
Nicholson Selected for Two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contracts

PITTSBURGH, PA – September 11, 2009 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently selected Nicholson for two upcoming construction contracts, one at the McCook Reservoir in Willow Springs, IL and the other at David D. Terry Lock and Dam in Pine Bluff, AR.

Having recently completed stage one of the grout curtain project at McCook Reservoir, Nicholson was selected by the Chicago District for stage two. During this phase, Nicholson will construct a 7,000-linear-foot grout curtain around the new surface reservoir currently under construction for a combined sewer overflow (CSO) system. The grout curtain, which will be installed beneath an overburden cutoff wall around the perimeter of the reservoir, provides the necessary ground treatment to decrease the flow of water in and out of the 7-billion-gallon reservoir. Two rows of grout curtain, one on each side of the cutoff wall and staggered 15 degrees from vertical in opposite directions, will be drilled through 43-53 feet of overburden soil and then extended 315 feet into the limestone bedrock under the reservoir.

Stage two of the McCook project will again include the real-time collection of water pressure and grouting responses using Nicholson's GROUT I.T. system, which measures, records and graphically displays pertinent grouting parameters in real time.

The David D. Terry Lock and Dam consists of a 110-foot-wide by 600-foot-long navigation lock and a gated spillway with 18 tainter gates. The spillway's concrete piers have numerous cracks resulting from alkali-silica reactivity. Nicholson has been contracted by the Little Rock District to drill exploratory core holes and install 22 anchors in 11 of the piers. Nicholson's work will also include recovering and storing core samples; collecting down-hole images of the core holes; and surveying, videotaping, mapping, and patching the underwater cracks.

In 2004 and 2005, Nicholson performed structural repair and instrumentation installation on six of the dam's piers that were damaged by the alkali-silica reactivity.

About Nicholson Construction Company:

Nicholson is a versatile geotechnical contractor specializing in deep foundations, earth retention, ground treatment, and ground improvement. As the North American business unit of the Soletanche Bachy Group, one of the world's leading geotechnical contractors, we are part of a global network of geotechnical resources and expertise. We work in a wide range of industries and environments, from power plants and dams, to bridges and skyscrapers. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Nicholson has eight offices around the country to address each region's unique geotechnical construction needs.

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