

# Chippewa Storage Reservoir Forecast

**Elevation as of June 10, 2015:** 1312.79 ft.

**Season of the Year<sup>1</sup>:** Summer 2015

**Typical Summer Target Low Elevation<sup>2</sup>:** 1310.5 ft. (2.5 ft. drawdown)

**2015 Projected Summer Low Elevation:** 1310.0 ft. (3.0 ft. drawdown)

## Comments

- The strong inflow and rainfall this spring enabled the reservoir to refill quickly from the 8-foot winter drawdown. Rains over the last several weeks have increased inflows into the reservoir and allowed for the reservoir elevation to remain at a normal level while maintaining a high discharge rate from the dam.
- The reservoir reached its normal full pool elevation of 1312.50 ft. elevation on May 24 following an 8-foot drawdown. The winter low elevation of 1304.96 ft. was reached on March 2.
- Based on the current reservoir level, inflow rates, and the anticipated needs for water downstream, Xcel Energy intends to draw down the reservoir to elevation 1310.0 ft. (3 ft. drawdown) this summer.
- If above average precipitation occurs during the summer months and inflows into the reservoir remain high, the target elevation may be adjusted slightly upward. Should drought conditions occur this summer, reservoir levels may be reduced due to lack of inflow.
- Current projections are to maintain the reservoir elevation above 1311.5 ft. through the end of June, as long as inflows remain at or above the required minimum discharge flow of 250 cfs. Discharge from the dam is currently 1,600 cfs. Should electrical generation needs increase in June due to hot weather or unanticipated power plant outages, additional water could be removed from the reservoir to increase generation at downstream hydro plants.
- The required minimum discharge (250 cfs) from the dam will be maintained at all times with increases in outflow at times during the summer season for downstream river flow augmentation.
- Xcel Energy will notify the public in the event that reservoir levels are anticipated to decrease below the 1310.0 ft. elevation.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions of Seasons of the Year for Operating the Chippewa Storage Reservoir:

Winter: December 1 – March 30  
Spring: April 1 – June 1  
Summer: June 2 – September 30  
Fall: October 1 – November 30

<sup>2</sup> The minimum required elevation of the Chippewa Reservoir is 1297.0 ft. msl