



Upper Peninsula Power Company

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UPPCO Hydro Reservoir Water Level to be Lowered on Dead River System

Ishpeming, MI – To help prepare for the coming spring runoff season, Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) will begin lowering today through April 1 water levels on its hydroelectric reservoir connected with the Hoist Project located on the Dead River System.

"Lowering the water levels is a normal operating practice," said Robert Meyers, supervisor of regional generation for UPPCO. "We lower the reservoir to make room for the anticipated melting snow and spring precipitation."

Meyers warned that lowering the reservoir water may cause "bridging," a condition in which the lower water level leaves a gap or space under the ice. He stressed that increased water flows in the rivers associated with these facilities may deteriorate the ice from the underside and result in unstable and unsafe ice conditions. These areas may not be that easy to identify. This is why Meyers urged the public to be extremely careful around all reservoirs, lakes and associated rivers this time of year.

UPPCO expects the reservoir to begin returning to its normal water level in April, depending on the rate of snow melt and spring precipitation conditions.