

Fox River Status Update
March 9, 2010

Current Conditions

Inflows to the Chain of Lakes were 1000 cfs at 8am this morning and rising with the melting snow. The stage at Fox Lake was 2.53 which is winter pool level. Outflows from Stratton Dam were 800 cfs.

Forecast

The National Weather Service is forecasting the Fox River near New Munster, Wisconsin to peak at a flow of 3250 cfs on March 13. This forecast is based on less than ¼" of rainfall today on top of the snow melt. Significant rainfall is forecasted for March 11 thru 13. Should this additional rainfall occur on the frozen ground, flows will be much higher than the current estimate.

Operation Scenario

The sluice gates at Stratton Dam are set with a 2' gate opening. The hinged crest gate at Algonquin Dam is even with the spillway crest. The gates at Stratton Dam will be operated to balance inflows and outflows. Based on the estimates of snow melt alone, outflows at Stratton Dam could reach bankfull levels (2600 cfs) while the Chain of Lakes would remain below summer pool levels. Additional rainfall will increase these estimates significantly.

Rita M. Lee, P.E.
Project Manager
IDNR Office of Water Resources
217.524.2387