

U.S. considers financing giant Pakistani dam

Funding of the \$12bn project is likely to face stiff opposition from Pakistan's critics in the U.S. Congress who have called for aid to be cut after Osama bin Laden was found under the noses of the army in Abbottabad in May. India also objects to the dam, which would be built in disputed Kashmir



Diamer Bhasha dam: 12 turbines will generate 4,500 megawatts of electricity – roughly equivalent to country's current shortfall



Tarbela dam:

Diamer Bhasha dam expected to extend life of Tarbela by 35 years by blocking sediments

Capacity:
3,478MW

Area covered: **100 km²**
People affected: **28,000**
Completion time: **12 years**

Pakistani-controlled Kashmir

Indian-controlled Kashmir

Line of Control

Abbottabad

Islamabad

Source: Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority

Picture: Getty Images

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Proponents claim Bhasha dam would have averted 2010 devastating floods which displaced 20m people