

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Status of FERC regulated dams: Who regulates them? What is the DNR role? How do we address public rights and interest?

FOR: April 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Cheryl Laatsch, DNR FERC Coordinator

SUMMARY:

The DNR FERC Coordinator works with the leadership to ensure that the agency is identifying and addressing all resource issues. We actively participate in meeting with the licensee and FERC. We collaborate with the licensee to balance the needs of the resource and the needs of the licensee.

Over the last three years DNR hired a full time FERC Coordinator. We have established a hydro stakeholder group. We have developed healthy relationships with our industry customers, and we are finding ways to reach a balanced approach to resource management and hydro generation.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates hydroelectric dams via a license. During the licencing process, the WDNR participates in the formal process, to ensure that public rights and interests related to natural resources and recreation are adequately identified and protected. Many licenses have requirements to maintain and/or enhance the waterbodies where the hydroelectric dams are located. WDNR also issues a State Water Quality Certification (WQC). The WQC may add additional requires to the FERC license to ensure that adequate resource protection measures are implemented by the licensee.

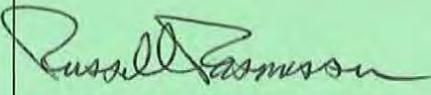
Elements to the WQC may include:

1. Water Quality monitoring
2. Fish & wildlife habitat protection and/or improvements
3. Improvements and maintenance of recreational features, such as boat landsing, and fishing piers, parks, etc.
4. Requirements for agency consultation when activites at the dam have potenital resource impacts
5. Monitoring & management of aquatic invasive species
6. Portaging around the dams

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

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Approved by	Signature	Date
Pam Biersach Bureau Director		
Russ Rasmussen, Water Division Administrator		3/25/2015
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		3/25/15