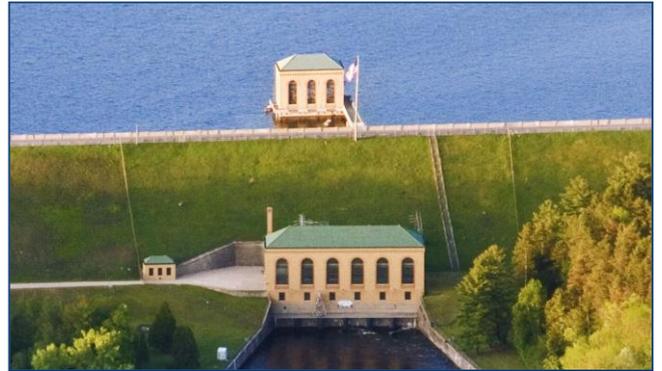


Hardy Dam Project Resulting in Temporary Lane Reductions, Delay in Refilling Reservoir

NEWAYGO, Mich., April 12, 2018 – A Consumers Energy project to replace a tipping wall will result in lane closures on the road over Hardy Dam as well as a delay in refilling the water level in Hardy Pond.

The Hardy Dam Road will be reduced to one lane at the dam beginning April 16. The road is expected to reopen by May 23, barring delays due to weather or other factors. Occasionally, complete, temporary closures of the road will be needed for the project to be completed safely. Temporary traffic signals and signs will help direct motorists in the area.



Hardy Pond is drawn down each winter and is typically refilled by May 1. The pond must be kept at a lower level for the safety of crews performing the tipping wall replacement. After the project is completed, the pond will begin to be refilled. It is expected that the pond will be filled to normal level, barring project delays due to weather or other factors, by the second weekend in June.

Due to potential hazards present during low-water conditions, Consumers Energy is advising the public to avoid boating in Hardy Pond until the water level is returned to its normal, higher level. Recreationalists should exercise caution along the shoreline where land exposed by the drawdown may be mucky and potentially hazardous, especially to children.

The tipping wall is designed to release excessive water down an auxiliary spillway in the event of an extremely high flow period and serves as a safety measure to protect the integrity of Hardy Dam. This past winter, pressure from excessive ice buildup caused tipping wall sections at Hardy Dam to tilt toward the roadway. The issue posed no risk to Hardy Dam or downstream residents.

Crews were able to remove ice from the panels and fit them safely back in place. The project this spring is designed to prevent the same type of ice issue in the future, and poses no risk to Hardy Dam or downstream residents.

Consumers Energy is coordinating the project with the Newaygo County Road Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

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