970-858-1950 · info@dasmithdrilling.com
dasmithdrilling.com



DAMS · GEOTECHNICAL · HELICOPTER

La Prele Dam Helicopter Drilling 2022, Douglas, Wyoming

DA Smith cored HQ holes from a helicopter-access cliff-top site below La Prele Dam for RESPEC.

CLIENT	LOCATION	YEAR	WORK
Respec	**Douglas, Wyoming**	**2022**	**Dams, Geotechnical, Helicopter**

DA Smith was contracted by RESPEC to perform Phases 1 and 2 of a multiyear geotechnical investigation at La Prele Dam near Douglas, Wyoming, the oldest and tallest open-front dam in the United States. The investigation supported evaluation of potential replacement dam sites and associated foundation conditions.

Phase 2, conducted in 2022, involved two HQ exploration core holes drilled to depths of 200 and 250 feet from a remote cliff-top location immediately downstream of the existing dam. The boreholes were designed to characterize bedrock conditions at a potential replacement dam site. Due to the steep, inaccessible terrain, all drilling equipment and supplies were transported by helicopter using DA Smith's Longyear HC-150 heli-portable diamond core drill. Helicopter services were coordinated and subcontracted by DA Smith.

The Phase 2 drilling campaign was completed successfully and on schedule in 2022, ahead of the onset of winter weather.

DA Smith returned in 2023 for a second helicopter-supported drilling program, continuing the geotechnical investigation of the proposed replacement dam site. Together with ground-access drilling conducted between

2021 and 2023, these programs demonstrated DA Smith's capabilities in precision core drilling, helicopter mobilization, and complex geotechnical investigations in difficult-access terrain.



