December 15, 2025 Desimone Levee Breach: What Flooded, What Closed, and the 2031 Repair Horizon

Pillar: The Valley | **Basis:** Historical Event (Dated) | **Primary Source:** King County DNRP / WA National Guard | **As Of:** 2026-11-16 (Permanent fix: 2031)

On December 15, 2025, the Desimone Levee in Tukwila breached after a 15-foot weekly river rise, closing six miles of SR 167 and prompting evacuation orders across ~1,100 homes and businesses before same-evening temporary plugging.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Back-to-back atmospheric rivers in mid-December 2025 drove the Green River up roughly 15 feet in a week to 60-year highs.

• On Monday afternoon, December 15, 2025, the Desimone Levee in Tukwila breached, sending water into low-lying industrial and commercial zones spanning Tukwila, Kent, and Renton.

• A flash flood warning affected over 45,000 people, evacuation orders covered roughly 1,100 homes and businesses, and a 6-mile stretch of SR 167 closed.

• Emergency crews and the Washington National Guard plugged the breach with heavy rock and sandbags by the evening of December 15, allowing evacuation orders to lift.

Desimone Levee Timeline: 2020 Damage to 2031 Repair Horizon

Milestone	Date / Window	Action / Condition	Source
Prior Levee Damage	2020 Floods	Sustained structural damage; flagged vulnerable	King County DNRP
Levee Breach	Dec 15, 2025 (PM)	Breach in Tukwila; 6-mi SR 167 closed	King County / WSDOT
Emergency Plug	Dec 15, 2025 (Eve)	Rock/sandbag plug by crews + WA National Guard	King County
Permanent Reconstruction	Delayed toward 2031	Full-scale structural rebuild timeline	King County DNRP

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Desimone's temporary plug holds the line today, but King County DNRP planning places permanent structural reconstruction out toward 2031—meaning five-plus winters of interim risk.

• Facilities in Tukwila, Kent, and Renton should treat the Desimone reach as an active interim-repair zone during atmospheric-river forecasts.

• No specific space-company plant inundation is implied beyond the documented Tukwila/Kent/Renton industrial footprint and SR 167 closure.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Tukwila WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/tukwila-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Renton WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/renton-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Facilities: Waste, PSCAA & Floodplain:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-facilities-waste-pscaa-floodplain/

• **King County Floodplain & Levee Rule:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-rule-king-county-floodplain-levee-live/

• **King County Flood Services:**
https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/flood-services

• **City of Tukwila Official Portal:** https://www.tukwilawa.gov/

• **WSDOT I-405 / SR 167 Corridor Program:**
https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/i-405sr-167-corridor-program

Provenance Note: Describes only documented Dec 15, 2025 impacts; what did not flood is not implied to have flooded. Repair horizon per King County DNRP planning.