



July 12, 2024

Public Safety Update Regarding July 2024 Flood Event

As with much of the region, the northern Connecticut River valley in New Hampshire and Vermont experienced significant rainfall over July 10 to July 11, receiving as much as 6+ inches of rain over a very short duration of time.

Public safety, dam safety, and the safety of our employees and contractors remain Great River Hydro's top priorities. Great River Hydro's Operations Center actively monitored and managed the elevated flows that occurred during the event and continues its careful operations in the event's aftermath. Great River Hydro's facilities and dams securely and safely operated as designed during event. The flows are expected to remain elevated for several days. The Northeast River Forecast Center (<https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/>) is the best resource for up-to-date information.

Great River Hydro echoes similar statements from public safety officials and strongly recommends that the public refrain from entering rivers during elevated flows such as those being experienced at this time. Floodwaters can carry potentially dangerous debris and may contain chemicals and bacteria from damaged or overwhelmed wastewater treatment facilities and flooded homes, businesses, and agricultural fields. High water can create debris jams, hide submerged infrastructure, contain downed power lines, and damage or conceal public safety devices intended to warn the public of dangers during normal flow conditions. Six inches of swiftly moving water is enough to sweep an adult off their feet. Please be especially careful to keep children out of the water as they are unaware of the dangers and can be endangered by their own curiosity.

Furthermore, Great River Hydro strongly discourages recreational boating upstream of any of its dams on the Connecticut River while high water conditions persist and until it can fully restore all public safety measures. Boater safety buoys have been compromised at several locations, particularly above McIndoes dam in Barnet, Vermont and Monroe, New Hampshire, and at Wilder dam in Hartford, Vermont and Lebanon, New Hampshire. DO NOT BOAT, KAYAK, OR CANOE in those areas until further notice.

Great River Hydro's roads around its Moore, Comerford, and McIndoes facilities, like so many public and private roads in the Northeast Kingdom, have suffered significant damage, including some of the roads leading to several recreation areas and public access points. Currently, we know that the road into the North Littleton/Perkins Landing Recreation Area in Littleton, New Hampshire has been washed out and is closed. The recreation area at McIndoes station in Barnet, Vermont is also closed. Recreation areas at our Connecticut Lakes facilities in Pittsburg, New Hampshire have also been affected. The recreation area and boat launch at Second Connecticut Lake is closed due to storm damage.

All recreation areas are currently being assessed with work plans being developed. Additional closures are possible. Please heed any posted warnings and respect any temporary closures. Repairs will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Feel free to reach out with any information or questions to communications@greatriverhydro.com, or (802) 291-8104.