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For more information, contact:

Joe Sukana (Necedah area)

608-565-2500

-or-

News Media Hotline

800 977 2250

Wisconsin River Power Company Supports Dam Safety Awareness Week April 7-12

Necedah, WI - Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) urges recreational and fishing enthusiasts to BE SAFE around dams and hydroelectric facilities. The message is part of Dam Safety Awareness Week -April 7-12, 2014, as declared statewide by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

The week's purpose is to emphasize the importance of safety near dams and on waterways to help prevent accidents. Many of the accidents and fatalities that occur near dams could be prevented by using common sense, practicing safety, staying clear of dams and understanding the dangers to be found near them.

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

WRPCO is a member of the **Midwest Hydro Users Group**, an association of dam owners who promote safe, efficient, economical and environmentally-friendly use of hydroelectric power. The group urges outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the many recreational opportunities that can be found on rivers and lakes in Wisconsin but reminds everyone to stay clear of all hydro facilities.

Some safety precautions include:

- Obey all signs and barriers, especially "Thin Ice" this time of year. They are for the public's protection.
- Any sirens and flashing lights indicate an imminent change in water level or flow.
- Bring a cell phone and contact 911 in an emergency.
- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD), a life jacket.
- Always stay outside buoy lines and away from restricted areas near dams.
- Especially in spring, falling into cold water can cause hypothermia that could result in death from drowning.
- Always have a safe escape route planned when near a dam. Be prepared to evacuate at the first sign of danger.