



Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company
President Thomas P. Mainz and the Board of Directors
2301 N. 3rd St.
Wausau, WI 54403

Feb. 11, 2011

President Mainz and Board members,

BEPCO, as the citizen's voice on the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, is very disappointed in the stance of WVIC in shutting off open conversation with BEPCO. This is in regards to the full investigation of ideas we had jointly discussed with Sam Morgan and Tom Kipp to improve reservoir management practices to prevent or reduce fish kills that have plagued the reservoir over many decades. BEPCO and WVIC met two times (plus the WDNR on meeting 1) in early summer 2010, and WVIC has on several occasions promised to further investigate the five ideas listed below that we have jointly discussed. WVIC several times stated they would bring back results from investigations into these items for further discussion during the fall and winter, but have not delivered on these promises.

BEPCO believes that there is a considerable amount of work to do in order to fully investigate the five ideas. BEPCO as well as the public is now left waiting for the "official" License Review, the Look-in, to begin to address these issues. We expect that WVIC is able to provide something new during this process and provide results from the investigations that were promised. In light of strong data supporting changes in reservoir operations, for WVIC to recommend no change is to turn your backs on the fish kill issue.

The five outstanding previously identified issues WVIC agreed to investigate are:

1. Update WIRSOM to include the last 20 years of operating data, which includes the worst extended drought on record.
2. Evaluate BEPCO's recommended 60% Solution by running it on the updated WIRSOM model.
3. Evaluate improving the Drought Contingency Plan to make it proactive. Specifically WVIC had agreed to evaluate the use of reservoir level duration curves for both the Big Eau Pleine reservoir, and the northern reservoirs as a group, for potential use as trigger points.
4. Outline winter operating practices in light of the fact that there is very little in the license now to define these practices and much knowledge will be lost, to the detriment of the fishery, when Sam Morgan and Dave Coon retire.
5. Investigate the cause of the rule curve formula discrepancy in the license, as it does not give the same river flow targets as the WIRSOM computer model targets that are actually used.

BEPCO would expect to see inclusion of evaluations of these five issues in the initial operational review presented by WVIC at the beginning of the process, to be followed by discussions.

BEPCO Board of Directors
Ken Dorshorst, BOD member
Michael Paul, President
Doug Eisele, Vice President