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Despite recent cold temperatures Wisconsin River Power Company warns of THIN ICE near Hydro Electric Facilities

Necedah, WI- Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) is warning everyone to **avoid all winter recreational activities on ice near hydroelectric facilities because of thin ice.** Ice that forms near hydroelectric dams and adjacent reservoirs is often thin, unsafe and inconsistent. This is because of continually changing water flows beneath the ice that forms. This is part of normal hydro dam operations.

"With recent cold snaps, folks are lulled into thinking ice should be thick and safe to be on," according to Joe Sukana, Supervisor of Regional Generation for WRPCO. "That may be the case on standing bodies of water, but not the case near hydro-electric facilities. Water below the ice continues to flow at a rapid pace not allowing the ice to thicken."

"We have ropes, barriers and signs warning of THIN ICE. However, we have evidence showing some ice fisherman have been inside the safety zone," according to Sukana.

This warning is for areas above and below the dams, as well as at adjacent reservoirs.

"We take pride in operating our facilities safely and in a manner that respects the environment and the rights of other users of the waterways. Your safety is important to us, said Sukana.

Wisconsin River Power Company operates two hydroelectric plants, Petenwell and Castle Rock, on the Wisconsin River.