During 1999, in accordance with a recommendation in the Bechtel report, a low level outlet guard gate was purchased and installed on the downstream end of the six feet diameter, 63 feet long, outlet (sluice) pipe that is located at the original river bed elevation through the base of the dam. The guard gate was successfully tested during an annual test operation of the sluice valve while high flows were occurring and the dam was spilling, in January, 2000. The addition of a second gate valve on the downstream end of the low level outlet pipe, in conjunction with the original gate valve located at the upstream end of this pipe, provide a high degree of certainty that the PCWA will always be able to close off the flow through the low level pipe.

During mobilization and construction preparations to install this valve, the contractor unwatered and performed a fish rescue from the tailwater pool on the downstream side of the dam. This pool is approximately 460 feet by 500 feet, or about 5 acres, and the contractor estimated that he pumped out 7.5 million gallons of water to unwater the pool. The following kinds and numbers of fish were rescued on November 18-19, 1999:

- Rainbow Trout - 29 adults
- Brown Trout - 10 adults, 2 juveniles
- Suckers - 267
- Sculpin - 178
- Hardhead - 27
- Pikeminnow (Squawfish) - 50
- Speckled Dace - 2