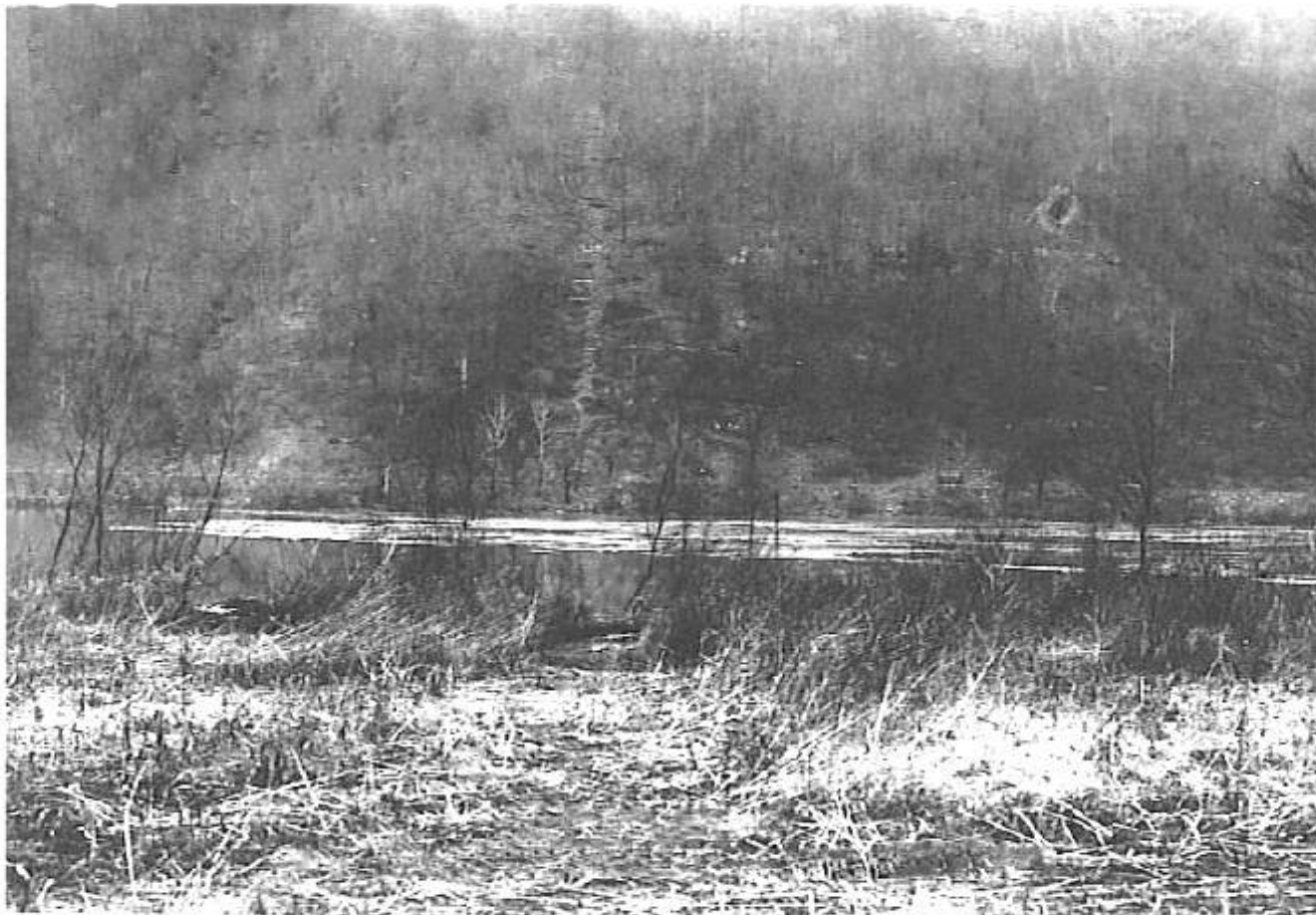
Click your Browser “Back” arrow after watching video.

Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site Headquarters



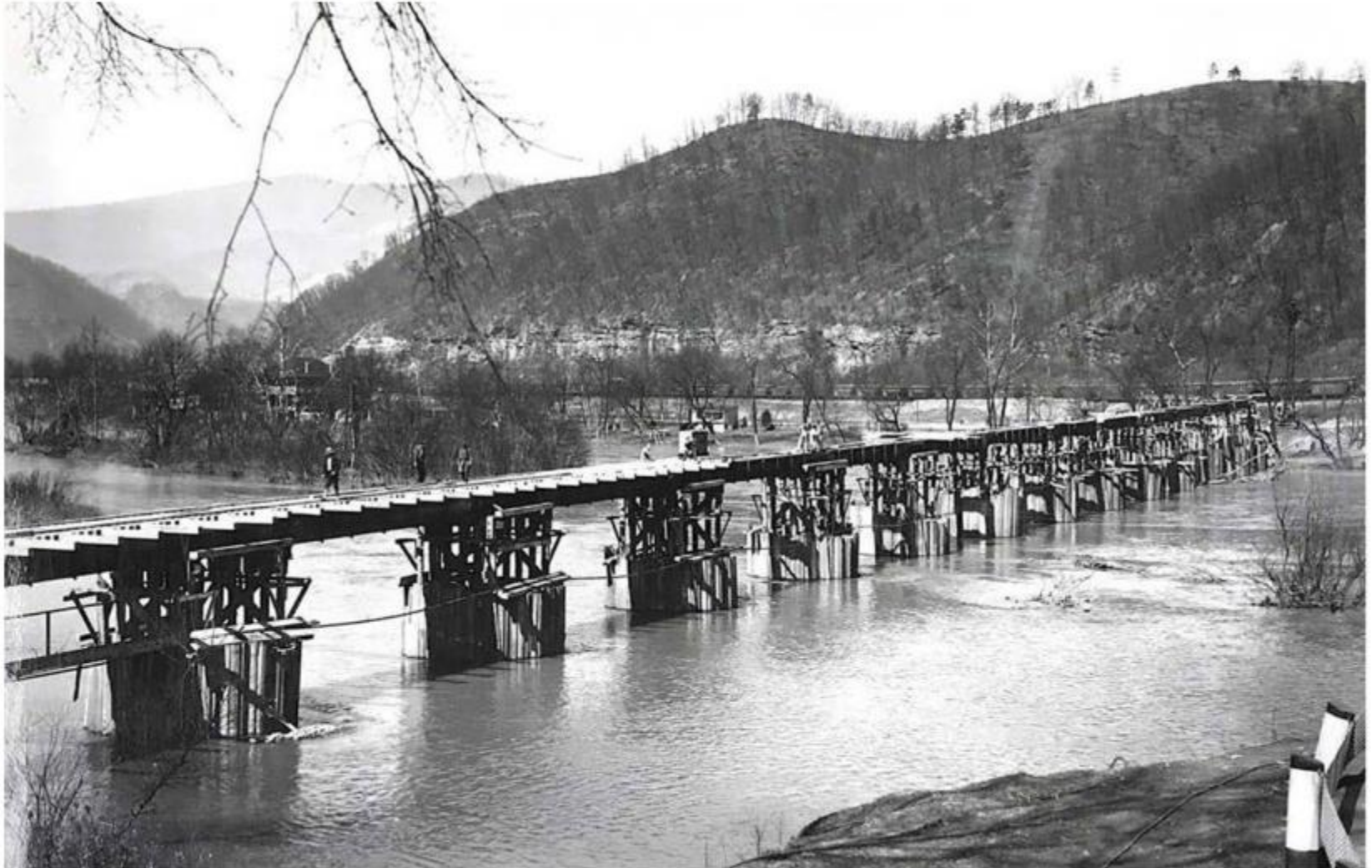
**Bluestone Dam
1942 - Looking across New River
prior to construction**



**Bluestone Dam
1942 - Construction site
initial grading - looking across the New River**



Construction of Dravo Narrow Gage Bridge - March 12, 1942
Spans from Avis to Bellepoint, used to haul materials and equipment for
construction of the Bluestone Dam.

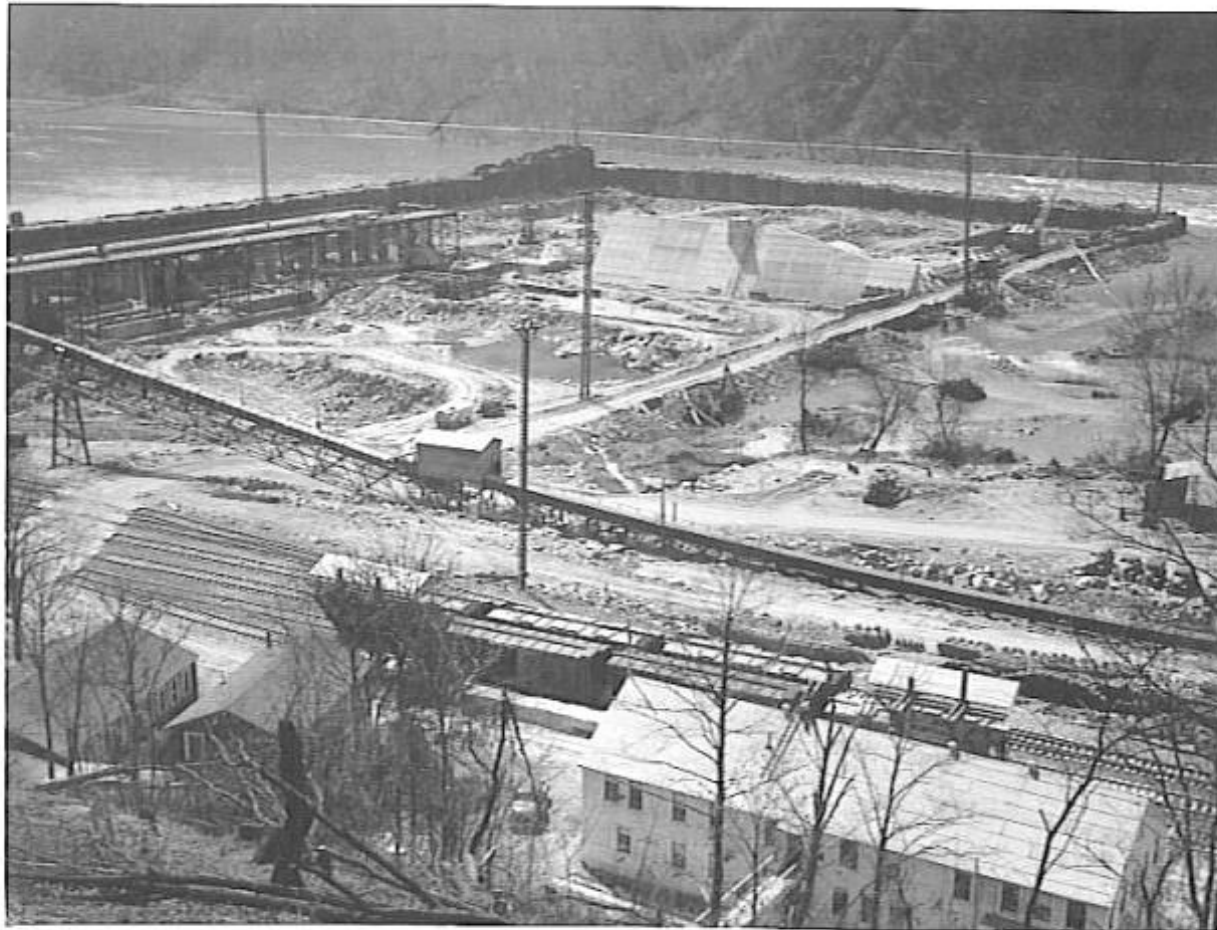


Dravo Narrow Gage Railroad Bridge – 1942
Spans the Greenbrier River, from Avis to Bellepoint



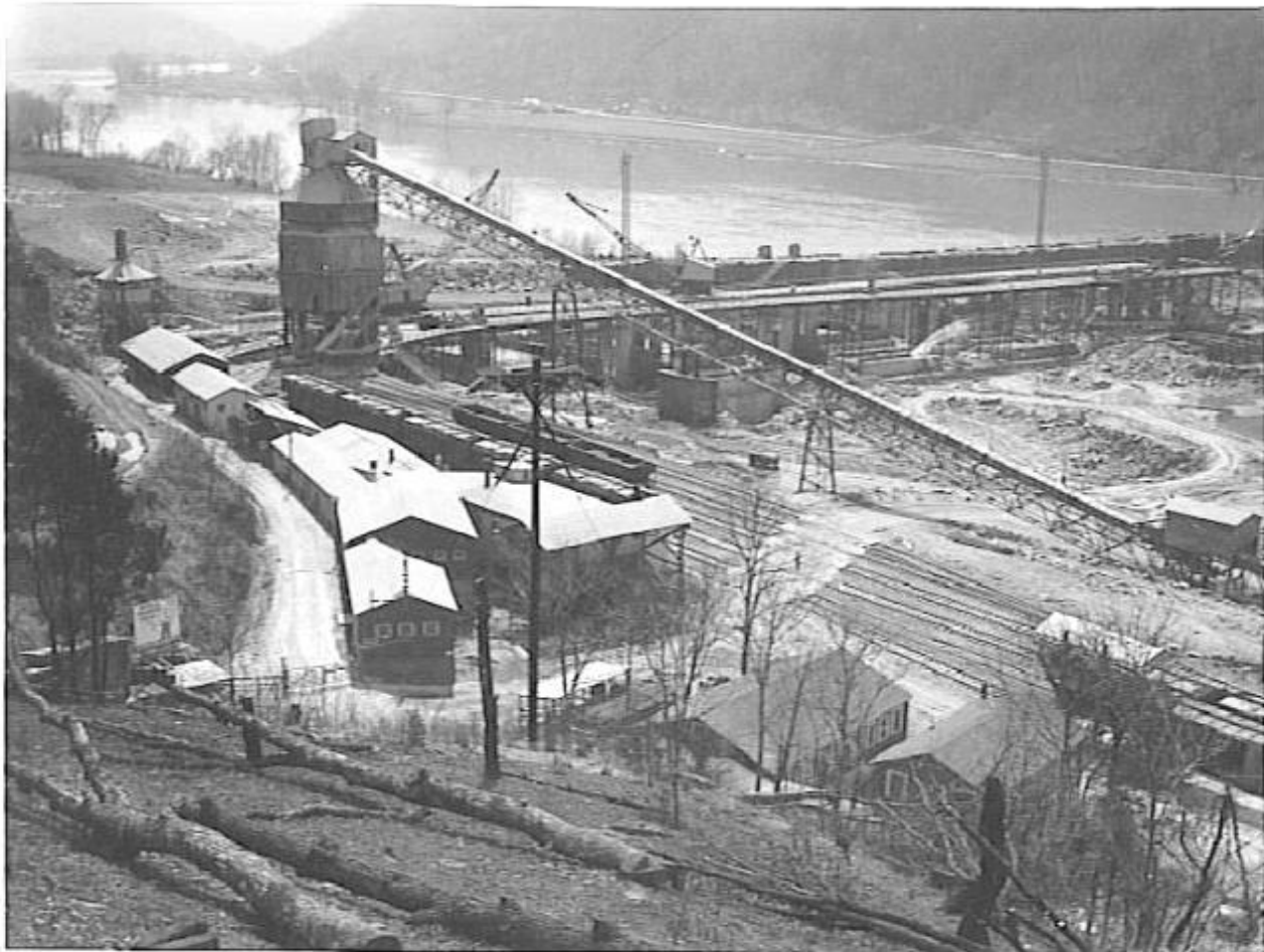
Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



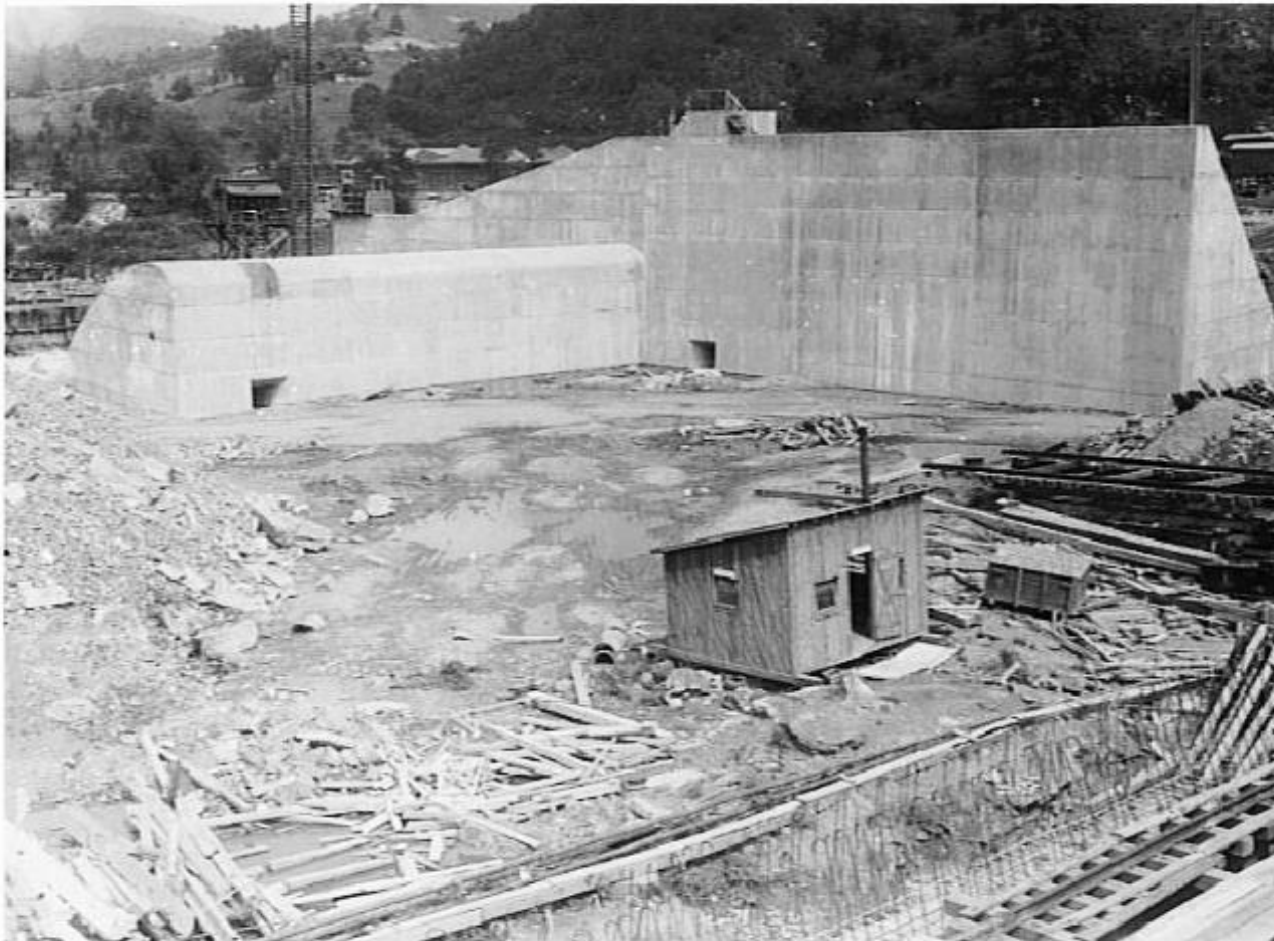
Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site

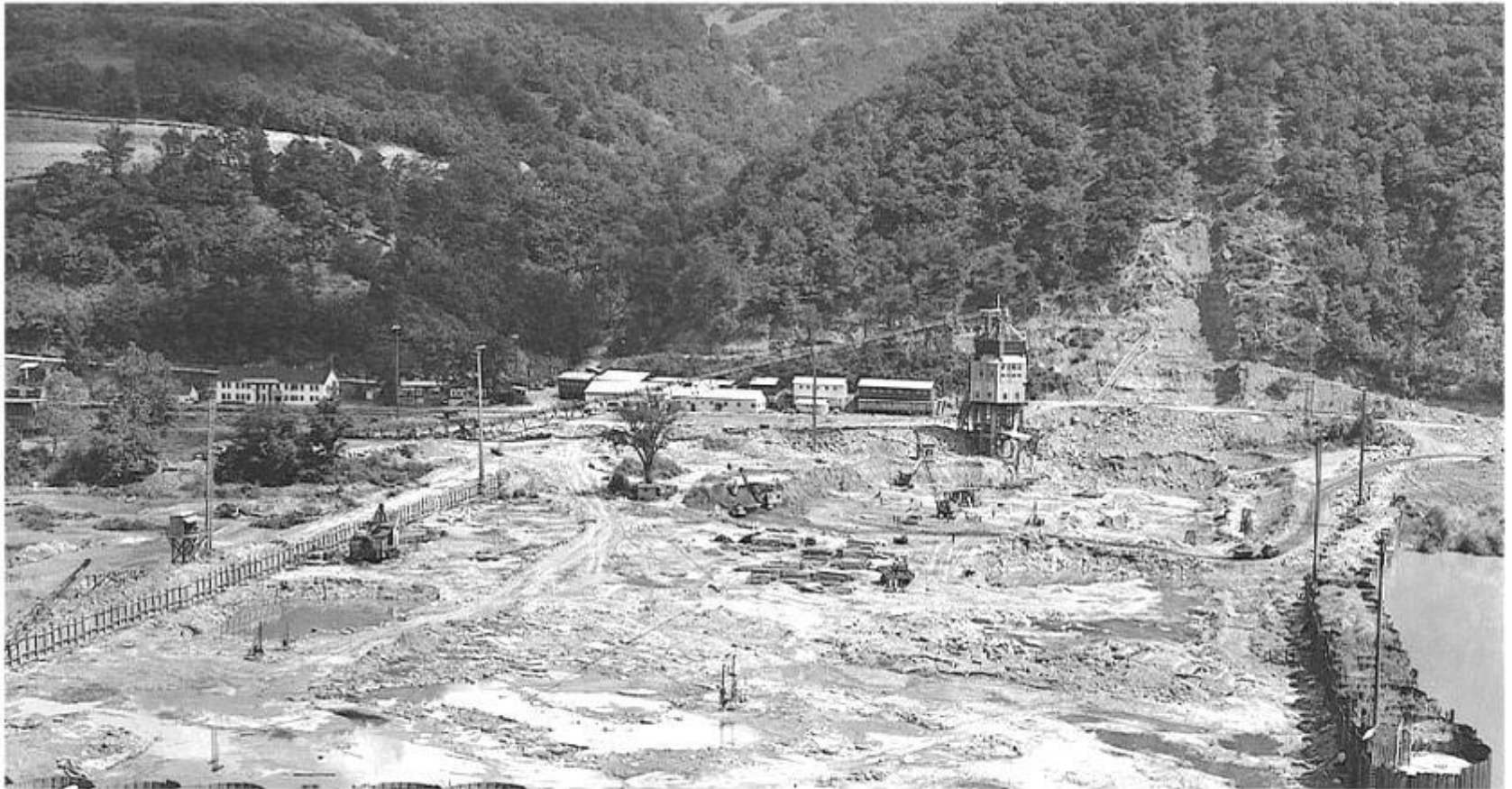


Bluestone Dam 1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

1942 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam

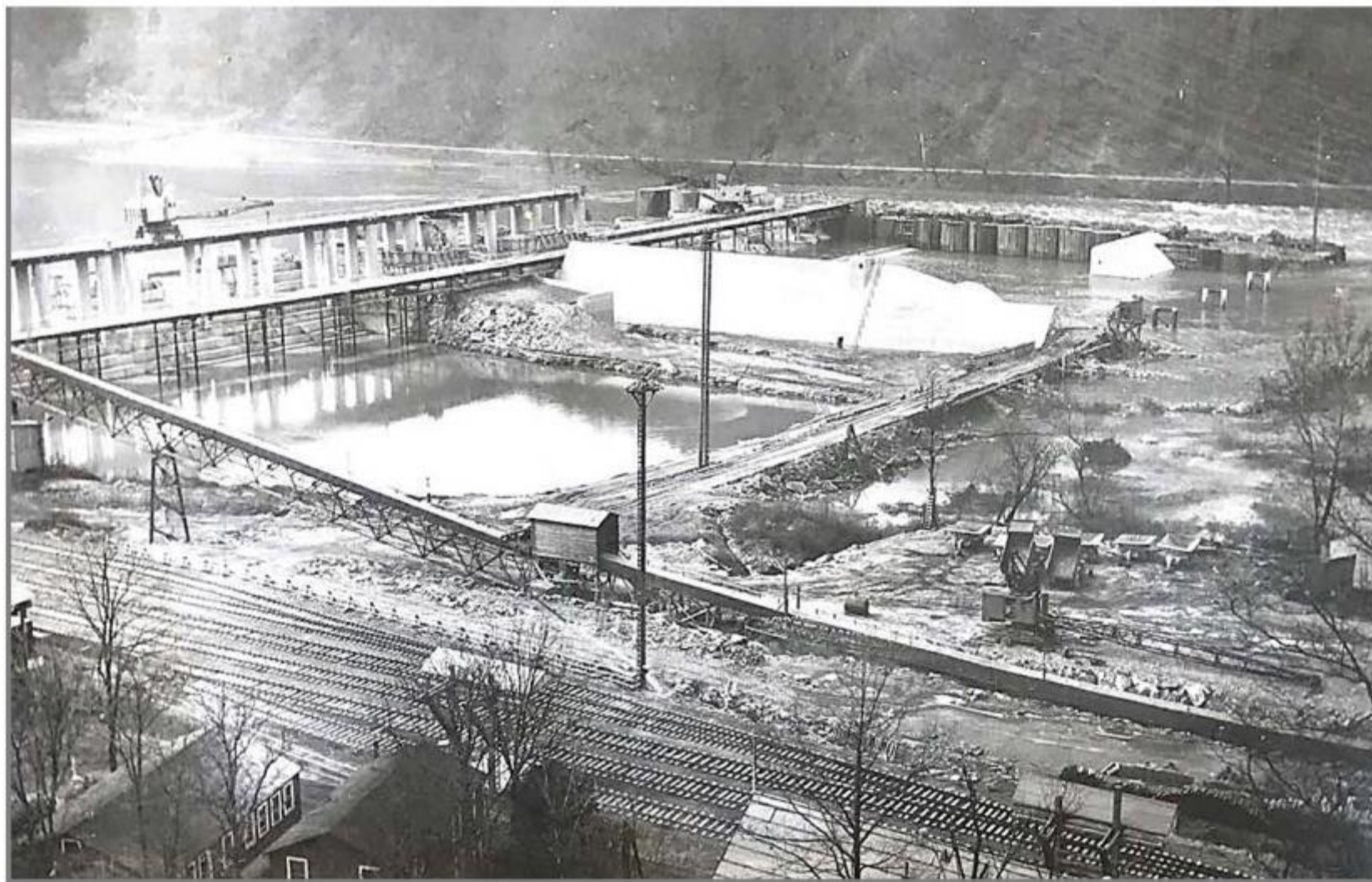
1943 - Construction site



Bluestone Dam Project Concrete Plant – January 2, 1943
Bellepoint, WV

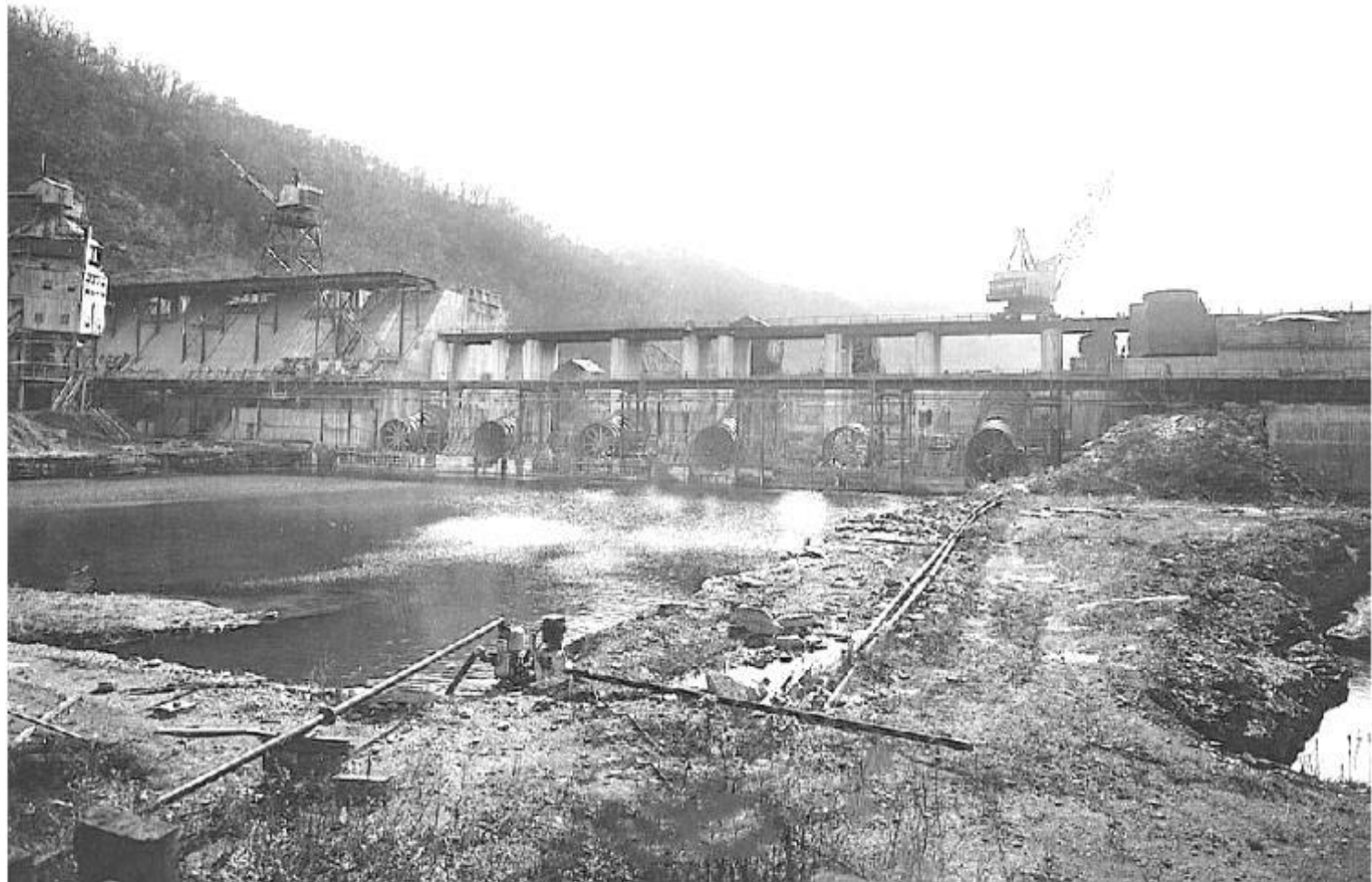


Bluestone Dam Construction Site – February 24, 1944
East End Stilling Basin



Bluestone Dam

1946 - Construction site



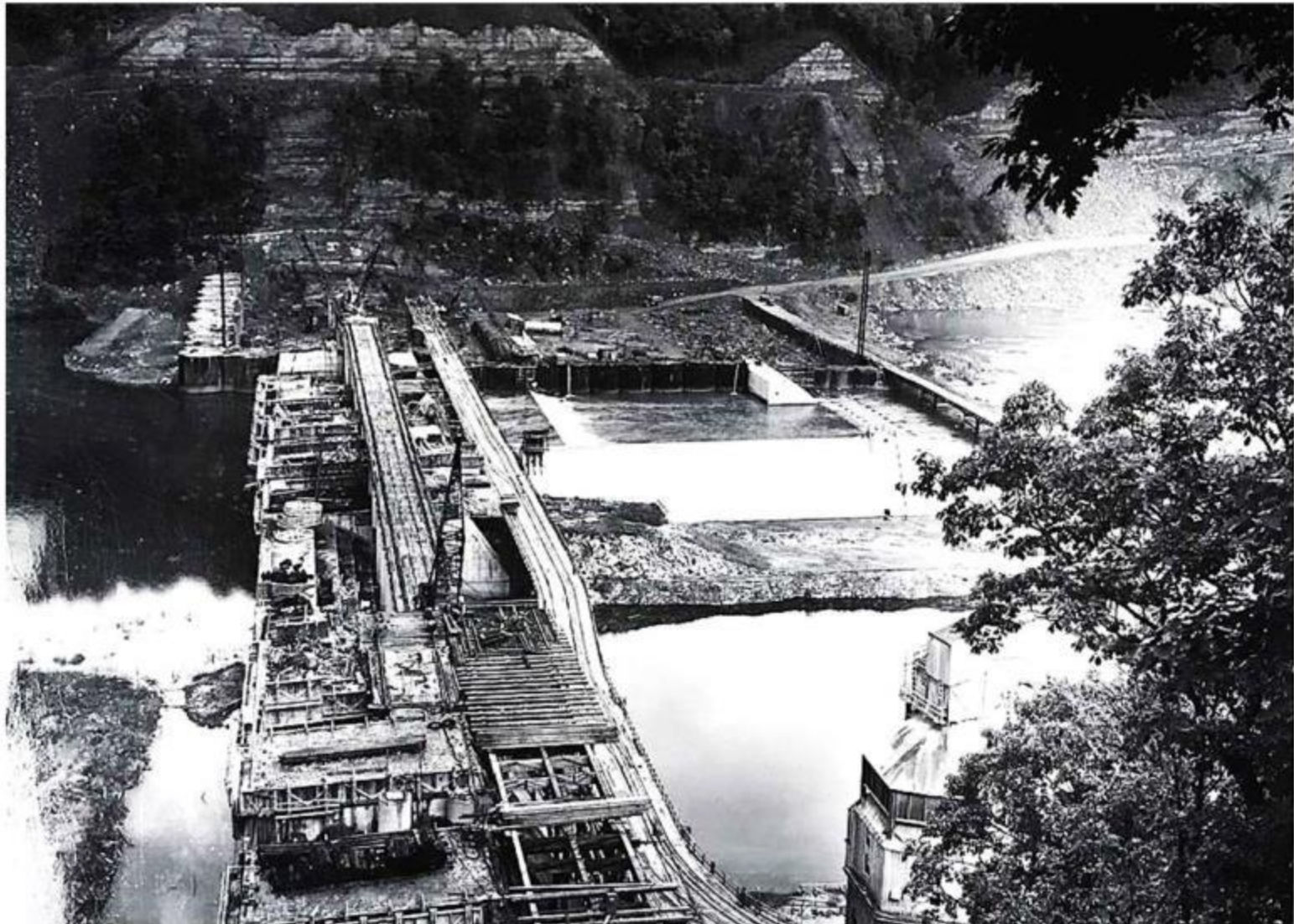
Bluestone Dam Construction - 1946

View from Route 20



Bluestone Dam Construction
View from Rt 20
May 1946

Bluestone Dam Construction – September 11, 1946
View from Bellepoint



Bluestone Dam

1946 - Construction site

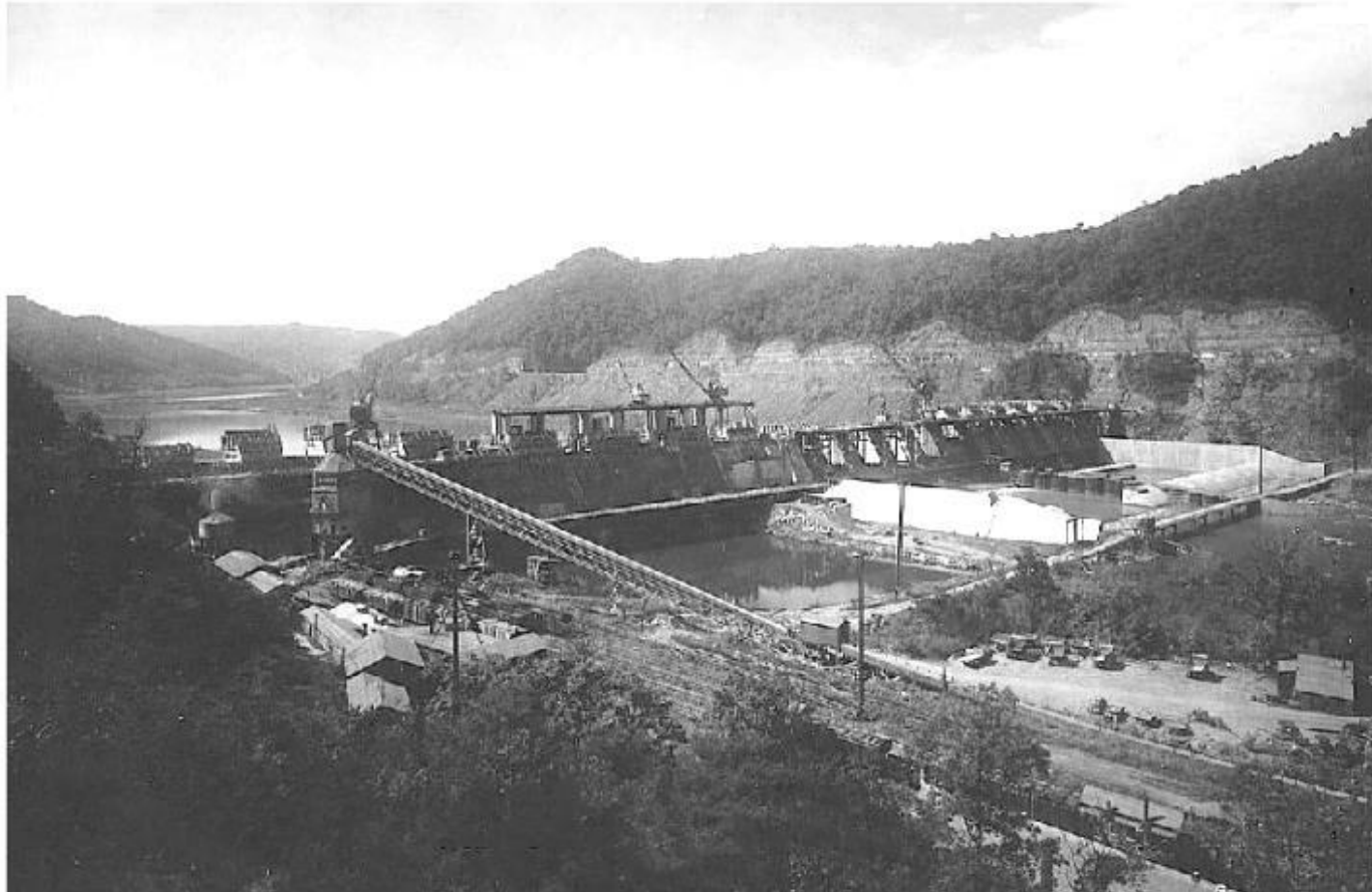


Bluestone Dam

1947 - Construction site



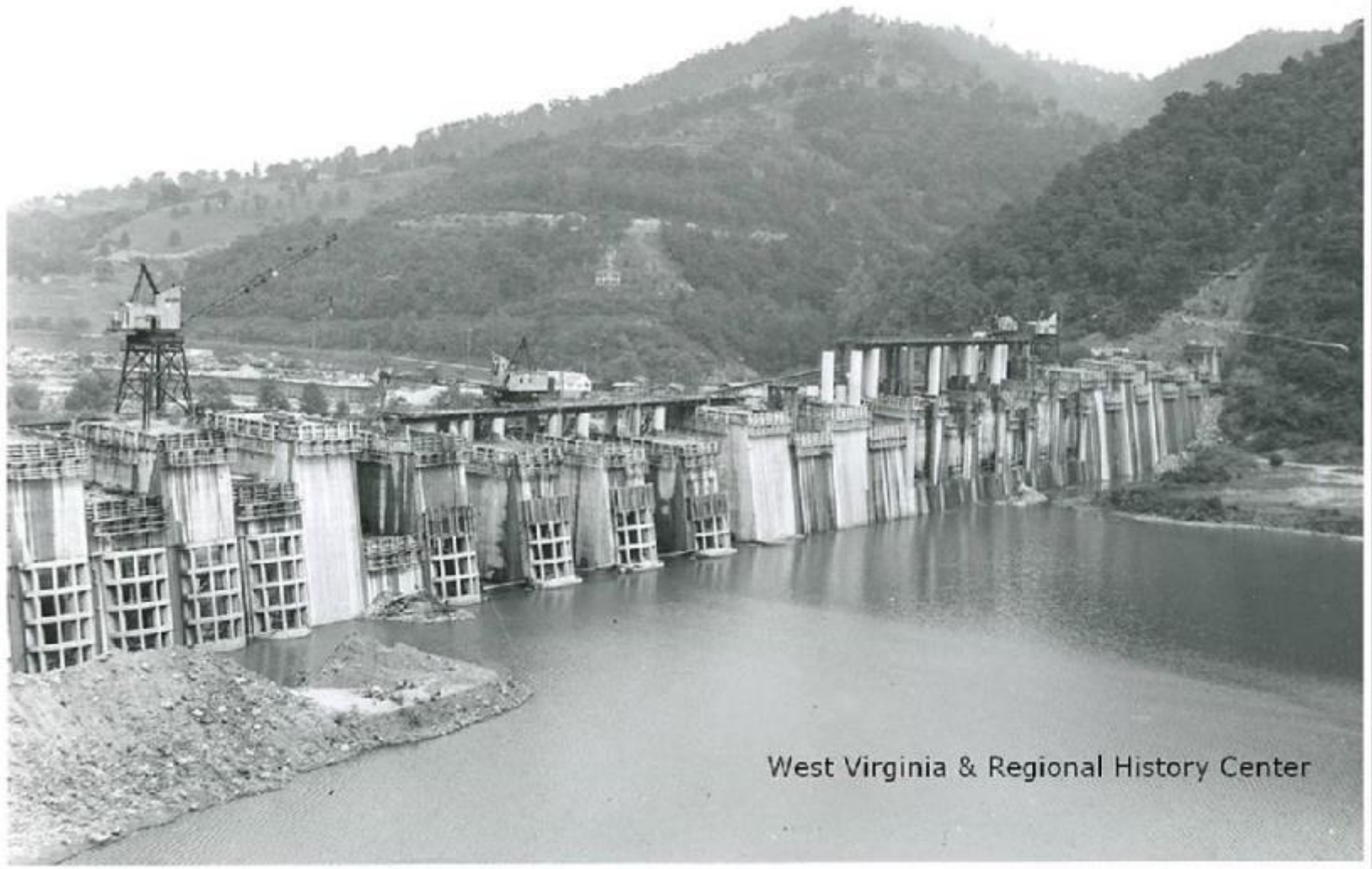
Bluestone Dam
1947 - Construction site
East view of Dam



Bluestone Dam
1947 - Construction site
Upper side of Dam



Bluestone Dam Construction – mid 1947
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center)



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Bluestone Dam – December 30, 1947
Construction Site



Aerial View of Bluestone Dam Construction - ca 1947
(Photo of the West Virginia and Regional History Center)

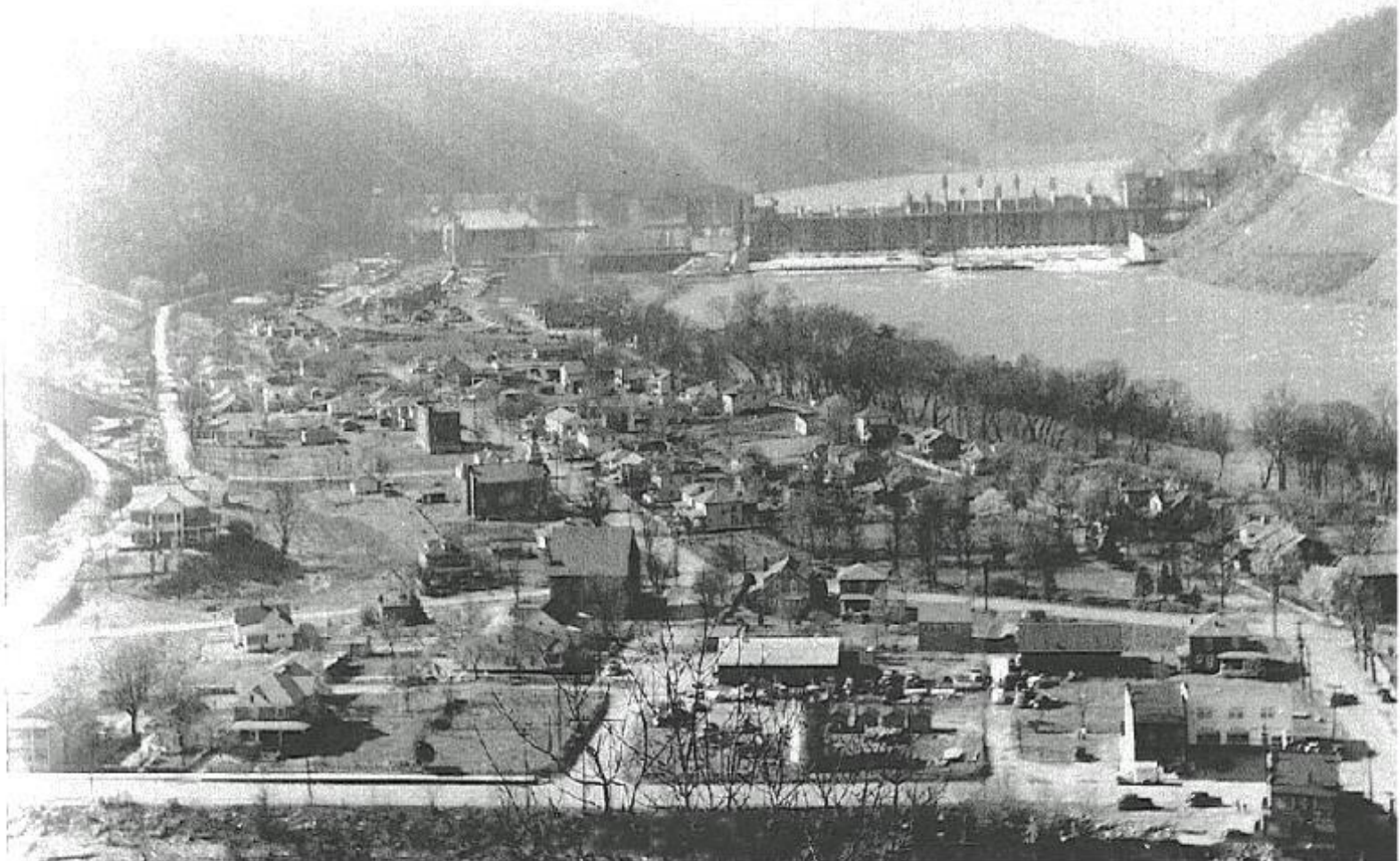


West Virginia & Regional History Center

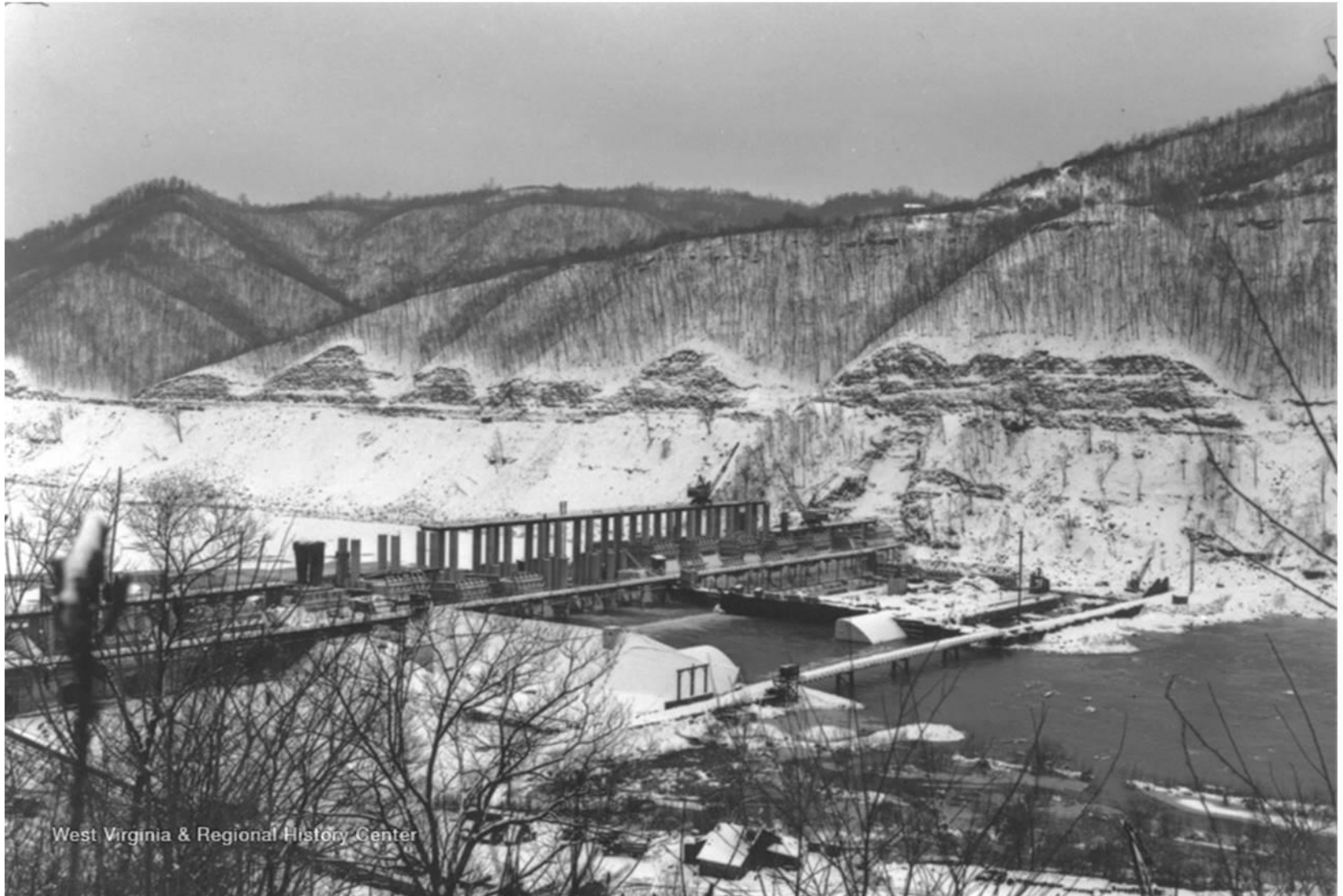
Bluestone River and Lilly Bridge under Construction – 1947
Possibly Roy Crook's farm. This area later became part of Bluestone State Park
and the location of Boat Dock No. 1.



**Bluestone Dam
1948 - Construction site
and Lower Bellepoint**



Bluestone Dam Construction - ca 1948
(Photo of the West Virginia and Regional History Center)



West Virginia & Regional History Center

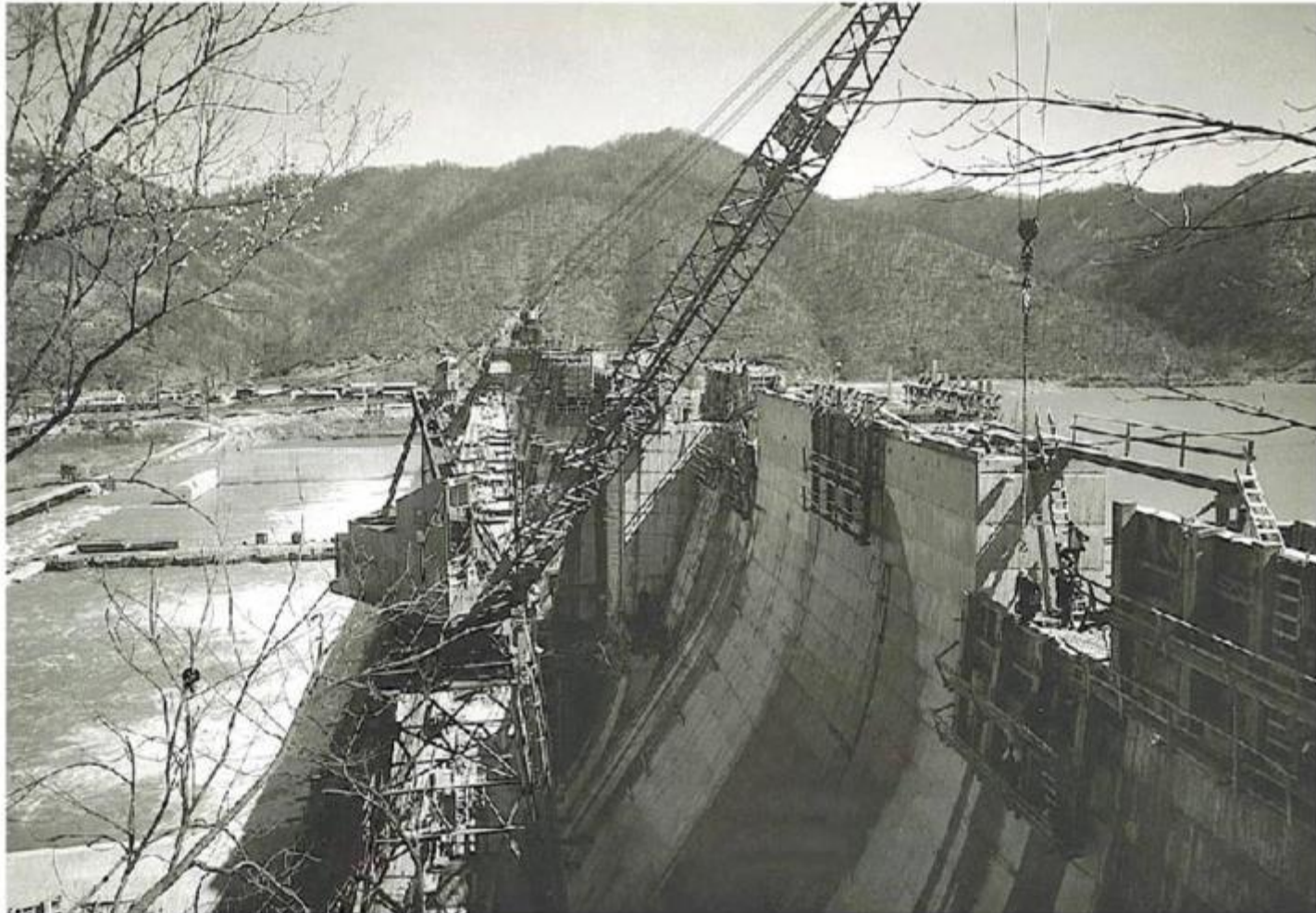
Bluestone Dam Construction - ca 1948
(Photo of the West Virginia and Regional History Center)



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Bluestone Dam

1948 – Construction Site



Bluestone Dam – December 23, 1948
Construction Site



Bluestone Dam Left Front – December 23, 1948
Construction Site



Bluestone Dam Right Front – December 23, 1948
Construction Site



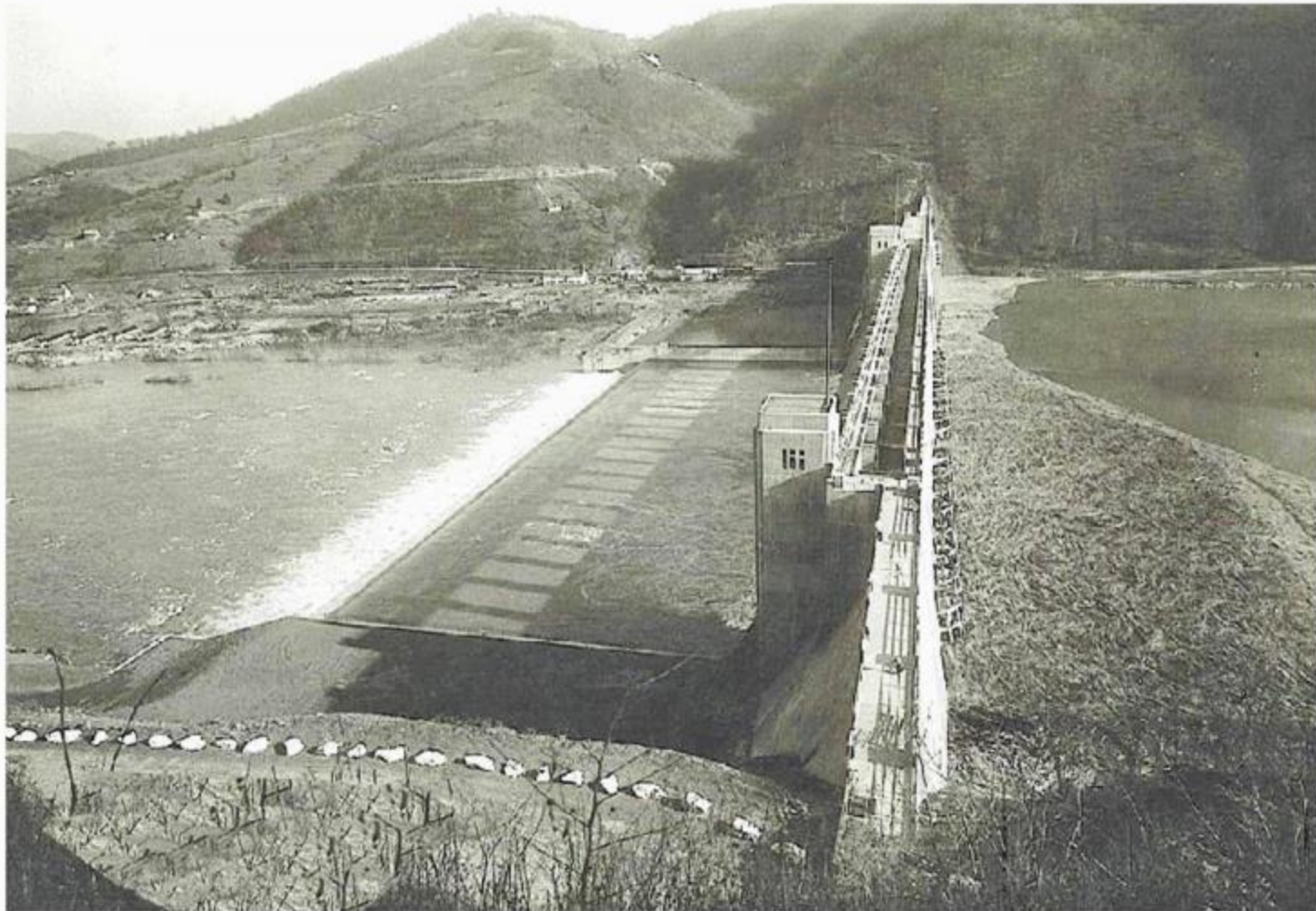
Bluestone Dam Lake Side – December 23, 1948
Construction Site



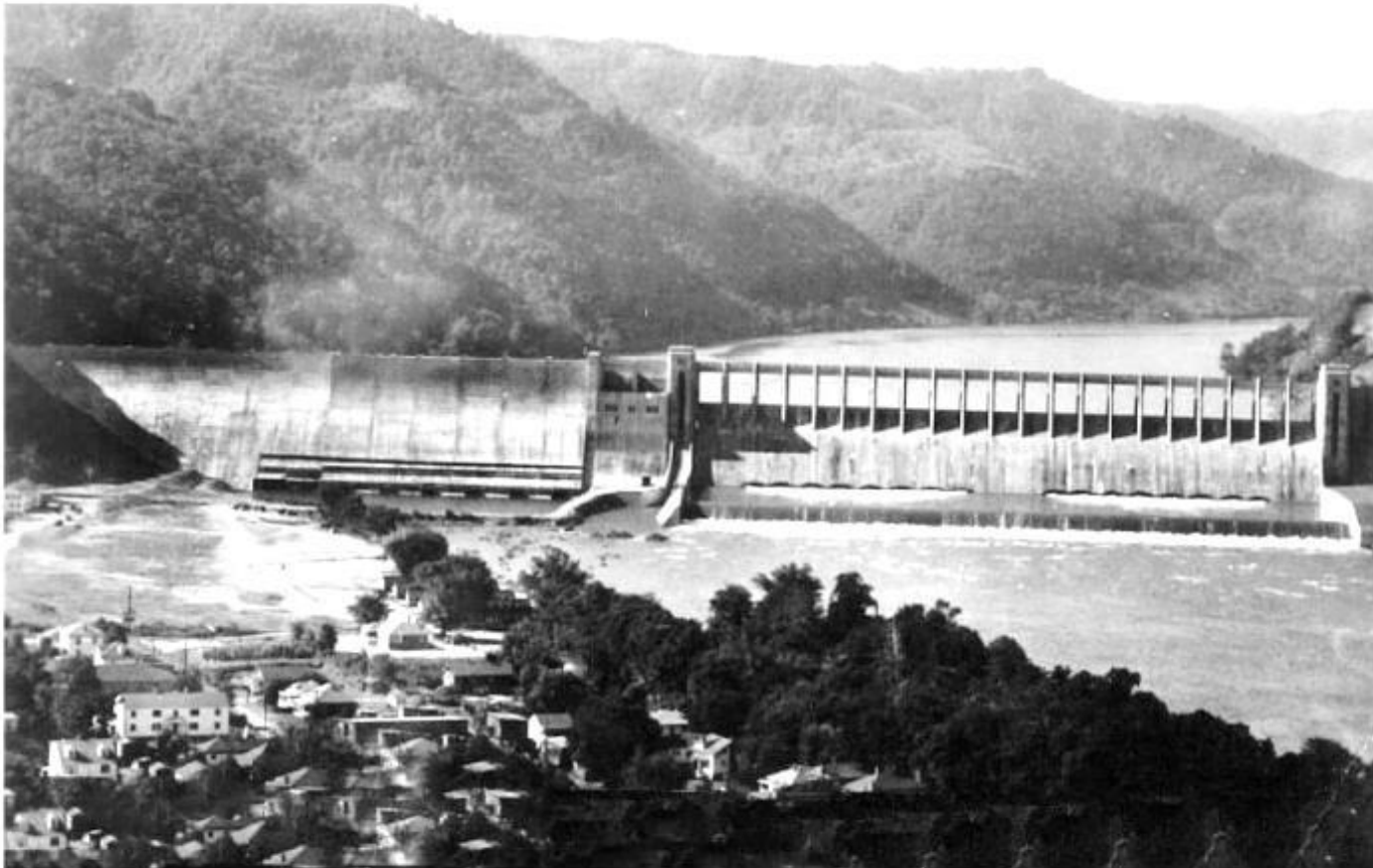
Bluestone Dam Top – December 23, 1948
Construction Site



Bluestone Dam
1948 – Looking down from Dam's axis

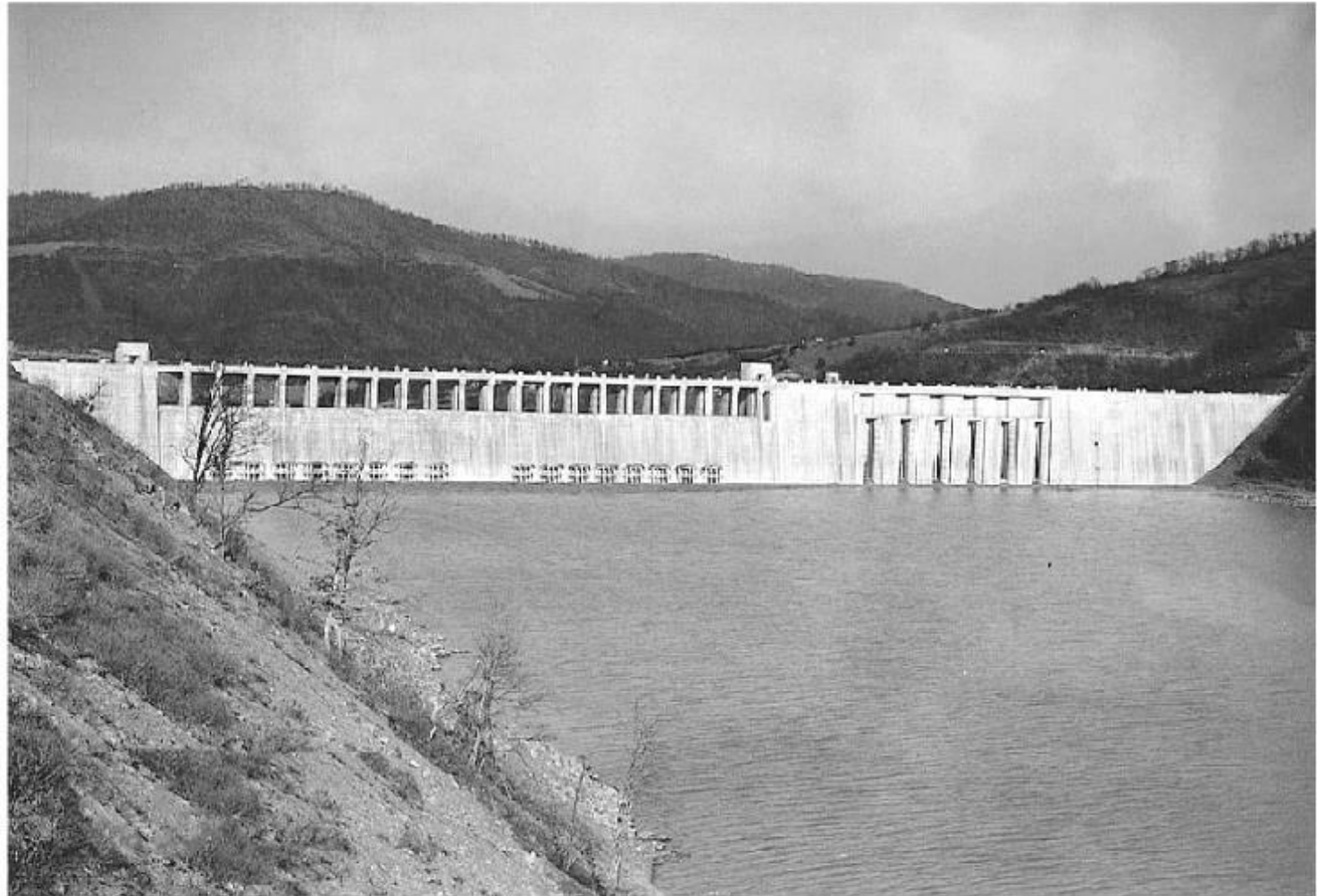


**Bluestone Dam
ca UNK
Lower Bellepoint**



Bluestone Dam

1948 - Above the Dam



Engineers on Construction of the Bluestone Dam - 1950

L-R: Orval Charles Auhl (engineer in charge), Robert A. Thompson (assistant engineer)
and two unidentified men

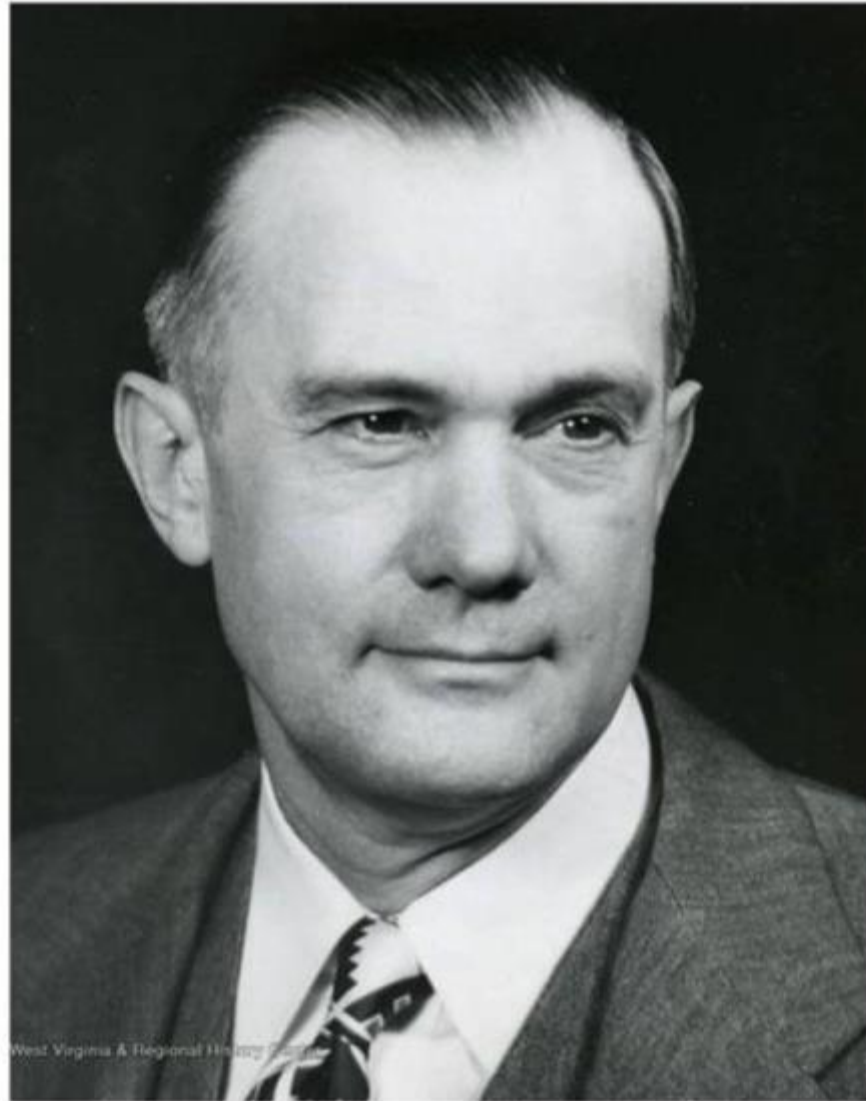
(Photo courtesy of the West Virginia and Regional History Center)



Orval Charles Auhl – ca 1950

Engineer in charge of Bluestone Dam construction

(Photo courtesy of the West Virginia and Regional History Center)



Bluestone Paddle Boat Dock – 1951

(Photo courtesy of West Virginia and Regional History Center)



Bluestone Lake - 1952
(Photo courtesy of Joe Green)



Bluestone Boat Dock No. 2 – 1955

Near the mouth of Pipestem Creek

(Photo courtesy of West Virginia and Regional History Center)



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Bluestone State Park Boat Dock No. 1 – 1955

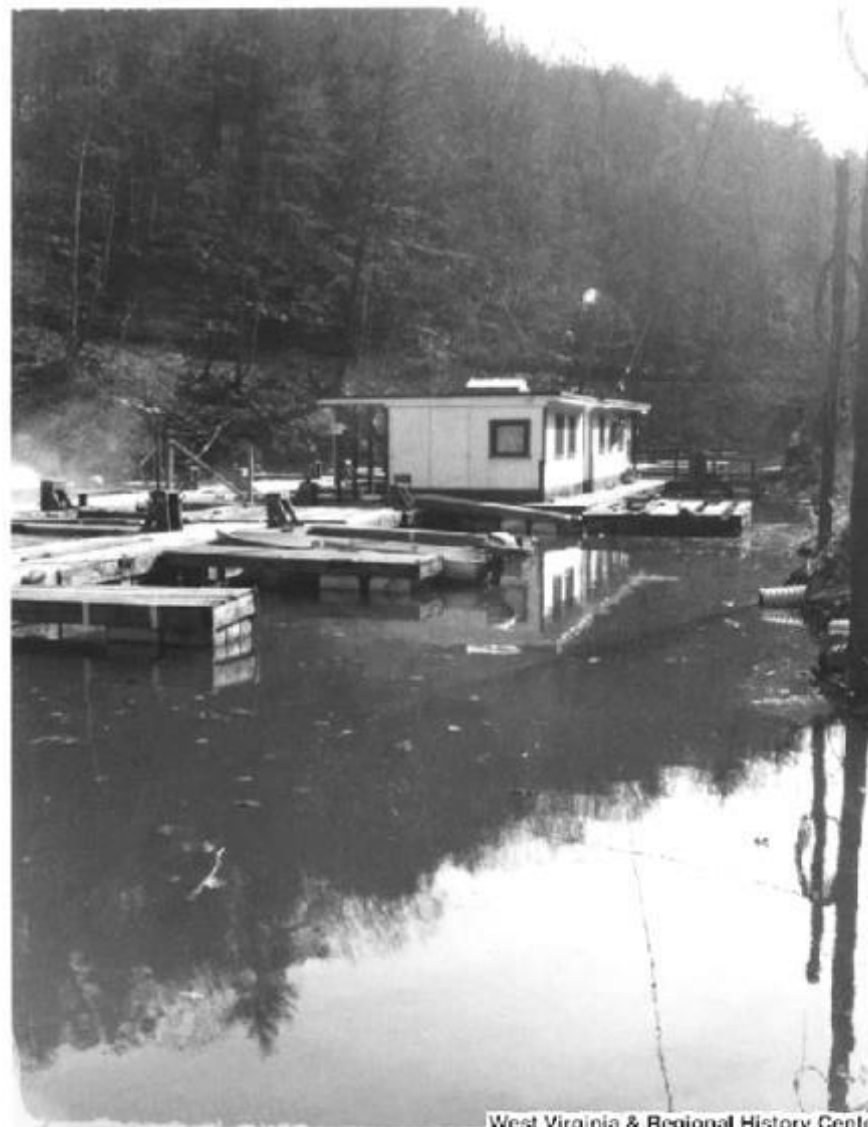
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center)



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Bluestone Boat Dock No. 2 aka Jones's Boat Dock – 1955

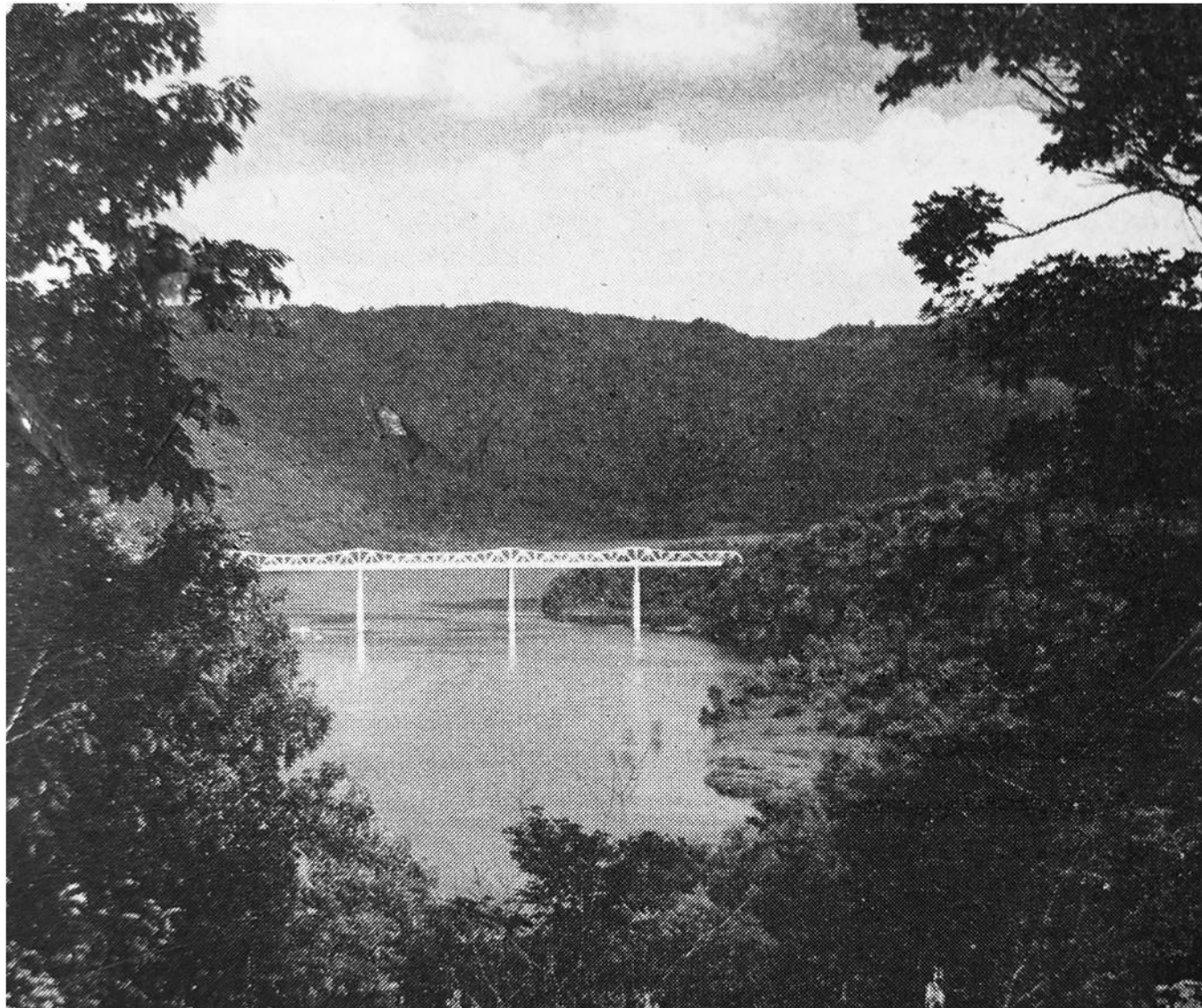
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center)



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Lilly Bridge - 1956

(Photo courtesy of Joe Green Collection)



Boats Anchored near Boat Dock No. 2 – 1958
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia and Regional History Center)

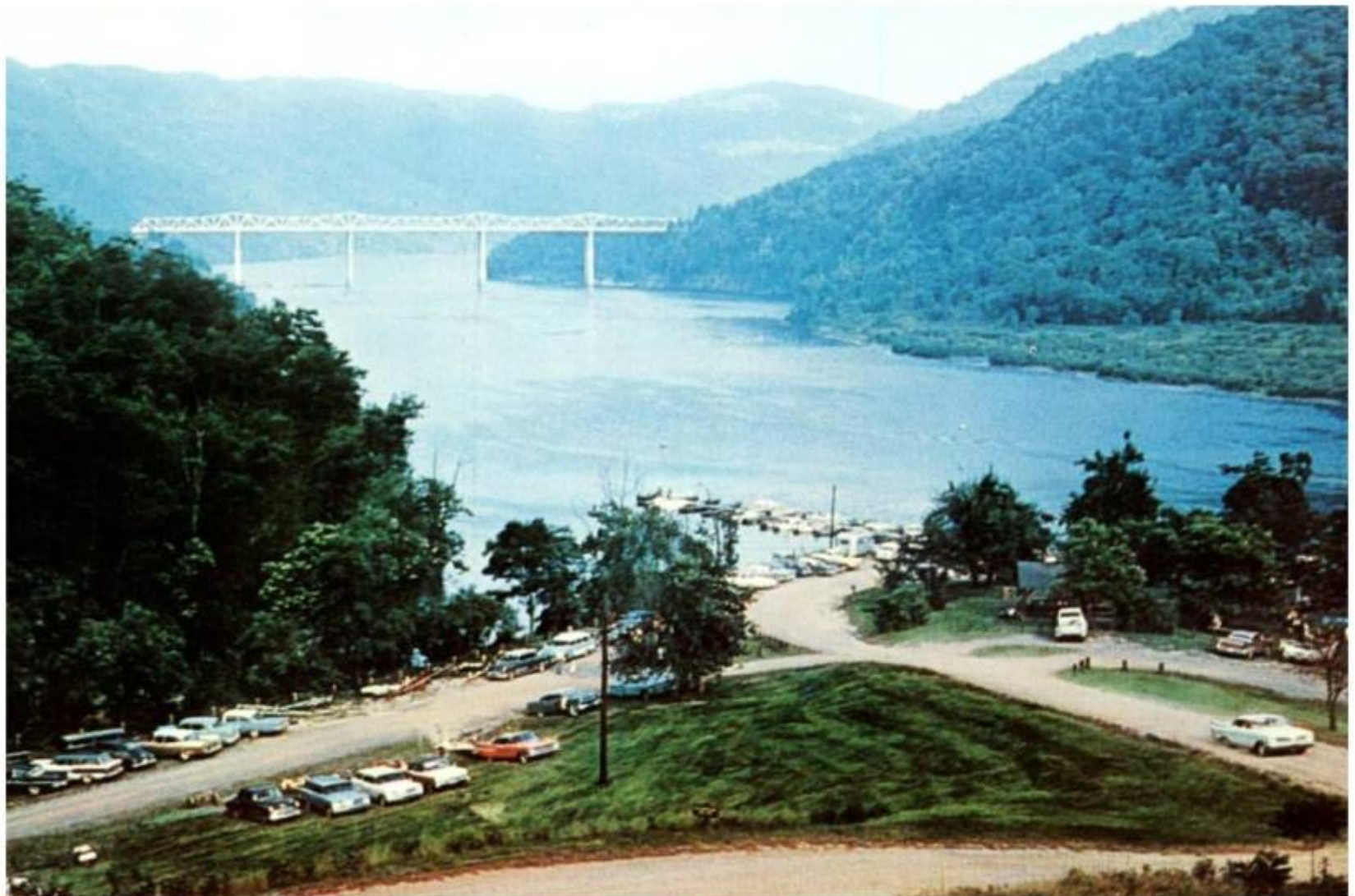


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Bluestone Dam
Aerial View - ca UNK
Courtesy of Fred Long



Bluestone State Park - 1960
(Photo courtesy of Harry Bryson)

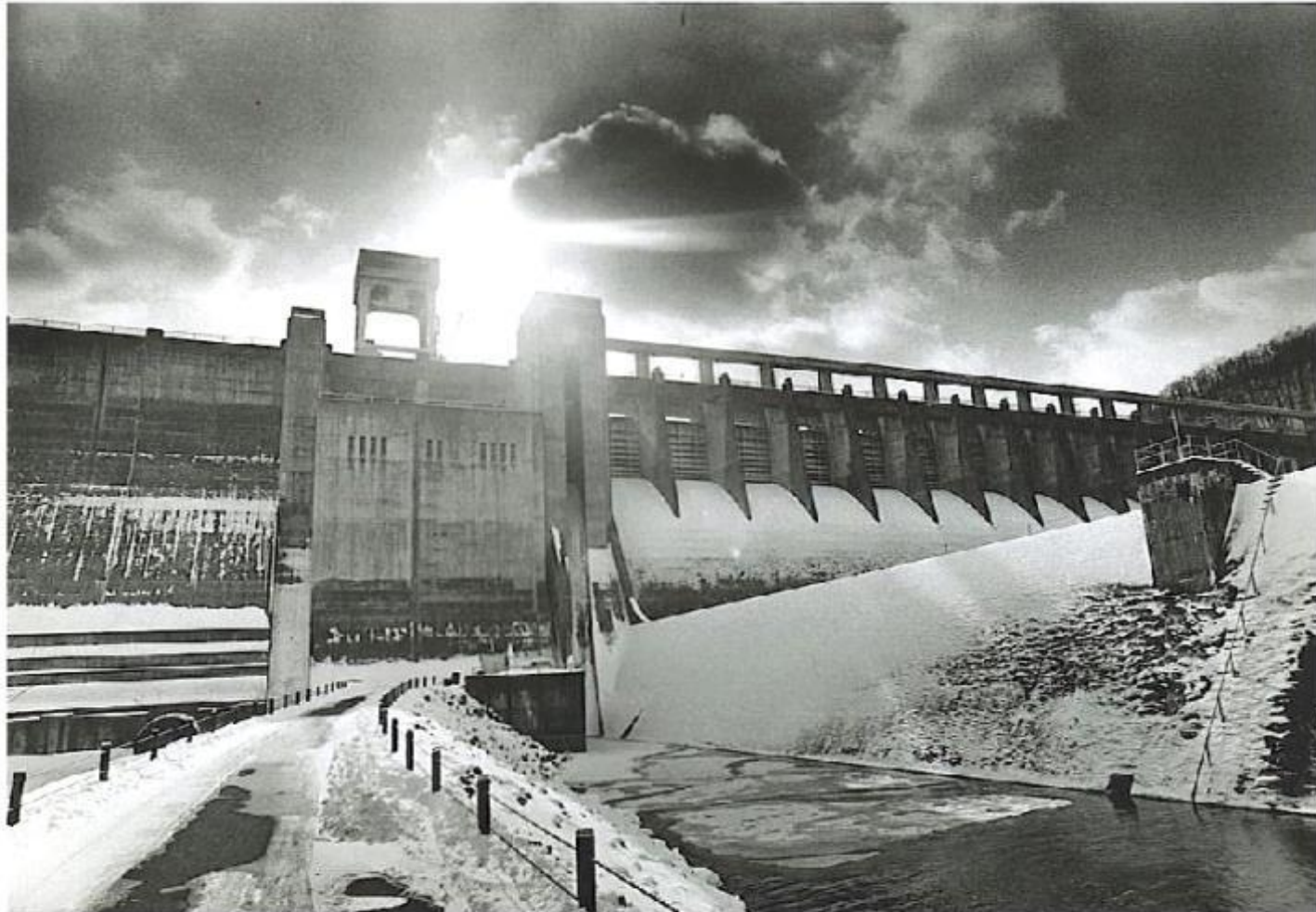


Bluestone Dam – High Water – June 1960
Hinton, WV



Bluestone Dam

1960 - Winter



Bluestone State Park Boat Dock No. 1 – mid 1960s

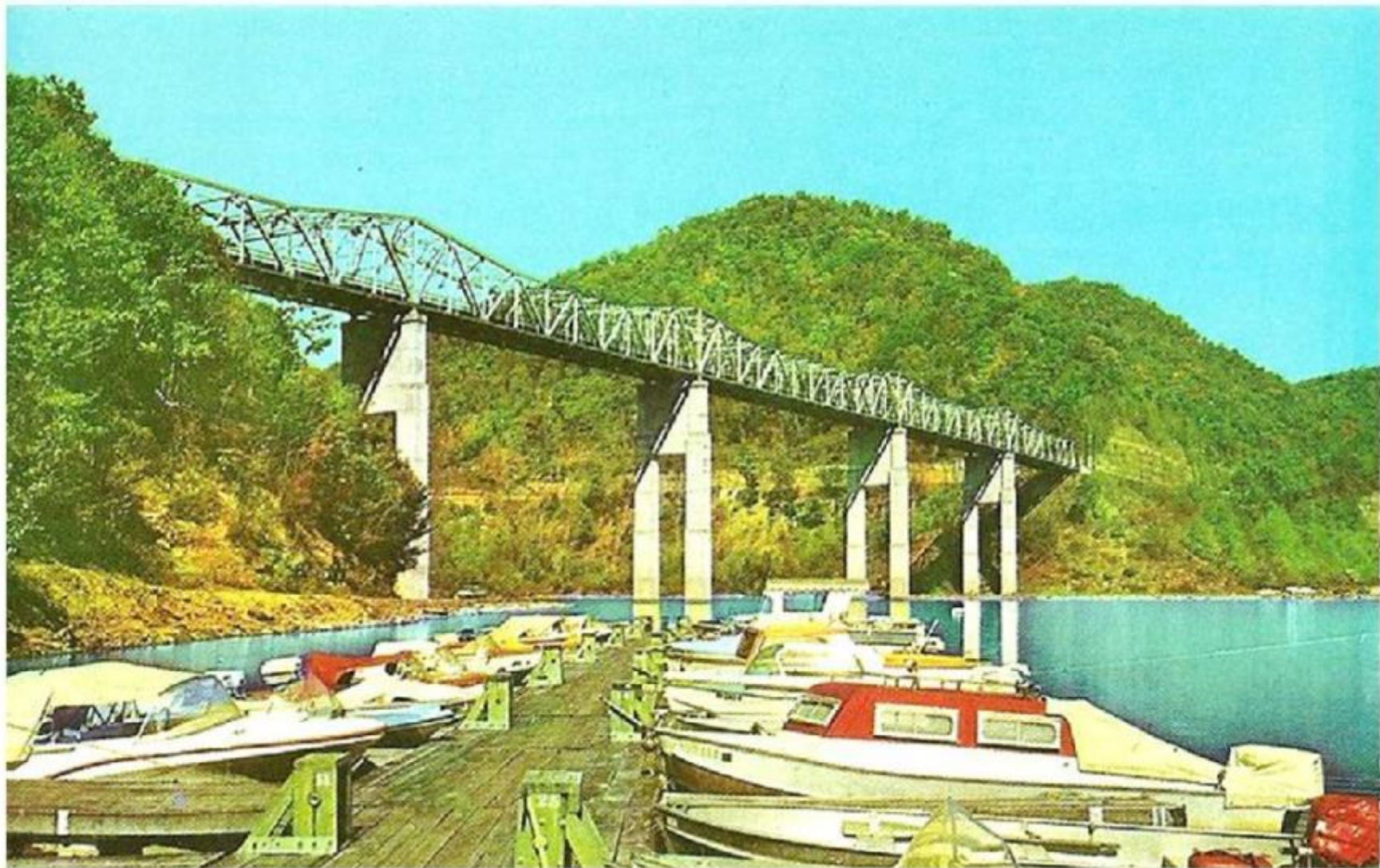


Aerial View – Bluestone State Park Boat Dock No. 1 – mid 1960s
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center)



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Bluestone Boat Dock No. 2 aka Jones's Boat Dock – mid 1960s



Aerial View of Lilly Bridge and Jones's Boat Dock – mid 1960s
(Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center)

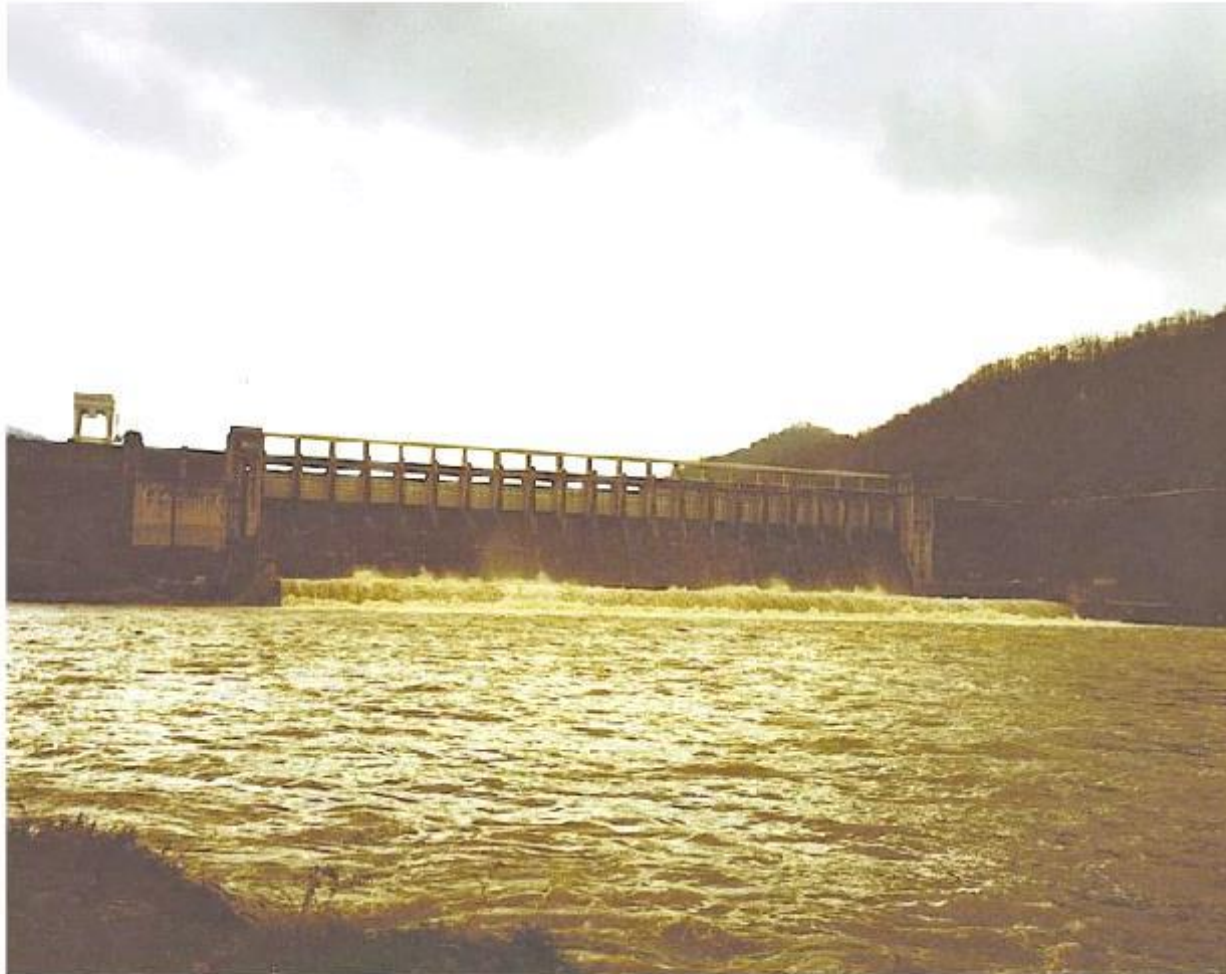


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Bluestone Dam
1970 - All lower gates open



Bluestone Dam
1970 - All lower gates open



**Bluestone Dam
ca UNK
Water level view below the Dam**



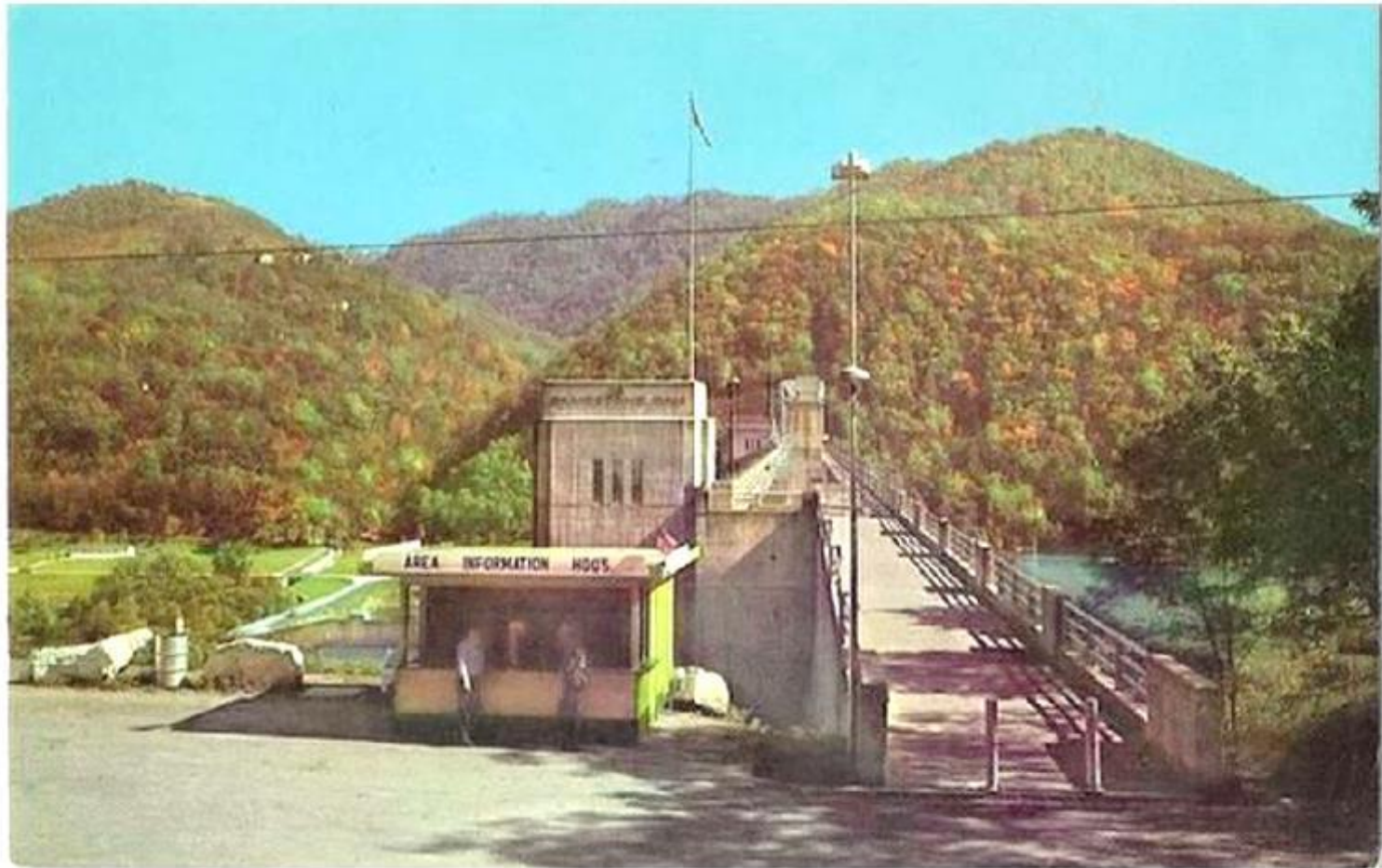
**Bluestone Dam
1970 - View downstream
from atop of Dam**



Bluestone Dam
1970 - Fall
Below the Dam



**Bluestone Dam
ca 1970s
Information Booth**

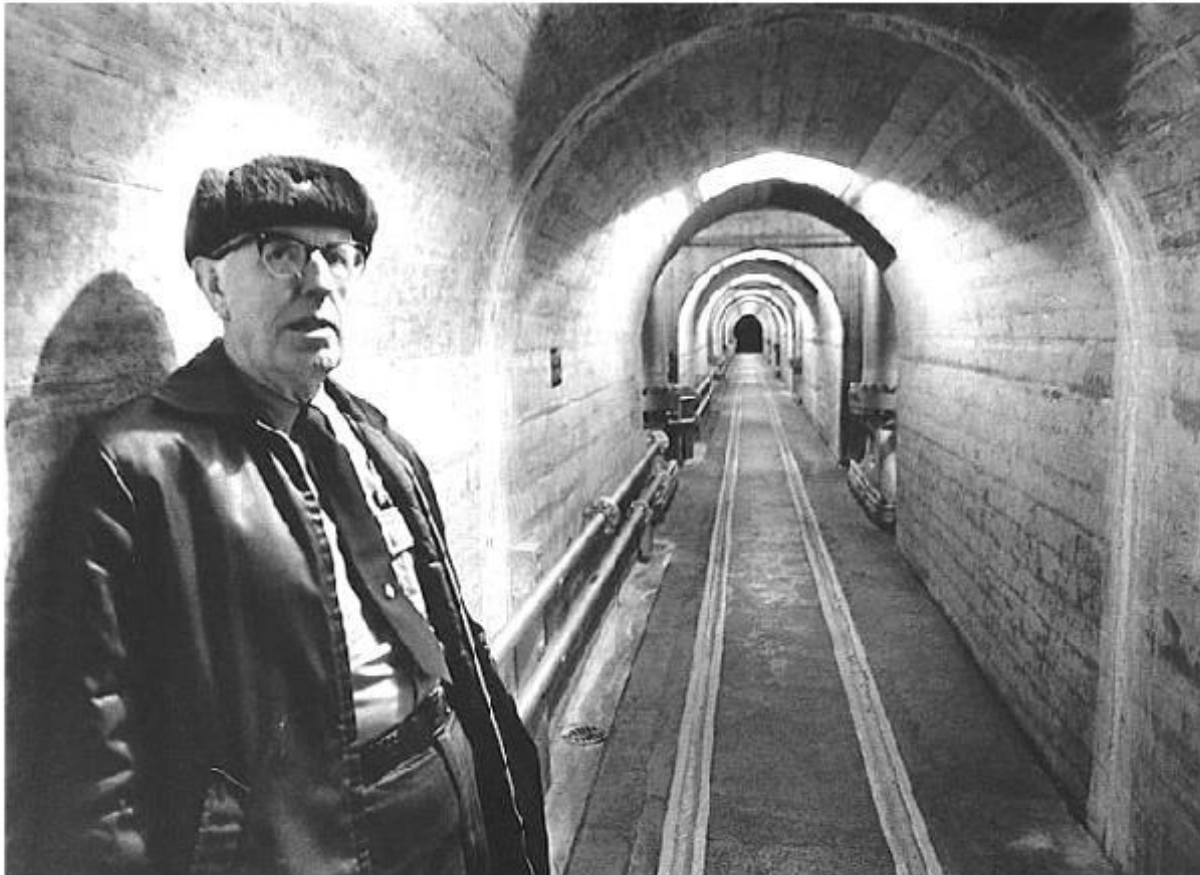


Bluestone Lake
1970 - Fall

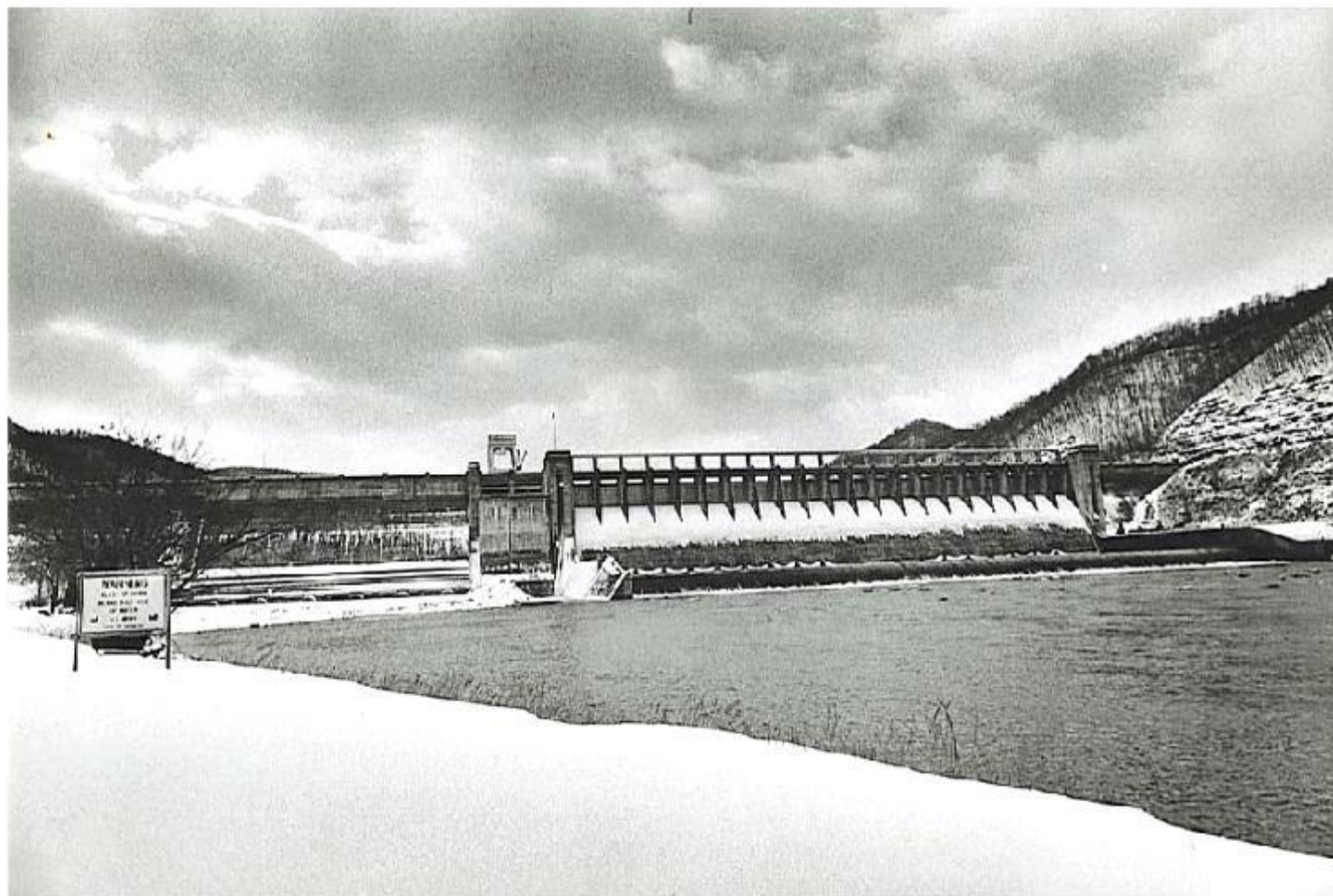


**Bluestone Dam
1980 - Jimmy Hutchison
inside of Dam**

courtesy of Charleston Daily Mail - Craig Cummingham

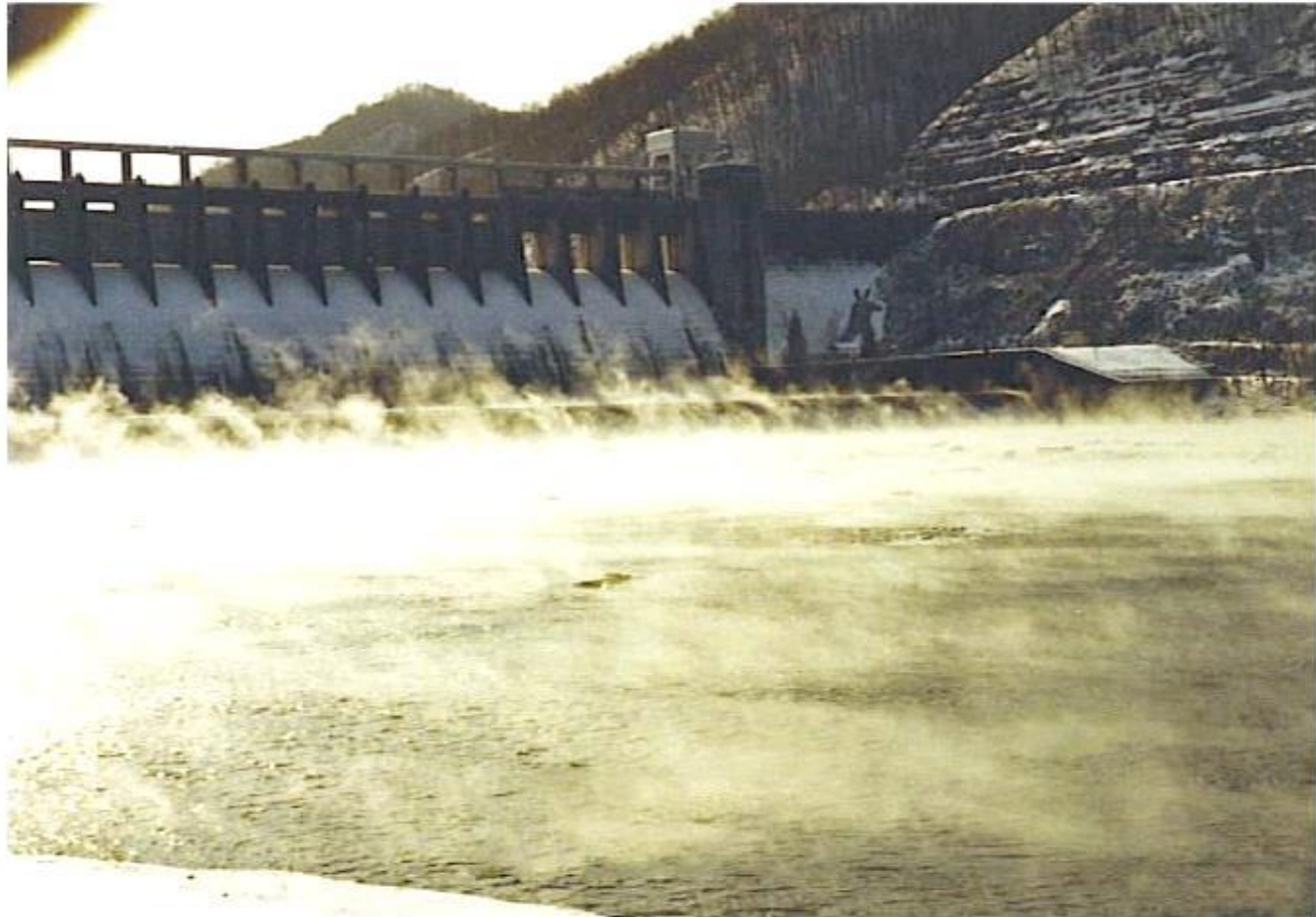


Bluestone Dam 1980 - Winter



Bluestone Dam

1985 - -20 degrees



**Bluestone Dam
1985 - -20 degrees
looking downstream from Dam**



Bluestone Dam

1985 - Glory Hole



Bluestone Lake

1985 - Fall



Bluestone Marina – Previously Jones’s Boat Dock - UNK



Bluestone Lake 1986 - Winter



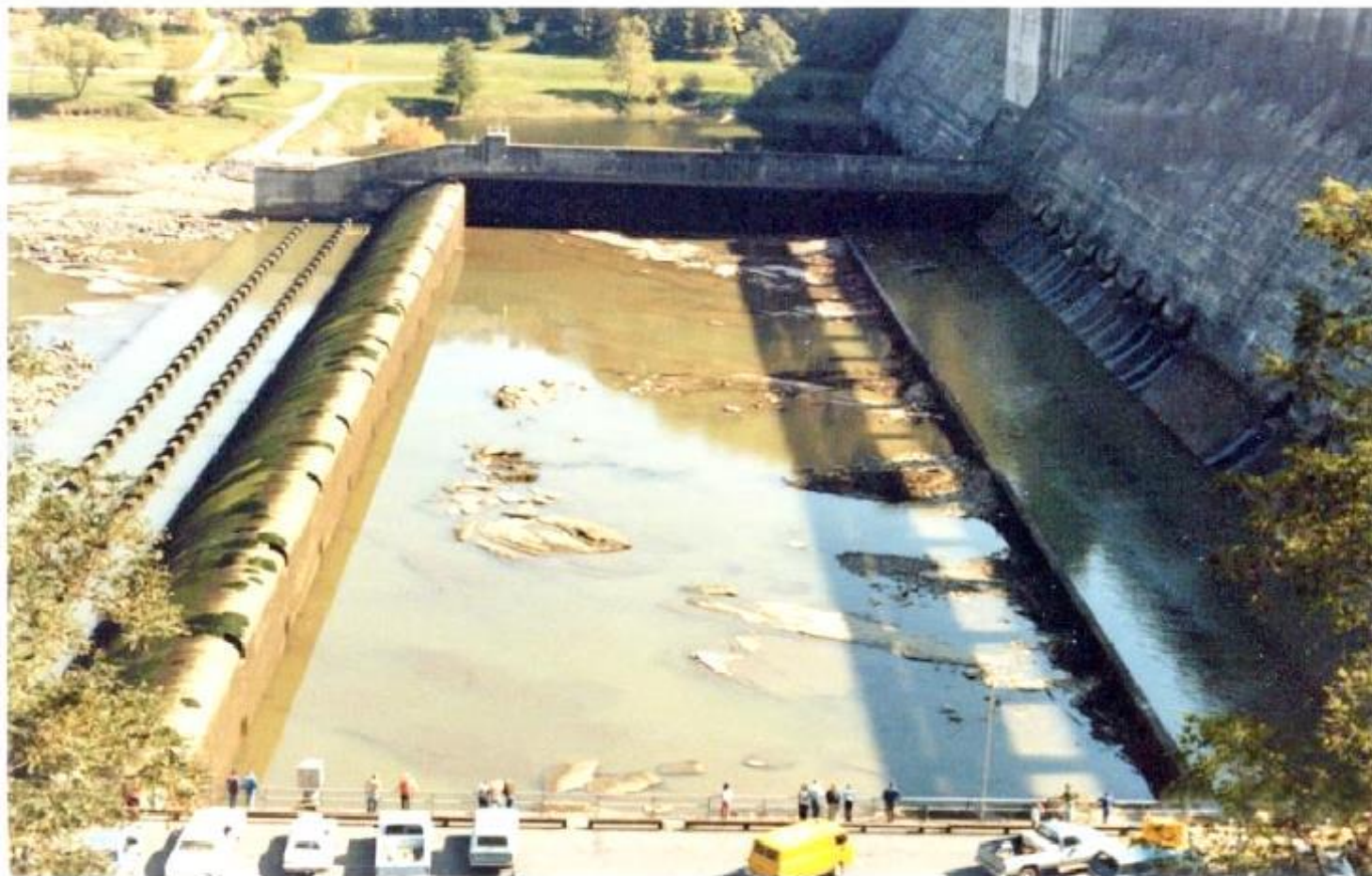
Bluestone Dam

1987 - Build up behind the dam



Bluestone Dam

1988 - All Gates closed



Bluestone Dam
1988 - All Gates closed
Looking downstream



Bluestone Dam

1994 - All Gates closed



Bluestone Lake

1994 - Fall



Bluestone Lake

1994 - Fall



Bluestone Lake

1994 - Winter



Bluestone Lake – 1995



Bluestone Lake
Oct. 1995

**Bluestone Dam
1995
Moonrise below the dam**



Bluestone Dam

1996 - Build up behind the dam



Bluestone Dam

1996 – Build up behind the dam



Bluestone Dam

1996 - Flood Gates open



**Bluestone Dam
1996
Flood Gates open**



Bluestone Dam
1996 - Winter
Lower Bellepoint



**Bluestone Lake
1996 - Winter
Frozen Lake**



Bluestone Dam
Aerial View
ca UNK



**Bluestone Dam
ca UNK
Foggy Morning**



Bluestone Dam

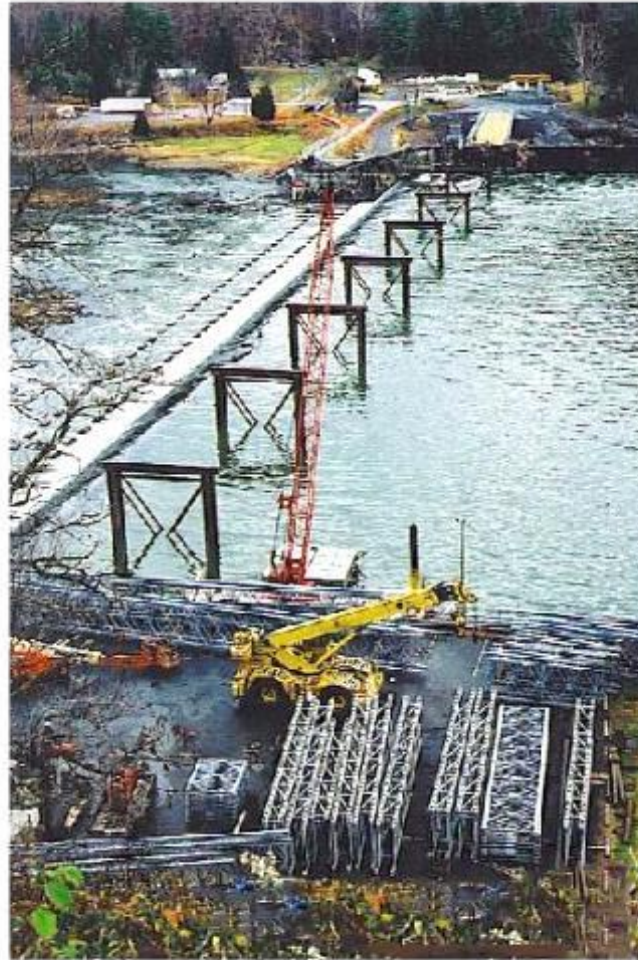
2001 - Building temporary construction bridge



Bluestone Dam

2001

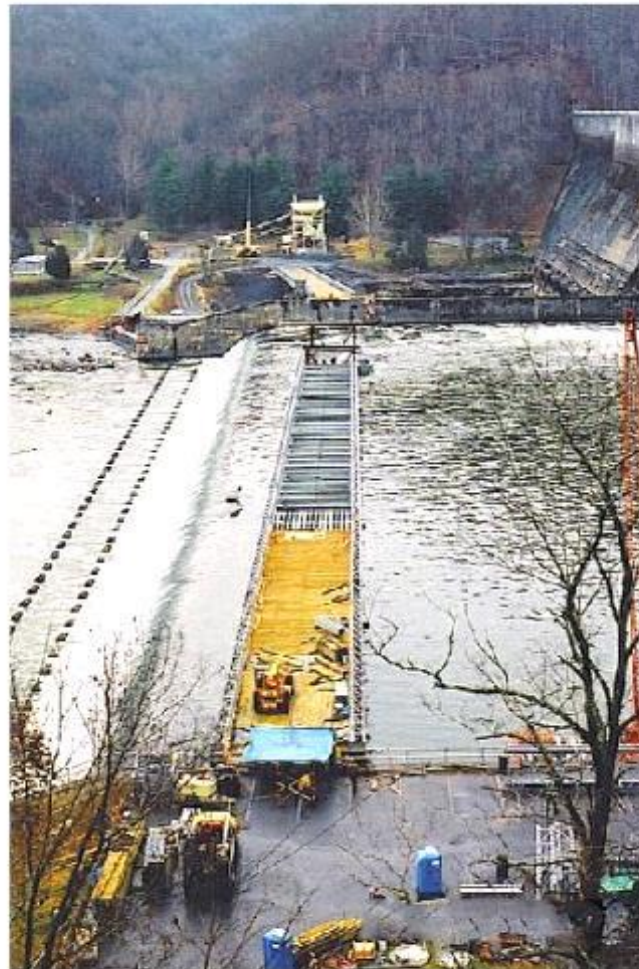
Building temporary construction Bridge



Bluestone Dam

2001

Building Temporary Bridge



Bluestone Dam

2001 - Empty Glory Hole



Bluestone Dam

2001 - Empty Glory Hole (on right)



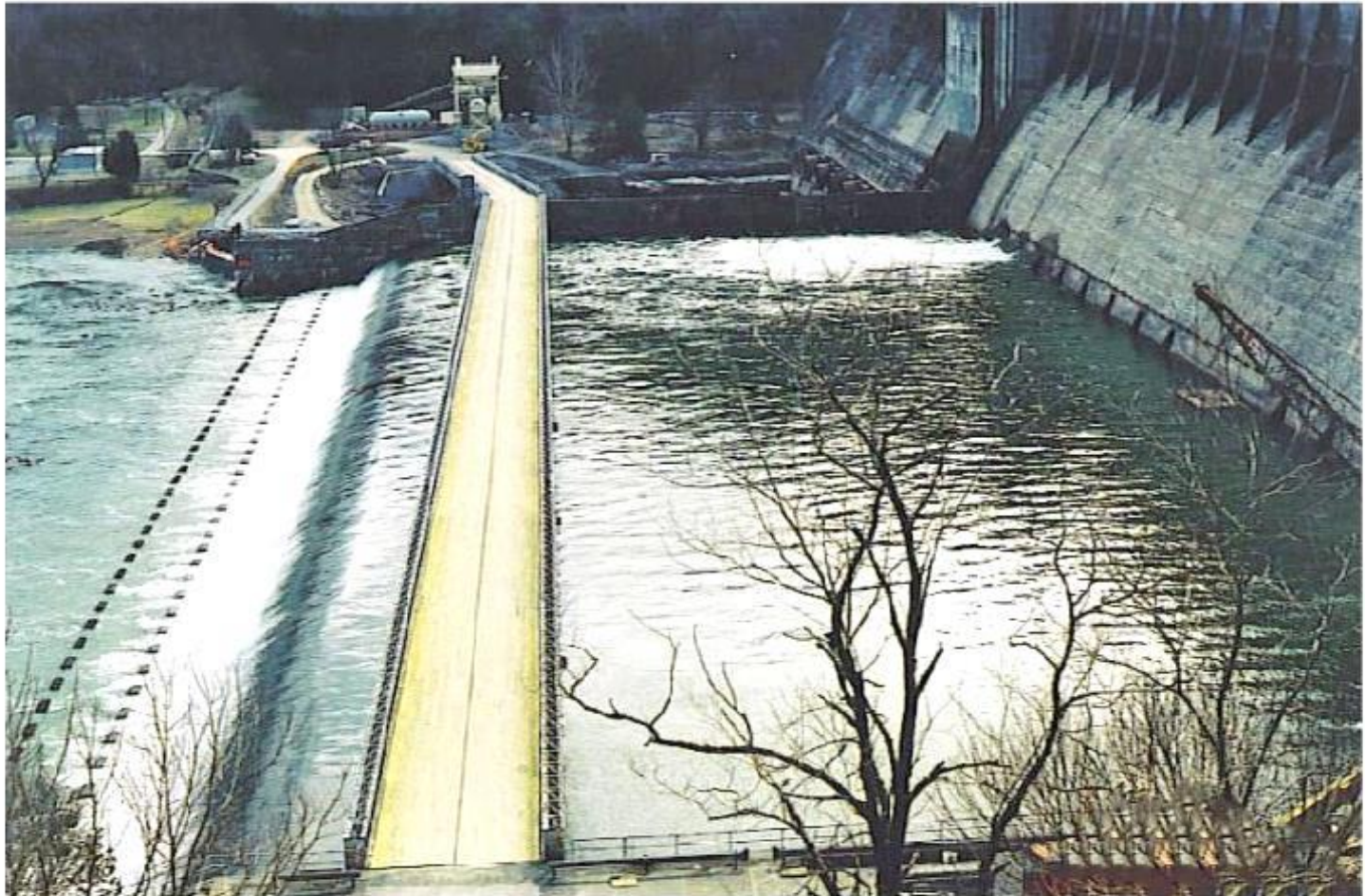
Bluestone Dam

2001 - Winter



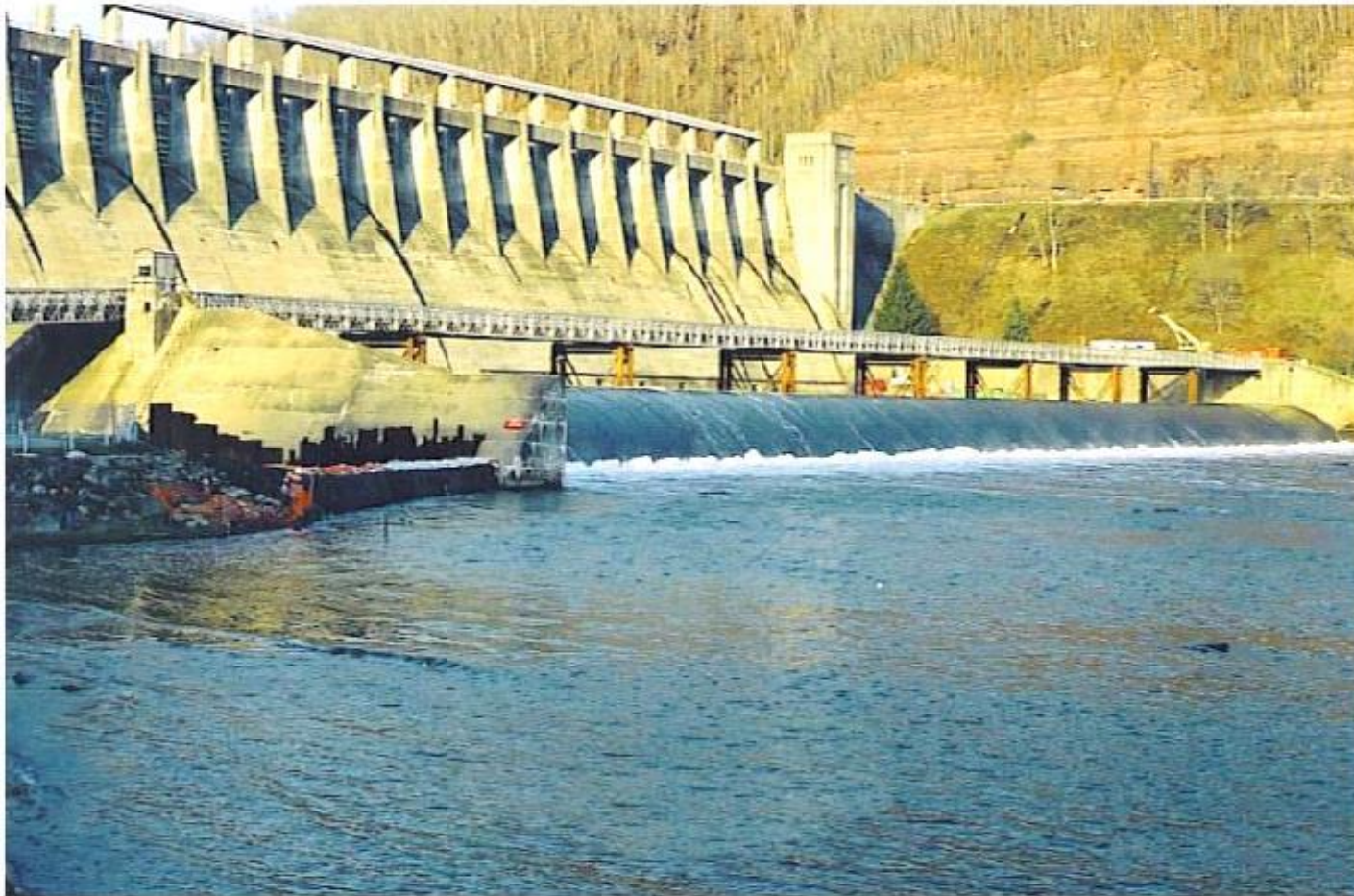
Bluestone Dam

2002 - Temporary Bridge completed



Bluestone Dam

2002 - Temporary Bridge completed



Bluestone Dam

2003 - Construction in old Glory Hole



Bluestone Dam

2003

Temporary construction bridge



**Bluestone Dam
2003 - Temporary Bridge
over old Glory Hole**



**Bluestone Dam
2004
Below the Dam with all gates shut**



Bluestone Dam

2004

**Below the Dam with all gates closed
with temporary construction bridge**



Bluestone Dam

2004

Below the Dam with all gates closed



Bluestone Dam

2004

Below the Dam with all gates closed



**Bluestone Dam
2004
Lakeside construction barge**



Bluestone Dam
2004
Temporary construction bridge



**Bluestone Dam
2005
Detour on Rt. 20 by Dam**



Bluestone Dam
2008
New fishing walkway



Bluestone Dam
2009
Just below the dam



Bluestone Dam 2010 - Winter



Vicky Maddy 1/30/2010

Bluestone Dam 2010 - Winter



Bluestone Dam

2010 - Winter



**Bluestone Dam
2010 - Winter
Just below the Dam**



Bluestone Dam
2011
Construction cranes



Bluestone Dam

2012

Looking downstream just below the dam



Bluestone Dam
2012
View from Fishing Pier



Bluestone Dam - UNK
Spillway at night



Bluestone Dam – April 2014

(All gates closed)



Bluestone Dam – April 2014

(All gates closed)



Bluestone Dam Spillway – April 2014

(All gates closed)



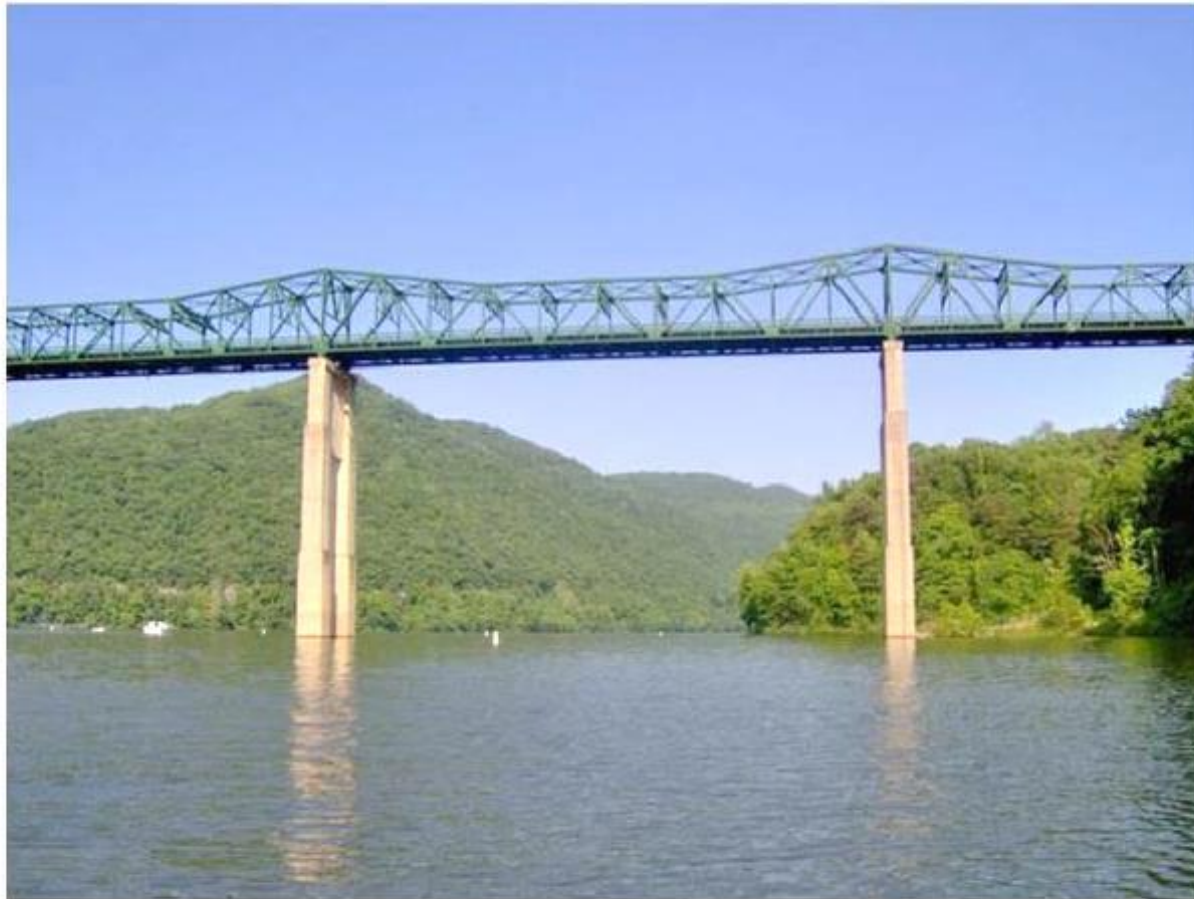
New River – April 2014
(In front of Bluestone Dam, all gates closed.)



**Bluestone Dam
2014
Construction from former Glory Hole**



**Bluestone Dam
ca UNK
Original Lilly Bridge**



**Bluestone Lake
ca UNK
Mountain View of Lilly Bridge**



Bluestone Lake Marina ca UNK



Bluestone Dam
2015
Fall Colors



**Bluestone Lake
2015 - Fall
Beautiful!**



**Bluestone Lake
2015 - Winter
Frozen Lake**



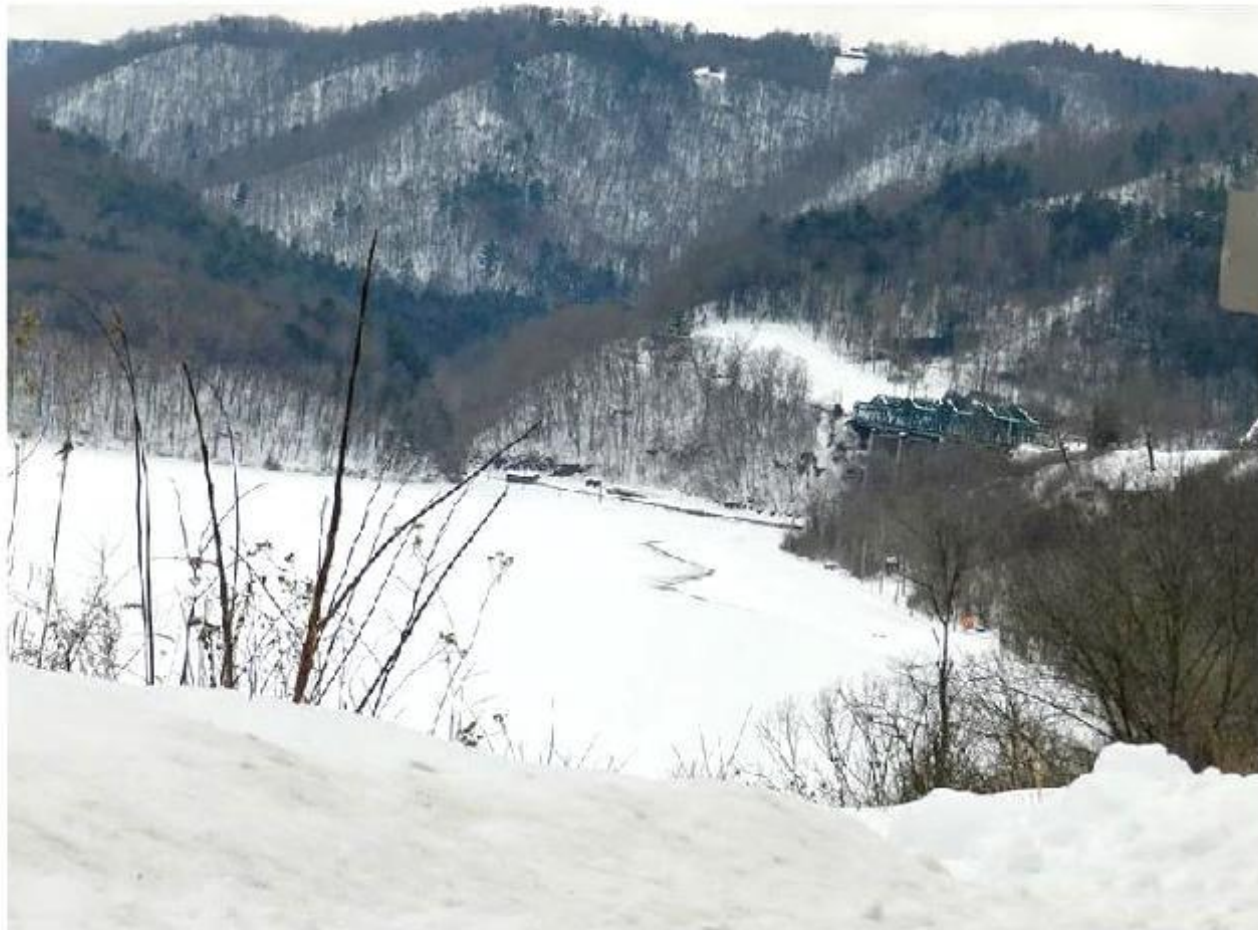
**Bluestone Lake
2015 - Winter
Frozen Lake**



**Bluestone Lake
2015 Winter
Lilly Bridge - Frozen Lake**



**Bluestone Lake
2015 - Winter
Lilly Bridge - Frozen Lake**



Bluestone Dam
2016 - Under the Milky Way
Courtesy of Michael Gill



Bluestone Lake
Winter 2016
Courtesy of Sam Richmond



Bluestone Lake
2017
Courtesy of Jim Browder



Bluestone Dam
Under the Milky Way - 2017
Courtesy of Michael Gill Photography



**Bluestone Lake
ca UNK
Beautiful Fall Leaves**



**Bluestone Lake
ca UNK
Beautiful!**



**Bluestone Lake
ca UNK
Foggy Morning**



Bluestone Lake
Rainbow - ca UNK
Courtesy of Carolyn Stephens



**Bluestone Lake
Sailboat
ca UNK**



**Bluestone Dam
with Glory Hole
ca UNK**



Bluestone River Above Lilly Bridge – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



New Lilly Bridge – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Marina and Lilly Bridge – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam – February 2019

Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam Spillway – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam Spillway – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam Spillway – February 2019

Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Bluestone Dam Spillway – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



New River Below Spillway – February 2019
Following rains Bluestone Lake was 57 feet above winter pool.



Aerial View of Bluestone Dam – May 2020



Bluestone Dam – July 2020



Bluestone Dam – July 2020



Panoramic View of Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Rainbow Over Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Rainbow Over Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Rainbow Over Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Rainbow Over Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Rainbow Over Bluestone Lake - 2020
(Photo courtesy of Mark-Joni Farley)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Brayman Construction Corporation is currently working on the Bluestone Dam, phase 5 project. Half of the dam is closed off, the baffles have been removed and new terracing is being installed. The old “Glory Hole” pipes are open to allow balance to the stream in the New River.

Brayman Construction Phase 5 Office – October 2020
195 Rose Street Hinton, WV



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



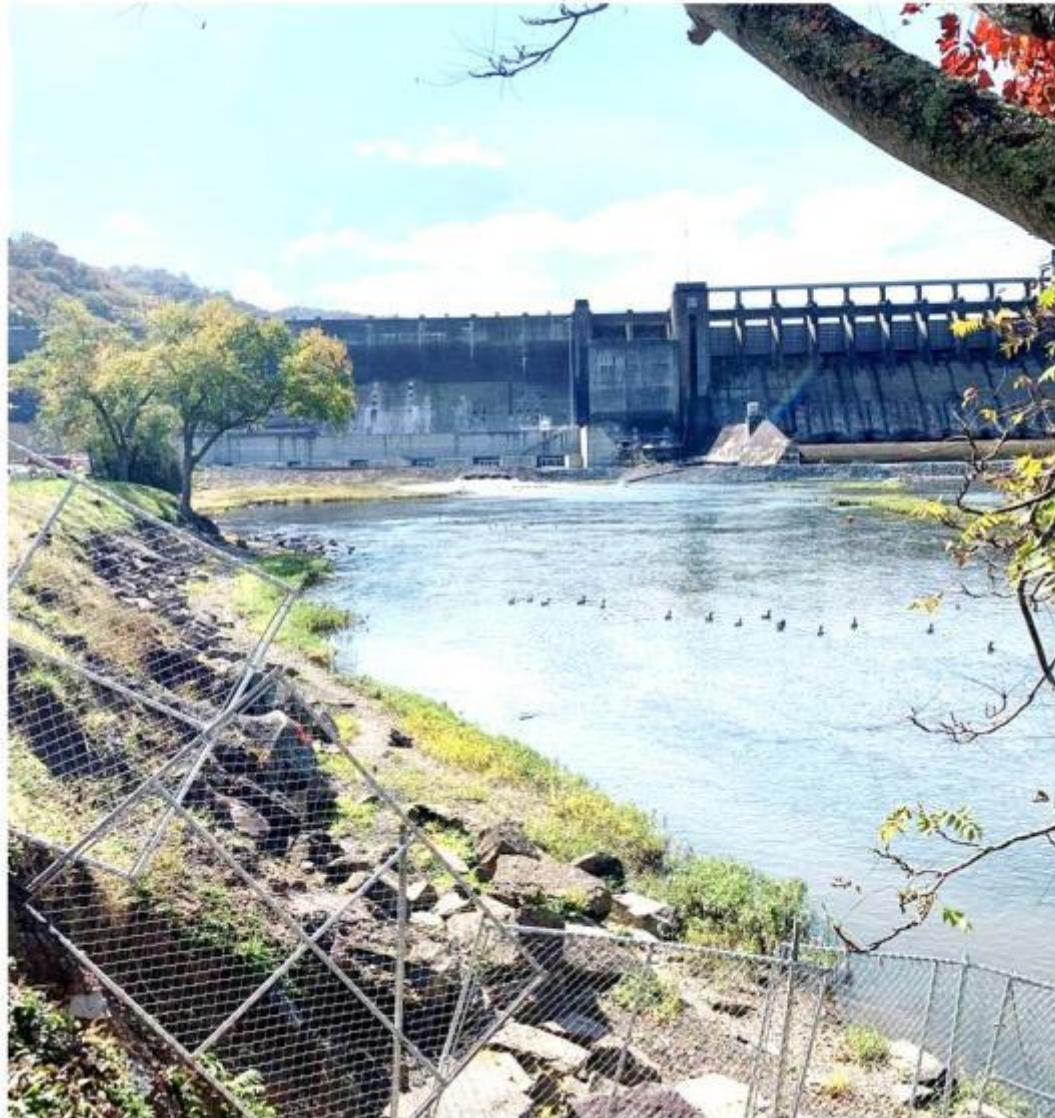
Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 10, 2020
(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam – October 2020



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – January 11, 2021
(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – January 11, 2021
(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – January 11, 2021
(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Lilly Bridge – March 2021
View from Sand Knob



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – March 2021



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – March 22, 2021



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – March 22, 2021



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – May 18, 2021

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Bluestone Lake Pit Area and Lilly Bridge – 2021
(Photo courtesy of Backflipboys Photography)



Bluestone Dam Phase 5 Project – October 2021

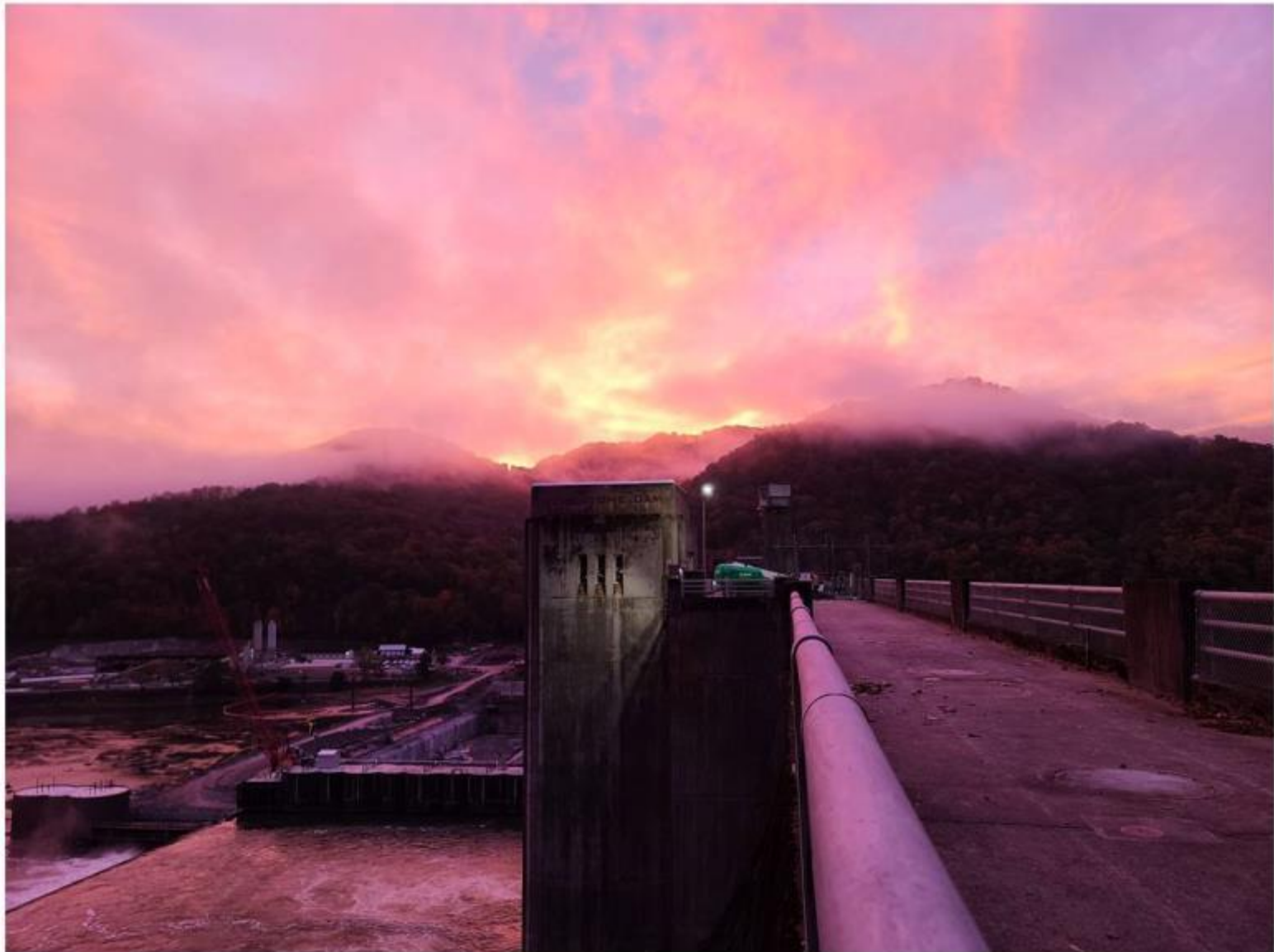
Demolition to facilitate the start of a new divider wall.

This excavator/grinder will dig a 40ft hole at the base of the dam.

(Photo Courtesy of Brayman Construction, Project Manager, Doug Sickle)



Sunset over Bluestone Dam – October 28, 2021



View of Bluestone Lake from the Lilly Bridge – October 2021



Mouth of Bluestone River near the Lilly Bridge – Dec. 5, 2021
Bluestone Lake is at normal pre-winter depth.



Mouth of Bluestone River near the Lilly Bridge – Dec. 5, 2021
Bluestone Lake is at normal pre-winter depth.



Sunrise - Bluestone Lake -2022

(Photo courtesy of Mary Plumley)



Sunrise - Bluestone Lake -2022

(Photo courtesy of Mary Plumley)



Below Bluestone Dam – February 2022



Sunrise over Bluestone Dam and Lake – August 2022
(Photo courtesy of Jim Gore)



Star Wars over Bluestone Lake – August 2022

(Photo courtesy of Gary Wendell Photography)



Bluestone Dam - Construction Continues – October 2022



Sunrise over Lake Bluestone - 2023

(Photo courtesy of Justin Faris)



Bluestone Lake – Fog Lifting - 2023



Bluestone Dam – Construction Continues – May 2023

(Photo courtesy of Jim Noel)



Bluestone Dam – Construction Continues – May 2023
(Photo courtesy of Jim Noel)



Bluestone Dam – Construction Continues – May 2023

(Photo courtesy of Jim Noel)

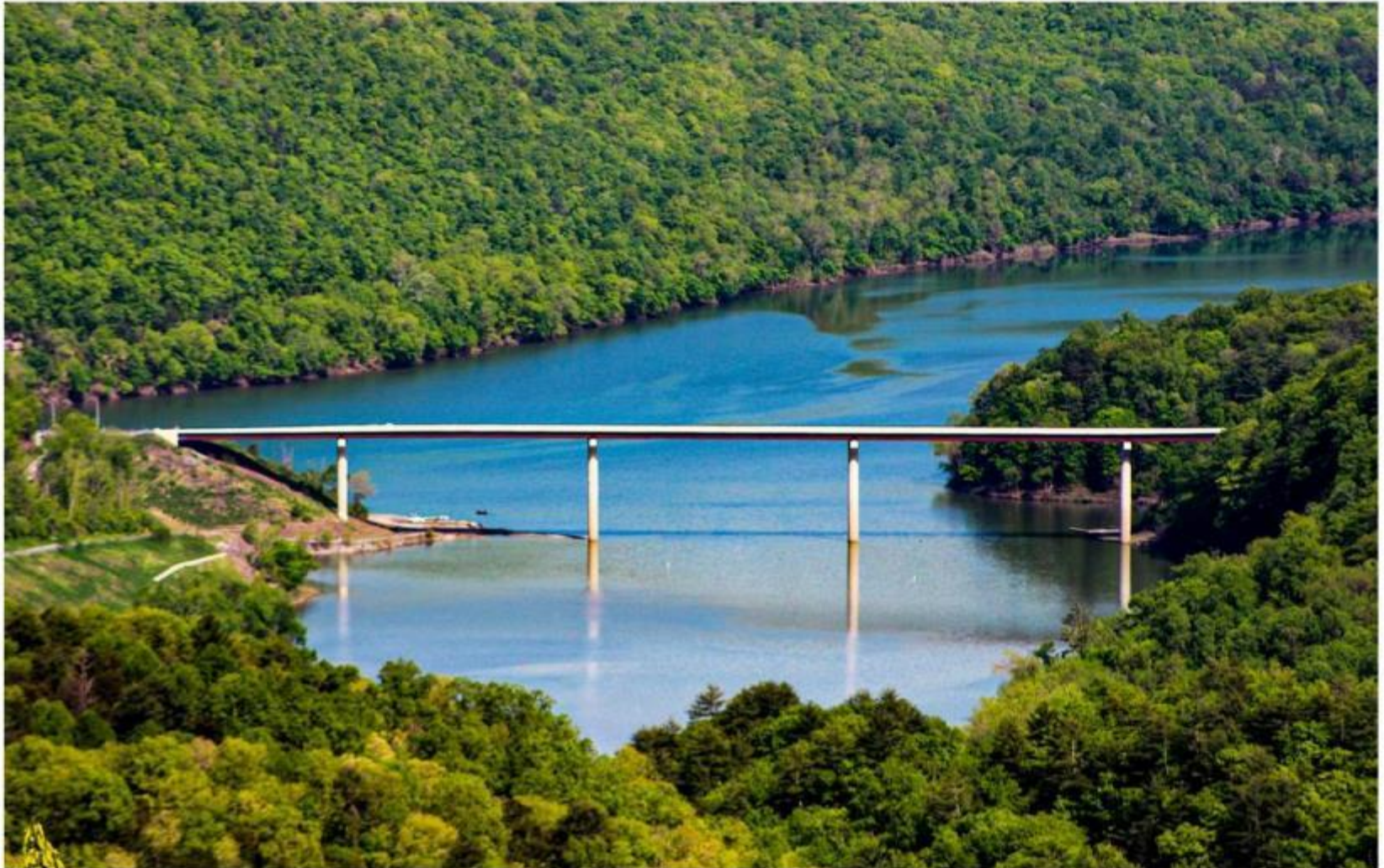


Bluestone Dam – Construction Continues – May 2023

(Photo courtesy of Jim Noel)



Lilly Bridge – 2023
Bluestone Lake, Summers County, WV
(Photo courtesy of Summer Brooks)



Bluestone Marina – May 2023



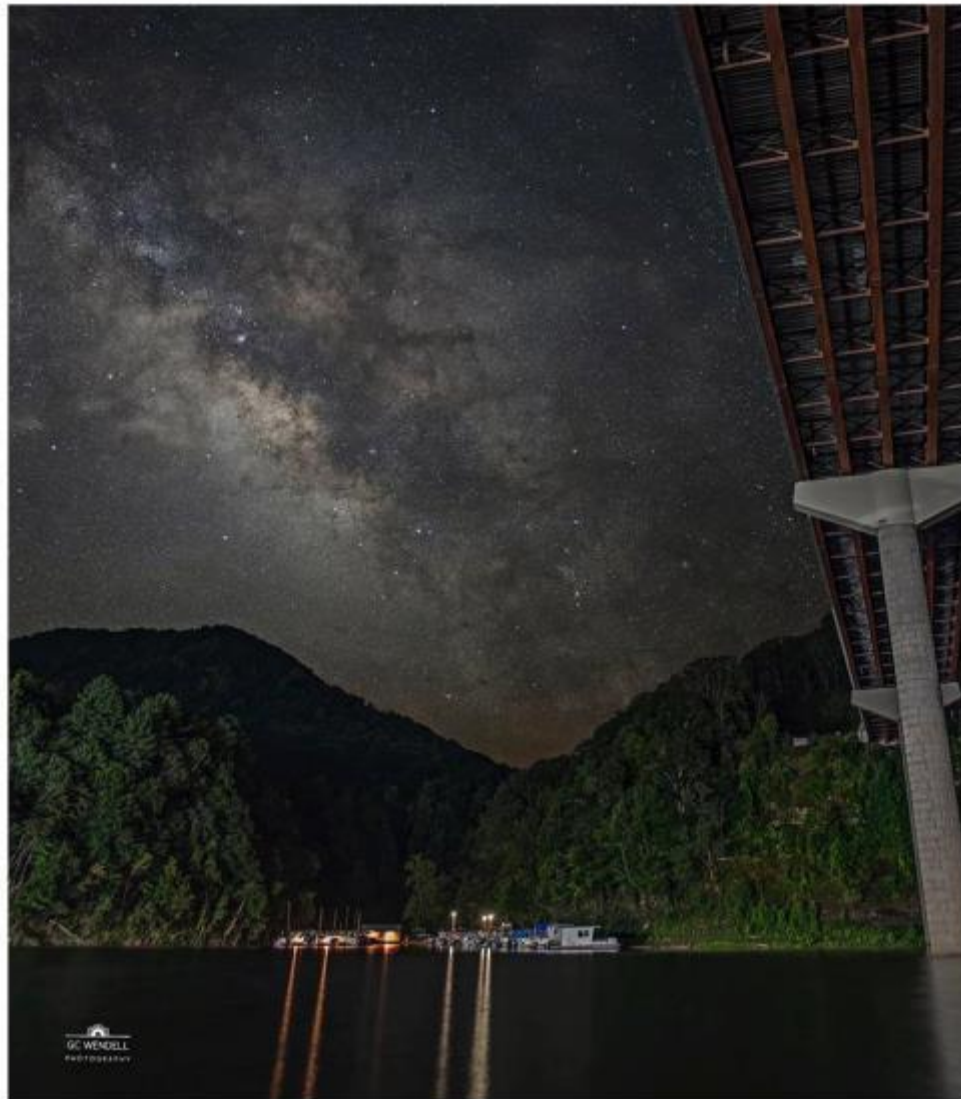
Bluestone Lake – 2023

**The convergence of the Bluestone and New Rivers.
The Lilly Bridge in the foreground and Bluestone Dam in the background.**



Milky Way over Bluestone Lake Marina – 2023

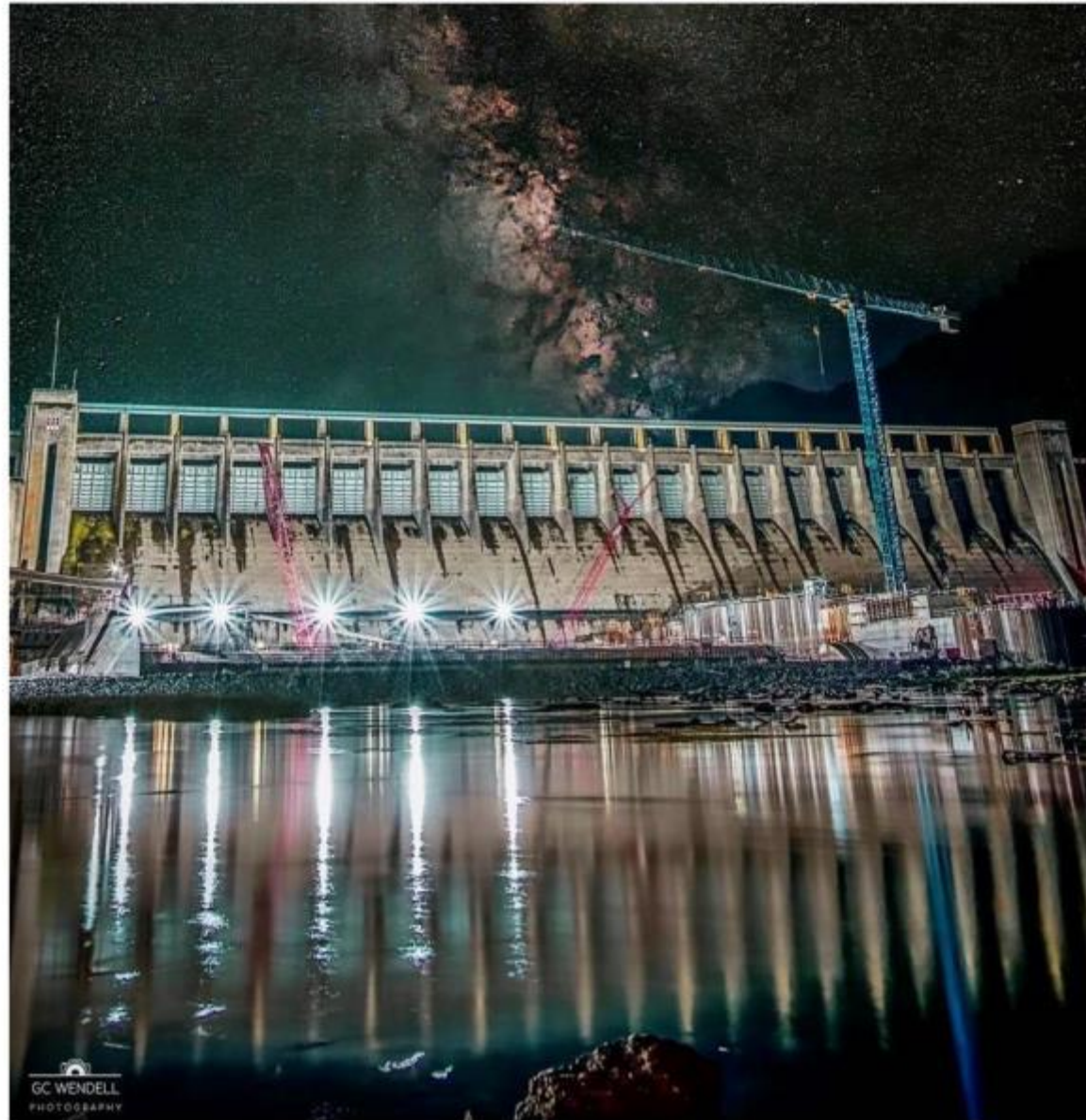
(Photo courtesy of Gary Wendell Photography)



G. WENDELL
PHOTOGRAPHY

Bluestone Dam Under the Milky Way - 2023

(Photo courtesy of G.C. Wendell photography)



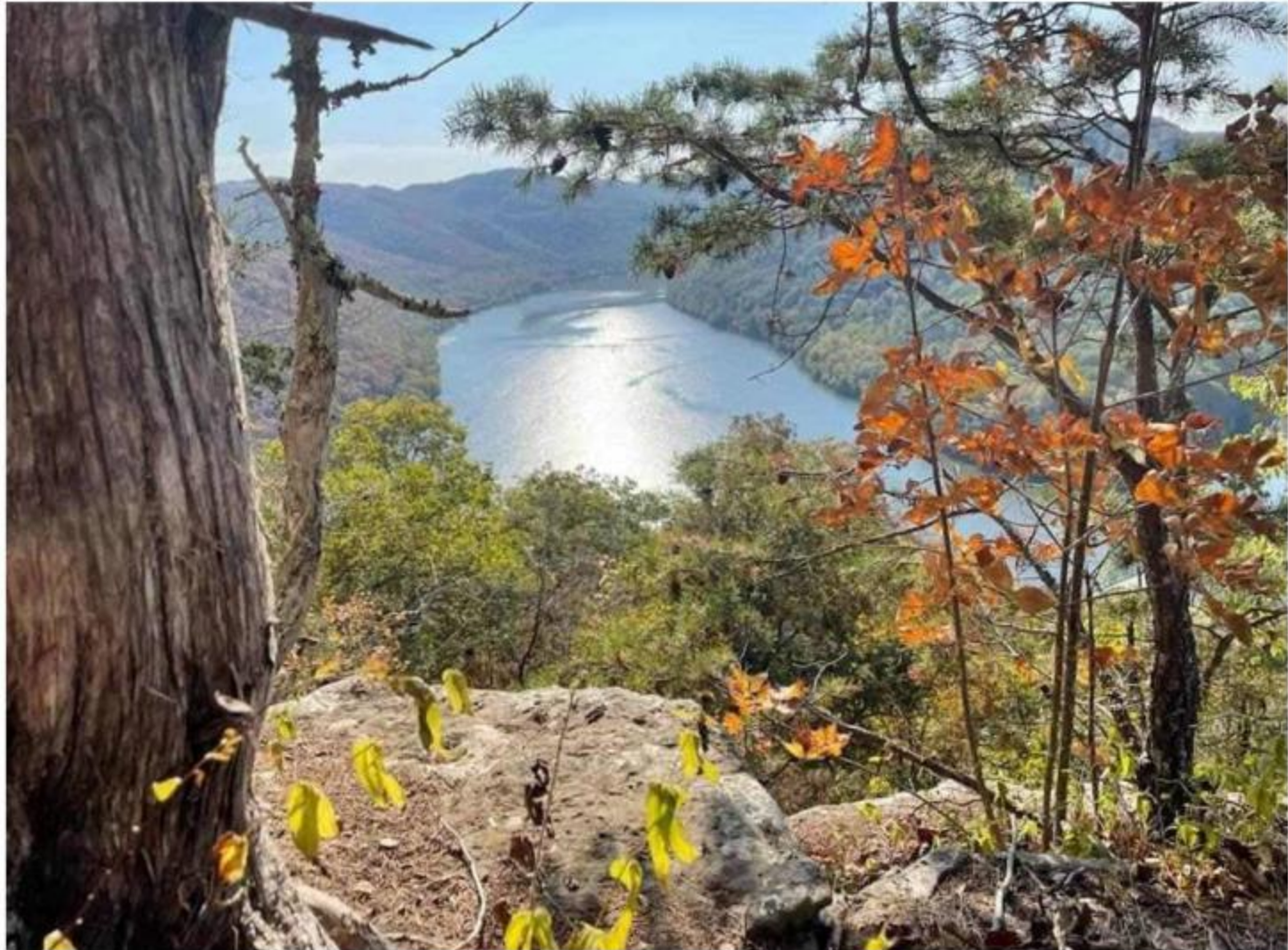
Sunset over Bluestone Lake – 2023

View from Lilly Bridge

(Photo courtesy of Grant Bennett)



**Bluestone Lake – 2023
from Eagle Point Trail
(Photo courtesy of Jeanette Ratcliffe)**



Bluestone Lake – 2023

(Photo courtesy of Sarah Harford Bailey Bullus)



Bluestone Lake – 2023

(Photo courtesy of Sarah Harford Bailey Bullus)



Bluestone Lake Marina – 2023
(Photo courtesy of Sarah Harford Bailey Bullus)



Autumn on Bluestone Lake - 2023

