

WRPCO reminding residents, outdoor enthusiasts of dam drawdowns beginning Feb. 1

Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) will begin its annual drawdown of the reservoirs at its Petenwell and Castle Rock hydroelectric dams, starting Feb. 1.

A drawdown is a process by which the water level behind the dam is lowered. WRPCO is drawing down both reservoirs in preparation for the spring runoff from melting snow in northern and central Wisconsin.

WRPCO cautions ice fishermen and others who take part in activities around or on the reservoirs that the drawdowns can create unstable ice conditions. Water levels could be reduced by more than five feet at the Petenwell Dam and more than six feet at the Castle Rock Dam.

A gradual drawdown at the Castle Rock Dam will begin on Feb. 1, and the drawdown at Petenwell will begin Feb. 10. Both drawdowns are anticipated to be finished by mid-March. Current river flow and reservoir elevations can be found at wisconsinriverpower.com.