



Wisconsin River Power Company
(owners of the Petenwell & Castle Rock Hydroelectric Plants)

For immediate release:
April 11, 2011

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Wisconsin River Power Company Increasing Wisconsin River Flows Out of Petenwell, Castle Rock

Necedah, WI – Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) is working with the National Weather Service (NWS) and other dam operators along the Wisconsin River to manage heavy weekend rain coupled with melting snow. The Wisconsin River Basin received several inches of rain from Saturday night through Sunday night, with locally heavier amounts in severe thunderstorms.

"There is still frost in the ground in spots and other areas are already saturated from melting snow, so most of this rainfall is going to find its way into the Wisconsin River from streams, creeks, smaller rivers, and runoff," said Jeff Klaas, WRPCO regional generation supervisor. "We want to make sure people who live adjacent to the river are mindful that water could rise rapidly and to take steps to prepare."

The expected Wisconsin River flows are near the level of last fall's flood event and will cause some moderate flooding.

WRPCO lowered the water levels in the Petenwell and Castle Rock Reservoirs to accept more water from upstream, but they must still pass large amounts of water which will cause some downstream flooding. Water from the weekend rain passes through the dams several days after the end of the rain event. The crest is expected at Petenwell on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, and will last for a day or two.

WRPCO and other Wisconsin River dam operators have been in contact with local emergency management agencies to make them aware of the possible flooding.

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