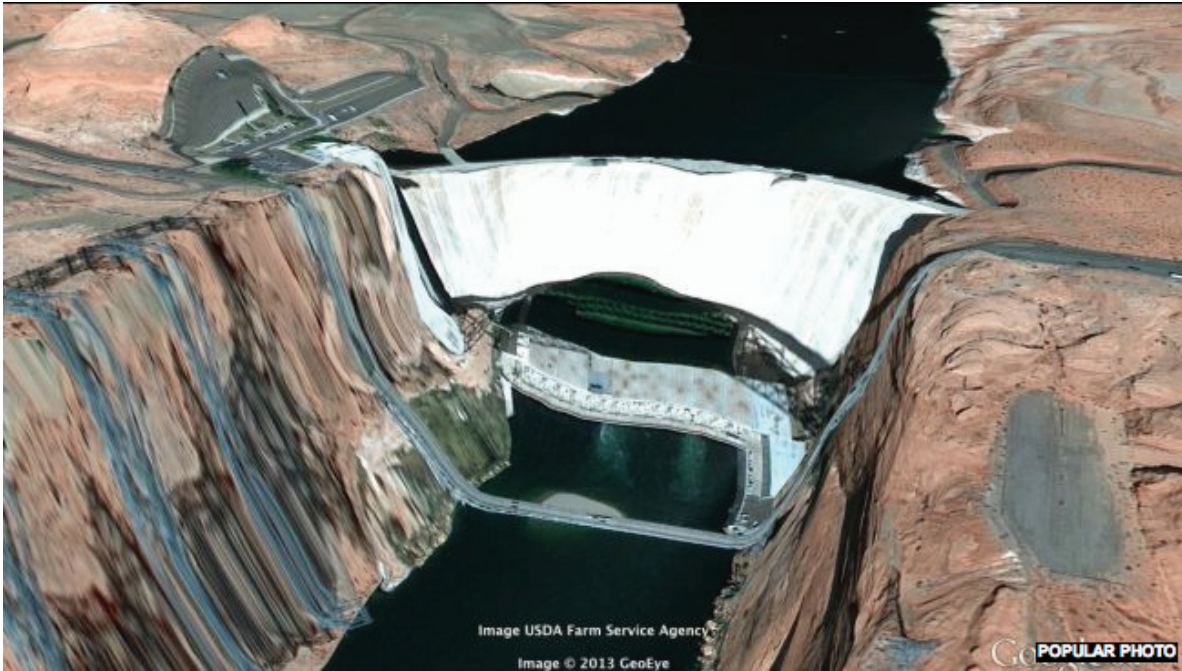


Wild Distortions on Google Earth Maps Captured

Sean Breslin, April 12, 2013



This Google Earth image of Glen Canyon Dam is distorted to make the bridge appear as if it drops down near the water. (Photo: Clement Valla/Google Earth)

Technology isn't always perfect.

In the case of Google Earth, complex algorithms turn two-dimensional shots into a three-dimensional program that maps the surface of the planet – mountains, roads, buildings and all. However, at times during the mapping process, Google's algorithm has failed and some wacky images have been the result.

Clement Valla has collected and documented dozens of Google Earth's imperfect images and displayed them on his website. Not only are they eye-catching, they're also disappearing as Google improves its algorithm and catches the mistakes, according to Valla.

"Yes, the Google Algorithm is responsible for the distortions," said Valla, via e-mail. "However, it's not quite an 'issue' with Google Earth, as in a glitch or an error – rather, that's just the way the algorithm works. Under particular conditions, with particular photographs and topographies, the illusion reveals itself to be an illusion."