From: Judy Spencer
To: Johnson, Elaine M - DNR
Subject: Re: Constituent - Spencer - Racine Cty
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:13:41 AM

Thank you for the information, I would very much want to received e-mails as a concern homeowner my address is incorrect as the correct one is 860 River Ridge Cir, Waterford,WI 53185

As I am still concern having draw downs and work not being completed. I feel we can do much better in this area.

On Monday, March 23, 2015 10:27 AM, "Johnson, Elaine M - DNR" <Elaine.Johnson@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Good morning Judy,

Please accept this email in response to your recent inquiry to the DNR Secretary's Office regarding the temporary winter draw down of the Rochester Dam on the Fox River in Racine County. Below you will find a summary on the status on the application requests made by the dam operator, the Racine County Drainage District- Norway Dover.

- The District has applied for a Ch. 30 waterway permit to dredge the Wind Lake/Goose Lake Branch canals. This permit has not been issued. The District requested the temporary winter drawdown last fall to facilitate the dredging project; however, the dredging permit was not issued in time to perform any dredging last winter.
- The Department reviewed the request for the temporary drawdown in accordance with the law. DNR Fisheries and Wildlife staff worked with the District to determine dates for the drawdown that would minimize impacts to aquatic resources. A temporary drawdown was authorized from October 1-February 15th.
- A public notice/hearing is not required for temporary drawdown requests. However, as courtesy the Department published a news release on our website regarding the winter drawdown. You can access a copy of the news release here:http://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=3331
- The District requested to extend the winter drawdown to March 15th. This request was made by the District because they had 2 contractors working on debrushing vegetation on the banks (in anticipation of the dredging project) and had concerns about being able to safely accomplish this work with higher water levels.
- Due to concerns to the resource, particularly fish spawning, it was determined that an extension through March 15th could not be granted. However, in the past the Department has allowed the temporary winter

drawdown at Rochester Dam to occur through the end of Feb (Feb. 28th) and this was the basis for allowing the extension.

The District has also submitted an application requesting to change the operational order of the Rochester Dam to allow for annual winter draw downs and draw downs during high spring flows.

- The change in the operational order of the Rochester Dam is being processed under an individual permit. All individual permits require a 30 day public notice period. A public hearing is not required unless one is requested by a member of the public. A public hearing will be scheduled in the case of the Rochester Dam project as the Department recognizes the work may be controversial in nature and anticipates a hearing will be requested.
- The Rochester Dam project has not been placed on public notice because staff are working on completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Luke referenced in his email. Once this is complete, the project will be put on public notice and the hearing scheduled. The Department will post the notice on our website and you can access it here when that happens: http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water/.

As requested during our phone discussion last week, I will place you on the list of interested parties to be sent a copy of the public notice and information on the public hearing when the application has been determined to be complete. The address I have listed for you is:

860 River Edge Circle
Waterford, WI 53185

Thank you,
Elaine

We are committed to service excellence.
Visit our survey at http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey to evaluate how I did.

Elaine Johnson
Water Management Specialist – WT/WD
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
141 NW Barstow St., Room 180, Waukesha, WI 53188
Phone: 262-574-2136
elaine.johnson@wi.gov
dnr.wi.gov