



December 10.2014

For more information, contact:

Joe Sukana

Supervisor-Regional Generation

Wisconsin River Power Company

608-565-2500

-or-

News Media Hotline

800 977-2250

Wisconsin River Power Company warns of THIN ICE close to Hydro Electric Facilities

Necedah, WI- Wisconsin River Power Company, WRPCo, is warning everyone to **avoid all winter recreational activities on ice close to 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 which is part of normal hydro-electric dam operations.

"With cold and sometimes unpredictable winter temperatures, many are lulled into thinking ice should be thick and safe to be out on," according to Joe Sukana, Supervisor-Regional Generation for WRPCo. "That may be the case on standing bodies of water, but certainly not the case near hydro-electric facilities or in river channels. Water below the ice continues to flow at a rapid pace not allowing the ice to thicken."

"We have ropes, barriers and signage warning of THIN ICE. However, there are still those that venture outside of 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 others to use the waterways. Ultimately, your safety is most important to us," added Sukana.

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