



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Scott Hassett, Secretary
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Northern Region Headquarters
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Opportunity for Public Input – Rest Lake Dam Operation August 25, 2007 - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Manitowish Waters Town Hall

July 31, 2007

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working toward issuing a new operating order to the owners of the Rest Lake dam. Before the DNR can issue a new order, we are required to follow the environmental analysis process outlined under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA). WEPA requires the DNR to gather relevant environmental information, evaluate a range of feasible alternatives, and identify anticipated impacts. It also establishes the principle that broad citizen participation needs to be part of our decision-making process.

Currently, the DNR is in the early stages of gathering all of the relevant information for the environmental analysis. A listening session has been scheduled on Saturday, August 25th at the Manitowish Waters Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The session will give the public the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and to make the DNR aware of the issues that need to be examined during the analysis. The event will have an “open house” format where people are able to have one-on-one discussions any time between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. with resource specialists who will gather the detailed information on the issues that are raised. No formal DNR presentations are scheduled. The focus for this listening session is to understand the issues from the public’s perspective. If you are not able to attend this meeting you can submit written comments by September 15 to me at 107 Sutliff Avenue; Rhinelander, WI 54501-3349 or by email at Jonathan.Simonsen@Wisconsin.gov.

After examining the public input we receive at the meeting along with any written comments, it is our intent to begin drafting an environmental analysis document over the course of the winter months. The completed document will likely be distributed for public review early in the summer of 2008. Other opportunities for public review and comment will be necessary as the DNR progresses through the finalization of the environmental analysis. We will provide adequate notification of the date, time and location as they occur.

I appreciate your interest in this project and look forward to working with you to make sure that we understand your concerns. If you have questions about the upcoming public input meeting or the WEPA process, you may contact me at (715) 365-8916.

Sincerely,

Jon Simonsen
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist