



*Project management was very much "hands-on"*



*The work platform hangs down the dam face with a net underneath to catch dangerous "fall-out"*



*Repairs to the dam wall were completed safely*

## Rope access team repairs joints and seals dam wall

**The problem:** Existing joints in the dam wall were allowing water to seep inside the wall and particularly into a chamber area where electrical equipment was installed.

**The constraints:** Depending on the access system used, costs could have been very high. Safe work practices were also of utmost importance, as other contractors were working at the foot of the dam wall.

**The solution:** To minimise the cost of accessing the dam wall face, a specially designed rope access system was developed incorporating a suspended work platform with a catch net to prevent slippage of debris and materials down the dam face.

**The methodology:** Following the development and sourcing of key components of the access system and signing off the extensive safe work practices by the client, the site team set up the rope system to gain access to the dam wall face. From here the platform and hoisting system was constructed and put into position for the first repair area.

The existing joint sealant was removed and the joints cleaned out. In the many areas where the edges had deteriorated, the joints had to be reconstructed. These edges were built up using a polymer-modified concrete repair mortar. Once cured, the joints were primed and then sealed using a high performance joint sealant system. Having finished one area, the team moved the platform to another location and so on until the work was completed.

**The result:** Project successfully delivered with no safety issues.

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