

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
John Gozdzialski, Regional Director

Northern Region Headquarters
107 Sutliff Ave.
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-3349
Telephone 715-365-8900
FAX 715-365-8932
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 10, 2008

Robert Olson
Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

Subject: Minimum Flows for Rest Lake Dam - 2008

Dear Rob:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the 2008 operation of the Rest Lake Dam with us by phone last week.

As we discussed, the Department will be using the Q7,10 as the minimum flow required by law to be discharged over the dam. Since the Department relies on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to determine the Q7,10 for our regulatory programs, I have attached a copy of their December 20, 2007 letter, which provides both the monthly and annual Q7,10 flows. The monthly Q7,10 flows range from 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) in September, to 128cfs in May. The Department will use the lowest monthly Q7,10 flow of 40cfs as the minimum discharge flow required.

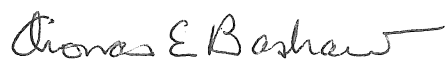
While 40cfs is the minimum flow required, we agreed that if we experience another severe drought situation, the Department would closely monitor the need for any potential reduction of that flow.

However, I would strongly encourage Xcel and the Rest Lake Chain property owners to seriously consider collecting the initial spring snowmelt and runoff this year to provide additional water in the flowage to start the year. While the Department is not requiring this, there were many people at the public listening session that thought this should be done to help ensure adequate water levels in the chain in case we experience another drought year.

As you know, the Q 7-10 minimum flow is a statutory standard that is not based on the requirements of the fish and wildlife in the Manitowish River. The Department still believes that the operating order of the Rest Lake dam needs to be updated to protect public rights to water quality and quantity and recreational activities upstream and downstream of the dam. Before the DNR can make a decision on a new operating order for the dam, the environmental analysis process outlined under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) needs to be completed. We appreciate your offer to review the environmental analysis and provide us with Xcel's comments regarding the feasibility of alternative operating orders for the Rest Lake Dam. We will contact you once a preliminary analysis is available for review.

Thanks again for taking the time to talk to us, Rob. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (715) 365-8973.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Bashaw". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Bashaw

Watershed Supervisor

Cc: Rob Waschbusch – US Geological Survey



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center
8505 Research Way
Middleton, WI 53562-3586
phone: (608) 828-9901
fax: (608) 821-3817
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov>

Mr. Jim Kreitlow
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Northern Region Headquarters
107 Sutliff Ave.
Rhineland, WI 54501-3349

12/20/2007

Dear Mr. Kreitlow,

Enclosed are the low flow statistics that you requested for the Manitowish River near Manitowish Waters. These values were calculated based on the relation to the USGS gaging station on the Trout River near Boulder Junction (05357245). These values are the best estimates I could determine with the data available.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Q_{7,10} flow (cfs)</u>
Jan	92
Feb	92
Mar	94
Apr	108
May	128
Jun	81
Jul	65
Aug	46
Sep	40
Oct	50
Nov	67
Dec	81
Annual	40

Rob Waschbusch

US Geological Survey - Hydrologist