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Placid Lake dam abandonment proposal under review

Published: Friday, March 5, 2010 10:21 AM CST

Sawyer County has made application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the necessary permits and approvals to abandon the Placid Lake Dam, located on an artificial channel west of McClaine Road in the Town of Round Lake.

The purpose of the project is to restore natural drainage of surface water in the Chief River system. The dam was initially authorized in 1937 by the Public Service Commission in response to a Sawyer County's application to divert surplus water into Round Lake from the Tiger Cat Flowage on the North Fork of the Chief River. This essentially allowed the artificial diversion of surface water from one watershed to another.

The proposed abandonment would include removal of the dam structure and filling of the artificial diversion channel above the dam. The project also would involve removal from beneath McClaine Road an existing culvert that is part of the diversion system. Before a decision can be made on the

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necessary approvals and permits, an Environmental Assessment (EA) must be completed and an opportunity for public input on the analysis must be provided.

The project is not expected to result in significant adverse environmental effects. The DNR has prepared an EA on this action and determined that an environmental impact statement will not be

required. This recommendation does not represent approval from other DNR sections, which may also require project review.

Copies of the draft EA can be obtained from Dave Kafura, Water Management Specialist, DNR, 10220 State Road 27, Hayward, WI 54843, (715) 634-9658, or by e-mail at david.kafura@wisconsin.gov.

Comments on the proposed project and preliminary assessment may be submitted to Kafura no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 16. Comments may be submitted verbally, electronically or in hard copy written form.

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jhnrmry wrote on Mar 5, 2010 11:25 AM:
" The article does not address the purpose of this project. Is it to allow more overflow from Tiger Cat Flowage at the Tiger Cat dam? If present water levels are problematic, why not

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explain this in the article? "

polecat77 wrote on Mar 5, 2010 2:06 PM:
" what is the artifical diversion channel?? "

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