

## **WHO IS WVIC---WISCONSIN VALLEY IMPROVEMENT COMPANY?—One page article #5**

WVIC's main office is at 2301 N 3rd Street in Wausau. Per Wisconsin state statute, WVIC was created in 1907 "for the purpose of building, maintaining and operating dams and reservoirs on the Wisconsin River and its tributaries." "The company shall produce as nearly a uniform flow of water as practicable in the Wisconsin and Tomahawk rivers by storing in reservoirs surplus water for discharge when the water supply is low to improve the usefulness of the rivers for all public purposes and to reduce flood damage."

WVIC owns and operates a system of 21 reservoirs. The manmade reservoirs that WVIC constructed include the Big Eau Pleine created in 1937 (the last one built), and the Willow, Spirit, Rice (Nokomis) and Rainbow flowages. The natural reservoirs include dammed up natural lakes on the Minocqua chain and Eagle River chain as well as others. None of WVIC's dams have hydroelectric generating plants. WVIC operates its dams to release water to the Wisconsin River to help level its flow for hydroelectric plants and for "pollution assimilation" (dilution) according to formulas in its license. WVIC is a private company whose stock is owned by the companies that own the 25 hydroelectric plants located on the Wisconsin River. They are listed below, including portions of their environmental policy statements:

Alliant Energy—Environment/Policy & Compliance: "We will manage air, land, water and wildlife resources and conduct our business in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner."

Domtar—Environmental Responsibility: "Sustainability at Domtar has as much to do with performance as it does with accountability. We have made sustainability our policy and we stand by it." "Domtar is committed to meeting the highest environmental and quality standards."

NewPage—Sustainability: "we believe that our business can and should have a positive impact on the communities where we make our paper...It is our duty as a business leader to do all that we can to bring about positive change in our hometowns and in the natural environment we share..."

WPS—Environmental Commitment: "We strive for operational excellence and factor the environment into our business planning and daily work. We're committed to continually improving our environmental performance and seek opportunities to benefit the environment as we produce and deliver energy."

PCA—Environment: " "Sustainable" means "able to continue." What does that mean for corrugated packaging, or any industry? It's simple: Meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Wausau Paper—Our Environmental Commitment: "...we know the rewards of sustainable, long-term perspective on business, natural resources and the environment...are committed to being good environmental citizens and we acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard natural resources..."

We expect WVIC and its owner-companies to follow their environmental policies, and WVIC's state statute mandate "to improve the usefulness of the rivers for all public purposes." WVIC's operating policy results in reservoir draw-downs that are statistically tied to Big Eau Pleine reservoir fish kills. We have shown that the extreme draw-downs are avoidable, while still protecting all other uses for the rivers.

"You can help! Ask WVIC to step up as a good environmentally concerned neighbor and improve their operating model to "Save Enough Water for the Fish to Live!" Send a message to your legislators also. They are listed on our website. Feel free to pass this and all our articles on to others.

The Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization (BEPCO) Board of Directors.  
*More information at [www.bigeaupleine.org](http://www.bigeaupleine.org) including legislative contacts*