

Construction

General Facts:

The dam will consist of:

- removing 102.59 million cubic meters of stone and earth
- mixing and pouring 27.15 million cubic meters of cement
- erecting 281,000 tons of metal structures and
354,000 tons of reinforcing bars
- building 231,000 sq. meters of leak-proof concrete walls
- installing generators with combined capacity of 18.2 mil watts
- will take 17 years to build

Process:

Construction will take place in three phases.

1. 1993-1997 The Yangtze River is diverted, the completion of this phase is signaled by the damming of the river on Nov. 8, 1997.
2. 1998-2003 The first generating unit is scheduled to begin generating power and the first permanent ship lock is also scheduled to open for navigation.
3. 2004-2009 The entire project will be completed when all 26 electricity producing turbo-generators are operating correctly.

