

## **CONSOLIDATED WATER POWER COMPANY**

General Offices  
610 High Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
A subsidiary of Billerud North America

April 15, 2024

### **Subject: Biron Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2192) – Public Notification Procedures for the Biron Dam Emergency Action Plan Involving Significant Floods**

Consolidated Water Power Company (CWPCo) is the owner of the Biron Hydroelectric Project. The project is licensed and regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). As owner and dam licensee, CWPCo has developed emergency procedures for anticipating and responding to the actual or imminent failure of the Biron dam and significant flooding that may occur in the Biron Flowage.

The purpose of this mailing is to familiarize and raise your awareness of existing flood response procedures in the vicinity of the Biron Flowage. These flood response procedures have been developed over years of cooperation and consultation between several associations / agencies to develop adequate warning and evacuation times to limit the damage caused by a flooding event. The associations and agencies involved in developing these procedures include:

1. Consolidated Water Power Company and Billerud North America
2. Wood County Warning Center (Emergency Management)
3. Portage County Emergency Management
4. Village of Biron
5. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
6. Other agency and dam owners

Please review the enclosed procedures as they relate to your residence along the Wisconsin River. The flood warning and evacuation notices are segregated for different areas along the river based on the river flow and the hydroelectric project characteristics.


The attached information sheet will be generally available at the Village of Biron Town Hall. This year's annual update does not contain any changes to our public notification procedures.

Lastly, at least annually, CWPCo performs an annual siren test for the Seawall concrete structure located upstream of the Nine Dragons Paper Mill Woodroom along CTH "U". The test is to verify the warning system for a possible Seawall concrete structure failure and familiarize nearby Village of Biron residents with the warning system for possible evacuation of the area. **This test is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024.**

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us at (715) 422-3927 or email [mark.anderson2@billerud.com](mailto:mark.anderson2@billerud.com).

Sincerely,

CONSOLIDATED WATER POWER COMPANY

  
Mark E. Anderson  
Resources Manager

**CONSOLIDATED WATER POWER COMPANY “CWPCo”**  
**BIRON IMPOUNDMENT HIGH WATER OPERATING AND PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEDURES**

These procedures have been developed over the many years that CWPCo has been operating hydropower projects on the Wisconsin River. The procedures have been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If you have any questions or concerns about these procedures, please contact CWPCo at 715-422-3303. These procedures are designed to inform and protect private residences, businesses and public property that could be impacted by high river flows.

CWPCo continually monitors flows and elevations in the Wisconsin River. In addition, CWPCo is a member/owner of Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, the entity that is legislatively chartered to manage flows on the Wisconsin River. As such, CWPCo has regular access to flow and high water information upstream of the CWPCo projects. In the event that conditions develop that could cause flooding or could threaten the stability of the dams and embankments, CWPCo will monitor and keep emergency management authorities informed of flow conditions, particularly when such conditions become so dangerous as to warrant evacuation of businesses, homes and property in a flood path or expected inundation area, or in the event that conditions threaten the stability of the dams and embankments.

You may recall the high water flooding event that occurred in September 2010. To provide some context, flows in the Wisconsin River near Biron peaked at 72,000 cfs during that event. Other flood flows and the expected recurrence intervals for the Biron Project include: 65,000 cfs – recurrence 30 years, 106,000 cfs – recurrence 4,000 years, 118,000 cfs – recurrence 13,000 years, and 138,000 cfs – recurrence 50,000 years

Both CWPCo and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company have websites (cwpc.com and wvic.com) that are updated daily to provide river flow conditions. In significant flood events, CWPCo’s website is updated more frequently to reflect more rapid changes in river flow conditions.

**+ 30,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

When flows increase above 30,000 cfs CWPCo operators will send CWPCo personnel to the Biron dam for visual observation. CWPCo will also contact Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar Paper Co., the National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company and the State of Wisconsin Warning Center.

If flows are expected to increase, CWPCo will notify Wood County Warning Center and recommend that the County contact residences at 940, 1010, 1022, 1042, 1072, 1122, 1152, 1192, 1212, 1252 South Biron Drive and 290, 512 Shore Acres Drive and recommend that they prepare for flooding and possible evacuation (1st warning).

**+ 35,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills. These warnings will be repeated for each 5000 cfs increase in river flow.

**+ 45,000 cfs – High Flow EAP Trip notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

If flows are expected to increase, CWPCo will notify Wood County Warning Center and recommend that the County again contact residences 940, 1010, 1022, 1042, 1072, 1122, 1152, 1192, 1212, 1252 South Biron Drive and 290, 512 Shore Acres Drive and recommend that they prepare for flooding and possible evacuation (2<sup>nd</sup> warning).

**+ 60,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center notify the residents in Stoney Brook Road subdivision that flooding could occur and that they should prepare for evacuation if flows increase (1<sup>st</sup> warning).

**+ 65,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center and the Village of Biron President notify Village of Biron (1<sup>st</sup> warning) and South Biron Drive (3<sup>rd</sup> warning) residents that flooding could occur if the flow continues to increase and that they should begin planning for that possibility.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center notify Stoney Brook Road residences that flooding could occur and that they should be prepared for evacuation if flows increase (2<sup>nd</sup> warning).

**+ 70,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will notify the Wood and Portage County Sheriff's Departments that County Highway "U" just upstream of the CTH U Huffman Road intersection will be overtopped if flows reach 100,000 cfs and that the highway may need to be closed and area residents evacuated (1<sup>st</sup> warning).

**+ 75,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center and the Village of Biron President notify the Village of Biron (2<sup>nd</sup> warning) and South Biron Drive (4<sup>th</sup> warning) to prepare for flooding and evacuation.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center notify Stoney Brook Road subdivision residents to begin evacuation (1<sup>st</sup> evacuation notice)

CWPCo will notify residents along State Highway "66" in low areas across from the Biron Right Embankment that river flows are increasing and recommend that they prepare for possible flooding and evacuation. The residents so notified are those at 1110, 1098, 980 and 730 State Highway "66" and 5441 2nd Ave. North, in Rudolph, Wisconsin (1<sup>st</sup> warning). CWPCo will also request that the Wood County Warning Center contact these residents.

**+ 85,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center and the Village of Biron President that the Village of Biron and South Biron Drive residents should be evacuated. (1<sup>st</sup> evacuation notice).

CWPCo will again contact the Wood and Portage County Sheriff's Departments to notify that County Highway "U" just upstream of the CTH U Huffman Road intersection will be overtopped if flows reach 100,000 cfs and that the highway may need to be closed and area residents evacuated (2<sup>nd</sup> warning).

CWPCo will request that the Wood County Warning Center to notify the Stoney Brook Road subdivision residents to evacuate (2<sup>nd</sup> evacuation notice).

CWPCo will notify residents along State Highway "66" in low areas across from the Biron Right Embankment that river flows are increasing and recommend that they prepare for possible flooding and evacuation. The residents so notified are those at 1110, 1098, 980 and 730 State Highway "66" and 5441 2nd Ave. North, in Rudolph, Wisconsin (2<sup>nd</sup> warning). CWPCo will also request that the Wood County Warning Center contact these residents.

**+ 106,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

CWPCo will notify the Wood County Warning Center that flooding is or will soon be occurring along County Highway “U” near Huffman Road, recommend that residences be evacuated and highway closed (1<sup>st</sup> evacuation notice).

CWPCo will inform the Wood County Warning Center and the Village of Biron President that if flows increase the Village of Biron will be inundated and confirm that the Village of Biron, South Biron Drive and Stoney Brook subdivision evacuation is complete.

CWPCo will notify the Wood County Warning Center and recommend evacuation of the five lowest homes near the Biron Right Embankment along State Highway "66" (1<sup>st</sup> evacuation notice). Evacuation priority starts with 1110 and 1098 State Highway “66” residences because are in the lowest area and closest to right embankment. Other residents to be evacuated are 980 and 730 State Highway "66" plus 5441 2nd Ave. North, Rudolph, Wisconsin.

**+ 118,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will update Portage and Wood County Warning Centers, Domtar, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, State Warning Center, and New Page paper mills.

At this flow, the water level will reach 1037.0 NGVD and water will begin to overtop several low dam structures on the right side. The Village of Biron seawall structure is at 1038.5 NGVD.

At this flow, about 500 cfs will be flowing across the low spot on CTH U near Huffman Road. The water will be flowing into the cranberry bog areas. CWPCo will notify the Wood County Warning Center that flooding is occurring along County Highway “U” near Huffman Road and confirm that residences are evacuated and the highway is closed (2<sup>nd</sup> evacuation notice).

The River will begin to overtop the right embankment along STH “66”. CWPCo will request the Wood County Warning Center to complete evacuation of residents at 1110, 1098, 980 and 730 State Highway "66" and 5441 2nd Ave. North, in Rudolph, Wisconsin (2<sup>nd</sup> evacuation notice). STH-“66” residences at 1110 STH-66, 1098 STH-66, 980 STH-66. CWPCo will request confirmation from the Wood County Warning Center that the 1110 and 1098 residences are evacuated.

**+ 138,000 cfs – High Flow notification**

CWPCo will notify the Wood and Portage County Warning Centers that 1,000 cfs overtopping is occurring at the STH “66” right embankment and the embankment stability is threatened. Also, at this flow approximately 7,000 cfs is overtopping County Highway “U” around Huffman Road. The Village of Biron should be totally inundated at this flow. Water should be approaching the first floor elevation of the 1110 and 1098 STH-“66” residences and close to the first floor of the 980 STH-“66” residence.

CWPCo will confirm with Wood County Warning Center that all STH “66” residences have been evacuated.

**+ 187,850 cfs (approaching PMF) – High Flow notification**

Notify Wood and Portage County Warning Center that 8,000 cfs overtopping is occurring at the STH-“66” right embankment and that embankment stability is threatened. Two residences (1110 and 1098 STH-“66”) are flooded by 6 inches to 2 feet of water and water is approaching the first floor elevation of the 980 STH-“66” residence. CWPCo will seek to confirm that all these residences are evacuated.

## The River Flow Flood Tracking Chart

138,000 cfs	1000 cfs overtopping Biron right embankment by STH 66 7000 cfs overtopping CTH U near Huffman Road Village of Biron, South Biron Drive, Stoney Brook, CTU U near Huffman inundated, confirm areas evacuated (WCWC) STH 66 residents, confirm residences evacuated (WCWC)
118,000 cfs	Biron right embankment by STH 66 overtopping 1.7 miles upstream of dam Biron right embankment integrity threatened STH 66 residents evacuate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> evacuation (WCWC) 500 cfs overtopping CTH U near Huffman Rd, 2 <sup>nd</sup> evacuation (WCWC) Village of Biron, South Biron Drive and Stoney Brook, confirm evacuation (WCWC)
106,000 cfs	CTH U near Huffman Road will be overtopped, close CTU U, evacuate residents – 1 <sup>st</sup> evacuation (WCWC) STH 66 residents evacuate – 1 <sup>st</sup> evacuation (WCWC) Village of Biron, South Biron Drive evacuation - 2 <sup>nd</sup> evacuation (WCWC) Stoney Brook subdivision, confirm evacuation complete (WCWC)
85,000 cfs	Village of Biron, South Biron Drive begin evacuation – 1 <sup>st</sup> evacuation (WCWC) Stoney Brook subdivision evacuation – 2 <sup>nd</sup> evacuation (WCWC) STH 66 residents prepare to evacuate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> warning (WCWC & CWPCo) CTH U near Huffman Road – 2 <sup>nd</sup> warning (WCWC)
75,000 cfs	Village of Biron residents prepare to evacuate - 2 <sup>nd</sup> warning (WCWC) Stoney Brook subdivision begin evacuating – 1 <sup>st</sup> evacuation (WCWC) STH 66 residents prepare to evacuate – 1 <sup>st</sup> warning (WCWC & CWPCo) South Biron Drive residents prepare to evacuate – 4 <sup>th</sup> warning (WCWC)
70,000 cfs	Warning Village of Biron that CTH U near Huffman Road will overtop if flows increase to 100,000 cfs – 1 <sup>st</sup> warning (WCWC)
65,000 cfs	Village of Biron prepare to evacuate - 1 <sup>st</sup> warning Stoney Brook subdivision prepare to evacuate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> warning (WCWC) South Biron Drive residents prepare to evacuate – 3 <sup>rd</sup> warning (WCWC)
60,000 cfs	Stoney Brook subdivision prepare to evacuate – 1 <sup>st</sup> warning (WCWC)
40,000 cfs	South Biron Drive residents prepare to evacuate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> warning (WCWC)
30,000 cfs	South Biron Drive residents prepare to evacuate – 1 <sup>st</sup> warning (WCWC)