



Upper Peninsula Power Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **UPPCO Says Stay Safe Near Hydroelectric Facilities This Summer**

Ishpeming- Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) urges recreational and fishing enthusiasts to be cautious this summer while around hydroelectric renewable energy facilities.

“No matter if you are out on the water fishing, swimming or boating or on land always treat hydroelectric facilities and dams that are part of them with respect,” said Virgil Schlorke, Director of Energy Supply and Environmental Services at UPPCO. “Always pay attention to any buoys and barriers. Sirens, flashing lights and horns mean imminent danger. It is also important to obey any warnings signs. Be safe and stay safe.”

Schlorke also offered these additional pointers:

- Keep your distance. Heavy rains or the arrival of a sudden storm can make areas immediately above and below hydroelectric dams even more dangerous.
- Stay back from dry riverbeds below dams. They can quickly change into rapidly flowing waterways.
- Boating above or below a dam or powerhouse can be very dangerous. Always maintain a safe distance from these structures. Keep your motor running when near a dam so that you are always ready to maneuver or leave the area quickly.
- Beware of dangerous and unseen currents. Backrollers, eddys, and whirlpools can pull a boat upstream into a spillway or powerhouse and quickly capsize it.

UPPCO owns and operates seven hydroelectric dams and four storage reservoirs located in Upper Michigan along the Dead River, Escanaba, Ontonagon and Sturgeon rivers. For more information, visit [www.uppco.com](http://www.uppco.com) and click on *Safety* and *Dam Site Safety*.