

# PACIFIC ACCES CHANNEL (PAC): Construction Challenges

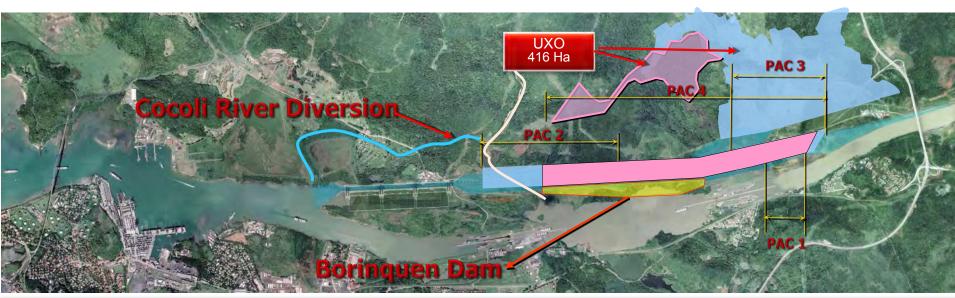
Jorge A. Fernandez A.
PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY

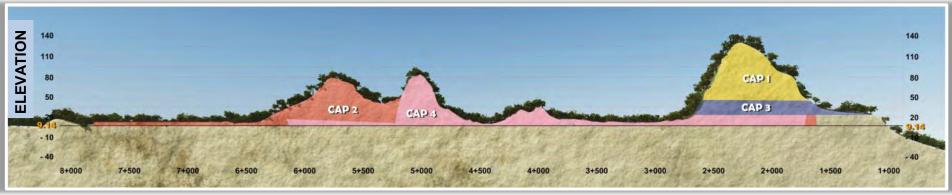


#### **Pacific Access Channel**



#### Pacific Access Channel 50 M m3 dry excavation





# Excavation and dredging at the northern entrance of the access channel to the new locks

#### Oct 2012



#### **UXO** Removal









#### **Cocoli River Diversion**



Inicio de Trabajos de Dragado en El Río Cocolí (Est. 0K+000 @ 0K+200)



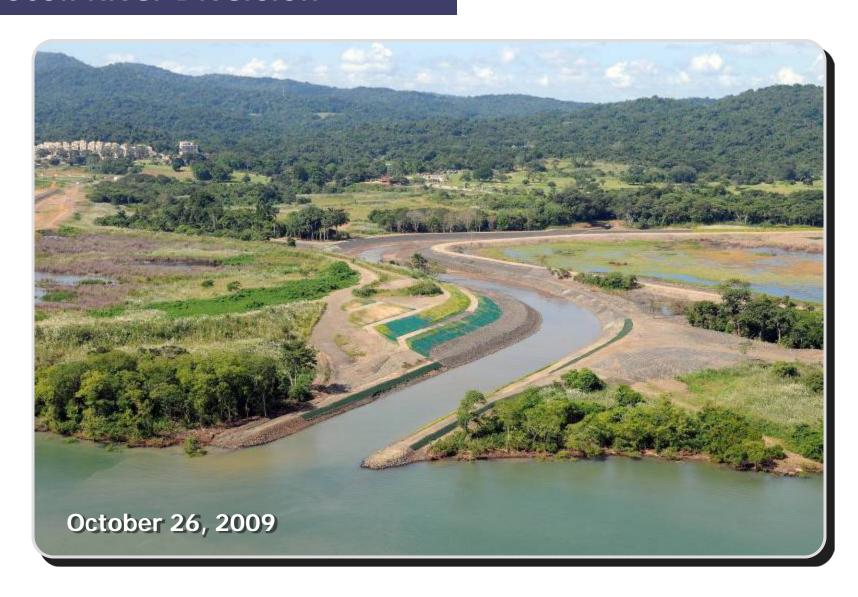






Trabajo de estructuras de protección entre las estaciones 1K+222 y 1K+428

#### **Cocoli River Diversion**



## **Heavy Equipment**









#### **Equipment used for dry excavation**

**740** 

**Tons** 

**Cubic Yards** 

43.5 Tons

31.4 Cubic yards



**773** 

60 Tons 46.5 Cubic yards



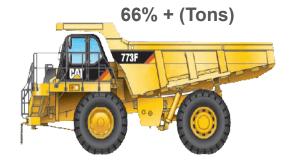
773F

**777** 

100 Tons

78.8 Cubic yards





PAC 2

PAC 1

**785** 

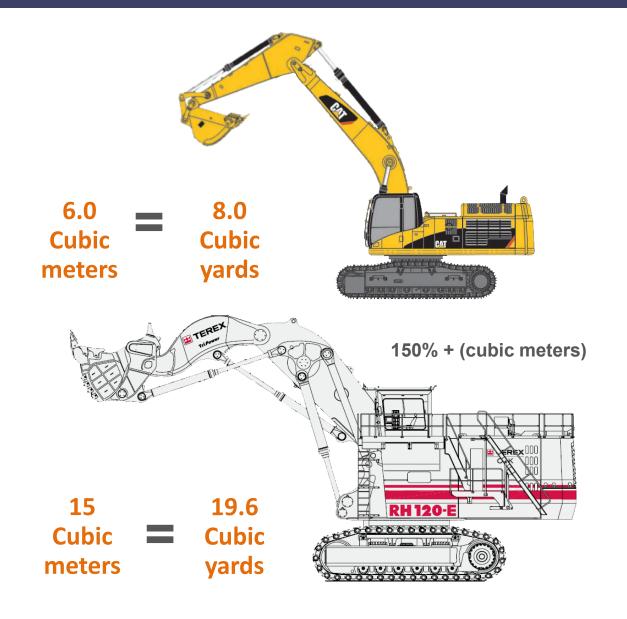
150 Tons

102.0 Cubic yards





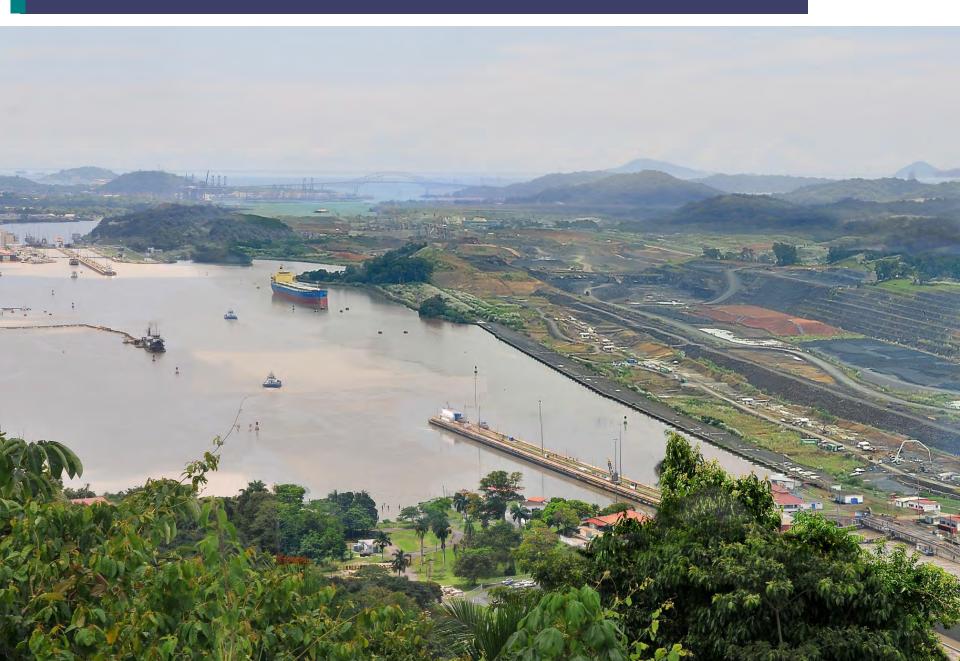
#### Equipment used for dry excavation



#### **Equipment used for dry excavation**



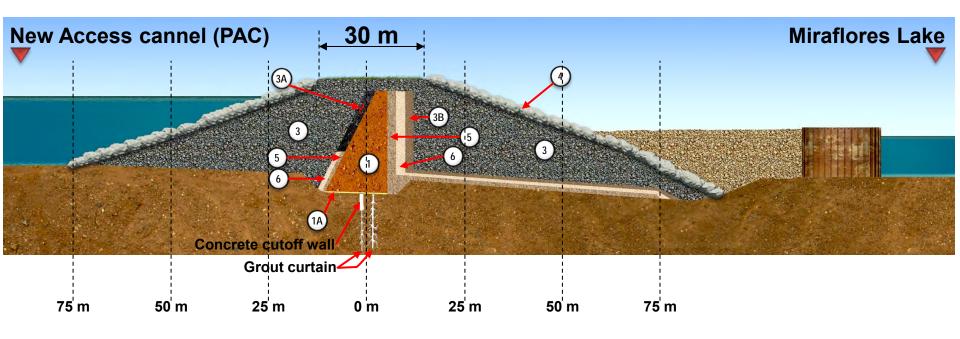
## **Cellular Cofferdam – Phase 4**



#### **Dewatering of Access Channel and Dam footprint**



#### **Borinquen Dam cross section**

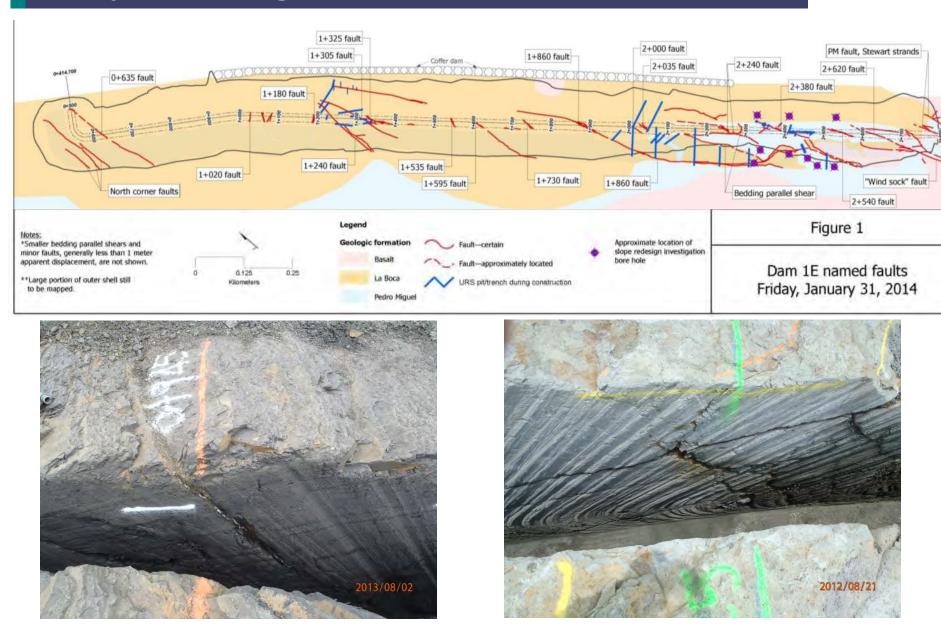




## **Borinquen Dam**

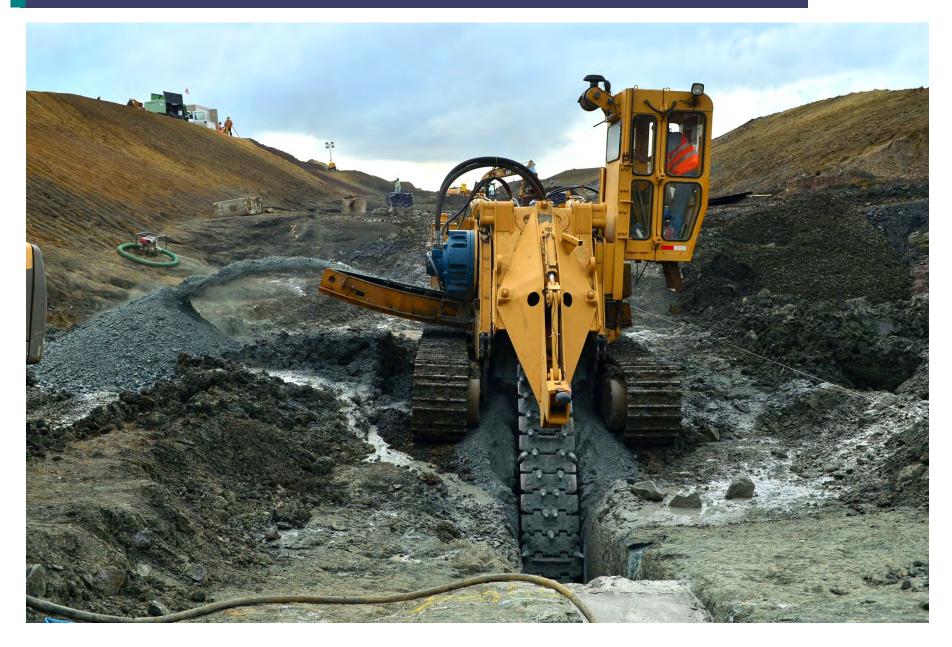


#### **Complex Geological Conditions**



**Open fractures on Dam Foundation** 

## Foundation - Borinquen Dam



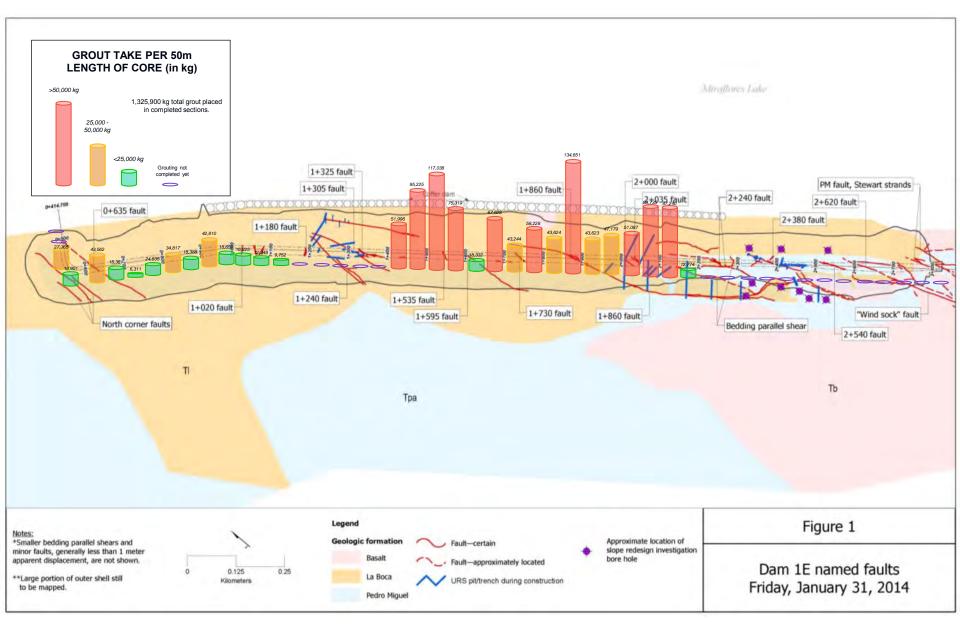
#### **Weak Foundation**

Pedro Miguel formation was found to be less extensive than previously considered and, where exposed in the foundation, generally weak, fractured rock (not strong agglomerate). The Concrete Cutoff Wall length was increased from 1,742m to 2,287m





#### **Higher Grouting Takes Associated with Faults**



## **Foundation - Borinquen Dam**

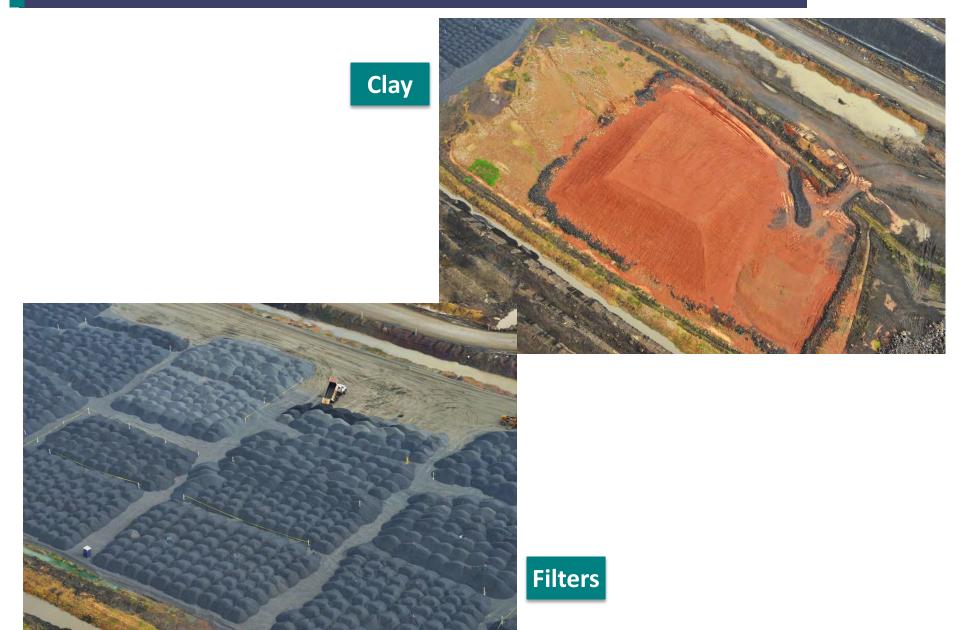


#### **Grout Filled Fractures – Cored Recovery Verification Holes**





#### **Core Materials Stockpiles - Borinquen Dam**



#### **Zone 1 Sourcing (Clay Core)**

- Potential Sources Evaluation
- Clearance on UXO zones
- Exploration through Testpits
- Sampling and Lab Testing of Material









#### Zone 1 Selection, Excavation, Stockpiling

- Quality Control of materials during Excavation by qualified geologists
- Material treatment during Stockpiling Process. (Moisture conditioning and oversizes removal)





#### **Zone 1 Test Fills**

- Evaluation of excavated material's behavior with equipment and installation methodology proposed by Contractor.
- Materials from different sources behave differently under same equipment and installation method.





# Clay – Borinquen Dam



# Clay stockpile – Borinquen Dam



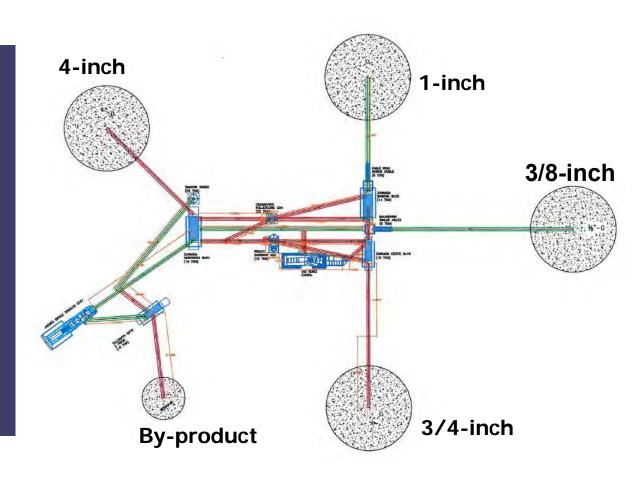
#### **Aggregate Filter Supply**

#### **Initial Approach:**

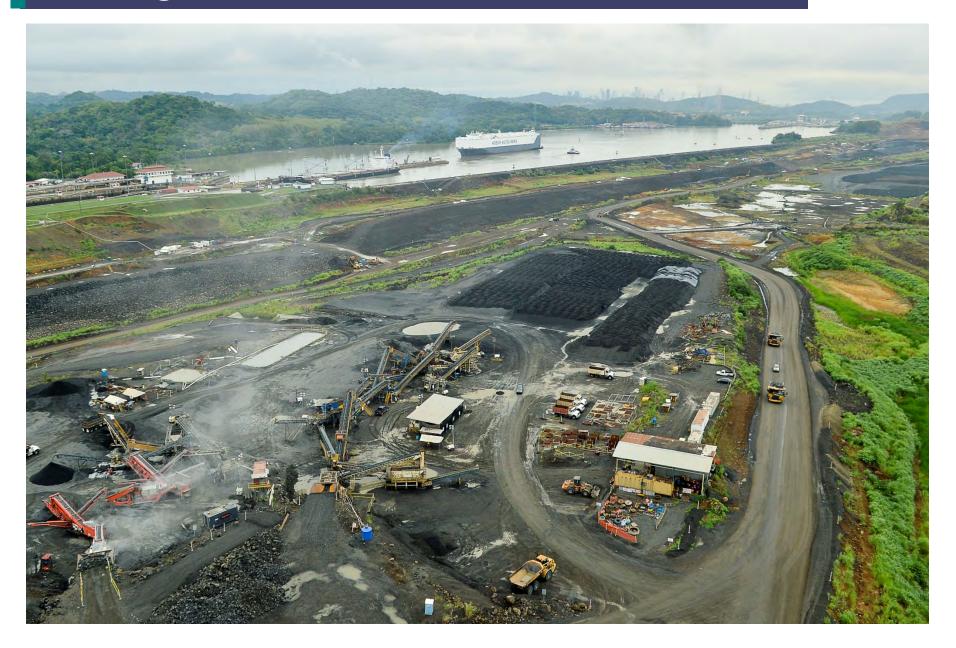
- All-inclusive plant producing filters and other required aggregates
- Planned filter output of 18,000 m³/month

#### **Problems Encountered:**

- Fines content very close to upper limit
- Output ≈
   3,000 m³/month



# **Crushing Plants**



#### **Aggregate Filter Supply**



#### **Actions taken:**

- Engaged crushing experts to improve overall process and equipment selection.
- Acquired four additional on-site dedicated plants with specialized equipment such as HP4 cone crushers and hydrocyclones for sand washing,
- Imported coarse sand crushed from fresh rock for on-site processing,
- Engaged filter import from off-site commercial source

#### Results:

- Fines content averaging 3% (upper limit: 5%)
- Output: 30,000 m<sup>3</sup>/month

# **Crushing Plants**



#### **Pacific Access Channel – Phase 4**



#### **Material Placement against Dam Foundation**







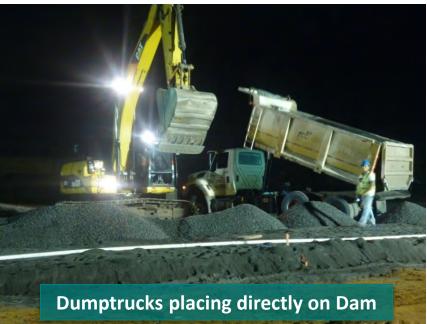


#### **Borinquen Dam – Clay Core – North Section**



#### **Filter Placement Rates**









#### **Materials Placement**



#### **PAC Filling and Plug Removal**



14 de septiembre de 2015

#### **Pacific Access Channel**



**GRACIAS**